

Shaping Futures Together



From the Principal's Desk

March has arrived and it seems that the predictions of an early spring made by Scramble the Duck are coming true! It is hard to believe that daylight savings time begins on March 9 and that spring officially begins a week later on March 20. We have some crocuses coming up in the garden under the office windows and more birds are coming to the feeder each week. It will be interesting to see what the weather has in store for us this month! Will the warming trend continue, or will we be surprised with another blast of winter?

Regardless of the weather, there is always a lot going on across the grades at school. The week of March 3, students and staff will be celebrating Read Across America and the joys of literacy. Each day during the week is marked with a special reading related theme in honor of Theodore Geisel's birthday on March 2. Students are invited to dress up according to the daily themes. The flyer for the specific theme days is included later in this Newsletter. Students in grades 6-8 will welcome Judge Mark Altermatt to read to students and to learn more about the process of becoming a Judge. Students in all grades will have a special focus on reading and literacy throughout the week with guest readers, therapy dogs, and author visits.

Our second trimester closes on March 11 and **report cards** will be sent home with students on **March 20**. Second Trimester awards will be presented to students in an assembly on Friday morning March 21, and students earning Honor Roll distinction will receive certificates and be provided with some breakfast treats to recognize their accomplishments. **Students in grades 5-8 will assemble at 9:00 for their awards**. **Students in grades 2-4 will assemble at about 9:20 for their awards**.

Parent conferences are also quickly approaching. We will offer evening times on March 27 and afternoon times on March 28. Please look for communication from your child's teachers about scheduling a time to discuss your child's progress. **Traditional conferences will be held in preschool through grade 3. Grade 4 will be a hybrid this spring with a portion devoted to student reporting and a portion devoted to a traditional conference. Students in grades 5-8 will be holding student-led conferences.**

On March 19, beginning at 1:45 p.m., we will celebrate EES musicians with an in-school concert. The concert will feature preschool-grade 2 singers, grade 3 recorders, grades 4-8 band and our after-school chorus. All are welcome to attend this event!

Eastford students, along with all other Connecticut students in grades 3-8, will be taking the **Smarter Balanced test (SBAC)** and students in grades 5 and 8 will also be taking the **Next Generation Science test (NGSS)** beginning in late April. More information on specific dates will follow as we move closer to April. Prior to that, all students in grades 3-8 will take the NWEA computer adaptive assessments for reading, language, math, and science. Grade 2 students will take the NWEA assessment in May. The results of these assessments help us understand how your child is progressing toward meeting grade level standards and will help to inform appropriate instruction for your child.

We continue to accept both **preschool and kindergarten registrations for the 2025-2026 school year.** Students currently in preschool **do not** need to register for kindergarten, but please spread the word if you know others in town who are eligible to attend either preschool or kindergarten. Registration information is available on the school website. Click on the 'For Families' tab and then 'Forms.'

Please be aware that recent **Connecticut Legislation** has changed the **entry age cut-off date for kindergarten entry from January 1 to September 1.** This means that to be eligible for kindergarten a child must turn 5 years old by September 1 of the year they plan to enter kindergarten. If you have questions about your child's eligibility to enter kindergarten, please reach out to me so we can schedule a time to have this discussion.

A special note – the Eastford Board of Education has submitted the Education Budget for the 2025-2026 school year to the Board of Selectmen for review. The Town will post dates for the budget hearing and town vote on their website.

Please read through the entire Newsletter for additional information regarding upcoming activities, events, and fundraisers, and don't hesitate to contact the school if you have questions or concerns.

Grade K News - Ms. Garvie

This past month has been a very busy time in the Kindergarten class! We started the month with the 100th day of school and global school play day. Then we had our Eastford Public Library field trip and our Valentine Celebration. For phonics, we have continued to learn how to read, spell, and write new "trick words". We also practiced doing detailed to telling's of familiar stories. In math

words". We also practiced doing detailed re-telling's of familiar stories. In math, we started our unit about addition and subtraction. Next, we will decompose and compose numbers within 10. Our science lessons included finishing up our unit on polar animals and during social studies time we learned about heroes for black history month! The children have also really enjoyed having the middle school children join our class for their community service hours.

