



# Shaping Futures Together

January  
2025



## From the Principal's Desk

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Dear Families,

Happy New Year! I hope all of our Eastford Elementary School families are enjoying a happy and healthy beginning to 2025! It looks like the colder winter weather is now upon us in full force. For those that don't know, when there is inclement or unsafe weather forecast for our area, local Superintendents conference with a weather professional about the expected or current conditions, and generally, a joint decision is reached about how schools will respond. Many districts send students to The Woodstock Academy, so we try to make a decision that is in the best interests of both our high school students, who are out waiting for the bus at 5:30 a.m., and our elementary students who don't head out for the bus until much later in the morning. In addition, we also consult with the First Selectman and the town road crew as needed to fully assess the conditions present specifically in Eastford.

Please remember that we take children outside for recess unless the temperature and/or windchill make it too dangerous to do so. Students need to be dressed properly in order to participate in outdoor recess. Snow pants and snow boots are required for children to play in the snow. Please send these with your child when there is snow on the ground.

By now, most of you are familiar with our procedures for announcing **school closings, late openings, and any other unexpected changes to our school calendar**. Radio station WINY and television channels WFSB and WVIT will carry announcements about school delays, cancellations, and early closings. You will also receive a text message, email, and voicemail from our automated emergency alert system. Additionally, you may wish to sign up for free text alerts of closings, delays, and cancellations from the local news stations by going to their respective websites. Please notify me or the school office if you are not receiving automated emergency alerts so that we can make any necessary changes to correct this.

The **PTO's Giving Tree** collection has once again been very successful! Thanks to all who were able to purchase a snowflake and make a donation this year. Last-minute contributions will still be accepted through January 13. The money raised will support Eastford's Food Pantry and families in need in our school community. The combined effort will bring some relief to Eastford families throughout the year.

I would also like to thank the many local organizations and groups that have generously worked to provide additional holiday cheer for many of our families and students. We have been able to assist families with food, clothing, school supplies, toys, gifts, and other needs. Please don't hesitate to reach out to our school counselor, Mrs. Schleicher, or to me if you or someone you know is struggling and could use some support.

The Board of Education is beginning to prepare its **budget for the 2025-26** school year. Citizens who would like to be informed about our budget development may attend the budget meetings, all of which are public and are held in-person at the school, with a virtual option to join as well. Please contact the school office if you would like information to connect virtually to one or more of the meetings that are scheduled for:

January 9, 2025, at 6:00 PM – Regular BOE meeting;  
January 21, 2025, at 6:00 PM – Finance Committee;  
January 30, 2025, at 6:00 PM – Finance Committee; and  
February 13, 2025, at 5:00 PM – Prior to the Regular BOE meeting if needed

**Registration** is now open for our **2025-2026 preschool and kindergarten** classes. **To be eligible for kindergarten**, students must be Eastford residents and be 5 years old or turning 5 years old by **September 1, 2025**. This is a relatively new eligibility requirement established by the State Department of Education and the Office of Early Childhood. Our **preschool program** is funded through School Readiness and the Office of Early Childhood and while it is housed in our public school, **it is not a public-school program**. To be eligible, students must be at least 3 years old or turning 3 years old by September 1, 2025. **Enrollment is based on family financial needs and student developmental needs** and is not guaranteed for all Eastford students. A **needs assessment survey** will be sent out in February to all families with children under the age of 5. Please take a few minutes to fill out and return the survey if you have young children in your home. This information helps us to plan for the future educational needs of the Eastford community. Please contact the school office if you have any questions.

I also want to remind everyone about our Transportation Policy for students. Students in grades **PK and K** should be **met at the bus stop** by a

parent/guardian or designated caregiver. Students in **grades 1-3** should have a parent/guardian or designated caregiver **visible** before the driver will let the child off the bus. If there are changes to your regular dismissal routine, **parents must notify the school in writing in advance of the change**. Additionally, students who plan to stay after school to watch sporting events should request permission prior to attending an event using the designated form for spectators. Students who are signed up to participate in an after-school activity or academic support will only be excused by a parent by advanced written notice, or by the school nurse if they are being sent home sick. Last minute phone requests are very difficult to manage and will not be honored.

