



Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
 From: Carole McCombe
 Date: December 1, 2022
 Subject: December Report to the Board of Education

Field Trips:

- Washington, D.C. trip: The Auction Committee is ready for the annual auction on December 10. The D.C. trip planner is working to book hotel rooms and coach bus transportation for D.C. for May 16 – May 19, 2023.
- Students in grades PK, 2, 3, and 4 will take monthly walking trips to the Eastford Public Library on separate, designated days.

Virtual Field Trips: There are no virtual trips planned at this time.

Eastford Readiness Program:

The Readiness Program has 16 students with another student expected to enroll in January. Ten students are 4-year olds and seven are new to the program.

Eastford Readiness Council Update:

Meetings are held virtually on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM. The Council is exploring state and federal grants available for programs that receive School Readiness Funding. They are also updating policies and procedures to be ready for NAEYC re-accreditation in the spring of 2025.

Update on Grants:

After School Grant: December after school offerings include Mystic Seaport and Mystic Aquarium, STEM activities, Board Games, hanging ornaments, art club and academic support for middle school students and for students in grades 2-4.

School Mental Health Workers Grant: This is a new grant through the Connecticut State Department of Education Bureau of Health, Nutrition, and Family Services. The purpose of the grant is to assist Connecticut school districts in hiring and retaining additional School Mental Health Workers (SMHW), which by their definition includes school social workers, school psychologists, school counselors, school nurses, and licensed marriage and family therapists. This grant application was submitted by the deadline of November 30.

Primary Mental Health Grant: We have 25 students who qualified for our P.A.L.S. program. Twenty-one students have been given permission to participate. Students were selected based on teacher and parent recommendation and through results of the DESSA/Apture social-emotional screening that was given to all students. Students in the program work with a child care associate one-to-one and in small groups using play to learn character development and life skills such as turn taking and respect and to build strong relationships with a variety of students and adults in the school setting.

Data on Student Progress:

We had a great turnout for parent-teacher conferences on November 21 and November 22. The majority of the conferences were in person. We are working with students in grades 5-8 to develop learning portfolios that they will be able to share with parents during our spring conference times. First trimester report cards go home with students on December 9. We will have our trimester awards assembly and recognize students in grades 6-8 earning honor roll status on December 16.

High School Information and Open Houses:

Ms. Murana is providing students and families with information on area high schools and the application process. This information is available on her website, in the Newsletter and on a bulletin board near her office. Most schools have already held an Open House for prospective students and students have had presentations from all but E.O. Smith and ACT. QMC Open House is scheduled for December 6 at 6:00 PM

At this point, 5 students are considering The Woodstock Academy, 5 students are considering Ellis Tech, and one student is considering Killingly Agriculture Education.

Update on School Security:

Mr. Kernan will provide an update on recent security drills and the follow up action taken.

Professional Development:

- I continue to work with EastConn staff on a regular basis to incorporate the Eastford “Portrait of a Learner” (POL) into our existing and developing curriculum documents and continue our work on building a positive learning community with the goal of developing students as “leaders of their own learning”. I attend monthly Regional collaborations through EastConn with the State Department, area administrators and curriculum directors. There is additional focus this year on The Science of Reading and new CSDE requirements that will impact reading and language arts curriculum and assessments beginning July 2023.
- EastConn staff will support our math teachers throughout the year as they navigate our new math program, Illustrative Mathematics (IM). ELA teachers will also receive support on integrating Units of Study with our Portrait of a Learner.
- There are a number of Science of Reading workshops coming up that I will participate in. EastConn will guide area districts in conducting an audit of our Language Arts programs and assessments in grades K-3 and support us in aligning with recent legislation and CSDE requirements.

Community and other events:

- Ms. Murana will host a monthly grandparents group at the school. Families with grandparents as the primary caregivers are invited to attend for coffee and conversation.
- The Giving Tree will be up in the school lobby until January 6. The PTO will use proceeds to support local families and the Eastford Food Pantry.
- PTO will sponsor the Scholastic Book Fair in the school library December 5 through December 9.
- On December 6 at 6:00 PM students in grades PK-4 will perform a “Pajama Party” musical in the gym.
- December 10 is the Annual Goods and Services Auction. There will be raffle items, a bake sale, food truck and live and silent auctions. Proceeds will be shared among students in grades 5-8 for their annual trip to Washington, D.C.
- On December 16 the PTO is sponsoring a Birds of Prey assembly for all students. Our trimester awards assembly will be in conjunction with this in the afternoon. Families are invited to join us if they are able to.
- On December 23 at 2:30 PM, Mr. Tomanelli and Mrs. Farrell-Denke will lead students in a festive assembly featuring songs and instrumental pieces.
- The December after school enrichment calendar has been shared with families. Students have the opportunity to sign up for programs through Mystic Seaport and Mystic Aquarium. There are STEM programs, crafts, art club and academic support offerings.

Special Thanks to:

- Grade 7 and 8 parents who stepped up to organize the Annual Goods and Services auction.
- EES Student Council for their donation of a new school sign so that we can get the word out to the community about all our exciting events.