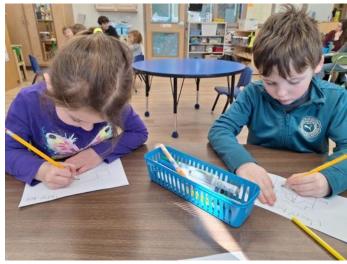
Enjoy these pictures from the month of February!













Grade 1 News – Mrs. Rhynhart

Welcome to March! We will start out the month with a school-wide Read Across America Week – a week dedicated to celebrating books and reading. We will enjoy a special reading-themed activity each day as well as have themed dress-up days throughout the week. This month the first-grade scientists will be learning the science behind lights and sounds and how they can be used for communication. We will be making our own sound effects for a cartoon! We will also be watching for the changes in nature as winter turns to spring at the end of the month. The firstgrade mathematicians will be learning how to add numbers to 100 and the firstgrade authors will be writing an opinion story about their favorite book they have read by the author, Syd Hoff. Speaking of authors, we are looking forward to an online author talk with Joanna Ho on March 5. She is the author of, Eyes that Kiss in the Corners. Our social skills focus this month will be on recognizing our own feelings and learning how to calm our bodies when we have strong feelings. You may hear a first grader talking about "smelling the soup and blowing on the soup" as a way to breathe slowly and calm those strong feelings before we react. Stay calm and "March" on!



Grade 2 News — Mrs. Crocker-Lincoln

What is strong enough to make a canyon? This is just one of the questions grade 2 scientists are exploring in their *Work of Water Unit*. In this hands-on activity, students generate their own hypothesis and then investigate the causes of canyons. As you can see, students constructed cornmeal canyons. The second graders dripped water over their "land" to observe how water can change the shape of the land over long periods of time, and result in a canyon being made. Students collected data on how four different "rainstorms" changed their land. Fun was had by all and everyone in grade 2 was excited when Mrs. Mead saw science happening in grade 2 and visited with us!





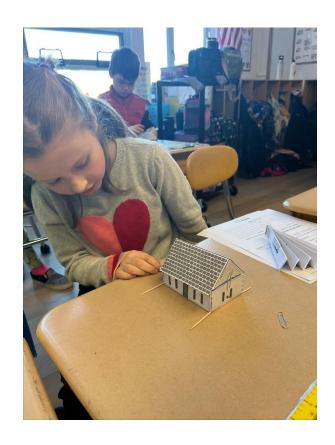


Grade 3 News – Mrs. Bisson

Third graders spent January and February learning all about weather and climate. To conclude the unit, grade 3 Scientists were "hired" as construction engineers to design a house strong enough to withstand a windstorm. Using the design and engineering process, students designed a house, tested their designs against a windstorm, improved their designs with additional materials, tested their new and improved designs, and reflected on their work. Third graders considered many factors while moving through the process: wind speed, use of materials, time spent on the project, and number of materials used. At first, some houses lost their roofs and homes flew off of desks, but by the end, some designs made it so that the homes didn't move at all!









Grade 4 News – Ms. Dill

Every month, grade 4 students take a walking trip to the Eastford Public Library. Miss Jennifer and Mrs. Ball help develop a lifelong appreciation for books and make a habit of reading. They encourage curiosity and a passion for knowledge. Librarians, Mrs. Bibeault and Mrs. Boyd, also play a crucial role in supporting students' educational journeys using materials from the Eastford School Library and libraries from around the state! They provide students access to necessary resources; public libraries offer a vast array of books, magazines, and digital resources that students can use for research, homework, and personal interests. In fact, Mrs. Bibeault notes that grade 4 students have 108 books signed out at this time! Libraries are vital to students as they offer essential resources, support academic success, and foster a love for learning in a community-oriented environment.

Student materials for the Midwest region research project!





Graphic Novel bin for the current writing unit.

Poetry ledge for the literature unit.



Math News – Mrs. Barlow









More Slope Projects







Animal Slope Projects and Name Slope projects by 8th graders!

