

Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
From: Carole McCombe
Subject: Report to the Board of Education
Date: April 6, 2022

Field Trips:

- Washington, D.C. trip is scheduled for May 17 through May 20, 2022. At this time we are planning for 10 students, 2 staff members and 4 parent chaperones.
- Grades 3, 4, and preschool continue to travel to the Eastford Public Library on a monthly basis. Additionally, Mrs. Bibeault has taken interested students in grades 5-8 to see the resources (other than books) that the library has to offer community members. Students are especially excited about the 3-D printer and the Cricut maker, and future plans are being developed to further utilize this equipment with our students.
- Students in grade 7 and 8 will be taking part in a virtual and in-person combination of events with the Discovering Amistad project through Mystic Seaport. Union students in grades 7 and 8 will also participate. These events will take place on April 11, 12 and 13 and students will learn more about this historic ship and the history that goes with it.
- In late April, the New Haven Symphony Orchestra will provide a virtual program to students in grade 3 titled, 'Rhythms Around the World'. It will feature rhythmic poems and stories from across the world.
- On May 2, Mrs. Lincoln and the grade 3 students will travel to Scotland Elementary School to participate in a program with author, April Prince, and the third graders in Scotland. Their visit will focus on the book, Twenty One Elephants and Still Standing and will include a STEM-related activity.
- On May 17, students in grades 4 and 5 will attend an opera performance at the Loos Center for the Arts at The Woodstock Academy.

Virtual Field Trips through the Center for Interactive Learning (CILC):

McMillen Health	BFF: Body Friendly Foods	Grade 3, Lincoln	04-01-2022
Learn Around the World	Magnificent Monarchs	Grade 3, Mead	04-12-2022
Roper Mountain Science Center	Becoming a Butterfly	Grade 3, Mead	04-19-2022
Learn Around the World	Elephant PooPooPaper Park	Grade 8, Mead	5-24-2022

Eastford Readiness Program:

The Readiness Program has 17 students enrolled. Additionally, Readiness staff conducts screenings by appointment for children ages three and four that are not enrolled in the program. This helps families to understand typical early childhood development and allows us to intervene in the early stages if development is not typical – regardless of whether or not children are enrolled in the Readiness program.

To date, we have received 17 registrations for only 5 openings created by current students moving up to Kindergarten. We continue to learn about more students involved with Birth to Three that we are obligated to provide services for, and this is also limiting the number of slots available. Enrollment is based on meeting students' developmental needs and maintaining a 60:40 ratio of families with income below and above the State Median Income (SMI) level.

The Readiness Program is planning a series of transition events to familiarize in-coming students and families with the Readiness Program and to ease the transition of current students and families as they move up to Kindergarten.

Readiness Council Update:

The Council meets the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM via Zoom. The Council continues to review and revise policies to maintain compliance with NAEYC and the Office of Early Childhood. The Readiness Grant and Quality Enhancement Grant are now open for renewal applications and are due back to the State in early May. I am working on completing these applications with our Readiness Liaison. We anticipate the same level of funding as in previous years.

Data on Student Progress:

In May, students in grades 3-8 will take the Smarter Balanced Assessment for ELA and Mathematics and students in grades 5 and 8 will take the Next Generation Science Assessment. A testing schedule will be shared with students and families after our April break. Students will test for 20 to 40 minutes each morning, depending on grade level. Mid-term progress reports for trimester 3 will go home with students on May 6.

Curriculum Updates:

Our math committee continues to research and evaluate potential math programs to replace our current Envision 2.0 math program. The committee has had numerous Zoom sessions and has visited nearby schools that are using different programs. They have also had the opportunity to use some sample materials with students. Math committee members are Mrs. Jennifer Barlow, Mrs. Lori Crocker-Lincoln and Mrs. Elizabeth Rhyhart.

Professional Development:

- Mrs. Jennifer Barlow will attend monthly Math Council meetings through EastConn.
- Ms. Murana will attend monthly Social Emotional Council meetings through EastConn.
- Mrs. Bibeault will attend monthly Technology Council meetings through EastConn.
- Ms. Dill will attend monthly ELA council meetings through EastConn.

- I am participating in a regional Principals' Community of Practice through EastConn. We will meet four times over the course of the school year. I also attend monthly Regional Staff Development sessions facilitated by EastConn.
- Numerous staff members are participating in virtual training on using the new state site (CT SEDS) for documenting IEPs and 504 plans. The official transition from our current system will take effect over the summer.

Community and Other Events:

- Thanks to our Auction Committee and to community members who made contributions and donations. The Annual Goods and Services Auction raised about \$14,000.00 between the auction and donations. The trip will cost more per student and chaperone this year because of the change in lodging arrangements. I would like to propose combining grades 7 and 8 for next year's trip.
- Our PALS program will be sponsoring a series of evening events for students in the program, our preschool children and their families. The third event in the series, "Pizza and PALS" is scheduled for April 13 at 5:30 PM. These events are run by Mrs. Boyd, PALS Childcare Associate, and Ms. Murana, school counselor.
- In honor of National Library Week, Mrs. Bibeault will be holding a Story and Craft for children and families (grade 2 and under) in our school library on April 25 from 4:15 to 5:15 PM.
- Governor Lamont has designated April as the Month of the Military Child and **April 27** as "Purple Up! Day for Military Kids." Students and staff are encouraged to wear purple to support the sacrifices made by military families.
- There is a meeting for grade 8 parents and students scheduled for April 28 at 6:00 PM to review the itinerary, behavioral expectations and answer general questions about the Washington, D.C. trip.
- We are currently accepting applications and scheduling interviews for an ELA teacher and an elementary teacher to fill vacancies caused by recent resignations and retirements.
- The PTO will sponsor the spring Scholastic Book Fair from May 2 – May 6.
- Mid-term progress reports for the third trimester will go home on May 6.
- Mrs. Bibeault is coordinating a trip for grade 8 students in May to visit the Maker Space at The Woodstock Academy.