



Shaping Futures Together

Oct 2024

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Families,

Welcome to October! The first month of school has flown by so quickly!. Thanks in part to our fabulous staff and dedicated families, it seems as if our students and staff never left. We are happy to welcome a few new staff, students, and families and at this point, everyone has settled back into the school routine. It was nice to see those of you who were able to join us for our Open House in September. If you were unable to attend and have any questions about routines, grading, or curriculum, please reach out to your child's teacher/s.

We have hit the ground running and we will soon be sending home our first progress reports. On October 11, students in kindergarten through grade 8 will bring home their mid-term progress report. This progress report will give parents/guardians information about how their child/children are progressing toward standards in academic areas and special area subjects. It is early in the year and at many grade levels, teachers are just beginning to introduce work toward mastery of the standards. If standards are left blank on the progress report or trimester report card, it is because that particular standard has not been introduced yet, or that teachers do not have sufficient information at this time to assess that standard. Progress toward meeting behavioral expectations for students in grades five through eight will be submitted by homeroom teachers, but all teachers who see middle school students will provide input. After you review your child's progress report, please sign and return the envelope and you may contact your child's homeroom teacher if you have questions regarding attendance, grades, or progress.

If your child receives specialized instruction or support with one of our resource room teachers or intervention services through our MTSS/RTI process, an update on progress toward their goals will be included with progress notes at the end of the

first trimester in late November. Again, please reach out to homeroom teachers if you have specific questions relating to any of these reports.

During the month of October, all students in grades 2-8 will be taking the NWEA standardized assessment that will indicate progress in the areas of Reading, Language Arts, Math and Science. This is an adaptive, computerized assessment that will be taken over the course of multiple sessions based on grade level. These results will be used to inform and individualize instruction and support for students. Results of student progress will be reviewed with families during our parent-teacher conferences (December 12 and 13) and will be sent home in our end of trimester reports on December 6. Teachers will reach out prior to that with any areas of particular concern.

I want to remind everyone that many of our students have special dietary restrictions due to allergies and/or other medical concerns. In the interest of everyone's health and safety, we no longer allow food treats of any kind to be brought into school with the intent of being shared with students. There are many ways to celebrate and recognize special milestones for children other than with food. We urge you to consider these options and to save the food treats for outside of school. Going forward, any food brought in to share will be sent back home again. If teachers organize food-related approaches to learning the curriculum, they will notify you in advance and consult with the school nurse prior to planning to be sure everyone can be included. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

At Eastford Elementary School, we subscribe to a **notification/alert system** that will enable us to automatically notify families more efficiently than our current email system in the event that we are faced with a last-minute emergency, bus driver shortage, or inclement weather where we may need to unexpectedly close or delay school. Prior to October 11, I will email all families and let them know that I will be conducting a test of our notification/alert system so that we can be sure that we are able to reach everyone.

Although we hope that we do not have any weather-related closings or delays for quite some time, I want to inform you that we will typically call **two-hour delays** on inclement weather mornings. If there is a morning delay, school will begin at 10:42 a.m. Students can begin arriving at 10:25 a.m. Half-day **preschool students** will **NOT** attend if there is a two-hour delayed opening. When there is a two-hour delayed opening, the morning child-care program **will** also operate on a two-hour delay. They will open at 9:00 a.m.

When the weather is inclement, notification of NO SCHOOL or late opening is communicated to you via our automatic notification system. It is also announced over WINY radio (Putnam), Channel 30 (NBC Connecticut) and Channel 3 (WFSB). If you visit the websites of the television stations, you can sign up to have them notify you by email or text message when a school is closing early or opening late.

Tune your radio or television to one of these for any NO SCHOOL and delayed opening announcements.

Please mark your calendars regarding three upcoming “No School” days.

October 14 is the Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples’ Day holiday. **November 5** is election day and Professional Development for staff, and on **November 11**, we are closed for Veterans Day. The Before and After School Program (BASP) will **not** be in session on any of these days. Students will be **released early (12:30 p.m.)** on **October 11** for staff Professional Development. The Before and After School childcare program will be open during regular morning hours and they will have **special afternoon hours; 12:30-4:30 p.m.**

A reminder to people who utilize the school playground or access the nature trail when school is not in session: If you, or someone you know, bring a dog onto school property, please be considerate and clean up after it. Students use the playground and the nature trail and we would like to keep the area as sanitary as possible.

Fire Prevention: October is fire prevention month and as is typical, the Eastford Independent Fire Company will visit to bring awareness regarding fire safety. We are planning a program where all students will participate in a fire drill that the Independent Fire Company attends, and students in PK-grade 3 will have the opportunity to view the fire trucks, fire equipment, and gear worn and used by the firefighters.

We are fortunate to have a number of active parent organizations at EES. We like to add new members to each group every year so that these groups truly represent all of our students. Please consider joining a group if you are not already a member!

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

The PTO is a vital link between the school community and the parents it serves. Thus, parents are urged to join and take an active part in the PTO. The PTO raises money to provide Eastford Elementary School with cultural programs, assemblies and other specific needs as they occur. All parents are invited to all meetings and are encouraged to contact Eastford Elementary School for more information or to get answers to questions regarding the PTO. The PTO meetings will be held virtually on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Please feel free to email PTO president Aliesha Lowell Lynch at pto@eastfordct.org if you have any questions.

