

To: Linda Loretz
 From: Carole McCombe
 Subject: October Report to the Board of Education
 Date: October 5, 2017

Field Trips:

- The Three C's
 - Dec. 5, 2017, grades K-3, *Chicken Dance*.
 - March 28, 2017, grade 3-8, *Freedom Train*
 - June 5, 2018, grades K-3, *Nugget and Fang*
- Grades PK, K and 3 continue monthly walks to the Eastford Public Library.
- Grade 8 students will travel to Woodstock Academy on Oct. 10 for a campus tour and program information.
- Students in grades PK and K will visit Buell's Orchard on Oct. 12.
- Students in grades PK and K will walk to the Fire Station on Oct. 13.
- Students in grades 6-8 will attend a coastal field study trip at Bluff Point on Nov. 2.
- Students in grades 3-5 will visit Mystic Aquarium on Nov. 3. 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.

Virtual Field Trips:

- October 5 – (Grade 3) – *The Importance of Kindness* (free)
- October 10 – (Grades K and 4) – *No More Bullies*
- October 11 – (Grade 8) – *Young America* (free)
- October 31 – (Grade 3) – *Poems For Two Voices*

9-11 Recognition:

We had an extended moment of silence during our morning announcements to recognize the events of 9-11-2001. Teachers followed up with class discussions and activities that were age appropriate.

Eastford Readiness Program:

The Eastford School Readiness Program currently has seventeen (17) students enrolled. Four (4) students are partial day students. We have three (3) students on the waiting list.

Readiness Council Update:

The Council met on October 2. They are working 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 next on November 6.

Data on Student Progress:

We have received students' individual standardized test results from the state for the 2016-17 school year. These will be mailed out in the next week. Teachers are currently finishing fall NWEA assessments with students. At our weekly staff meetings, we have been discussing the eight Common Core standards for mathematical practice. Our focus is to identify ways that all teachers are currently addressing the standards for math practice and to seek new and innovative ways to do this more systematically by developing more common language, practices, techniques and strategies across grade levels and disciplines. Teachers continue to engage in a rich dialogue through Google Docs to share effective instructional practices centered around the math practice standards and the use of the new Envision 2.0 math materials.

Professional Development:

- Candy Mead will be attending all Science Council meetings at EASTCONN and will continue to bring back information about the Next Generation Science Standards.
- Karen Bergin attended the annual LPC (Local Prevention Council) meeting at NECASA (Northeast Communities Against Substance Abuse) on October 4. She brought back ideas from other districts about how they are using their LPC grant funds.
- Melissa Lessard and Michelle Bibeault will attend a Google Summit conference on Oct. 21 and 22. They will share with staff on our next professional development day to continue to support staff in the use of Google Classroom and other Google Apps.
- I continue to meet regularly with mentor Principal, Michael Larkin, from Crystal Lake School in Ellington.
- Our November 7 professional development day will be "in house." We will have sessions on Google Classroom, Envision 2.0 and standards for math practice, Review 360 Behavior Module, developing common language, routines and expectations for students and Teachers' online Gradebook.

Fundraising:

- The PTO has completed their Jeannine Fundraiser event.
- Students participated in a "Penny Power" event to collect money for hurricane victims. \$695.59 was raised. Students researched potential recipients of funds and then voted to donate \$175 equally (\$525) to Shadowlawn Elementary School in Naples, FL, American Red Cross, and Houston Pets Alive in Houston, TX. They purchased prizes with \$68.30, and they deposited \$102.29 in the student activities account for future needs.

Community and Other Events:

- Our Open House night was very well attended on September 12. Teachers reported that nearly all their students attended.
- Veterans Day recognition ceremony will be held on November 10 at 2:00 p.m at the Veterans' Memorial at the center of town. All community members are

invited to join us. The CT Honor Guard will be present and the Woodstock Choral group will perform. Senator Guglielmo will attend and students will participate in recognizing veterans.

- First trimester progress reports will go home on October 13.
- Picture retake day will be November 14.
- Volunteers from the Congregational Church of Eastford offered a “board games” after school activity for students in grades 2 and 3 on September 27. They are planning to have this event recur monthly due to high interest. Another session is planned for October 18. The same group has planned a pumpkin “Zentangle” activity on October 25 and they will supervise a build and launch model rocket activity in November for grades 5-8.
- Volunteers from the Congregational Church of Eastford have also been providing support to students by assisting at the after school homework club held Monday – Thursday. This support has been very well received by both students and teachers!

