



## Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake  
 From: Carole McCombe  
 Date: March 6, 2025  
 Subject: March Report to the Board of Education

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### Field Trips:

- Preschool, Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, and Grade 4 take monthly walking field trips to the Eastford Public Library.
- Grade 8 will visit Washington, D.C. on June 3, 4, 5, and 6, 2025. Mrs. Jennifer Barlow and Mrs. Catherine DePercio are planning the arrangements and itinerary and will be chaperoning the trip. We have four parent chaperones also planning to attend.

### Virtual Field Trips (CILC):

Smithsonian American Art Museum	Lure of the West	Grade 8	03/10/2025
Kenai Fjords National Park	Glacier Explorers	Grade 4	03/12/2025
Longwood Gardens	Desert Plant Adaptations	Grade 4	05/08/2025

### Eastford Readiness Program:

The Program has 15 students enrolled at this time. Part B of the Early Start CT grant RFA has opened. This is only for programs requesting additional spaces. We cannot physically have more spaces in our current location, so we are not eligible for additional funding.

### 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 April 8, 2025. Registration for Kindergarten and Preschool is open for the 2025-2026 school year. Under Early Start CT, the State and OEC are making changes to the structure of Readiness Councils and the role of the Readiness Liaison. We are now required to form or to join a Local Governance Partnership (LGP). This partnership should consist of elected and appointed officials, parents,

representatives with expertise in early care and education, education and healthcare providers, local homeless education liaisons, representatives from a workforce or job training entity, and representatives who provide services to children.

The LGP will conduct and administer a data-driven needs assessment for the community, solicit parental engagement and membership, provide technical assistance regarding best practices in early care and education, family engagement, and jointly sponsor, with the OEC, professional development opportunities.

I plan to apply for a transition grant from the OEC to fund support from Eastconn to assist in transitioning to this new system.

### **Data on Student Progress:**

The second trimester ends on March 11, and report cards will go home on March 20. We will hold parent-teacher conferences on March 27 and 28. Students in grades 5-8 will continue to share their progress with families through Student-led conferences, while kindergarten through grade 4 will hold traditional conferences. This spring, grade 4 students will be invited to attend conferences with their parents/guardians. A small portion of the conference time will be dedicated to students sharing about their progress, and the remainder will be time for the teacher to share typical conference data and progress. This will begin to prepare our students for the transition to grade 5 and the practice of student-led conferences.

Teachers in grades 3-8 are using the Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) with students as formative assessments and to build test-taking stamina and experience with the state testing formats. Students in grades 3-8 will begin taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) and Next Generation Science Assessment (NGSS) in April and May.

### **High School Information and Updates:**

At this time, we seem to be locked in for high school choices.  
Grade 8 has 22 students.

Twelve students will attend The Woodstock Academy  
Six students will attend E.O. Smith High School  
Three students will attend Ellis Technical School  
One student will attend Killingly for Agriculture Education

Ellis Tech will hold another lottery in March. Some students who are scheduled to attend The Woodstock Academy may change their mind if they are accepted into Ellis at that time.

### **Professional Development:**

- Mrs. Kopplin and I have been participating in training and transition webinars as well as in-person meetings around the shift from School Readiness to Early Start CT and the development of Local Governance Partnerships.
- Staff have been working independently on professional development that supports their Growth and Evaluation Goals for this school year.
- March 14 is a full day for staff professional development. The day will offer a variety of professional development.
  - Some staff will receive CPR refresher training.
  - Mrs. Kopplin will renew her “train the trainer” certification for PMT.
  - Certified staff will provide a brief update for others around their unique professional development goals.
  - The ELA and Math Committees will meet.

- Staff will learn about and have time to complete rating scales for the identification of gifted and talented students.
- A new committee will be developed to begin the work of revising our student report cards.

#### **Upcoming events:**

- We will have an in-school concert on March 19. This will feature grades PK-2 singers, grade 3 recorders, the band (grades 4-8), and the after school chorus.
- On March 21, we will hold our second trimester awards assembly, and we will recognize students who have earned honor roll status.
- The Readiness Program will hold a “Books and Blocks” event on March 25 from 10:00-10:30.
- We have a full calendar of after-school enrichment activities planned with our After School grant. Some activities include cupcake decorating, Puppetry, Mystic Seaport, Roger Williams Park Zoo, Ragged Hill Woods, CT River Museum, art club, board games, chorus, hydroponics, acting and filmmaking, and academic support.
- Students in 6-8 are learning about basic First Aid Care in Health Classes. Eighth-grade students will earn their First Aid/CPR certification.
- Students in grade 5 are participating in the D.A.R.E. program through the month of April.

#### **Special Notes and Thanks:**

- Thanks to Michelle Bibeault for organizing and facilitating an exciting week of literacy related activities for Read Across America week. We had themed dress-up days and guest readers that included Nate Kneeland as our “kick-off” reader, students from The Woodstock Academy, local author Julia Kneeland, Judge Mark Altermatt, and Trooper White. Therapy dogs were here one morning for students to read to, and we had a very creative potato decorating contest and daily literacy-themed trivia questions. Many classroom doors around the building were also creatively decorated. It was a fun week celebrating reading!
- Thanks to Coach Zachary Hutchings for again donating his pay from coaching basketball back to the school to be used for sports-related activities. Money from last year was used to purchase new basketball uniforms. Money from this year is purchasing a team sweatshirt for each Grade 8 player.