



## Shaping Futures Together

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

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### Field Trips:

- Washington, D.C. trip: The Auction Committee has begun planning for an Auction on December 10. An “advisory” committee of parents is working to start planning. We will combine grades 7 and 8 (21 students combined) for the annual trip to D.C. to help keep the cost per person as reasonable as possible.
- Students in grades PK, 2, 3, and 4 will take monthly walking trips to the Eastford Public Library on separate, designated days.
- On October 13 students in grade 2 will visit Buell’s Orchard to learn about local economics as it relates to their social studies curriculum.
- On October 21 students in preschool and kindergarten will visit the Eastford Independent Fire Company to learn more about fire safety and resources in our community.
- On October 21 students in grades 1 and 2 will travel to Creamery Brook Bison Farm in Brooklyn to learn about local agriculture.
- On November 3 and November 4 students in grades 5-8 will travel to Mystic Seaport for team building activities. These two trips are free to students through a grant that Mystic Seaport has to develop programs in rural communities.
- On November 18 students in grade 3, 4 and 5 will travel to Sturbridge Village for hands on agriculture and cooking programs and to experience life in a colonial New England village.

### Virtual Field Trips:

Virginia Museum of History & Culture	Pocahontas and the Powhatan Indians	Grade 5	10/14/2022
Center for Puppetry Arts	Anansi the Spider: A West African Folktale	Kindergarten	10/28/2022
Author Valerie Marsh	Spiders! Folktales using Sign Language	Grades 1 and 2	10/28/2022

Author Valerie Marsh	Turkey Tales! Turkey Folktales using Sign Language	Grades 1 and 2	11/18/2022
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**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 on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM. They plan to continue holding meetings virtually. We have been awarded both the Readiness and Quality Enhancement grants for 2022-2023.

**Update on Grants:**

**Readiness and Quality Enhancement:** We have been awarded both of these grants for School Readiness for the 2022-2023 school year. We are looking to purchase a new ADA compliant sandbox and sunshade for the preschool playground with the Quality Enhancement funds.

**Primary Mental Health Grant (PMHP):** This grant has been awarded for another school year. The grant will fund a child care associate to work with children up to 15 hours a week for a period of 33 weeks. This work will support at risk students, develop communication and socialization skills through a play-based program, and connect parents/guardians with support and resources.

**Data on Student Progress:**

Student SBAC and NGSS reports were mailed home in September.

In October, all students in grades K-8 will take the NWEA computerized assessment in the areas of reading, language, math and science. The results will be immediately available to teachers and will be used to inform instruction and to identify areas of strength and areas that need support.

Student mid-term progress reports will be sent home with students on October 14 and parent teacher conferences are scheduled for November 21 in the evening and November 22 in the afternoon.

**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.

**Current Open House Dates:**

Ellis Tech: October 13, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

The Woodstock Academy: October 23, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Killingly Agriculture: November 2, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

ACT: November 17, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**School Visits to EES:**

Ellis Tech: October 18

Killingly Agriculture: October 21

**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.
- October 7 Professional Development Day for all staff will feature:
  1. Work with EastConn on incorporating learning targets that integrate our Portrait of a Learner with our academic curriculum and developing rubrics to monitor student acquisition of Portrait of a Learner traits.
  2. Math Team collaboration and check-in with EastConn on using the new math materials.
  3. Work with Sonia Greene, Ph.D. to move students toward independence in recognizing and addressing behaviors (self-regulation, executive function) that detract from learning.
  4. Michelle Bibeault will assist staff in understanding the format of and evolution of the International Society of Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards for technology.

### **School Safety and Security Plan:**

The Plan has been updated for the 2022-2023 school year and, with your approval, it will be sent to the State. This year, the template included a new annex – to develop an Emergency Action Plan for Interscholastic and Intramural Athletic Events. The Safety and Security Committee, led by Mr. Kernan, met in October to review the Emergency Action Plan for Interscholastic and Intramural Athletic Events. Minutes from the meeting are included with the Board packet. Mr. Kernan will provide an overview and necessary training for staff on elements of the plan during staff meetings.

### **Community and other events:**

- The PTO “Design the School Sign” contest entries were due by October 6. The theme this year is Respect.
- On October 14 the EIFC will visit school for our annual Fire Prevention Program. This will include a fire drill for everyone and an opportunity to visit the fire trucks and learn about the fire gear for our younger students.
- The PTO spring bulb fundraiser will conclude on October 15. All orders are completed online through the Bulb company website.
- Ms. Murana will offer a monthly “Parent University” to provide resources and support to our families. The topic for October centers around what to do when kids are mean. This session will be held on October 19 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- On October 24 Wings of Freedom Animal Rescue (WOFAR) will bring rescue dogs to school to thank students for their regular donations of supplies and money and to share how rescue organizations like this benefit the animals they care for. This event will take place outdoors.
- On October 27 Ms. Murana will take a select group of grade 8 students to The Woodstock Academy for a student leadership conference.
- On October 31 the Eastford Recreation Commission will use the school/Town Office parking lot for their Trunk or Treat event. This event will move into the gym if it is raining.
- Ms. Murana will host a monthly grandparents group at the school beginning on November 4 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Families with grandparents as the primary caregivers are invited to attend for coffee and conversation.
- The After School Grant is funding multiple opportunities for student enrichment during the after school hours. We have an art club, weekly visits by Mystic Seaport, once a month opportunities by Mystic Aquarium, visits from Ragged Hill Woods outdoor education center, Board Games and Academic Support on a regular basis.

- On November 10 Mr. Tomanelli will lead students in a patriotic program to honor the Military Veterans in town. Town veterans will be invited to attend. The program will begin at 2:00 p.m.
- November 15 is our picture retake day. Irvin Simon photographers will be here to take photos of any staff or students not present on September 27.
- On November 17 Mystic Aquarium will be bringing a penguin to EES as part of their Penguin Ambassador Program. Those who attend will learn about African Penguins and watch the penguin paint a picture.
- On November 22 students will practice a bus evacuation drill when they arrive at school on the school bus that morning.

**Special Thanks to:**

- Crossroads Restaurant for supplying a pizza lunch to a different grade each month over the course of the school year.
- Buell's Orchard for providing mum plants to beautify the school grounds at a reduced rate.
- Mrs. Tammy Hull for providing computer bags for students to use to carry their computers and other materials from class to class during the school day.