

## Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake  
From: Carole McCombe  
Subject: Report to the Board of Education  
Date: November 4, 2021

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### Field Trips:

- Washington, D.C. trip: The Auction Committee met and has set March 26, 2022 as the date for the annual Goods and Services Auction. We are still working to reserve housing at this time and will set dates for the trip based on availability.
- November 23, 2021 - Grade 5 will travel to the Mashantucket Pequot Museum with Mr. Kernan to learn about the earliest inhabitants in CT.
- December 3, 2021 - Mystic Seaport will conduct a virtual program with grades 3 and 4 to replace an in-person trip.
- January 7, 2022 - Grades 3 and 4 will travel to the Connecticut Historical Society Museum and Library to learn more about Connecticut people, places, events and products, and explore the unique stories behind Connecticut's history and symbols.

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

Learn Around the World	The Pilgrims of Plymouth	Grade 4	11-23-2021
Royal Botanical Gardens (Canada)	Insects in Winter	Grade 4	01-14-2022

### Eastford Readiness Program:

The Readiness Program has 17 students enrolled. Additionally, Readiness staff conduct screenings by appointment for children ages three and four who 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.

### 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.

### Data on Student Progress:

Classroom teachers (K-8) will be finishing fall formative assessments using NWEA. Teachers will have time to analyze this data during our professional development day on November 11.

This data, combined with spring 2021 SBAC data and other classroom data, will be used to inform instruction and provide necessary supports for students.

Parent-teacher conferences will be held on December 9 and 10. Both in-person and virtual options will be available.

### **Professional Development:**

- Mrs. Jennifer Barlow will attend regular Math Council meetings through EastConn.
- Ms. Murana will attend regular Social Emotional Council meetings through EastConn.
- Mrs. Bibeault will be attending a series of workshops on Media in Early Literacy and Digital Tools through the Office of Early Childhood.
- 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.
- Mrs. DePercio will attend a series of trainings to be a Reflection Paper Reviewer for TEAM (Beginning teacher support program). She is also a mentor to two of our new staff members.
- Mr. Kernan is in his last year of coursework through UConn to complete his 092 certification. He continues his internship at Mansfield Middle School, visiting there once per month.
- We continue our partnership with EastConn support in the areas of social-emotional learning and restorative practices and in incorporating the Reading and Writing Units of study curriculum across all grade levels.
- November 11 Professional Development Day: Certified staff will participate in a half-day session with EastConn staff to support our continued work on building stronger classroom communities, understanding the impact of childhood trauma and the "new normal", and building resilience in our students and ourselves. In the afternoon we will spend time analyzing student data and learn best practices for using it to inform instruction. We will also review our philosophy on mastery-based grading and assessment to better align how we communicate student progress on report cards across the grade levels.

### **Community and Other Events:**

- The Woodstock Academy National Honor society members are offering free, virtual tutoring and homework help to students in grades 5-8. Students need to sign up in advance for a virtual time to meet. Information was included for families in the October Newsletter.
- High School Open Houses – local high schools will be providing area middle schools with information on upcoming virtual and in-person open houses, video information and brochures to distribute to students. Ms. Murana, school counselor, will be discussing high school options and the application process with students. Up-to-date high school information can be found on Ms. Murana's section of the school website.

- Killingly Agriculture Education: Open House November 4 at 7:00 PM.
- Ellis Tech will post Open House materials and applications will open on November 8.
- QMC will have two virtual Open Houses, December 8 and January 12.
- School picture retakes will be held on November 19.
- Thank you to Catherine Roto and members of Eastford PTO for working to weed and beautify our gardens and landscaping around the school building. It was a much needed undertaking and the results are noticeable!
- Substitute art teacher, Ms. Rebekah Budd, is developing a student art gallery showcase in conjunction with Mrs. Platt at the Ivy Glenn Memorial Library. Work will be displayed according to the following schedule:
 

Grade 5:	October 18 – November 1
Grade 6:	November 1 – November 15
Grade 7:	November 15 – November 29
Grade 8:	November 29 – December 13
- The PTO fall fundraiser (Flower bulbs) ended on October 15. Our top seller was Mia Kernan. Mia earned a pizza party for her class to thank her for her efforts!
- Congratulations to our sign contest winner, Kyleigh Murphy in grade 6, and to runners up Remington Curtis, grade K, and Aaron Minor, grade 5 for their beautiful artwork around the theme of Kindness. All entries show thoughtfulness and hard work. It was hard to narrow it down to just three finalists!
- The PTO is sponsoring a visit by author, Dana Rau, on November 12. Students in PK-grade 6 will have an opportunity to learn about her and her craft as a writer. She is most known for her non-fiction series of *True Books*, early science readers and *Who Was* biographies.