



Shaping Futures Together

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

Field Trips:

- Grade 8 will be visiting Washington, D.C. June 3, 4, and 5, 2025. Mrs. Jennifer Barlow and Mrs. Catherine DePercio are planning the arrangements and itinerary and will be chaperoning the trip.
- Preschool, Grade 2, Grade 3, and Grade 4 will take monthly walking field trips to the Eastford Public Library.
- On October 16 Grade 8 students will visit Ellis Tech for a tour and program information.

Virtual Field Trips (CILC):

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|----------------------------------|--|---------|------------|
| Rosamond Gifford Zoo | OOKY SPOOKY Animals | Grade 2 | 10/30/2024 |
| Wyoming Veterans Memorial Museum | Veterans Day: Celebrating our Veterans | Grade 2 | 11/08/2024 |
| Kenai Fjords National Park | Glacier Explorers | Grade 4 | 03/12/2025 |

Eastford Readiness Program:

The Program has 16 students enrolled. We provide walk-in speech services for two preschool-aged children. Readiness students and kindergarteners recently took a trip to Buell’s Orchard to learn about the changes we experience during the fall season, and to tour the Orchard. All students were able to pick a pumpkin and an apple.

Eastford Readiness Council Update:

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM via Zoom. The next meeting will be November 5, 2024. Our NAEYC reaccreditation visit will take place between October 7 and October 25. 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.

Data on Student Progress:

Beginning in October, all students in grades 2-8 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 11, and parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for December 12 in the evening and December 13 in the afternoon.

Professional Development:

- Our strategic improvement plan is in the process of being updated for 2024-2026. We are changing the format somewhat to allow for a more user-friendly document. Staff were given an overview of the plan at our professional development in August. I will share the plan with the Curriculum Committee at the next scheduled meeting.
- Mrs. Kopplin and I continue to participate in monthly support groups and trainings to update and complete the NAEYC portfolio and school visit requirements. This will continue until our NAEYC accreditation visit in October.
- October 11 early release day– Certified staff will be working on goals for Educator Growth and Evaluation Plan.
- November 5 Professional Day will include all staff members for Active Shooter Training with CT State Police, PMT training, and professional development around Trauma Informed Practices.

2024 Fall Sports Update:

Our Soccer team is doing very well in the QVJC league. Our record is currently 4-0. All 22 players are getting playing time and lots of practice. The soccer season ends at the end of October. Playoffs will be held in early November.

Upcoming events:

- Wednesday, October 9, Killingly Agriculture Program will visit grade 8 to discuss their offerings and high school options.
- Thursday, October 10, Ellis Tech will hold an open house from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 22, Ellis Tech will visit grade 8 to share information about shop programs and changes to the admission process.
- Thursday, November 14, ACT will hold its annual Gala and Open House from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- E.O. Smith will hold an open house for new students on February 6, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- We have a full calendar of after-school enrichment activities planned with our After School grant. Some activities include cupcake decorating, RC airplanes, Mystic Seaport, Roger Williams Park Zoo, Ragged Hill Woods, art club, board games, chorus, and academic support. This month a Family Paint Night is scheduled, and a new Hydroponics club and an Acting and Filmmaking club will be starting.
- Tuesday, October 29, in conjunction with PTO, we welcome author Renata Bowers to EES for small group presentations around her books. Grades PK-1 will focus on the book, Frieda B. Herself with the theme of Personal Story and Worth. Grades 2-4 will focus on Frieda B. and the Zillabeast and the theme of Putting Others First. Grades 5-8 will focus on Frieda B. and the Finkledee Ink and the theme of the Power of Belief.
- The annual Goods and Services Auction will be held on Saturday, November 16 to raise funds for the Grade 8 trip to Washington, D.C.