Congratulations to **citizens of the trimester** for the first trimester: **Harrison Demers in grade 2** and **Aaron Minor in grade 8**. They were nominated by their teachers for demonstrating the qualities of good citizenship and were recognized at the Board of Education meeting on December 12, 2024. Congratulations to you both for this well-deserved honor! I would also like to congratulate students who made the **Honor Roll** for the first trimester. This includes students in grades 6-8 who earned High Honors, Honors, and Recognition. A listing of students in each category is included elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Families should be on the lookout for mid-term progress reports. These will go home with students on January 17, 2025, and indicate your child's progress at the midpoint of the second trimester.

There is no school on Monday, January 20, 2025, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

As always, please check with the school office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Carole McCombe



# Kindergarten – Ms. Garvie

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The kindergarten class had such a wonderful time in the month of December! The children have been learning how to retell stories and describe many details. We also have been drawing and writing about the books we are reading and we are learning new letters and sounds each week.

During math time, we finished unit 2 (understanding numbers 1-1) and we just started unit 3. This unit is based on identifying, comparing, and matching flat shapes. In science, we became weather watchers and did a fun Breeze Buddy project.

We have also learned about various holidays including Kwanza, Hanukkah, and Christmas. We made kwanza bracelets and menorahs. We also made beautiful sequencing Christmas trees and did other fun holiday activities! Please enjoy these pictures of some of our favorite projects and activities from December.







# Grade 1 News – Mrs. Rhynhart

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Welcome to the new year! This month, the first-grade scientists will be learning about nature's patterns in the night. You may see a first grader out at night looking for the phase of the moon, the Big Dipper, or the North Star (with their family's permission of course!) We will also be expanding our word knowledge as we learn about "glued sounds" in words such as **ang, ing, ong and ung**, as well as expanding the sight words that we can read and spell automatically. The first-grade mathematicians will be learning strategies to quickly and easily add and subtract numbers through 20, and our social skills curriculum this month will focus on developing empathy by recognizing our own feelings and others' feelings by using facial, body and contextual clues. We will also enjoy our monthly trip to the Eastford Public Library as well as discuss the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to our country. The first graders are anxious to see the flakes fly in this month so they can get out and enjoy some fun in the snow! Happy January!



# Grade 2 News – Mrs. Crocker-Lincoln

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Happy New Year to All!

## **Frog Research Report**

Grade 2 researchers are “jumping in” to an informational frog research report. This is a culminating task that will help students make connections to what they have learned in their reading, science, and writing classes. Students will focus on the life cycle of the frog by applying what they learned in shared reading class from several books on the topic to applying their knowledge from English Language Arts about how to formulate an informative piece of writing. Additionally, students will incorporate technology to make a Seesaw video presentation to share with families. This is a big goal for us, but we are up for new challenges in 2025!

## **Mysteries**

Second graders are currently exploring narrative mystery text structure and elements, and are practicing using narrative story elements to accurately retell a story. Students will apply what they’ve learned by actively participating in oral whole group and partner discussions and completing daily written responses about each book. The lessons in this unit work together to reinforce students’ understanding of multiple narrative mystery text structures, and help students understand why it is beneficial to compare texts with similar structures.