8TH GRADE MATH

BOTH 8TH GRADE MATH AND ALGEBRA HAVE BEEN WORKING ON LINEAR EQUATIONS AND SHOWED SOME OF THEIR LEARNING IN THESE BEAUTIFUL PROJECTS

Science News - Mrs. Mead

Grade 5 students are wrapping up a Mystery Science unit about water on earth. The engineering challenge was to design ways to keep a coastal village safe from the hazards of rising surf. Students investigated using levees, raising structures, building seawalls, and using plants to reduce damage from waves. The next unit will be an introduction to chemistry

Grade 6 students are finishing a unit in which they revisited chemistry. They have created chemical reactions, learned about conservation of matter, and identified chemical changes to matter. Their next unit will investigate how human activities have changed our environment.

Grade 7 students have finished an earth science unit on earth's structure and energy sources: renewable, non-renewable and alternative. Now they are switching gears to a life science unit on how cells function.

Grade 8 students are discovering reasons for changing climates on earth. Here, they are using what they know about factors that increase temperature to design and build a prototype for a greenhouse that will raise the temperature the most in the least amount of time.





Social Studies News – Mr. Kernan

Grade 5: Exploring the Foundations of America

Grade five students have wrapped up their study of the American Revolution, learning about key figures like George Washington and pivotal battles such as Saratoga and Yorktown. Now, they are diving into the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, exploring the fundamental principles that shape our nation. This is a basic understanding of our rights. It may be fun to ask them what they have found most interesting about this unit.

Grades 6 & 7: Journey Through the Medieval Ages

Students in grades six and seven have been delving into the Medieval Ages, focusing on the Franks and influential leaders like King Clovis, Charles Martel, and Charlemagne. They've examined how geography played a crucial role in the Frankish victory at the Battle of Tours in 732 CE and explored the lives of medieval queens such as Brunhilda and Galswintha. This has been an engaging unit because, as with any learning about this time period, there's a certain amount of exaggeration about the events. It is then our job to dig into those stories and determine what may be true and what may have been exaggerated.

Grade 8: Understanding the Foundations of Government

Grade eight has been studying the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution, taking a deep dive into the document's purpose and the rights it guarantees to all Americans. Through thoughtful discussions and analysis, they are gaining a strong understanding of the foundation of our government. This is a more detailed look at our governing documents than what grade five students examine. Students are asked to give real-world examples as well as think about how they may use our rights and responsibilities on a daily, perhaps weekly, occurrence.



$Music\ Room-$ Ms. Burns & Mrs. Farrell-Denke

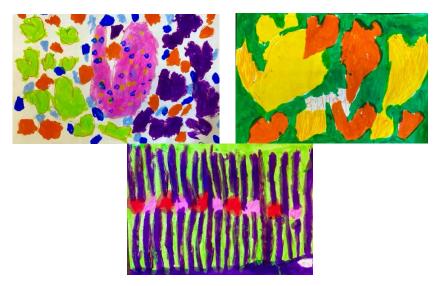
The Music Concert will be on Wednesday, March 19th at 1:45. We welcome all to see our students singing and performing on instruments. You will even see some dancing.

Please save the date and join us for this special event!



Art News – Ms. Weinland

This month, our Pre-K through grade 8 artists have used bold, bright colors to bring warmth and energy into their work! Inspired by artists like Romare Britto and KAWS, students explored vibrant color schemes and dynamic patterns, creating eye-catching winter scenes and abstract designs. Through these projects, students learn how color can uplift, inspire, and transform the world around them.

























Library & Media Center – Mrs. Bibeault

A total of forty-one bookmarks were submitted to the bookmark contest, making the highest number of entries so far! Every participant received a bookmark as a token of appreciation for their entry. The winning bookmarks will be printed and made available in the library for all students to enjoy.

Congratulations to the contest winners! Anna Moore Georgia Barlow





Read Across America Literacy Spirit Week March 3, 2025 - March 7, 2025

Did you know that just 15 minutes of reading a day can spark your imagination, grow your knowledge, and expand your vocabulary?

Let's celebrate the magic of reading, filled with stories, fun, and a whole lot of imagination!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
3/3	3/4	3/5	3/6	3/7	
Reading makes us bright Monday! Reading is relaxing Tuesday!		Wear your words Wednesday!	Drop everything and read Thursday!	Reading builds community Friday!	
		E READING -011906 -		A DESCRIPTION BULL TO SERVICE OF THE	
Wear bright colors! Students will be given something bright to help them read in the dark!	Dress in the same color as your classmates. Red Pk & K Orange 1st & 2nd Yellow 3rd & 4th Green 5th & 6th Blue 7th & 8th	Wear a shirt with words that everyone can read!	Dress as a character from a book and read that book during D.E.A.R. time!	Dress in EES school colors, blue and white, to cheer on all the readers at EESI	

P. E. & Health – Mr. Cody

P.E:

Grades K-2 In our physical education classes, students in grades K-2 have been actively developing their **throwing and kicking skills**. We've been focusing on proper technique, coordination, and control to help build a strong foundation for future physical activities and sports.