Middle School Fund-Raising Committee

Parents of middle school students typically meet to raise funds for the eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C. Their major, yearly event has been the Goods and Services Auction. This school year, we will hold the annual **Goods and Services Auction on Saturday, Nov. 16**. Proceeds from the Auction are **SHARED** among all middle school grades to start building a balance so that the trip can be fully funded for

students. Based on class sizes, we sometimes need to combine grades to attend the trip. The fundraising efforts ensure that each grade will be prepared when it is time for their trip. For this to be successful, we **need the support of many volunteers – especially from our middle school grades!** The committee has already been meeting this year and we really need more hands involved to assist in obtaining donations from local area businesses. The next auction planning committee meeting will be held via Zoom on Oct. 7 at 6:30 p.m. Please reach out if you can attend and support YOUR child's trip to Washington, D.C.

Readiness Council

The Readiness Council consists of town and school officials, parents of children who are younger than kindergarten age and community members. The Readiness Council monitors the Readiness grant and makes recommendations regarding the Eastford Readiness program. At the beginning of each scheduled meeting, there is an opportunity for public input. Any parents who are interested in joining the Council are welcome to do so. These meetings are held virtually on the first Tuesday of each month. The next meeting of the Readiness Council is scheduled for **October 1 at 5:30 p.m.** Please contact the school for information on how to join this virtual meeting.

Car Rider Line – Morning Drop Off

Thank you for your patience and cooperation with our car rider line. The process has been going smoother than expected thanks to YOU!

At both the morning drop off and afternoon pick up times, the parking lot maintains a one-way traffic flow pattern. All vehicles should enter the main entrance on Westford Road near the school sign. All vehicles should exit up the hill by the town office building. Students should not arrive at school prior to 8:25 a.m. unless they are participating in the Before School childcare program. Families that drop their children off in the morning, please make sure that you are not passing vehicles that are in front of you. Please stay in line in the car rider drop-off line and pull as far forward as possible before letting your children out of your vehicle, and then wait to leave until the vehicle in front of you has begun to exit the drop-off area. This ensures that students have been received by the staff members on duty and that the driving area is clear. We can operate **two lines** for drop off in the morning and pick up in the afternoon. Thank you for your cooperation with this process in the interest of safety.

Afternoon Pick-up Reminder

Our afternoon pick-up process has been extremely efficient! Please be sure to have your green or purple “family” sign in your car front window as you approach. This expedites staff in getting your children ready for you. We dismiss the Green group of students first. These are typically our youngest students and their siblings. If you have a Green “family” sign, please plan to arrive for pick up close to 3:20. If you are in the Purple group you should plan to arrive for pick up about 3:30. It is important to remember that students who live within walking distance of the school are walking along the side of the driveway near the Town Office Building and along

the side of Westford Road. Drivers should be extremely cautious during pick-up time for everyone's safety! Please do not block the path of the buses that are loading students at the front of the building. To stay on schedule, they need to pull out to begin their route once the bus is loaded. Thanks for your cooperation with this!

Attention Parents of Eighth Grade Students: Eighth grade students have multiple high school choices. Woodstock Academy is our designated high school, but transportation is also provided to, Killingly VoAg, Arts at the Capitol Theater (ACT), Quinebaug Middle College (QMC), and Ellis Tech. Other area schools may also be a possibility, but transportation is not provided. If you plan to attend a public school that we do not have a contract with or one that we do not provide transportation to, you will need to request permission in writing from our Superintendent, Dr. Donna Leake no later than February 1. Typically, these schools offer Open House events for interested students and families. Some of these may be in-person and some may be held virtually. We will keep students and families informed as soon as we receive information from the high schools. Please contact Mrs. Schleicher, school counselor, with questions regarding high school choices, Open Houses, and the application process.

Please don't hesitate to contact us at school if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Carole McCombe



After School Programs Calendar October 2024

See student handouts sent home to sign up.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Acad Supp Gr 2-8 Ragged Hill Woods Gr 2 - 6	Acad Supp Gr 2-8	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 Creative Move K-3	RWP Zoo Gr 3 - 6	
6	FAMILY PAINT 5 - 6:30 pm Chorus 4 - 8	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 Board Games K - 1	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 Cupcakes Gr 3-4	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 Creative Move K-3 Art Club 4 - 8	Early Release for Students Long Weekend	
13	NO SCHOOL	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 Ragged Hill Woods Gr 2 - 6 Acting/Filmmaking 5-8	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 Hydroponics 5 - 8	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 Creative Move K-3	MS Student Council Dance? CT River Museum Piggy Race Gr 3 - 6	
20	Mystic Seaport Monday Gr 2- 5 Chorus 4 - 8	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 CT River Gr. 2 - 5 Sink Float Acting/Filmmaking 5-8	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 Cupcakes Gr 5-8	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 Creative Move K-3 Art Club 4 - 8	Movie K-8 Jet's First Halloween p/u 4:45	
27	Chorus 4 - 8	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 Acting/Filmmaking 5-8	Acad Supp Gr 2-8	Acad Supp Gr 2-8	ALL ACTIVITIES ARE 3:45 TO 4:45 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED	

© Stephanie Rye www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Stephanie-Rye www.foreverinfifthgrade.blogspot.com



EES PTO

October Newsletter

September in Review:

Our Sign Contest ran from 9/9 to 9/20, with the student body voting on 9/26. The winners will be revealed at the sign unveiling, so stay tuned for the announcement date.