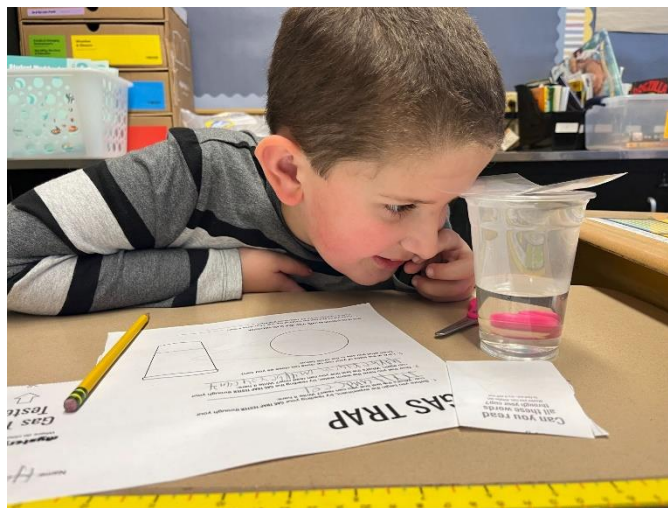
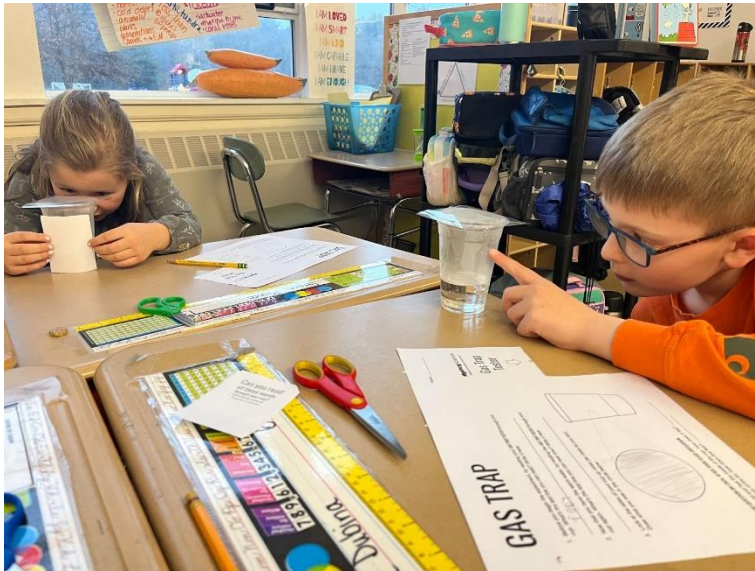




# Grade 3 News – Mrs. Bisson

Grade 3 students have been learning all about the weather in our shared reading book *Twisters and Other Terrible Storms*. We learned about high pressure and low pressure in the atmosphere and how those changes can affect the weather. We also learned about weather disasters such as tornadoes, hurricanes, and blizzards.

To further support our learning, we began our Weather & Climate unit in science. We created a model water cycle by pouring warm water into a cup and observing the changes that occurred when we “trapped” the water vapor that tried to escape. We used scientific words like “evaporation” and “condensation” to describe what was happening!



# Grade 4 News – Ms. Dill

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Winter is a wonderful time for families to come together and create lasting memories through engaging indoor activities. By embracing the season, families can explore new hobbies, strengthen relationships, and promote learning while enjoying the cozy atmosphere of home! Here are 5 indoor activities families can do together that also promote learning:

1. **Cooking:** Involve children in meal preparation. Use recipes to teach measurements, fractions, and following instructions. Discuss nutritional values to promote healthy eating habits.
2. **Science Experiments:** Conduct simple science experiments using household items. For example, create a volcano with baking soda and vinegar to explore chemical reactions or grow crystals using sugar or salt.
3. **Board Games and Puzzles:** Playing board games can be educational. They help with math, vocabulary, and strategy. Puzzles can help with problem-solving skills and critical thinking.
4. **Reading:** Set aside time for family reading sessions. Choose a variety of books and discuss the stories, characters, themes, or main ideas to enhance comprehension and critical thinking.
5. **(Virtual) Museum Tours:** Tour museums or historical sites. Many institutions offer online experiences that provide educational content about art, history, and science.

Engaging in family activities during the winter fosters connection, creativity, and a love for learning in a warm and inviting environment.

# Science News – Mrs. Mead

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We are growing more than young minds in the middle school. Here, students harvest 4.5 lbs of Romaine lettuce and 6 lbs of Green Star lettuce from the vertical hydroponics farm.



Some of our youngest scientists learn more about consumers and the food web as they investigate owl pellets with help from Ragged Hill Woods.



Fifth-grade students tested out ways to remove “pollutants” from a model of the Connecticut River, with help from the staff of the Connecticut River Museum.



Fifth graders also test out the effects of planetary distance on the strength of solar energy throughout the solar system.

# Social Studies News – Mr. Kernan

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Happy New Year!

## **Grade 5**

I'm excited to kick off another year and continue our work together. This month, our grade five students will delve into the colonies of the 18th century, focusing on the French and Indian War and its connection to the American Revolution. Writing will take center stage as we sharpen persuasive writing skills. I'm looking forward to a productive and enriching month!

