To: Dr. Donna Leake
From: Carole McCombe
Subject: Report to the Board of Education
Date: November 6, 2019

Field Trips:
- Grades 3 and 4 will visit Old Sturbridge Village on November 22.
- Grade 7 and 8 will see "A Christmas Carol" at The Hartford Stage on December 19.
- Grades PK, K and 3 will visit the Eastford Public Library on a monthly basis throughout the school year.
- Grade 8 Washington, D.C. trip is scheduled for May 12 through May 15, 2020.

Virtual Field Trips:
- November 14, grade 3 – Kindness Rocks, Spreading Friendship and Respect: Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center.
- November 20, grades 3 and 4 – Pilgrims of Plymouth: Learn Around the World.
- November 22, grades 4 and K - No More Bullies: Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center.

Eastford Readiness Program:
The Readiness Program is full with 17 students. Mrs. Kopplin will hold Parent/Teacher conferences November 4-8. With the new Assessment Program (DOTS), student reports will go home twice a year so conferences will be held between these reporting periods, once in November and once in March.

Eastford Readiness Council Update:
The Council met on November 5. They are working on revising and aligning policies to include all components for School Readiness and NAEYC. Based on areas of weakness from our recent NAEYC Accreditation, the specific goal focus areas for this year are:
- meeting all criteria for NAEYC Health Components;
- assisting families in connecting with one another;
- aligning preschool curriculum and instructional practices with kindergarten expectations.

The Council will meet next on December 3 at 5:30 PM.

Data on Student Progress:
Student Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) and the Next Generation Science Assessment (NGSS) reports from the 2018-2019 school year have been mailed to families. Staff members are setting goals based on these results and the Superintendent and Principal goals, as well as the other required goal areas for the Eastford Educator Evaluation Plan. New goals for the Principal and Educator Evaluation Plan are as follows:
Focus Area 1:  
Climate, culture, and social and emotional factors for students and staff

Focus Area 2:  
Targeted and focused improvement of curriculum and instruction

Principal Goals around two focus areas

Goal 1: Support staff in developing philosophical knowledge and understanding of Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Standards along with practices that will support student SEL growth and development. Support staff ability to integrate these practices into their daily routines and instructional practices.

Goal 2: Support teachers in updating instructional materials, formalizing curricular scope, and sequence and implementing effective instructional practices.

Whole School Goal:
Teachers will focus on instructional approaches that integrate the “Workshop Model” structure for learning (mini-lesson, student collaboration, differentiated conferences) to promote collaboration as well as student independence, problem solving and perseverance.

Parent Feedback Goal:
Teachers will incorporate explicit instruction on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Competencies into daily academic instructional practices to support student Social and Emotional growth and development and foster a positive and safe academic and social environment.

Professional Development:
- November 11 all certified staff will meet with facilitators from EastConn to develop Eastford’s Portrait of a Learner and continue social-emotional learning (SEL) work by developing a better understanding of how to link SEL standards with instructional practices and academic planning.
- Melissa Lessard will attend a Best New Young Adult Books of 2019 conference sponsored by TTL Seminars on November. 13.

Middle School Sports:
We have 13 girls and 16 boys playing basketball, including one student from Union School. The girls will be coached by Tanya Webster and the boys will be coached by Tyler Bridgewater. Practices began on November 12. The first game will be December 5 against Griswold.
Fundraising:
The Middle School Fundraising group continues to meet regularly to plan for this year’s auction. The auction is set for November 23, 2019 and will begin at 5:00 PM. This is open to the entire Eastford community. Food will be available for purchase from Sugar and Smoke Barbeque. There will be a bake sale and silent and live auctions. All proceeds go toward the grade 8 trip to Washington, D.C.

The PTO continues to collect Box Tops for Education to earn funds for items to support students and school programs. Box Tops are becoming electronic, but physical box tops will still be collected through the transition.

Community and Other Events:
- Area high schools have published a schedule for Open Houses for prospective students. Eastford students have been given a schedule and the dates are posted on our website. We have students planning to shadow at The Woodstock Academy, Killingly, Ellis Tech and ACT. Students are working on applications with Ms. Murana and Mrs. Lessard.
- Volunteers continue to offer after school activities for students and to assist at the after school homework club. Recent activities include Holiday Mat Weaving, Cupcake Decorating and Board Games.
- Life Touch picture retakes will be on November 15.
- Students in grades 1-4 will present “Songs for Thanksgiving” on November 21. Performances will be at 2:30 PM and 6:00 PM.
- Students in grades 5-8 will present a mini musical, “The Grumps of Ring a Ding Town” on December 19 at 2:30 PM and 6:00 PM.
- Trimester report cards will be distributed on December 4 and the first trimester awards celebration for students in grades 2-8 will be held on December 6 beginning at 9:00 AM.
- Parent-teacher conferences will be held the evening of December 5 and the afternoon of December 6. December 6 will be an early release day for students.
- The Scholastic Book Fair will be held at school from December 2 through December 6, with evening hours on December 5.
- FRESH mentors from The Woodstock Academy are providing additional support to our students during the after school homework club. Volunteers come at least once a week.
- The DARE program will complete their 10-week program on December 17 and will hold a celebration for students and families during the school day on December 17. More information will be sent home with students.
- Trained volunteers from the Congregational Church will provide a parenting resource for Eastford School parents called “Raising Highly Capable Kids.” This is a 13-week program that will be held in early 2020. This is a free resource for our families. Childcare and meals will also be provided.