During the open house, we hosted our annual ice cream social, which was well-attended. Additionally, we organized the Spirit Wear, and volunteer sign up as well. Thank you to everyone who took part.

Upcoming:

- Spirit Wear is expected to arrive this month.
- Join us for a gratitude craft collaboration with the Eastford Library on 11/23.
- Kindly scan the QR code to register for this year's volunteer opportunities.



October Events:

- 7th - Car Drive benefiting our local food pantry will run until the 18th. A flier will be sent home with students
- 8th- PTO meeting from 6-7pm
- 29th- Visit from author Renata Bowers

Contact Info: Aliesha Lynch - PTO Chair

Feel free to reach out with any questions or ideas via email at pto@eastfordct.org. Additionally, we invite you to connect with us on Facebook by liking and following our page using the link below.

Eastford Elementary PTO Facebook Page

Health Office News – Mrs. Roto, RN, B.S.N.



By now, we have settled into our new school routines. With the cold and flu season starting up, I would like to review a few topics that can help us have a healthy school year. Regular attendance in school provides many benefits including ongoing learning and social and emotional development. School-aged children are expected to attend school unless they are too ill to participate in class, have a fever or are otherwise contagious.

Deciding whether to have your student come to school or to keep them home can be tricky. There are basic criteria for deciding whether to keep your student home when they are exhibiting signs of illness. If your student has a fever above 100.4°F, an unexplained rash, vomiting and/or diarrhea less than 24 hours prior to school, these can be signs of illness that should keep them from attending school.

Most children become ill because of common circulating viruses that affect their respiratory tract or gastrointestinal tract. Common respiratory tract infections include the common cold and influenza. Typical symptoms include nasal congestion, a runny nose, scratchy throat, cough, and irritability. The diagnosis is based on symptoms. Treatment aims to relieve symptoms.

Most often, viral infections are spread when children's hands come into contact with secretions from an infected person. When that child touches their nose, eyes or mouth, the viruses gain entry and spread the infection. Some viral infections spread when children breathe air containing viral droplets.

Plain and simple, good hand and respiratory hygiene is the best way to prevent illnesses. Handwashing should include soap and everyone should cover sneezes and coughs. Other strategies are wearing masks if you are exhibiting respiratory signs of illness (to protect others), plenty of sleep, and healthy eating.

CDC released [evidence-based guidance](#) for preventing the spread of infections in schools. This guidance is designed to maximize school attendance and its benefits

Eastford Elementary School Newsletter October 2024

for all students, while also preventing the spread of infectious diseases. Below is the URL on the CDC website for more information.

If you have any specific questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to me either by phone or email.

Catherine Roto R.N., B.S.N.

croto@eastfordct.org

860-974-1130

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/p-0517-guidance-k-12.html#:~:text=The%20strategies%20found%20in%20the,by%20improving%20ventilation%20in%20schools.>



Art News – Ms. Weinland



A COLORFUL START TO THE SCHOOL YEAR IN THE ART ROOM

Upper grade students have been pushing their creativity with "Whatchamadrawit" drawings, while fifth graders explored Jasper Johns' vibrant colors and symbols. Third graders practiced various painting techniques, building confidence with brushwork and color mixing. First graders studied Piet Mondrian's geometric style, creating mosaics and drawings inspired by his famous pieces, and the kindergarteners have been learning about landscapes, crafting colorful, textured scenes inspired by nature.

WHATCHAMADRAWIT DRAWINGS, GRADES SIXTH THROUGH EIGHTH



JASPER JOHN'S INK AND WATERCOLORS, GRADE 5



BIRCH TREE WATERCOLORS, GRADE 3



MONDRIANS AND MOSAICS, GRADE 1



LANDSCAPE PAINTINGS, KINDERGARTEN



Kindergarten – Ms. Garvie

The start of the school year has been a very busy time in kindergarten. We have been learning the rules and routine of the classroom and how to pay attention at group time using the listening rules song. Children have also been practicing sharing and showing kindness to teachers and peers. Last week we learned that mistakes are okay, and we must encourage ourselves and others to keep trying, even when we make mistakes!

Other learning opportunities include rhyming, clapping out syllables, and reviewing letter names and the sounds they make. Our first three sight words are *the*, *see*, and *to*. Please encourage your child to point these words out in books at home. We have also been drawing and writing about our favorite parts of stories. Some of our favorite stories are, Jack and the Beanstalk, Strega Nona, The Three Billy Goats Gruff, and The Three Little Pigs.

Part of our daily routine includes counting together, reviewing shapes, and exploring with our math manipulatives during math time. For science, we have been learning about animals and their needs. We have also learned about mixing colors, the changing seasons, and parts of an apple. We are very lucky to have grade 2 helpers join us for indoor recess this year! Please enjoy these pictures from the past month.