## **Grades 6 and 7**

We've embarked on an exploration of Ancient Greece, comparing its structure and influence on modern government and architecture. Students have begun to draw parallels between Ancient Greece and our Constitution, uncovering the impact of Greek ideas on our government framework. We've also explored the rise of Athens and Sparta, setting the stage for discussions on Greek mythology, the gods and goddesses, and the rise and fall of Alexander the Great and the Greek Empire.

## **Grade 8**

As we transition from the end of the American Revolution to the birth of a new nation, grade eight students are examining the Constitution's role in daily life and the development of our government. We've been exploring how different historical eras were shaped by the people of the time, laying the groundwork for our future focus: the American Civil War. This month, we'll begin with the Thomas Jefferson era, diving into the complexities and challenges of this pivotal time in American history.



# Art News – Ms. Weinland

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## 🎉 Happy New Year from the Art Room! 🎉

Students across all grades have been creating amazing masterpieces, below is a glimpse of their work. They are about to begin a variety of exciting projects, including clay, printmaking, drawing, painting, collage, fiber art, and sculpture. Throughout these projects, they will explore art history, learn about influential artists, and develop techniques to enhance their skills and creativity.

Pre-K explored the colorful world of Henri Matisse, discussing his use of vibrant colors, organic shapes, and bold patterns.



First graders practiced guided drawing by creating adorable penguins and adding unique patterns to their work.



Second grade nutcracker drawings took center stage as students experimented with warm and cool color combinations.



Fifth and eighth grade students wrapped up their clay units, crafting lanterns, dishes, and Tic-Tac-Toe boards.



In sixth grade, a few students turned the art room garbage can into a giant, Warhol-inspired Campbell's Soup Can as part of a study of the artist, the "King of Pop Art."



## 🧠 Art on Display! 🧠

Student artwork is currently featured at the Eastford Public Library and is rotated monthly. Be sure to stop by regularly to see the amazing talent on display!

## Health & Physical Education News- Mr. Cody

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### **P.E:**

- **Grades K-2** The students are continuing to learn how to move with a purpose through play. In this unit they are working on listening skills, team building, and coordination through guided discovery. Students have been using tag games, hula hoops, and cotton balls to advance various skills. Small group games, and chase/flee games will continue into January. Many of the games we have been playing have a winter theme. We are having a blast!



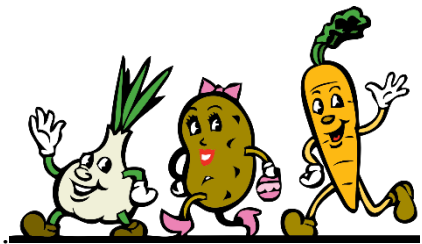
**Grades 3-8** We started Speed-Ball in December which we will be wrapping up in the middle of January. Afterwards we will be starting a unit on Badminton.



**What students will learn:**

- **Basic rules and gameplay:** Serving, scoring, and court positioning.
- **Fundamental skills:** Forehand, backhand, drop shot, and block.
- **Teamwork and communication:** Partner play strategies and sportsmanship.

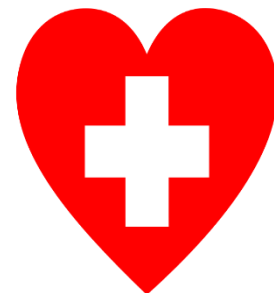
Our goal is to introduce students to a new sport they can enjoy both in and out of school. Whether they're beginners or have played before, there's something for everyone in this fun and inclusive unit

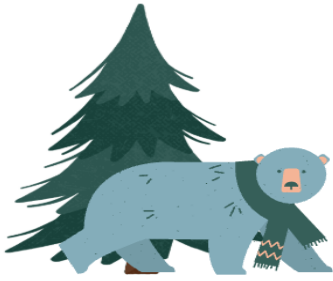


**Health:**

**Grades 5-8:** In December, we wrapped up our Nutrition unit, where students learned about making healthy food choices and understanding the importance of balanced eating habits. As we move into January, we'll kick off a quick unit on Decision Making. This unit will focus on teaching students how to evaluate choices and make responsible decisions in various scenarios.

Toward the end of the month, we'll dive into our First Aid Care unit. In this unit, students will learn basic first aid skills, including how to respond to minor injuries and emergencies. We're excited to empower them with the knowledge that can make a difference in critical situations!





