To: Linda Loretz
From: Heather Tamsin
Subject: February Report to the Board of Education
Date: February 4, 2016

Field Trips:
- Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 will visit the Mark Twain and Harriet Beecher Stowe Houses on February 12, 2016.
- Students in preschool will visit the Eastford Public Library on February 25, 2016.
- Girls in grade 8 will attend the Multiply Your Options Conference at the University of Connecticut on April 4, 2016.
- Community Cultural Committee Trips to the Hyde Theater:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Grades</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Henry and Mudge</td>
<td>Tues., April 5, 2016</td>
<td>PK-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skippyjon Jones Snow What</td>
<td>Tues., May 24, 2016</td>
<td>PK-3</td>
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- Students in grades 2 and 3 will see a performance by the New Haven Symphony Orchestra on May 4, 2016.
- 8th Grade Washington, DC trip is scheduled for May 17 through May 20, 2016.
- Students in the band will perform at the High Note Festival at Lake Compounce on June 2, 2016.

Virtual Field Trips:
- Feb. 8 (Grade 7)- History of the Silk Road- IN
- Feb. 9 (Grades K and 3) Valentine’s Day Bear- MT
- Feb. 9 (Grades 7 and 8) From Plantation to Shipyard: The Many Forms of Slavery- MD
- Feb. 10 (Grade 1 and 2) Exploring Africa- GA
- Feb. 12 (Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6)- 2016 Reading Discovery Distance Learning Program with First Lady Barbara Bush- TX
- Feb. 18 (Grades 1 and 2)- Seabirds of Alaska- AK
- Feb. 24 (Grade K)- Polar Adventure- OH
- Feb. 26 (K and Grade 1)- Exploring Antarctica- GA
- Apr. 29 (K and Grade 1)- Arbor Day; Celebrating Our Trees- PA
- May 2 (Grades 7 and 8)- Washington,DC: District Formation and Monuments Tour- NC

Eastford Readiness Program – Currently has seventeen (17) students enrolled for the Eastford School Readiness Program. Five (5) of these students are partial day students.

Readiness Council Update: We met on February 1 and continued our discussion about outreach opportunities for Eastford families with young children. We are still working on finalizing the informational pamphlet that can be sent to families and distributed to local establishments and pediatricians. We have a
student teacher, Gage Hebert, from Quinebaug Valley Community College that will be working in the preschool program 16 hours per week for a total of 200 hours. Mrs. Bergin has begun reaching out to families in Eastford to encourage their completion of the Needs Assessment Survey that has been distributed and offer to answer any potential questions.

**School Goal:** To improve student achievement through the inclusion of cross-curricular performance tasks that require students to demonstrate and apply their knowledge and skills. All teachers will create and contribute tasks that directly connect to the ‘claims’ reported in the SBAC results to improve student performance.

**Progress towards the goal:**
I am currently creating a schedule for Donna Drasch’s upcoming visits on February 18 and 24. Teachers have requested support to confer with students to develop conferencing skills between students. Donna will also team teach and observe writing lessons. She will also support teachers in their implementation of cross-curricular performance tasks as she continues to provide materials to support their efforts.

I will be meeting with all teachers during the month of February for their mid-year conferences to discuss individual student progress toward their goals. In looking at the current NWEA winter data, the majority of students are making growth in all areas.

All English Language Arts teachers have implemented at least one Writing Pathways Unit of Study. With this being the first year of implementation, teachers have been asked to implement a minimum of two units during this school year. I have conducted formal observations of the writing instruction and have received very positive feedback from teachers regarding the evidence of progress in student writing in regards to both quality and quantity.

**World Language Update:** Seventh and eighth grade students are currently receiving instruction in French. We are receiving materials from the teacher to be provided and displayed to students. The communication between Proximity, the instructor and our school has improved to maintain consistent instruction when the instructor is unavailable. They now have a substitute with an established connection to easily access our system, if necessary. This will continue with upcoming instructors. The connection continues to be reliable and clear.

**Professional Development:**

- Kathryn LaRose will attend a workshop, *Beyond Housekeeping Area: Developing Dramatic Play to Support Social Studies.*
- Elizabeth Rhynhart, Lori Crocker-Lincoln and Heather Tamsin will attend the NWEA Connecticut Regional Partner meeting.
- Melissa Lessard, Carole McCombe and Heather Tamsin will attend a conference offered by the State Department of Education, *Moving from Compliance to Coherence.*
• Meribeth Tedisky is attending a workshop, *Delivering Sexual Health Education, Middle School*.

**Fundraisers/Community:**

• Sports Boosters annual spaghetti dinner on January 25 served 116 meals and earned $589.58. Thank you to the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp for donating pasta sauce, dressings and drinks and to Midway Pizza for providing all of the take out containers!
• Student Council will be selling carnations in February.
• Sports Boosters will be sponsoring their annual magazine drive during the month of February.