Grade 1 News – Mrs. Rhynhart

Welcome to first grade! Recently, a large, hungry bird visited our classroom looking for moths to eat. The bird left our room hungry. Why? Because the first graders learned about camouflage and hid the moths so carefully that the bird couldn't find any to eat! This fun activity was part of our science unit about animal traits (or "superpowers" as we call them!) that help aid in their survival. We also learned that the shape of a bird's beak gives us clues about the kinds of food it eats. We practiced picking up different kinds of food with a duck-shaped beak and a warbler beak to help understand how the shape is specific to their diet. The warbler can pick small insects and seeds out of small spaces with its pointed beak, and the duck can scoop up aquatic plants with its spoon-shaped beak. Our favorite was the pelican beak with its special "net" that helps it catch large fish! The first graders have been busy scientists during their first month of school, and we look forward to more fun discoveries ahead in the month of October!

Grade 2 News – Mrs. Crocker-Lincoln

Book Break

Students at Eastford Elementary have a unique opportunity each month to partner with famous authors and illustrators in a live setting for engaging author talks and illustrator demonstrations. In September, grade 2 visited with Shanon Hale, author of Princess in Black as well as illustrator Uyen. Primary classes from all around the country were in attendance, BUT it was Eastford Elementary School that received a big shout-out for being present on this particular visit! Ms. Hale told us there is a new book expected soon for readers to enjoy entitled, Princess in Black and the Kitty Catastrophe. The famous author also told us that having fun reading and playing is how you can practice to be a great author. Uyen explained that there are no mistakes in art and she led us through a directed one-eyed monster drawing. Students did an amazing job with this activity. We look forward to gathering with additional authors and illustrators this year.

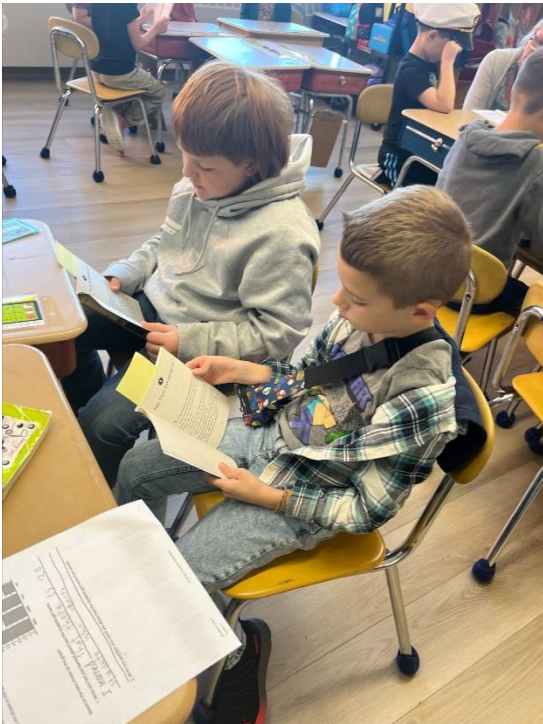


Grade 3 News – Mrs. Bisson

Grade three students have had a great start to our school year! In our Second Step Lessons, we are learning how our brain learns new skills by creating pathways in our mind. We get better and better at this new skill the more we practice. Grade three certainly had lots of practice learning new routines in a new school year in a new classroom!

Grade three has also been FULL of reading and writing! During our Shared Reading and ELA blocks, we've been reading, discussing, and writing about texts and working together as a class and in partners. Together, we've read books such as Owen Foote: Money Man, Boy- Tales of Childhood: The Autobiography of Roald Dahl, and currently, we are in the middle of the silly adventures of Peter and Fudge in Fudge-a-Mania.

We kicked off our first Science unit of the year by studying the traits of fossils and asking "Where could you find whales in a desert?" We also discovered that habitats change over time and it's possible that Eastford was once an ocean! The only way to really know is to dig way down deep into the ground and study the fossils found below. Next up, we will learn if we could outrun a dinosaur!



Grade 4 News – Ms. Dill

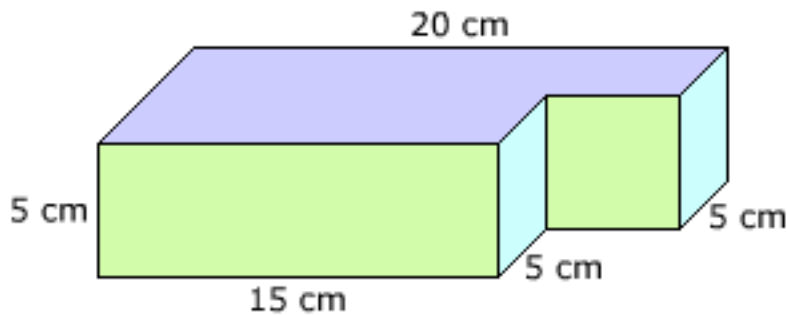
I'm excited to welcome students back to school as they embark on their journey into grade 4! This year promises to be filled with engaging lessons to spark curiosity and a love for learning, new friendships, and opportunities for growth. I encourage parents to stay involved and support their children as they settle into their new routines. Are you wondering how you can help?

