

To: Linda Loretz
From: Heather Tamsin
Subject: October Report to the Board of Education
Date: October 6, 2016

Field Trips:

- Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 went to a STEM career presentation at Mary Fisher Elementary School on September 30, 2016.
- Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 will participate in an Ocean Study at Harkness State Park on October 7, 2016.
- Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 will attend a performance of *King Lear* at Jorgensen Auditorium on October 11, 2016.
- Students in Preschool and Kindergarten will visit the Eastford Fire Station on October 12, 2016.
- Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 will visit Mystic Aquarium on October 14, 2016.
- Students in Preschool will visit the Eastford Public Library on October 17, 2016.
- Students in grades 2, 3, 4, and 5 will attend a performance of *Bubbleology* at Hyde Cultural Arts Center on October 18, 2016.
- Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 will tour the State Capital on October 20, 2016.
- Students in Preschool and Kindergarten will visit the Creamery Brook Bison Farm on October 26, 2016.
- 8th Grade Washington, DC trip is scheduled for May 16 through May 19, 2017.

Virtual Field Trips:

- Oct. 3- (Grade 8)- *Young America*- Washington, DC
- Oct. 14- (Grades 6 and 7)- *Gods and Heroes of Greece and Rome*- OH
- Oct. 24- (Grades 7 and 8)- *Robot Garage*- WA
- Oct. 31- (K)- *Anansi the Spider: A West African Folktale*-
- Nov. 9- (K)- *Hibernation and More*- OH

9/11 Recognition: We had the moment of silence in recognition of the events on 9/11 and I encouraged the students to reflect throughout the day on doing acts of kindness for others. The staff is continuing the discussion through a whole school message of, "Get Along". They are currently planning a kick off event and activities to reinforce this message with all students.

Eastford Readiness Program – Currently has fourteen (14) students enrolled for the Eastford School Readiness Program. Three (3) of these students are partial day students. We have 3 additional student slots available.

Readiness Council Update: The Council will meet next on November 7. The Council has been working on a brochure to communicate information about the program to the community. At this meeting, final edits were made to the brochure

in preparation for final approval. This is in an effort to increase our community outreach.

Data on Student Progress: Teachers are currently finishing Fall NWEA assessments with students. NWEA has released a new version of the Science Assessment that aligns with the new Science Standards. Mrs. Mead will use this assessment to get a baseline of performance to inform some of the changes that will need to occur in curriculum. NWEA has released guidelines to help with the transition of assessments from grade 2 to 3. Traditionally, this transition has been challenging for students because the format of the test shifts from questions being read to students in grade 2, to independent reading in grade 3. We are following the recommended guidelines based on student performance to help with this transition.

We are going to look further into Claim 1 in the Mathematics performance on the Smarter Balanced assessment. 34% of our students were below standard in this area. Although Claim 1 is primarily focused on application of foundational skills, the format in which this application is being tested can be more challenging for students than assumed. We are going to look at the ways in which these skills are applied to ensure that we are presenting the information in formats that prepare students to demonstrate their understanding.

Grants

- We have been awarded the Primary Mental Health Project which funds our P.A.L.S (Playing and Learning Support) program. The program will begin on October 11.
- We will be applying for the Local Prevention Council Grant through NECASA in October.

Professional Development:

- Charles Kernan will attend a workshop on the New Social Studies Frameworks.
- Melissa Lessard will attend a workshop on *The Best New Young Adult Books Grades 6-8*.
- Christine Kopplin will attend *Picture Exchange Communication System Level 1 Training*.
- Karen Bergin and Lori Crocker-Lincoln will attend a workshop, *Prosocial Behavior Development- An Introduction*.
- Meribeth Tedisky continues her involvement in the Centers for Disease Control grant with Woodstock Academy.
- Heather Tamsin will participate in a Preschool Administrator Group through EASTCONN.
- Stephanie Bulan will attend a workshop, *Creating a Calm Classroom, Helping Children Self-Regulate Throughout Their School Day*.

Special Events:

- **Open House:** Teachers reported that the majority of families attended Open House.
- **Election Musical “HE SAID/SHE SAID: an election musical”:** Whole school assembly of on the election process and what it means to be a good leader on

October 17. This is being funded by Readiness and P.A.L.S grants. The teachers are working on emphasizing the importance of being an active citizen, listening to other people's ideas and being informed.

Community:

- Volunteers from the Congregational Church of Eastford offered 'An Afternoon of Board Games' after school activity for students in grades 1 and 2. They are planning a second event because of the interest and success of this event.
- Volunteers from the Congregational Church of Eastford will offer a 'Zentangle Pumpkin Workshop' after school activity for students in grades 5 through 8 on October 26.

Fundraisers:

- The Annual Goods and Services Auction will take place on Saturday, November 19, 2016.