Field Trips:
- Preschool, Kindergarten and grade 3 students continue to visit the Eastford Public Library on a monthly basis.
- Grade 8 students will visit Roseland Cottage in Woodstock on May 9.
- Grade 8 students attending Ellis Tech are invited to an Orientation with their parents on May 11 at 10:30 am.
- Grade 8 students will visit Washington, DC May 15-18.
- A grade 8 student will visit local town attractions and attend a zoo trip, along with Mrs. Moran's students, to practice functional life skills in a community setting on May 14-18.
- PK and K students will visit Southwick Zoo on May 30.
- On June 1, band and chorus members will compete at the High Note Musical Festival and visit Lake Compounce.
- Students in grades K-3 will attend Woodstock Cultural Center on June 5 for a play, *Nugget and Fang*.
- PK and K students will visit Bakerwoods Farm on June 12.

Virtual Field Trips:
- Currently there are no virtual programs planned.

Eastford Readiness Program:
The Readiness Program currently has 17 students. There are 15 students in the process of registering for next year. The Readiness Program survey was given to families during parent-teacher conferences at the end of March. These results will inform the development of goals for improvement in the next school year. I am in the process of renewing our Readiness Grant for the 2018-2019 school year. This will be ready for the Council review at their May 7 meeting. Transition activities are being planned for current preschoolers and new families to familiarize them with Kindergarten routines and expectations. Transition activities for new preschoolers and their families are also in the works. Preschool Orientation will be May 17 at 6:00 pm.

Readiness Council Update:
The Council will meet again on May 7. They continue to review and update policies at their monthly meetings to be in compliance with both NAEYC and Readiness requirements. We are due for NAEYC reaccreditation next school year.
New Novel Requests:
The Girl Who Drank the Moon:
Kids can easily relate to this fantasy. Fantasy is a preferred genre for many of our students today. It is about growing up and trying to fit in; it features characters that do not fit in including one who has scars covering his face. It contains a positive message and encourages readers to speak up, ask questions, trust their instincts and be kind to others. It will be used with grades seven and eight. It won the Newbery Award in 2017.

Hello, Universe:
This too, is a novel to which many middle school readers will be able to make a personal connection. One of our more reluctant grade 7 readers is currently reading this novel and he has commented repeatedly how much the main character is just like him! This novel would be great for whole class use in studying point of view or theme, or equally valuable as part of character education lessons on bullying, friendship, teamwork and acceptance. It does contain references to Filipino folktales about kids being eaten by animals, but this too could be an educational tool to explain how culture and beliefs influences our lives. It won the Newbery Award in 2018.

Principal Goals:
1. Support teachers in developing effective classroom management techniques and assist them in planning for rigorous instruction and active engagement of students.
   - Teachers are looking at the Smarter Balanced reporting claims for ELA and Math and are planning ways to tailor instructional practices and learning expectations to better prepare students for assessments by offering more rigorous, integrated learning in the classroom. These reporting claims are also being considered as a more meaningful way to report student progress on our trimester progress reports and report cards.
   - Students in all grades have begun their Smarter Balanced Assessments. Students in grades 5 and 8 will take the Next Generation Science Assessment the week of May 8. The testing window closes on May 25.

2. Support staff in developing and communicating school-wide positive behavioral supports to improve students’ social-emotional and academic competencies.
   - Staff members are using a checklist style document to facilitate communication between special area teachers and classroom teachers about student behavior. This has been effective in streamlining communication between teachers and strengthening home-school communication. Most teachers also have a classroom incentive or reward system to recognize positive behaviors. Beth Harrington, school counselor regularly meets with whole classes, small groups and individuals to educate and reinforce character development and school-wide expectations. She is focusing on the theme of Patience and Perseverance for the month of May.
   - The RTI team has also been developing specific goals for students this school year to address social-emotional and learning behavior related skill deficits. The goals are similar to the success plans that we currently develop for students who need ELA and Math support. To date, 31 students have success plans. Five of these are or have been formal behavior related plans. Numerous other students have Tier 1 behavior supports in place that do not necessitate a formal success plan, and still others have social skill
development written into their IEPs. The goal for the success plans is to address an area of deficit in a short period by working 1:1 or in a small group with the student. Progress on goals is reported to families in line with our progress note and report card reporting cycles. Some students in need of social skill support in the younger grades also work with our PALS counselor in small groups. Students can be identified by expressing a need to work on a skill themselves, or through parent or teacher recommendation and/or results of Review360 behavioral screens.

Professional Development:

- I continue to visit with mentor principal, Michael Larkin on a regular basis.
- Mrs. Moran, Mrs. Bibeault and Mrs. Crocker-Lincoln will attend their second ReadConn meeting on May 9.
- Mrs. Harrington will attend a workshop for SRBI educators on May 15.
- Paraprofessional Alaina Kilburn will attend *Addressing Social Communication and Play* on May 4.
- Mrs. Mead will attend the Science Council meeting at EastConn on May 16.
- Ms. Dill and Mrs. Mead will attend *World of Water* for educators at Mystic Aquarium on June 5. This is a grant funded opportunity that will benefit students with STEM learning and activities.
- Mrs. Bibeault continues to work toward her Google Educator Level II certification.

Middle School Baseball Update:

- The baseball team won their first game on April 30 with a score of 10 to 4.

Fundraising:

- There currently are no fundraisers underway.

Community and Other Events:

- There will be an after school Yoga activity for students in grades 3 and 4 on May 8 and another for students in grades 1 and 2 on May 11 sponsored through LPC.
- Volunteers from Eastford Congregational Church and the LPC will supervise an after school Board Games activity for students in grades 1 and 2 on May 16 and a build a boat/small engine activity for students in grades 6-8 on June 6, 7, and 8.
- Volunteers from both the Baptist Church and Congregational Church will supervise a Landscape Painting activity for students in grades 5-8 on May 11.
- The PTO will give out Mother’s Day flowers to students on May 11.
- Woodstock Academy will be presenting a condensed version of their spring musical, *Shrek* for all EES students on May 4 at 11:30.
- Pals, Readiness and Title I teachers will hold an after school Planting and Picnic program for students and families on May 7 from 3:30-4:30.
- PK and Kindergarten will hold their respective evening Orientation programs on May 17 at 6:00 pm.
- Children’s Author, Leslie Connor (*Crunch, Waiting for Normal*) has reached out to us as she is looking for “substance” for her new novel set in a small town (loosely based on
Eastford). She visited our school about eight or nine years ago and that experience has inspired her latest novel. She plans to visit on May 23 to meet students and learn more about their experience growing up in a small town.

- The School Safety and Security committee will meet at the end of May.
- The spring concert will be held on May 31. Grades PK-2, grade 3 recorders, grades 4 and 5 chorus and the school band will perform at 10:00 a.m. and all groups except grades PK-2 will perform at 7:00 p.m.
- June 6 students in grades 3-8 will participate in a presentation from a Marine Biologist about careers and opportunities in the field of science. This is courtesy of the Mystic Aquarium grant opportunity that Mrs. Mead is participating in.
- The PTO will sponsor a Laser Light show for all students on June 13.
- June 15 will be our end of year celebration day in lieu of Field Day. This will begin with the third trimester awards assembly in the morning and continue with events and activities for the students throughout the day. PTO will provide a pizza lunch.
- We will hold a week long, partial day, STEM learning experience for students July 23-27 in conjunction with a sports camp being offered at the school through the local church groups.
- The Woodstock Academy has invited incoming freshman to attend an Athletic Open House on June 22 at 6:00 pm. They will also send a representative to school to meet with eighth graders regarding sports at The Academy.