# EES Library News

January 2025

## 🎯 Snuggly Success & Book Fair Fun!

We've had a busy and fun time last month in the library, thanks to great support from our community!

**Pajama Day for CMC:** Our annual Pajama Day for Children's Miracle Center was a hit! Students and staff came in their PJs to support this wonderful cause. It was a fun and cozy day that also taught our children about giving back. Thanks to your generosity, we raised a fantastic \$328! This money will directly support CMC's important work.

**Scholastic Book Fair:** Our recent Scholastic Book Fair was also a success! We earned an impressive \$1450 in Scholastic Dollars! We'll use these funds for exciting prizes for our summer reading program and to add new books and resources to our library.

**A Big Thank You!** A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Book Fair, especially those who participated in Share the Fair/Book Fairy. Your generosity helped us get even more books to our students, fostering a love of reading. We appreciate your commitment to literacy in our community!

### Dates to save for February

Feb 5 Global School Play Day -learn more at <https://globalschoolplayday.com/>

### Contact Information

860-974-1130 ext 110  
library@eaastfordct.org



# EES PTO

## January Newsletter

### December in Review:

- We would like to express our gratitude to all the volunteers who contributed to the success of the parent-teacher conference dinner. Your support was invaluable, and we couldn't have achieved this without each of you.
- This week marks the conclusion of our giving tree initiative. The final day to purchase a snowflake is Friday, January 3rd. All proceeds will benefit local families in need as well as the Eastford food pantry. We extend our appreciation to the student council for their significant role in ensuring the success of the giving tree.

### Upcoming:

- Winter Wonderland craft collaboration with the Eastford Public Library 1/25.

### Volunteers Needed:

- Volunteers for the Winter Wonderland craft collaboration

### January Events:

- 1/14 - PTO meeting
- 1/25- Winter Wonderland craft collaboration

### February Events:

- 2/11 - PTO meeting

Contact Information: Aliasha Lynch - PTO Chair

We are always eager to welcome new members to our monthly meetings. If you can't attend but would like to volunteer, please feel free to reach out with any questions or suggestions at [pto@eastfordct.org](mailto:pto@eastfordct.org). We also invite you to connect with us on Facebook by liking and following our page.

Eastford Elementary PTO Facebook Page

# Winter Wonderland Craft Collaboration with the Eastford Public Library 1/25/25 at 1030



If you'd like your child to participate in the Winter Wonderland craft collaboration with the Eastford Public Library, please register using the link below, listing one name per line. If you find that you can not attend, kindly email us at [pto@eastfordct.org](mailto:pto@eastfordct.org) so we can open the spot for another student. We also ask that you notify us to help us prepare the correct number of crafts for each child. In the past, we've over-purchased based on sign ups, and timely updates would allow us to allocate those funds elsewhere.

[Craft Sign-up](#)

Thank you!

	Child's Name	Parent's Name	Parent's Email
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

# Winter Wonderland

Wednesday, January 29 @ 10:30 – 11:30

in the Eastford Elementary School Library

(Snow date: February 5)



## The Eastford Readiness Program

Would like to invite you to a time full of winter themed activities, crafts and snacks open to all families of preschoolers at EES. Please RSVP if you plan to attend so we can be sure to have enough supplies for all.

[ckopplin@eastfordct.org](mailto:ckopplin@eastfordct.org) or (860) 974-1130

## Eastford Elementary School

12 Westford Road, Eastford Ct 06242

10:30 – 11:30am

(860) 974-1130

Yes, we are able to attend; please plan on \_\_\_\_\_ additional people.

No, we are not able to attend this time.