Through engaging games and activities, students are learning how to:

- ✓ **Throw** with accuracy and power
- ✓ Catch with confidence
- ✓ Kick with control and aim

Encouraging your child to practice these skills at home can be a great way to reinforce their learning! Simple activities like playing catch, kicking a ball back and forth, or even rolling a ball to improve coordination can make a big difference.

When not throwing and kicking, Students have been staying active with chaseand-flee tag games, which help improve agility, spatial awareness, and decisionmaking skills.

Grades 3-8

I'm excited to share that students in **grades 3-8** have started our **volleyball unit**, which will continue through March! During this unit, students will learn and refine key volleyball skills, including:

- Serving Underhand and overhand techniques
- Passing Bumping and setting for teamwork
- Hitting Spiking and controlling the ball
- Game Strategies Positioning, teamwork, and communication



Through drills, skill-building activities, and modified games, students will develop their coordination, teamwork, and sportsmanship. This unit is a great way to stay active while learning an exciting lifelong sport!

As always, please make sure your child is dressed to move so they can participate safely and comfortably. I have been seeing a drastic increase in unprepared students.





Health:

Grades 5 -This month in Grade 5 Health, students will continue learning about character, decision-making, and the circle of control—important topics that help them build self-awareness and responsible decision-making skills.

Additionally, we are excited to have Trooper White, who will be leading D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) sessions during health class on Fridays. These lessons will provide students with valuable knowledge and strategies to make safe and healthy choices.

We look forward to a great month of learning and growth!

Grades 6-8:

This month, students in grades 6 through 8 will continue learning essential first aid and CPR skills. We are excited to welcome Ms. Spink from the Eastford Fire Department, who will be leading these important lessons. This hands-on training will help students build confidence in responding to emergency situations.



Grade 8 students who successfully complete the course will be certified with the American Heart Association for first aid and CPR.

We encourage students to ask questions and engage fully in these sessions, as these are valuable life skills that can make a difference in critical moments.

Stay active and stay safe!



Books and Blocks

Tuesday, March 25 @ 10:00 – 10:30am In the Eastford Elementary School Library

The Eastford Readiness Program

Would like to invite you to a time of books and blocks open to all children ages birth to 5. Please call or e-mail Christine Kopplin to RSVP by 3/11.

ckopplin@eastfordct.org or (860) 974-1130

Eastford Elementary School

12 Westford Road, Eastford Ct 06242

10:00 -10:30am

(860) 974-1130



EES PTO

March Newsletter

January/February in Review:

- We hosted a Winter Wonderland Craft with the Eastford Public Library on 1/26 where the children made adorable polar bear and cardinal crafts. Fake snow was created and paw print cupcakes were enjoyed!
- The Spring Fundraiser was sent home at the end of February. Last year was a great success, hoping for the same this year!

Upcoming:

Spring craft Collaboration with the Eastford Public Library 4/26

Volunteers Needed:

- Volunteers for the Spring craft collaboration
- Be on the lookout for a Google
 Doc sign-up to provide dinner
 for the teachers during parent teacher conferences

March Events:

- 3/6 PTO meeting
- 3/27 Parent Teacher Conference Dinner

April Events:

4/26 Spring craft
Collaboration

Contact Information: Aliesha Lynch - PTO Chair

We are always eager to welcome new members to our monthly meetings. If you can't attend but would like to volunteer, please feel free to reach out with any questions or suggestions at pto@eastfordct.org. We also invite you to connect with us on Facebook by liking and following our page.

