To: Linda Loretz  
From: Heather Tamsin  
Subject: March Report to the Board of Education  
Date: March 3, 2016

Field Trips:
- 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. 29 (Grade 8)- Slaves to Soldiers: A History of the Buffalo Soldiers- AL
- Apr. 29 (K and Grade 1)- Arbor Day: Celebrating Our Trees- PA

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 will meet on March 7. We will be going over the data received through the Needs Assessment Survey. I have begun working on the grant and will update the Council on my progress.

Assessments:
Students in grades 5 and 8 will take their Science CMT on March 18. Students in grades 3 through 8 will begin the Smarter Balanced Assessment on April 25. This assessment will be completed across four to five weeks.

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:
Due to the announcement from the state, there will no longer be an English Language Arts performance task. This means that the ‘claims’ will not be reported on this year’s SBAC. The teachers have been working very hard on creating opportunities for students to engage in their learning through open
ended tasks that require them to apply various skills to demonstrate mastery. Although this will no longer be measured by the SBAC, the skills that students are building through these activities are still important in their academic and social development.

Donna Drasch continues to work with teachers in a variety of ways. She collaborates with teachers in planning, instructing and working directly with students. She has provided resources and materials to support instruction.

I met with all teachers for their mid-year conferences to discuss individual student progress toward their goals. Teachers shared data on individual student growth and discussed their strategies for meeting individual student needs for continued growth.

I have attended a variety of writers celebrations and have been impressed with the progress that students have shown. Some celebrations have included lower grade level students getting ‘taught’ writing strategies by the authors.

Staff will have an opportunity to share performance tasks and student work for both Mathematics and English Language Arts that they have used this year at our March 24 professional development day.

**World Language Update:** Seventh and eighth grade students continue to receive instruction in French. We are receiving materials from the teacher to be provided and displayed to students. Chinese will begin on March 14.

**Track Coach:** The reason why I am requesting an assistant coach position is that we currently have 10 students from Union and 6 students from Eastford confirmed for track participation. There are at least 10 more Eastford students that have stated they will be participating, but have not yet confirmed with the necessary paperwork. We previously had a parent volunteer who attended all practices and meets to support various areas of competition with students and he is no longer able to support the efforts of Mrs. Lessard.

**Professional Development:**

**The professional development day on March 24:**

- Our preschool staff will collaborate in the morning with Brooklyn preschool staff for professional development through EASTCONN on the Early Learning and Development Standards. They will return in the afternoon to continue their work with the EASTCONN coach on planning and instruction for the preschool classroom.
- Elizabeth Rhynhart and Lori Crocker-Lincoln will present information to the staff on the Learning Continuum in NWEA.
- Carole McCombe will help facilitate professional development in an Ed Camp format on Performance Tasks in Mathematics and English Language Arts and the new Social Studies Standards. Teachers will be asked to bring student work samples from performance tasks that students have completed this year to collaborate and discuss successes.
and challenges. They will be provided with the Social Studies Standards and begin to look at resources.

- In the afternoon, Lori Reynolds will provide continued professional development on the Writer’s Workshop Model and the Writing Pathways Units of Study.

**Individual Professional Development:**
- Karen Bergin is attending a workshop, *Social Thinking*.
- Patricia Moran will attend a workshop, *Dyslexia, Paper to Practice*.
- Joan Muller will be presenting at an EASTCONN workshop, *Professional Learning for Special Area Teachers*.
- Meribeth Tedisky and Bethany Croxton will be attending the workshop, *Professional Learning for Special Area Teachers*.
- Christine Kopplin will attend a workshop, *Pyramid Model for Early Childhood Special Educators*.

**Fundraisers/Community:**
- Karen Bergin, Julie Fox, and Carole McCombe are organizing a Parent Academy with a variety of topics including “Middle Schoolers: what’s on their minds and yours?”, “Grandparents as Parents” and “Home/School Relationships and How to Build a Great One!”. There will be childcare provided at all three evening events.
- Student athletes from Woodstock Academy came on March 2 to read to students in grades PK through 5.
- On March 10 we will have a whole school assembly focused on nutrition called, *Foodplay*, sponsored by our Readiness grant.
- Author Robert Holland from Woodstock will be coming to speak to students on April 15.
- Karen Bergin is coordinating a Career Day for 7th and 8th grade students on May 11. She is working with staff members to get a variety of volunteers to share information about the work that they do and the training involved.