Field Trips:
- On December 5, grades K-3 attended a musical called *Chicken Dance* at Woodstock Academy Cultural Arts Center. The performance focused on dealing with bullying behaviors and character development. Field trip evaluations are included.
- On December 6, grades 6-8 went to the AMC Move Theater in Lisbon to watch the film, *Wonder*. Many students have either read this book or listened to it as a read aloud. Mrs. Harrington, school counselor, will be joining them and following up with activities and Second Step related lessons.
- On December 21, students in grades 6-8 will attend a performance of *A Christmas Carol* at Hartford Stage.
- Grades 3, Kindergarten and PK continue to visit the Eastford Public Library on a monthly basis.

Virtual Field Trips:
- December 19, grades K and 3: *December Holiday Stories*. Author Valerie Marsh
- December 20, grades 2 and 3: *Holidays around the World*, Durham Museum

Eastford Readiness Program:
The Eastford Readiness Program remains full with 17 students. Six students are registered for next school year. The Program hosted a successful “Thankfulness Celebration” on November 21.

Readiness Council Update:
The Readiness Council met on Monday, December 4. They continue to work on revising policies to be in compliance with the Office of Early Childhood and Readiness mandates. They would like to share a brief presentation about the Readiness Program with the Board prior to the January meeting. The Readiness survey was updated and will be ready to send out to all families with children aged birth to four in early January.
Principal Goals:
1. Support teachers in developing effective classroom management techniques and assist them in planning for rigorous instruction and active engagement of students.
2. Support staff in developing and communicating school-wide positive behavioral supports to improve students’ social-emotional and academic competencies.

Grants:
We applied for the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant (SSAE) through the State of Connecticut. This is an entitlement grant in the amount of $10,000. Through this grant, we will be able to fund summer STEM opportunities for students, enroll qualified students in advanced math courses through Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, fund professional development for teachers in the area of positive behavioral supports to continue our work on developing common expectations and language across settings, and provide additional distance learning virtual field trips and cultural programs designed to improve access to and strengthen instruction in American history, civics and STEM areas.

Professional Development:
• On November 28, Melissa Lessard attended a workshop: The Best Young Adult Literature 2017.
• On November 28, Laurie Bardsley, Alaina Kilburn, Mary Jo Chretien and Carole McCombe attended a PMT refresher course presented by in-house trainer, Christine Kopplin.
• On December 1, paraprofessionals watched the documentary Resilience and discussed how early childhood trauma can impact student progress and social emotional health and well-being later in life.
• On December 1, Alaina Kilburn attended a SERC workshop: What Children Need for Positive Social Emotional Growth.
• K. Jean Barlow will attend a New School Nurse Workshop on December 11 and 12.
• Christine Kopplin will attend a SERC workshop, Home Connection to the Natural World on December 12.
• Kristin Haynes, Elizabeth Gagnon, Megan Dill and K. Jean Barlow will attend initial PMT training in Middletown on December 15.

Special Events:
• Grade 8 students, in conjunction with local Boy and Girl Scout troops, held a food drive prior to Thanksgiving to benefit the Eastford Food Pantry. Approximately 1,355 items were collected.
• On December 1, Woodstock Academy’s National Honor Society hosted their first annual Student Leadership Conference. Nine students in grades 7 and 8 were invited. Four students attended.
• The Winter Concert will be held on December 11 at 2:00 and 7:00 PM. Students in grades 4-8 will be performing.
• The Honor Roll breakfast for middle school students who have earned High Honors, Honor Roll and recognition will be held on December 8.
• School basketball games will begin for both boys and girls teams on December 12.
• The PTO will provide a holiday shopping experience. This will be the week of
December 18-22. Students will be able to shop for family members. Items are priced between $1 and $10. PTO is also sponsoring the NED Show. This will be an assembly for all students on December 22. NED stands for never give up, encourage others, do your best. Performers deliver this message in an interactive way using yo-yos. NED yo-yos and other logo items will be available for families to purchase if they wish the week prior to the show. The PTO will be sending information home with students.

- The PTO has set up the “Giving Tree” in the school lobby. This year the “tree” is on the wall leading into the gymnasium. Students and families can purchase snowflakes to hang on the “tree.” The money raised goes to providing for needy families during the holidays.

Community:

- Volunteers from the Congregational Church of Eastford offered an after school Holiday Greens workshop to students in grade 5 and a Board Games activity is scheduled for students in grades 1 and 2 for December 20.
- The Eastford Food Pantry supported local families with meal packages for the Thanksgiving holiday and The Knights of Columbus brought new and used coats for students in need.
- The Eastford Food Pantry, Eastford Baptist Church, Eastford Congregational Church and Woodstock Fire Department will all be supporting local families with meal packages, items of necessity and toys and gift cards during the December holiday season.

Fundraisers:

- The Middle School Goods and Services Auction held on November 18, 2017 was very successful. They raised approximately $12,000.00. This will be divided among grades 5-8 for their Washington DC trip.
- We received $368.00 back from LifeTouch from school pictures.