Eastford Elementary PTO Facebook Page

Conference Dinner and Dessert Sign Up





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1/1

march 2025								
Sunday ALL ACTIVITIES ARE 3:45 TO 4:45 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday I		
	Chorus Gr 3 - 8 3	1	Cupcakes Gr 3-4	Acac Supp Gr 2-8 (c Volleyball Gr 5 - 8 Ar: Club 4 - 8	MS student council 7 Dance?	8		
1	10		Acad Supp Gr 2-872 Hydroponics	Acac Supp Gr 2-8 3 Bingo 2 - 4 Volleyball Gr 5 - 3	NO SCHOOL 14 FOR STUDENTS	15		
10	Woods Gr 2 11 Chorus Gr 3 - 8	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 8 Volleyball Gr 5 - 8 Board Games K	Cupcakes Gr 5-8	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 Ar: Club 4 - 8 Bingo 2 - 4 Volleyball Gr 5 - 8	Movie K - 7 Clifford's Really 2] Big Movie p/u 4:50	22		
23	Ragged	Acad Supp Gr 2-8 25 Board Games 2-3 Volleyball Gr 5 - 8	Crochet gr 6	F	EARLY 28 RELEASE	29		

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Figure 1BASP CALENDAR

DivorceCare





WINDHAM-TOLLAND 4-H CAMP 326 Taft Pond Rd Pomfret, CT 06259 www.4hcampct.org



PUT SOME FUN IN YOUR 2025 SUMMER! June 22 to August 16, 2025

Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp, located in Pomfret Center, Connecticut, has provided summer camp experiences for thousands of youngsters for over 70 years. The camp has both overnight and day camp programs for boys and girls 6-15 years of age. The camp is located on 270 acres containing woodlands, cabins, recreation areas and scenic lakes. The Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp maintains a state license and ACA accreditation. Campers need not be 4-H members.

Our caring, camper-centered, college-aged and trained staff is committed to providing a safe, educational, and fun experience for every child. Including a full time Registered Nurse.

All campers have the opportunity to participate in a variety of programs each week including:

- Arts & Crafts
- Low and Mid High Ropes courses & Climbing wall
- Swimming
- Self-defense

- Fishing
- Sports
- Drama Dance
- Archery

- Outdoor Education
- Zip-line
- Canoeing & Kayaking
- Knitting

4-H Camp offers a variety of specialty programs also available on a weekly basis for an additional cost. Wood Fiber Crafts, Horseback Riding, Farm camp and Cow camp

CAMP PRICING 2025

- .\$395 per week (Lunch & Snacks Included) Day Camp (ages 6-15) ..
- Resident Camp (ages 9-15)\$620 per week
- Teen Leadership Program (ages 15-17) \$375 per week
- Overnight Clover Camp (ages 7-8)\$330 per session (3 Day, 2 Night Sessions)

We follow all CDC. State & Local Guidelines

THEME WEEKS FOR 2025

- Week 1 June 22-June 27- Cartoon Week
- Week 2 June 29-July 4 Dragons & Dinos Week
- Week 3 July 6-11 Carnival Week
- Week 4 July 13-18 -Wild Wilderness Week
- Week 5 July 20-25 Outer Space Week
- Week 6 July 27- Aug 1 -International Week
- Week 7 August 3-8 Super Splash Week
- Week 8 August 11-15 Capture the Flag! (Day Camp Only)

Visit our website at www.4hcampct.org for Online Registration

E-mail us at registrar@4hcampct.org for a camp brochure or additional information or Call the Camp Registrar at (860) 974-3379

