



Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
 From: Carole McCombe
 Date: December 5, 2024
 Subject: December Report to the Board of Education

Field Trips:

- Grade 8 students visited E.O. Smith High School on December 4 for a tour and information session.
- Grade 4 will visit the Audubon Society in Pomfret on January 16, 2025 for snowshoeing and a science program on winter animal tracks.
- Preschool, Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, and Grade 4 will take monthly walking field trips to the Eastford Public Library.
- 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.

Virtual Field Trips (CILC):

Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center	Story Time with Mrs. Claus - teaching kindness, respect, and giving	Grade 2	12/13/2024
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. This includes one who dropped out and a new student who enrolled. Current student needs require additional support staff in the preschool classroom. We can provide for this additional support with money brought in by Readiness tuition fees. We plan to invite a three-year old on the waiting list to join the group in January for partial days.

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 January 7, 2025. 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 RFA (Part A) for baseline funding is due by December 5. The RFA (Part B) is a competitive grant application. This has yet to be released. Our baseline level of funding is \$94,665.00. Hopefully, we will also receive competitive funding to bring us up to our expected level of \$100,800.00

Data on Student Progress:

Progress reports will be sent home with students on December 6. 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. We will hold our trimester awards assembly on December 13 at 9:00 a.m.

High School Information and Updates:

Mrs. Schleicher is providing students and families with information regarding applications, open houses, shadowing, and course selection at the various high schools. At this time, eight students have applied to Ellis Tech, three have requested to attend E.O. Smith, and one student is interested in QMC. Grade eight visited E.O. Smith on December 4. This may spark additional interest. Approximately ten students plan to attend The Woodstock Academy.

Upcoming events:

- Grade 4 will have a virtual visit with a meteorologist from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on December 6 to discuss severe weather and weather-related safety.
- On December 18, we will hold a winter concert featuring the after-school chorus, classroom music from preschool and kindergarten, grade 3 recorders, and instrumental players.
- E.O. Smith will hold an open house for new students and families on February 6, 2025 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- We have a full calendar of after-school enrichment activities planned with our After School grant. Some activities include cupcake decorating, Puppetry, Mystic Seaport, Roger Williams Park Zoo, Ragged Hill Woods, CT River Museum, art club, board games, chorus, hydroponics, acting and filmmaking, and academic support.

Special Thanks to:

- The auction chairs and dedicated committee members who organized and facilitated the annual Goods and Services Auction. We realized record fundraising totals this year. A few additional fundraisers are currently in progress – Pampered Chef, facilitated by parent volunteer Jenn Norman, and Holiday Baked Goods, facilitated by staff member Tammy Hull.
- Eastford PTO for their dedication and fundraising efforts to support staff and children at EES. They currently only have three members, yet they work diligently to maintain the same level of support. They have organized a Soup and Salad dinner for teachers for the evening of parent-teacher conferences, they are running the annual Giving Tree fundraiser to support the Eastford Food Pantry and families in need, and they are holding a Winter Wonderland craft activity at the Eastford Public Library in January.
- Michelle Bibeault for going above and beyond in organizing and staffing the biannual Scholastic Book Fair that will be open in the EES library December 9-13 and for facilitating the Pajama Day fundraiser to benefit CT Children's Medical Center.

- Grade 3 teacher Dawn Bisson for her willingness to participate in the training to become a mentor and cooperating teacher. Once she earns her credentials, she will be able to host a student teacher and be able to be a mentor to a teacher just beginning their career.