

To: Linda Loretz
From: Heather Tamsin
Subject: April Report to the Board of Education
Date: April 6, 2017

Field Trips:

- Grades 6, 7, and 8 saw the movie, 'Hidden Figures' on March 17, 2017.
- Preschool will walk to the Eastford Public Library on April 20, 2017.
- Grades 6, 7, and 8 are attending the musical production, *The Nile Project*, at Jorgensen Auditorium on April 20, 2017.
- 8th Grade Washington, DC trip is scheduled for May 16 through May 19, 2017.

Virtual Field Trips:

- April 4, 21, 28 - (Grade 7) - *Math Connections in Art: Gridding* - OH
- April 17-(Grades 1 & 2) - *Magnificent Monarchs: The Great Migration*- NC
- April 20 - (Grade 3 & Guest) - *Junk to Jewelry*- MI
- April 20 - (Grade 5) - *Show Me, Tell Me About American Indian Culture* - OH
- April 28 - (Kindergarten) - *Arbor Day: Celebrating Our Trees* - PA

Enrollment:

PK	16
K	20
1	11
2	12
3	15
4	16
5	12
6	20
7	15
8	12
Total	149

Eastford Readiness Program – After returning from April break, the preschool program will be full with seventeen (17) students enrolled in the Eastford School Readiness Program.

Our preschool program has been selected to participate in the **Connecticut Documentation and Observation for Teaching System (CT DOTS) Pilot Project**. The pilot project will inform the development of a tool to document and monitor children’s progress on the skills, abilities and behaviors in the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards (CT ELDS). Participation in the pilot is **optional** for preschool families, but will allow Mrs. Kopplin to be informed on the direction of the State assessment for preschool.

Readiness Council Update: The Council met on April 3. Information will be sent home to families encouraging participation in the Memorial Day Parade.

Principal Goals:

- To improve student achievement in English Language Arts as evidenced through performance rates on Spring NWEA Comparative Data exceeding the State average on the SBAC from the Spring of 2016.
- To improve student achievement in Mathematics as evidenced through performance rates on Spring NWEA Comparative Data exceeding the State average on the SBAC from the Spring of 2016.

Current Data for students attaining their projected growth in Reading and Language Usage from the Winter assessment:

Grade	% Attaining Projected RIT Growth on NWEA Winter-Winter	% Attaining Projected RIT Growth on NWEA Fall-Winter
K	R- NA; Lang.-NA	R- 63; Lang.- NA
1	R- 60; Lang.- NA	R- 64; Lang. – NA
2	R- 80; Lang.- NA	R – 67; Lang.- 50
3	R- 27; Lang. 18	R- 69; Lang. – 38
4	R- 47; Lang. 43	R- 13; Lang.- 67
5	R- 42; Lang. 33	R – 50; Lang. – 67
6	R- 39; Lang. 39	R- 50; Lang. -55
7	R- 46; Lang. 46	R- 57; Lang. -50
8	R- 45; Lang. 50	R- 42; Lang. - 100

Current Data for students attaining their projected growth in Math from the Winter assessment:

Grade	% Attaining Projected RIT Growth on NWEA Winter-Winter	% Attaining Projected RIT Growth on NWEA Fall-Winter
K	Math- NA	Math- 84
1	Math- 60	Math- 55
2	Math- 100	Math- 50
3	Math- 9	Math- 38
4	Math- 67	Math- 56
5	Math- 58	Math- 42
6	Math- 56	Math- 55
7	Math- 85	Math- 64
8	Math- 64	Math- 58

Grants

- The Local Prevention Council grant provided transportation for a field trip to Questers Way and Willi Bowl on the March 10 Professional Development Day.
17 students attended this field trip.
- I have started working on the Readiness Grant.

Professional Development:

- Heather Tamsin and Julie Fox attended the *Hot Topics in Special Education* presentation.
- Lori Crocker-Lincoln will attend a workshop, *Designing General Education Behavioral Support Plans*.
- Melissa Lessard will attend Level 2 Google Classroom training.

Sports:

Track practice has started and we have 44 students participating. 7 are Union students and 37 are Eastford students.

Google Classroom Update:

- Teachers have started using google classroom tools across a variety of grade levels. Teachers have communicated with parents regarding the assignment of email accounts and the level of privacy associated with the current setting on those accounts.
- I included information in the newsletter regarding the 'closed' nature of the student email accounts. The students can only send to and receive from email accounts within the eastfordct.org domain.

- Mrs. Lessard and I created a google classroom form for students in grade 6, 7 and 8 to complete their field trip evaluations. We are investigating future use of this to share the forms with the Board.
- In looking at programs currently used on computers, Children's Progress Academic Assessment, GarageBand, KidPix and Photo Booth would not be accessible on chromebooks.
- A comparative test has been run between our macbooks and a chromebook. The speed was measured to be 42 seconds for both machines. The 9 year old macbooks took close to 3 minutes to boot.
- **Chromebook Positives:**
 - They are less expensive
 - Very difficult to get viruses
 - Great battery life
 - As long as they are connected to the internet, they are always backed up
 - Centralized management
- **Chromebook Negatives:**
 - They mostly require Internet connectivity to do things; while there are offline versions of web applications, most web applications don't operate offline.
 - Potential loss of work when Internet connection is lost. Once working offline, it is nearly impossible to save changes without getting back online.
 - No means of plugging in to print. (We should be able to configure printing to the new copiers without an issue.)
 - Life-expectancy is 2-3 years with typical student use, we are currently getting 6+ years on our Macbooks.
 - No programs can be downloaded onto the chromebooks for use by younger students.

Special Events:

- We had a successful Internet Safety Presentation evening for parents on March 21. We had 18 families represented in the presentation and 28 students that participated in workshops. 14 families took advantage of the light dinner offered in advance of the workshop, which helped facilitate family's availability and participation in the event. It was observed that the dinner also became a social and community building event as families visited and socialized while they ate. Feedback from attending adults and children was very positive. We are grateful for the support received from community groups who provided the volunteers that enriched the experience for children.
- The Readiness program sponsored a Positive Parenting Workshop for preschool and kindergarten families. We also provided information about the workshop to the Congregational Church of Eastford and Eastford

Baptist Church in an effort to reach more families. There were 3 families in attendance.

- The PTO is sponsoring a whole-school assembly, *Rainforest Animals*, on April 6, 2017.

Student Recognition:

- Kerry Blais won the annual Grade 5 poster contest sponsored by the Connecticut Tree Protective Association. Congratulations! We look forward to displaying the product of her hard work and recognizing her success.
- Third grader Kymara Villanueva won the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest! Congratulations! She shared her essay during the morning announcements for all students to hear her words of spreading kindness. We are proud of her accomplishment and celebrate with her family in this recognition.

Community:

- Volunteers from the Congregational Church of Eastford and Eastford Baptist Church offered enriching student activities on March 21, allowing parents to attend the Internet Safety Presentation.
- Volunteers are offering after school activities in April including Board Games for grades K, 1 and 2 and a Pansy Pot activity for grades 3, 4, 5, and 6.
- Whitcraft donated and delivered pallets to be used by students in grades 7 and 8 in creating a pollinator-friendly garden.
- Volunteers worked with students in grade 3 and 8 to build birdhouses.

Fundraisers:

- The Scholastic Book Fair was held the first week of April.