



Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
 From: Carole McCombe
 Date: May 5, 2023
 Subject: May Report to the Board of Education

Field Trips:

- The Washington, D.C. trip will be May 16 – May 19, 2023. Students in both grade 7 and grade 8 will attend. Mrs. Jen Barlow and Mrs. Catherine DePercio will be chaperoning this trip.
- Students in grades PK, 2, 3, and 4 take monthly walking trips to the Eastford Public Library on separate, designated days.
- Students in preschool and kindergarten will travel to the Ecotarium in Worcester, MA on May 26 to participate in hands-on science activities.
- Students in grades 1 and 2 will travel to the Ecotarium in Worcester, MA on May 31.

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

Texas State Aquarium	FISH	Grades K and 1	05-05-2023
St. Louis Zoo	Spring into Summer	Grades 1 and 2	05-19-2022

Eastford Readiness Program:

The Readiness Program has 17 students enrolled. Eleven students are 4-year olds who will move on to kindergarten next year. Six will remain in PK with space for eleven newcomers. The preschool class list has been set for next school year. Two students who registered are on the waiting list. Preschool will hold an Orientation evening on May 18 at 6:00 P.M. for those who will be attending in the fall. There are also a number of transition activities planned to assist the current preschoolers in their transition to Kindergarten.

Eastford Readiness Council Update:

Meetings are held virtually on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM. The Council is updating policies and procedures to be ready for NAEYC re-accreditation in the spring of 2024. The Council recently discussed raising the cap on Readiness Fees. Fees are set based on a sliding scale published by the Office of Early Childhood (OEC). We cap our weekly fee at \$100. The Council is researching what other programs charge and are considering raising the cap to \$125 or \$150 per week.

Update on Grants:

School Mental Health Workers Grant: With the money we qualify for this year, we have posted a position looking for a part time school social worker. We will utilize some of the money to defray costs already expended on evaluations, student mental health needs and 0.2 FTE of the school counselor position.

School Safety Grant Program (SSGP):

Our grant application has been submitted. We are looking for reimbursement for projects that were previously paid for from the budget.

Lowe's Hometowns Grant:

Our application for this grant has been submitted. We are applying for funds to renovate the school gymnasium space. This will include the floor, bleachers, wall padding and basketball hoops. If awarded the grant, we would be eligible for up to \$300,000.00 for gym renovations that would need to be completed between June and November 2023. We are still waiting to hear about acceptance of this grant.

School Readiness Grant: This Grant has been completed. The Quality Enhancement (QE) component of the grant will be used for purchased services to support renewing our portfolio submission for NAEYC reaccreditation and for needed classroom supplies to remain compliant with NAEYC regulations.

Data on Student Progress:

Students in grades 3-8 are taking their SBAC assessments during May, and students in grades 5 and 8 are taking the Next Generation Science Assessment (NGSS). All state testing should be completed by the end of May. Students in grades 4, 6 and 8 have completed their physical fitness assessment. These assessment results are one of the 12 components we are rated on for our district's Next Generation Accountability report.

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 support our math teachers throughout the year as they navigate our new math program, Illustrative Mathematics (IM). ELA teachers also receive support on integrating Units of Study with our Portrait of a Learner.
- On May 9 Ms. Murana and I will attend training on Section 504 plans through SERC- the State Education Resource Center. Ms. Murana is the case manager for all the school 504 plans.
- On May 12 we will have an early dismissal for students so that staff can engage in professional development. Math teachers will work with EastConn staff to compile a pacing guide to monitor our implementation of the new IM math program as we go into our second year of using these materials. Middle school teachers will review feedback on student led conferences and plan for improvements for next school year.

- Governor Lamont proclaimed May 26 as “Get outside and play for student mental health day”. As a result, we will plan outdoor activities on this day. Our traditional field day is scheduled for June 2 with a PTO sponsored cultural event, BMX stunt bike rider, Chris Poulos. He will perform BMX bike stunts and talk with students about character development and good decision making.

Community and other events:

- Ms. Murana hosts a monthly grandparents’ group at the school. Families with grandparents as the primary caregivers are invited to attend for coffee and conversation. June 2 will be the last session this school year.
- Our PTO, in conjunction with the administration, will celebrate all staff during the week of May 8-12 for Staff Appreciation Week. There will be a luncheon and daily treats and surprises!
- On May 18 both Preschool and Kindergarten will hold an orientation evening for incoming families. There will be free childcare available for these events.
- On May 30 Sally Rogers will present a program for grades K and 1 about the Science of Sound.
- In May we will hold a practice lockdown drill with a representative from the CT State Police and with Deb Richards, Eastford’s Emergency Management Director.
- On June 1, our instrumental students will perform for other students during an in-school performance at 2:30 PM.
- On June 7 Ms. Murana and Mrs. Boyd will host a family evening event for the students and families involved in the PALS program. Pizza will be provided. The program begins at 6:00 PM.
- June 2 will be our traditional Field Day.
- Graduation will be on June 15 at 6:30 PM.

Special Thanks to:

Our student council for their generous donation of art and craft supplies to the children’s program at the Eastford Congregational Church and for their donation of a lightweight transport chair to the senior citizens’ programs at the Eastford Congregational Church to replace items lost in the fire.