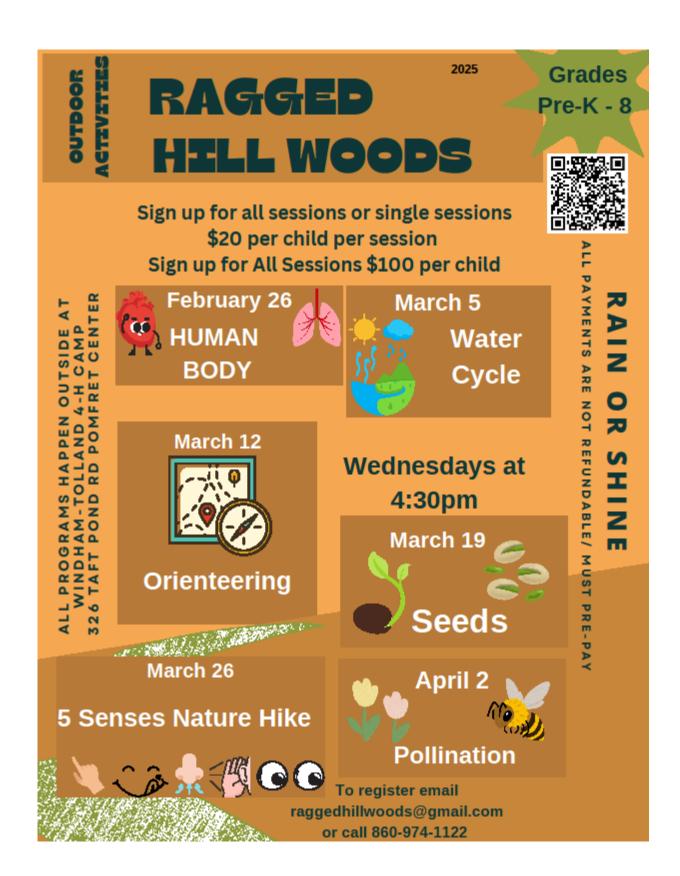
CAMPERSHIPS AVAILABLE Call for application

OPEN HOUSES

Sunday, January 12 & Sunday, February 16 Sunday, March 16 & Saturday, April 19

From 1:00 to 3:00 PM Each Day

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS Jan & Feb







SPORTS CAMP

Register by June 30th to receive a free T-Shirt!

Limited scholarships available Email cceastford@gmail.com before registering if you have a financial need. July 21 - 25, 2025 8:30 am - 12:15 pm Ages 4 - 12 \$60 per camper









Team 45



Brought to you by:

UW Sports Ministry

Congregational Church of Eastford

Living Proof Church

Held at Eastford Elementary School 12 Westford Road, Eastford, CT

Online signup and payment! cceastford.org/sports-camp/

LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



EVENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DR. SEUSSI

Join us on Saturday, March 1st at 10:30am as we kick off Read Across America Week with a story, activities craft and capicakes!

BBC BOOK CLUB

Brownies, Books & Chat, our multi-genre book cub, will meet on Saturday, March 8th at 1pm to discuss the non-fiction novel *One Bay: The Extraordinary Story of an Ordinary 24 Tears in America* by ozo-time Pulitzer Prizz winner Gene Weingarten, Join us! We still have copies available.

MAKER'S NIGHT

ion: us for Maker's Night on Wednesday, March 12th from 6p - 7:30p. All are welcome for craits and conversation! Bring along a project you are working on. Come create!

ST. PATRICK'S DAY STORY & CRAFT

On Saturday, March 15th at 10:30am, we will hold a Saint Patrick's Day Storytime and Graft for the children. Please register, Limit 12

FAMILY PIZZA & GAME NIGHT

John us for a funtime of Games and Pizza on Saturday, March 22rd at Spir. Bring your Gworle game or choose one from our collection. Please register for this event no later than the morning of the event by room so that we know how much pizza to order!

WORM COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

We will host a Worr Composting Workshop at 10:30am. All materials are being supplied compliments of The Friends of the Eastford Public Library. You must register for this Workshop as space is limited.





WELCOME SPRING

LOUISE LATHAM SEED LIBRARY

Are you ready for spring? This month, we will be setting up our Seed Library for patrons once more. Thanks to the generosity of Ocean State Job Lot, the Brooklyn Extension of the UCONN Master Gardner Program will be donating a variety of fresh seeds again. We will let you know when the order arrives! What is a Seed Library? We will have seeds available for you to take home for free and grow. All we ask is that you consider harvesting some of the seeds from your plants and donating their back to the library. It is a practice called Seed Saving. Want to learn more? We have you covered!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Tickets for Quiet Corner Reads Author Event leaturing Martha Hall Kelly go on sale at our library or Tuesday, March 4.h.
- We will ge hosting a STEAM homeschooling workshop or Sound and Music. Tuesday, March 4th at 10:30am for those families registered.
- Join us for Thursday morning Storytimes at 11am. Storytimes feature a time of free play at the beginning and end, a story craft or related activity, and a snack.

REMINDERS

- Friends Meeting: 3/20/25 at 5pm
- Library Board Meeting: 3/27/25 at 6:30p.
- Stop in to get a shiny new Library Card!
- Return or renew your overdue books!