Shaping Futures Together

To: Linda Loretz
From: Carole McCombe
Date: November 2, 2017
Subject: November Report to the Board of Education

Field Trips and Special Programs:

- October 16 all students participated in an assembly sponsored by the PTO called "Extreme Science."
- Gail White Usher from Roseland Cottage conducted a two-day workshop with Grade 8 on recreating the Constitutional Convention on October 19 and 26. She will be back for two more days in January.
- Grade 8 will walk to the Eastford Historical Society Museum on November 9 to tour the museum and hear about the artifacts housed there. Grade 3 is scheduled to visit in the spring when they work on their Eastford History unit.
- Students in grades 6-8 went to Bluff Point for a coastal field study on November 2 and grades 3-5 will visit Mystic Aquarium on Nov. 21. Both events are due to a grant, "Where the City Meets the Sea," through Mystic Aquarium and EASTCONN. The grant covers transportation, entrance to the Aquarium, and the cost of one substitute teacher.
- Grades PK, K and 3 continue monthly walks to the Eastford Public Library.
- The Three C's cultural programs are scheduled as follows:
  - March 28, 2017, grade 3-9, Freedom Train
  - June 5, 2018, grades K-3, Nugget and Fang
- Grade 8 to Washington, DC, May 15 through May 18, 2018

Virtual Field Trips:

- November 13 – (Grade 3) – Pilgrims of Plymouth
- November 15 – (Grade K) – Hibernation and More
- November 20 – (Grade 3) – Turkey Stories with Sign Language

Veterans Day Recognition:
Mr. Kernan is planning this event to recognize veterans and educate students about Veterans Day. All are cordially invited to attend. The preparation for the event has become interdisciplinary. Students are writing letters to invite local veterans, they are preparing musical selections to sing during the ceremony in music classes, and they are making flags to give to the veterans in art classes. Teachers are also talking about Veterans Day with
students in age appropriate ways. It should be a very nice event that brings the whole community together.

**Eastford Readiness Program:**
The Eastford School Readiness Program remains full with seventeen students. There are seven students enrolled for next school year, including three year olds who will remain in the program for another year.

**Readiness Council Update:**
The Council will meet on November 6. They are working on revising and aligning policies to be consistent with updated guidelines from the State Department of Education (SDE) and the Office of Early Childhood (OEC). The Council will meet again on December 4 at 6:00.

**Data on Student Progress:**
Teachers in grades K-8 have completed fall NWEA assessments in reading, language, math and science. Kindergarten also administered Children's Progress. I have met with teachers to review student progress on these assessments and to set goals for the 2017-18 school year. I have encouraged teachers to connect their Student Learning Objective(s) to one or more of the Common Core *Standards of Math Practice*. These “practices” describe various areas of expertise that educators at all levels, and in all disciplines, should seek to develop in order to support student success with more rigorous math standards. Some examples include make sense of problems and persevere in solving them, reason abstractly, construct viable arguments, attend to precision, and make use of structure. By developing these practices holistically, across grade levels and disciplines, we believe that we can strengthen students' foundational skills, which in turn will foster academic improvement, especially in the area of mathematics.

**Professional Development:**
- Michelle Bibeault and Melissa Lessard attended a Google Summit in October and will share with staff on our November 7 PD day.
- On November 7, certified teachers will have professional development here at school. Topics included using Google Apps, Envision 2.0 training and standards for math practice planning, Review 360 Behavior Module, developing common language, routines and expectations for students.
- I will meet again with mentor Principal, Mike Larkin on November 17. Our conversations are focusing on school climate and school wide behavior/character development. We are looking at programs such as PBIS and Responsive Classroom, both of which are being used in his district. We are also discussing supporting teachers with our respective Evaluation and Growth models.
- Melissa Lessard will attend a conference on “The Best Young Adult Literature of 2017” on November 28.
- Michelle Bibeault will shadow a Library Media Specialist (LMS) on November 3 for her LMS certification program.
• Lori Reynolds will attend the annual national conference for Middle Level Education in Philadelphia November 6-8.
• Six staff members will participate in a Physical and Psychological Management Training (PMT) refresher course on November 20 and five will participate in initial PMT training on December 15.

Fundraising:
• PTO fall fundraising items from the Jeannine Fundraiser will be delivered on November 3 and distributed by PTO volunteers.
• Student council will sponsor a dance for grades 6-8 on December 8. Students from Union School are also invited. Proceeds from admission and food sales will go toward a relief fund for wildfire victims in California. Students are researching possible organizations to send donations to.
• The Annual Goods and Service Auction will be on Saturday, November 18, beginning at 5:00 pm.

Community and Other Events:
• Volunteers from the Congregational Church of Eastford are offering a Model Rocket workshop after school for students in grades 6-8 on Nov. 1, 2, and 3.
• The local Lions Club is offering a free vision screening for interested families on November 8. They will come to the school with a device that detects vision issues across all age groups. The device can detect lazy eye, astigmatism, nearsightedness, farsightedness, misalignment, and pupil size anomalies.
• There will be a parent meeting scheduled for November 9 at 5:00 to determine interest and level of commitment in having a middle school baseball team in the spring.
• Friday November 17 will be the first trimester awards assembly. We will begin at 1:45 with a display of student work set up like a gallery walk in the gym. This will showcase student work and/or class projects from individual grades, as well as provide an audience for individual student enrichment projects completed during the first trimester. At this time, the school band will also demonstrate a sampling of the pieces they are working on for their winter concert. The awards assembly will begin at 2:15. All are welcome to attend.
• Picture retake day will be November 14.
• On Thursday, November 21, Preschool will have a Thankfulness Celebration from 10:15-11:15. This event is open to all Eastford Children age birth to five.
• Parent-teacher conferences will be held on the evening of November 30 and in the afternoon on December 1.
• The winter concert is scheduled for Monday, December 11.