1. **Create a Designated Study Space:** Set up a quiet, well-lit area free from distractions where your child can focus on their homework.
2. **Establish a Routine:** Encourage a consistent homework schedule to help your child develop good study habits and time management skills.
3. **Be Available for Support:** Let your child know you're there to help if they have questions or need clarification but encourage them to try solving problems independently first.
4. **Encourage Breaks:** Remind your child to take short breaks during homework sessions to stay refreshed and maintain focus.
5. **Celebrate Efforts and Achievements:** Acknowledge your child's hard work and progress, regardless of the outcome, to boost their confidence and motivation.

Thank you for being an essential part of our school community!



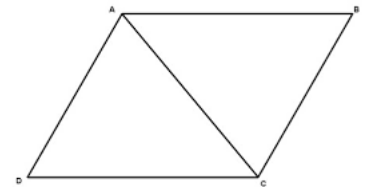
Math News – Mrs. Barlow



Grade 5: We have started the year by working on volume. Students have built rectangular prisms and solved for their volume by looking for side

lengths or finding layers. We have also started solving for the volume of compound figures, like the one above, having to use our attentiveness and math skills to find the volume of different pieces and then add them together.

Grade 6 We have been working on the area, specifically parallelograms and triangles. We started with parallelograms and noted how to decompose the shapes to make a rectangle and find the area. After making observations, we derived the equation of $b \times h = A$. So we do not have to decompose the shape to find the area every time. We are working our way toward a formula for triangles as well. We made our first step toward the formula as we discovered that the copy of any triangle forms a parallelogram. So, if we can find the area of the parallelogram, we can find the area of the triangle.

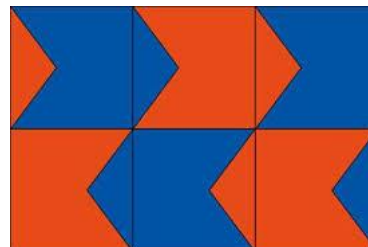


Grade 7: This group has been working on scale copies, determining that scale copies always have equal corresponding sides and angles. This week, we have been creating scale drawings of shapes given one scale and then changing to another. We are also touching on scales without



units and how they compare to the ratios that we learned about last year. Students will work on their scale drawings at the end of this unit.

Grade 8 has been working on rigid transformations. These include rotation, reflection, and translations. They prove that shapes are congruent after a transformation or a series of rigid transformations. We are making our way toward non-rigid transformations, adding dilations to the mix.



However, if they remember their work last year with scale copies, they will have no problem with this! This group will be creating tessellations at the end of the unit as a project to finish things off.

1. The larger of two numbers is 5 more than the smaller number. If the sum of the numbers is 75, what are the two numbers?

Let x = smaller #

Let $x+5$ = larger #

$$x + x + 5 = 75$$

$$2x + 5 = 75$$

$$2x = 70$$

$$x = 35$$

The two #'s are 35 and 40!

$$35 + 5 = 40$$

Algebra: I have been implementing something new this year by providing students with blank guided notes to fill out during the lesson. Practice problems and reference sheets are included. I have been impressed with their overall work ethic and look forward to seeing how they do. We are currently working on multi-step equations and writing and solving algebraic equations.

ELA – Mr. Salsich

Dear Families,

I'm excited to share what we've been working on in our ELA classes!

In fifth grade, we continue our journey through Bridge to Terabithia. Recently, we've focused on character development, particularly direct and indirect characterization. To deepen their understanding, students will engage in activities such as rewriting a short passage from a different character's point of view and discussing how this changes the reader's perception of events and characters.

For sixth and seventh grade, we've just completed White Bird, and we're moving into a series of engaging assessments and discussions. The first will be a spider web discussion, where students will create their own questions and lead the conversation on the book's key themes. Additionally, students will participate in a Reflective Journaling activity titled "Light Moments," focusing on moments of hope and resilience in the story.

In eighth grade, we've begun our narrative writing unit, and students will explore advanced narrative techniques. I will challenge students with activities such as:

- Developing complex characters that evolve over time.
- Experimenting with different styles of dialogue to see which best drives the plot forward and reveals character motivations.
- Foreshadowing and building suspense: Students will practice inserting subtle hints into their narratives to develop anticipation.
- Manipulating pacing: They will rewrite scenes to either speed up or slow down the action, analyzing how this affects tension and engagement.

These activities will help students sharpen their writing skills and deepen their understanding of storytelling techniques, all while encouraging creativity and critical thinking.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or need further information. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,
James Salsich

Science News – Mrs. Mead

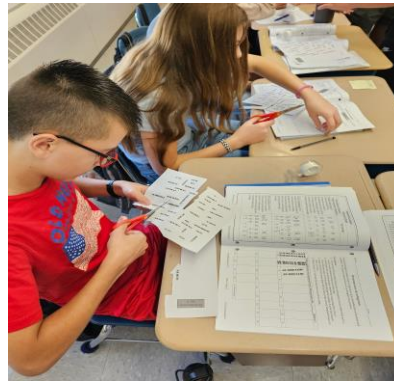
A good book and a comfy chair is all you need to get the school year off to a GREAT start!



