



### Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake  
 From: Carole McCombe  
 Date: April 2, 2024  
 Subject: April Report to the Board of Education

#### Field Trips:

- Students in grades PK, K, 2, 3, and 4 will take monthly walking trips to the Eastford Public Library on separate designated days.
- Students in grades 3 and 4 will learn about the impact of weather patterns on animal behavior on a trip to the Connecticut Audubon Society Center in Pomfret on April 11.
- On May 15 students in preschool and kindergarten will travel to Southwick Zoo.
- Grade 5 will travel to the New Britain Museum of Art on May 28 for their third Faces of Culture trip.
- On June 4 students in grades 6 and 7 will travel to the Connecticut River Museum in Essex to study Connecticut River ecosystems.
- On June 5 kindergarten students will travel to the Loos Culture Center at The Woodstock Academy to attend the performance of *Charlotte's Web*.
- On June 11 students in grades 4 and 5 will travel to the Connecticut River Museum in Essex to study Connecticut River ecosystems.

#### Virtual Field Trips (CILC):

Author Valerie Marsh	Solar Eclipse	Grades 1, 2	04/11/2024
Longwood Gardens	Desert Plant Adaptations	Grade 4	04/12/2024

#### Eastford Readiness Program:

The Readiness Program is full with 17 Readiness students and one non-readiness part-time student. We are currently providing walk-in special education services to two students. We currently have 22 students registered for 17 spaces for fall 2024. Mrs. Kopplin and Ms. Garvie are planning transition activities for incoming preschoolers and kindergarteners. A family nature hike is planned for May 7 at 3:30 p.m. and an orientation evening for students and parents is scheduled for May 30 at 6:00 p.m.

**Eastford Readiness Council Update:**

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM via Zoom. The Council continues to work on aligning policies with updated NAEYC Standards and to prepare for our 5-year NAEYC reaccreditation – due in April 2024. The Council is also learning more about the change in the Kindergarten entry age and the impact it will have on our Readiness Program. Our NAEYC reaccreditation visit will take place between July 1, 2024, and January 1, 2025. On this visit they will observe our preschool space, the children and their classroom routines, and review the classroom and program portfolios being prepared by Mrs. Kopplin, Mrs. McCombe, and our Readiness Liaison, Mrs. Greene. The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) has released the continuation grant for schools receiving School Readiness grant funding. We will complete and submit the paperwork by the end of May.

**Data on Student Progress:**

Students in grades 2-8 took the NWEA assessment in Language Arts, Math, and Science in March. These results are used to monitor student progress toward mastering standards. Beginning at the end of April and continuing through May, students in grades 3-8 will take the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC) and students in grades 5 and 8 will also take the Next Generation Science Assessment (NGSS). These assessments are nationally normed, are used to calculate student growth and achievement, and are used for district accountability and to inform instruction. Results are available to teachers within 24 hours and family reports will be available early next school year. Third-trimester progress reports will go home with students on April 29.

**High School Information and Open Houses:**

Mrs. Schleicher (Ms. Murana) is providing students and families with information on how to schedule a time to shadow an upperclassman at one of our high schools. This information is available on her website, and on a bulletin board near her office.

Current High School attendance information (11 students in grade 8):

The Woodstock Academy: 10

Ellis Tech: 1

**Professional Development:**

- Beginning in February, a team of teachers and administrators began participating in a series of monthly reading workshops required by the State Department of Education about the Science of Reading and the fundamentals of a well-rounded ELA program.
- Mrs. Kopplin and I attend monthly meetings to support our development of a portfolio that documents how we meet the NAEYC standards for our NAEYC reaccreditation. I attend an additional monthly NAEYC meeting for Readiness Program Administrators as well.
- ELA teachers continue to work with EastConn staff to support us in selecting a state-approved program for teaching ELA in grades K-3 and to support us in continuing to develop curricular documents around reading and writing. Time on our May 17 professional development day will be spent learning more about a program called Bookworms that we feel will meet our needs for materials in grades K-3.
- Beginning in March, two staff members and I began attending a series of three trainings at EastConn around developing our new Educator Growth and Support Plan. New plans are due to the State by July 1, 2024.

### **Community, other events, and recognition:**

- Students in grade 5 are participating in a year-long, inter-district opportunity through a grant provided by EastConn. The project is called Faces of Culture. Each participating district will focus on a culture from around the world. Our fifth graders meet via Zoom calls, field trips, and in-class visits with fifth graders from other districts to learn about and explore the people and cultures that are different than those here in Eastford. Their last of three trips will be to The New Britain Museum of Art on May 28.
- The April calendar of after-school academic and enrichment activities was published in the April Newsletter on April 1. These are all funded through the After School Grant.
- Grade 5 students are participating in the D.A.R.E. program through CT State Police. Students will meet with the D.A.R.E. officer once per week through April.
- On April 9 students in both preschool and the P.A.L.S. program are invited to an evening story time and seed planting activity. Children will decorate a flowerpot, plant some seeds, and read stories about flowers.
- On May 7 at 3:30 p.m. incoming preschool and kindergarten children are invited to attend an afterschool nature hike with a parent/guardian and preschool and kindergarten teachers.
- On May 30 at 6:00 p.m. there will be an orientation evening for incoming preschool and kindergarten families.
- **Special Recognition:**
  - ~ to grade 3 student Corinne Ellsworth for her submission of a winning art contest drawing for the Casella Recycling Calendar. She will receive a Certificate, a gift card, and a 2025 calendar that contains her artwork.
  - ~to Olivia DePercio on being selected to perform with the all-state elementary Connecticut Music Educators Association (CMEA) Honors Band on April 4 at the CT Convention Center.