



**Shaping Futures Together**

To: Dr. Donna Leake  
 From: Carole McCombe  
 Date: November 6, 2024  
 Subject: November Report to the Board of Education

**Field Trips:**

- Grade 8 will be visiting Washington, D.C. on June 3, 4, 5, and 6, 2025. Mrs. Jennifer Barlow and Mrs. Catherine DePercio are planning the arrangements and itinerary and will be chaperoning the trip. We have four parent chaperones also planning to attend.
- Preschool, Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, and Grade 4 will take monthly walking field trips to the Eastford Public Library.

**Virtual Field Trips (CILC):**

Wyoming Veterans Memorial Museum	Veterans Day: Celebrating our Veterans	Grade 2	11/08/2024
Learn Around the World	Wampanoag and The Pilgrims	Grade 4	11/25/2024
Kenai Fjords National Park	Glacier Explorers	Grade 4	03/12/2025
Longwood Gardens	Desert Plant Adaptations	Grade 4	5/08/2025

**Eastford Readiness Program:**

The Program has 16 students enrolled. One new student registration is pending. Student needs require additional support staff in the preschool classroom. We are able to provide for this additional support with money brought in by Readiness tuition fees.

**Eastford Readiness Council Update:**

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM via Zoom. The next meeting will be on December 3, 2024. We are awaiting word on our NAEYC reaccreditation status. I anticipate we will hear something before the Thanksgiving break. The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) is consolidating

three state programs that provide programming and funding for young children. Beginning July 2025, School Readiness, Head Start, and Smart Start will all be under a new label called Early Start CT. At that time, funding will only be allocated based on our average space utilization over the past three years. The grant application process will also look a bit different under the new Early Start CT umbrella.

### **Data on Student Progress:**

- Students in grades 2-8 are finishing their NWEA assessments. Student mid-term progress reports will be sent home with students on December 6 and parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for December 12 in the evening and December 13 in the afternoon. Students in grades 5-8 will conduct Student Led Conferences. Preschool through grade 4 will hold traditional conferences.
- The State Department of Education has released The District Next Generation Accountability Reports to districts. The reports are not yet publicly available. I will have data available for the meeting showing our progress in all the applicable areas of the twelve categories that are measured for this report.

### **Professional Development:**

- Our strategic improvement plan has been updated for 2024-2025 with support from Eastconn Staff. We have changed the format to be less cumbersome in the hopes that it is more user-friendly.
- The November 5 Professional Day included three sessions all designed around supporting students and school safety. We had a session on Active Shooter training with CT State Police, a session on trauma-informed practices, and a session for Psychological Management Training (PMT). Statistics indicate that recognizing and responding to “red flags” with students’ social-emotional needs could reduce or eliminate adverse reactions that may lead to school violence.
- Teachers have completed their goals for Growth and Evaluation under the new plan. I will hold goal meetings this week and next week to finalize their goals.
- February 14 is our next scheduled Professional Development afternoon. This will be an early dismissal day for students. All staff will continue learning about trauma-informed practices and supporting student behaviors that impact learning.

### **2024 Fall Sports Update:**

- Our Soccer team made it to the semi-finals of the QVJC league. They lost in the first game to Canterbury after double overtime play and a series of penalty kicks. Congratulations on a great season!
- Basketball practice will begin on November 13. The first game is December 2 against Parish Hill here at home. We have 28 players on the co-ed team, 10 girls and 18 boys. Four boys and two girls are fifth graders. Fifth graders will only play on the JV team.

### **Upcoming events:**

- On November 8 we will reveal the new school sign that will replace the center oval on the sign near the old front entrance. The theme this year was, “Where Does Reading Take You?”. Students voted on their favorite design from over 30 entries.
- The annual Goods and Services Auction will be held on Saturday, November 16, to raise funds for the Grade 8 trip to Washington, D.C. Food will be available to purchase from local restaurant Pizza 101.
- A parent would like to hold a Pampered Chef fundraiser to raise funds for the auction committee. Pampered Chef will donate 10%-20% of all sales to a designated charity or organization – the

auction in this case. The merchandise catalog would be available to all families. Students would not need to go door to door to sell anything. The plan is to conduct this fundraiser after the Auction into early December.

- Thursday, November 14, Arts at the Capital Theater (ACT) will hold its annual Gala and Open House for students from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- The Woodstock Academy will hold an open house for prospective students on November 21 from 4:30-7:00 p.m.
- E.O. Smith will hold an open house for new students and families on February 6 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We are working with E.O. Smith to schedule a time when all grade 8 students can tour the school and get information.
- We have a full calendar of after-school enrichment activities planned with our After School grant. Some activities include cupcake decorating, RC airplanes, Mystic Seaport, Roger Williams Park Zoo, Ragged Hill Woods, art club, board games, chorus, hydroponics, acting and filmmaking, and academic support.
- On December 18, we will hold a winter concert featuring the after-school chorus, classroom music, recorders, and instrumental players.

### **Special Thanks:**

Thanks to the EIFC for assisting in a fire drill evacuation exercise with us in October and for taking the time to show their equipment and talk with our younger students about fire safety.