Grade 5 science students are studying astronomy, particularly patterns of movement of objects compared to Earth. Grade 6 students are using Know Atom materials for the first time to understand how gravity causes motion. Grade 7 students are learning about matter, specifically how thermal energy and kinetic energy are related, while grade 8 students are finishing a biology unit on cell division including mitosis and regeneration.

Here are some pictures of hard work and deep learning in progress!





(Although cut into several fragments, no planaria were harmed in the creation of these images)
Just ask an 8th grader to explain!

Middle School Student Council will begin this month, with a fall dance and helping PTO with the annual food drive as our first few tasks. Watch for details to

Social Studies News – Mr. Kernan

In Social Studies this year, we are exploring the when, where, how, and why of historical events and their significance. By answering these questions, students will draw conclusions about these events and their outcomes. The "why" is key, as it prompts us to debate the importance of each event. Whether it's students, scholars, or participants of the time, people often disagree on the reasons behind historical events, making this a central focus of our discussions.

Grade 5 students are delving into early European attempts to settle in what would become the Americas. They're also examining the Native peoples who lived here before 1492 and exploring the period between European settlements and the rise of modern cultures in the Western Hemisphere. Through an American perspective, we aim to understand and appreciate the diverse cultures that emerged from this blending of worlds.

In Grades 6 and 7, students are studying Early Humans, guided by the essential question, "What role did geography play in the development of the first human civilizations?" A key takeaway is understanding how rivers, providing fresh water,

fertile soil, and transportation, were vital for early settlements—an importance that continues to impact us today.

Grade 8 students are focusing on the drafting of the United States Constitution, investigating the decisions made by our Founding Fathers. They are exploring why certain rights were included in the Constitution, while others were left out, and reflecting on how we interpret the Constitution today. As part of their study, students are preparing posters to showcase their evolving understanding of this foundational document.

Noticias de Español – Señora DePercio

Grade 1

This year, the first graders have become SUPER detectives! Using their lupas (magnifying glasses), students are learning how, to be a super language learner, you must look for clues, listen for clues, and take a guess! First graders are also learning how to answer the question “¿Cómo te llamas?” by introducing themselves with “Me llamo...”!

Grades 2 & 3

We have spent the month of September mastering everything we remember from last year. This includes colors, numbers 0-10, vowels, and multiple ways of saying goodbye! Grade 2 will move on to more in-depth vowel practice and learning body part vocabulary. Grade 3 will continue their syllable practice and begin their participation in an international project with Journey North, where we will be sending symbolic butterflies to children living in monarch sanctuary areas in Mexico. This symbolic migration reflects the real migration of the Monarch butterflies we see here in Connecticut! We will be creating two class butterflies made up of individual, student decorated pieces and send them down to elementary schools in Mexico.

Grades 4

Students have begun their work with the alphabet. We are learning letter names with the intention that by the end of the year, spelling in Spanish will be a breeze! This past week, students began our unit on emotions. They will be using the verb *estar* in order to express how they feel!

Grades 5

Students in Grade 5 have currently been studying their classroom *contraseñas*. These are twelve phrases which I consider to be our classroom “passwords.” To stay in the target language and move through our lessons, students need to know how to say phrases such as *Tengo una*

pregunta (I have a question), Repite por favor (Repeat, please), and of course, ¿Qué significa? (What does ___ mean?). After mastering these phrases, fifth graders will dive into our first unit exploring Puerto Rico!

Grades 6 & 7

We have begun our year reviewing some fundamentals: reviewing subject pronouns, the verb “ser” to be, and then family members. This year we are adding extended family members and some pets to our list. This unit will also include learning Spanish possessive adjectives (e.g., my, your, his, her) in order to describe our final project which will be our own family trees!

Grades 8

Grade 8 has begun the year using the textbook *Así se dice!* 1. Our first chapter is entitled “Cómo somos?” or translated “What are we like?” Students will learn vocabulary pertaining to physical and personality descriptions. They will also be able to describe themselves, where they are from, and how they would explain their school. This year our goal is to have more conversations and feel more confident reading more difficult texts. In order to achieve this, we have begun learning some high frequency words in Spanish. Each week, students will receive a list of four to five words which will help them recognize and feel more comfortable in the target language!



Library & Media Center – Mrs. Bibeault

EES Media Center – Mrs. Bibeault



Greetings from the EES Media Center. The students had a smooth start in the library and were excited to start checking out books!

Library Check-Out Guidelines:

- PK - Grade 2: Borrow one book at a time. Return books every week on designated library days: PK – Fridays, Grade K – Tuesdays, and Grade 1 & Grade 2– Mondays.
- Grades 3-4: Borrow up to two books concurrently. Return books weekly on library days, unless a renewal is requested. Grade 3 & 4 – Fridays.
- Grades 5-8: Check out two books at a time, unless more are required for class projects. Books are loaned for a two-week period and can be extended as needed.



Please remember, library books are school property and should be handled with care. In accordance with school policy, any lost or damaged books must be reimbursed or replaced with a new copy.

Explore the EES library page at <https://www.eastfordct.org/library/>. You can help your child check if a specific book is available using our online catalog. For any assistance, reach out to Mrs. Bibeault at library@eastfordct.org.