Please R.S.V.P by January 22



# January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>ALL ACTIVITIES ARE 3:45 TO 4:45 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED</b>			NO SCHOOL 1	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 2	RWP Zoo Gr K-2 3	4
5	Ragged Hill Woods Gr 2 - 6 6	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 7 Away Basketball	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 8 Cupcakes Gr 3-4 Group 1	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 9 Away Basketball	MS Student Council Dance 8 - 8 pm 10 Away Basketball	11
12	Mystic Seaport Monday Gr 2 - 5 13 Home Basketball 3:30	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 14 Board Games K-1	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 15 Hydroponics Cupcakes Gr 3-4 Group 2	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 16 Away Basketball	(long weekend) 17 Crochet gr 8	18
19	NO SCHOOL 20	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 21	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 22 Cupcakes Gr 5-8 Home Basketball 3:30	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 23 Home Basketball 3:30	RWP Zoo Gr 3-8 24	25
26	Ragged Hill Woods Gr 2 - 6 27 Chorus Gr 3 - 8 Away Basketball	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 28 Board Games 2-3	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 29 Crochet Gr 8	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 30	Movie Balto K-7 4:55 p/u time 31	

www.4hcampct.org

JANUARY 12  
1-3PM

# WINDHAM TOLLAND 4-H CAMP



## OPEN HOUSE

326 Taft Pond Rd  
Pomfret Ctr, CT 06259

Licensed by the State of CT

.....  
**860-974-3379**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FUNRAISING GOOD TIME

# Sno-Ball

JANUARY 25TH, 2025, 5 - 8 PM

WINDHAM-TOLLAND 4-H CAMP  
326 TAFT POND RD, POMFRET, CT

## Dinner & Dancing

We-Li-Kit Ice Cream Bar

DJ - Door Prizes

\$20 for Adults  
\$15 for kids 10 & under  
\$8 for Group Photos

All Proceeds Benefit  
the Jim Logee  
Campership Fund

To purchase tickets

- 1) <https://form.jotform.com/243115686498165>
- 2) scan QR code
- 3) call 860-974-3379

Snow Date - February 1st, 2025







**WINDHAM-TOLLAND 4-H CAMP**  
**326 Taft Pond Rd Pomfret, CT 06259**  
**www.4hcampct.org**



**PUT SOME FUN IN YOUR 2025 SUMMER!**  
**June 22 to August 16, 2025**

Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp, located in Pomfret Center, Connecticut, has provided summer camp experiences for thousands of youngsters for over 70 years. The camp has both overnight and day camp programs for boys and girls 6-15 years of age. The camp is located on 270 acres containing woodlands, cabins, recreation areas and scenic lakes. The Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp maintains a state license and ACA accreditation. Campers need not be 4-H members.

*Our caring, camper-centered, college-aged and trained staff is committed to providing a safe, educational, and fun experience for every child. Including a full time Registered Nurse.*

All campers have the opportunity to participate in a variety of programs each week including:

- Arts & Crafts
- Low and Mid High Ropes courses & Climbing wall
- Swimming
- Self-defense
- Fishing
- Sports
- Drama
- Dance
- Archery
- Outdoor Education
- Zip-line
- Canoeing & Kayaking
- Knitting

4-H Camp offers a variety of specialty programs also available on a weekly basis for an additional cost.

*Wood Fiber Crafts, Horseback Riding, Farm camp and Cow camp*

**CAMP PRICING 2025**

- Day Camp (ages 6-15) .....\$395 per week (Lunch & Snacks Included)
- Resident Camp (ages 9-15) .....\$620 per week
- Teen Leadership Program (ages 15-17) ..... \$375 per week
- Overnight Clover Camp (ages 7-8) .....\$330 per session (3 Day, 2 Night Sessions)



**THEME WEEKS FOR 2025**

- Week 1 – June 22-June 27- *Cartoon Week*
- Week 2 – June 29-July 4 – *Dragons & Dinosaurs Week*
- Week 3 – July 6-11 – *Carnival Week*
- Week 4 – July 13-18 – *Wild Wilderness Week*
- Week 5 – July 20-25 *Outer Space Week*
- Week 6 – July 27- Aug 1 – *International Week*
- Week 7 – August 3-8 – *Super Splash Week*
- Week 8 – August 11-15 – *Capture the Flag!* (Day Camp Only)

Visit our **website** at [www.4hcampct.org](http://www.4hcampct.org) for Online Registration

E-mail us at [registrar@4hcampct.org](mailto:registrar@4hcampct.org) for a camp brochure or additional information or  
 Call the Camp Registrar at (860) 974-3379



**OPEN HOUSES**  
December 28, 2024 1-3 pm  
Sunday, January 12 & Sunday, February 16  
Sunday, March 16 & Saturday, April 19  
 From 1:00 to 3:00 PM Each Day