Governor's Summer Reading Challenge Update:

If your child participated in the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge, kindly have him/her submit their reading journal by Friday, October 11, 2024. All participating students will receive a special award incentive to celebrate their reading achievements. Plus, one special prize will be drawn for each group of readers: pk & k, grades 1-3, grades 3-5, and grades 6-8. Be sure to get those journals in!

New Shelves in the Library Thanks to the Book Fair!

We're excited to announce that our library has two brand-new shelves, purchased with Scholastic dollars from last fall's incredibly successful book fair! These shelves are now proudly displayed in our graphic novel section, making it easier than ever to explore our fantastic collection of graphic novels. Thanks to the amazing support from our book fair, we can offer even more space for you to discover new adventures and stories in your favorite graphic formats. Come check out the newly organized section and dive into a world of vibrant illustrations and captivating tales. Happy reading!



Exciting New Shelf in the Library: Take a Book, Make It Yours!



We're thrilled to introduce a new feature in our library—a special shelf filled with weeded books that students can take home and keep! This new "Book Giveaway Shelf" offers a variety of books that have been lovingly read but are still full of stories waiting to be enjoyed. Whether you're looking for a new adventure, a classic tale, or just a fun read, you're sure to find something special. Feel free to browse the shelf and pick out any book you like—it's our gift to you! We hope these books bring you as much joy as they brought to our library. Happy reading!

Author Visit

The Eastford PTO is generously sponsoring a visit from Connecticut author, Renata Bowers, on Tuesday, October 29th. Students in Pre-K through Grade 8 will have the opportunity to meet with Ms. Bowers, to listen to one of her stories, and to hear her message of using their imaginations and becoming their own unique selves. The Frieda B. series of books have been awarded Gold for Best Picture Book Series by the National Moonbeam Children's Book Award. This prestigious award recognizes books across a wide range of subjects, styles, and age groups for their support of childhood literacy and lifelong reading. More information and order forms (if you would like to purchase a book) will come home in your child's Progress Report on October 11. We are most grateful to our PTO for supporting this wonderful event!





Eastford Families: Children's Author Renata Bowers is coming to visit!

♥ Tuesday, Oct. 29th! ♥



Nationally Awarded *Best Picture Book Series*

Frieda B. author Renata Bowers will join us to read one of her stories, and share with us what she loves about the work she does.

♥ WHO ARE YOU FREE TO BE? ♥

Through her Frieda B. series of picture books, author Renata Bowers encourages kids of all ages to use their imaginations, and to believe that – just like the main character, Frieda B. – they, too, are free to be the very important one-of-a-kind story they carry inside.

The key, she says, is helping boys and girls grasp their inherent worth – and the worth of others. “There is little I love more than encouraging the story within children – and helping them to see how important it is to encourage the stories in others,” says Renata. “So often I believe kids don’t know how incredibly and uniquely valuable they are... not just intellectually, but socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically. Every child is free to be a whole and wonderful child in his or her own unique way.”



Learn more at www.FriedaB.com ♥

P. E. & Health – Mr. Cody



P.E:

- Grades K-1: The students are continuing to learn how to move with a purpose through play. This unit they are working on listening skills, team building, and coordination through guided discovery. Students have been using tag games, hula hoops, and noodles to start off the year.



- **Grades 2-8:** The students will continue to work on collaboration and teamwork through recreational games and sport activities. During the month of September, I focused on stretching, muscle strength, relaxing, and breathing techniques through yoga. The unit went very well. Currently. Students have been reviewing the rules of football and proper throwing techniques. Skills and drills have been designed around throwing, catching, running, and kicking a football.



Middle School Health:

Grades 5 – 8: Over the past few weeks, we have been focusing on an important topic: Nutrition. Students have been exploring key concepts such as the importance of balanced meals, the different nutritional categories, how to make healthy food choices, and understanding how nutrition affects our bodies and overall well being.

We encourage you to reinforce these lessons at home by discussing what they've learned and involving them in making healthy food choices. This is a wonderful opportunity to develop lifelong habits that promote well-being and health.

As we approach October, we will be discussing healthy/unhealthy habits, trans fats, high sodium diets, foods to avoid, sugar, and foods that are “fortified.”





Thank you for the opportunity to share information about Arts at the Capitol Theater (ACT) with your students. Please find helpful information and links below to share. Reach out with any questions, or if you'd like to schedule an ACT representative to visit your school community during the school day or at an evening event. And plan to join us at our annual Gala and Open House event Thursday, November 14th from 6-8 p.m.!

Best,
Sarah Mallory
ACT PRINCIPAL
Office: 860-465-5636 Cell: 860-942-9161
smallory@eastconn.org

ACT Website
www.eastconn.org/act

Video Overview of our Program: [Click here!](#)

[ACT Brochure](#)

[ACT Program of Studies](#)

To Schedule a 'Shadow Day', use [this form](#).

To Download an Application: Application Deadline is January 31, 2025

English: [Click Here](#)

Spanish: [Click Here](#)

Student Created Recruitment Video "[Of course we want you to come to ACT!](#)"



MIDDLE SCHOOL AUCTION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Hello EES Middle School Parents and **Future Middle School** Parents!

The **Auction Committee needs your help!** For the past several years, all Grade 8 students have been able to go on the annual trip to Washington D.C. **FREE** of charge. With current transportation costs, the trip costs almost \$1000 per student and the Annual Goods and Services Auction is the **only** fundraiser that EES has to support this trip.

This year's auction is on **Saturday, November 16. WE NEED YOUR HELP IN TWO WAYS TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS:**

- 1. The auction committee is looking for volunteers to assist with soliciting local businesses for donations. There are currently only THREE middle school parents volunteering for this and we need help.**
- 2. You can also help by donating items directly to the auction like crafts, gifts, artwork, gift cards, or services (for example: landscaping, painting, or home repairs)**

Whether you can help reach out to local businesses or donate directly, your support will make a huge difference.

Even if your child is not in eights grade this year, this auction benefits all middle school students. The money raised at the auction is distributed by percentage into accounts for grade 8, grade 7, grade 6 AND grade 5! Starting in fifth grade, your child is already earning money to attend their future DC trip. Each year we ask students in all of these grades to contribute in some way towards the auction – and **now we're asking you – the parents – to help as well.** The auction only runs smoothly due to parent volunteers.

If you want to join or assist in some way, have a donation to give or have other questions – please send an email to auction@eastfordct.org.

Even if your time is limited, we would love to have you!



BAKED GOODS NEEDED

E.E.S. Annual Goods and Services
Auction and Bake Sale
Saturday, November 16th

We need **YOUR** homemade baked goods to make this bake sale a success!

**cookies ~ bars ~ cupcakes ~ candy ~ pies ~ breads
gluten-free and sugar-free treats too!**

**All proceeds will go to the 5th-8th grade class accounts
for their class trip to Washington, D.C.**

Your support is appreciated!

**Baked goods can be brought to school on Friday, November 15th
or delivered between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 16th.**

All donations should be clearly labeled and packaged to sell.

**Feel free to contact Kirstin Budd at busybudds@gmail.com
with items to be donated and/or for any questions.**

Or, fill out the form below and return to the school office.

Name: _____

E-mail and/or phone number: _____

Child(ren)/grade(s): _____

Note: Please specify type and quantity (i.e., chocolate chip/4 dozen).

Cookies _____ Cupcakes _____

Bread _____ Pie _____

Candy _____ Other _____



Woodstock, CT

Scouting America
Connecticut Rivers Council

Pack 27

**Join Today!
Get a Free Rocket!**

- HIKING
- ARCHERY
- FIRST AID
- CAMPING
- BIKING
- CRAFTS
- SWIMMING
- BUILDING
- LEARN SKILLS

Sign Up!

Boys & Girls K-5th Grade

FRIENDSHIPS

- RAINGUTTER REGATTA
- PINEWOOD DERBY
- SUMMER CAMP
- ROCKETS
- STEM
- & MORE!

Come to Our Sign Up Night!
 September 12, 2024 6:30 PM
 Woodstock Elementary School
 Contact Cubmaster Mark for more information: 860-208-1182
 or Collinsmmjs@charter.net

*Every new member will receive an Estes Star Seeker Rocket to build and launch with the Cub Scout Pack!
 A 12 month membership is \$154.00, Individuals with State Insurance can join for \$24.00 a year.

Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp

WT4-H Camp needs your candy. Our teens will be hosting the Fall Extravaganza Fundraiser, which includes trick or treating. Proceeds from the event go towards repairing our Health Office. Please consider donating a bag of candy!

Candy Needed

Collection Locations
Winy Radio
Sunshine Shop
Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp

DROP OFF BEFORE OCTOBER 15

WINDHAM-TOLLAND 4-H CAMP

326 TAFT POND RD POMFRET, CT 06259

860-974-1122

OCTOBER 19 FROM 2:00- 4:00 PM



FALL

EXTRAVAGANZA

TRY OUR TRICK OR TREAT TRAIL!

\$5 PER TRICK-OR-TREATER AGES 2 AND UP

-SMORES AND HOT CHOCOLATE

-DONUT EATING CONTEST

-GAMES

FOOD ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

BUCKS ON THE RUN!!!!

WILL BE HERE FOR PURCHASE OF YOUR FAVORITE ICE CREAM

DRESS UP IN COSTUMES!

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE NURSES CABIN REHAB



Got Kids?

Welcome Back to School!



Publication 5844 (en-sp) (7-2023) Catalog Number 94845Z
Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service
www.irs.gov

Whether your child is a newborn, college student or anywhere in between, parents have special tax situations and benefits. Review tax information for parents and get general information about tax credits, such as Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) by scanning the QR code below with your smart device to access Tax Information for Parents.

Need help filing? Free tax preparation is available at a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) or Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) site near you. Scan the QR code below with your smart device to find updated information about the sites in your area.



Scan or visit irs.gov/parents for
Tax Information for Parents



Scan or visit irs.gov/vita for
Free Tax Return Preparation

You can also do your taxes for free by visiting irs.gov/freefile.



Contact Information

Joseph Musumeci

Advisor

jmusumeci@woodstockacademy.org

860-928-6575



Please Join Us for Trick or Treat Street

Friday, October 25, 2024

Sponsored by:

The Woodstock Academy Student Council

**North Campus, Bowen first floor, 4pm to 6pm, For Families of Children
10 & Under**