



Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
 From: Carole McCombe
 Date: April 3, 2025
 Subject: April Report to the Board of Education

Field Trips:

- Preschool, Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, and Grade 4 take monthly walking field trips to the Eastford Public Library.
- On May 7, grades K-3 will attend a play at the Loos Center for the Arts at The Woodstock Academy South Campus. The play is based on the children's story, Ada Twist, Scientist and Friends.
- On May 20, grades PK-2 will attend a play at the Loos Center for the Arts at The Woodstock Academy South Campus. The play is based on the children's story, Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus.
- On May 23, grades 1 and 2 will travel to Roger Williams Zoo for a visit.
- On May 30, preschool and kindergarten students will visit The Ecotarium in Worcester, MA.
- 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):

Rosamond Gifford Zoo	Virtual Tour	Grades 1 & 2	04/11/2025
Longwood Gardens	Desert Plant Adaptations	Grade 4	05/08/2025

Eastford Readiness Program:

The Program has 15 students enrolled at this time. After some discussion with the Office of Early Childhood, I was able to apply for funding for additional spaces for preschool with the second round of grant funding (RFA part B) because we only received funding so far for 10 full day spaces and one part day space for the 2025-2026 school year. I should know in the next few weeks if we will receive any additional funds. Part B is a competitive grant based on current space utilization, area demographics, and family income levels.

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 May 6, 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. We are currently in conversation with the Ashford Readiness Council to determine the feasibility of merging our Councils into a partnership. The Readiness Council voted last week to allow EastConn to apply for the transition grant and to support us through the transition process.

Data on Student Progress:

We had a great turnout for parent-teacher and student-led conferences on March 27 and 28. For the first time, grade 4 students joined the conference for a mini-student-led portion.

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.

The second trimester Honor Roll list is included in the Board Packet and the third-trimester progress reports will go home with students on April 28.

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

To my knowledge, no additional students were accepted into Ellis Tech during their second round lottery.

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.
- Students in grade 8 have earned their First Aid/CPR certification through a course taught by Mrs. Jeannine Spink during their scheduled health classes.

Upcoming events:

- We have a full calendar of after-school enrichment activities planned with our After School grant. Some activities include cupcake decorating, Mystic Seaport, Roger Williams Park Zoo, Ragged Hill Woods, CT River Museum, art club, board games, chorus, bingo, derby cars, creative dance, outdoor yard games, and academic support.
- Students in grades 6-8 are learning about basic First Aid Care in Health Classes.
- Students in grade 5 are participating in the D.A.R.E. program through the month of April. Their D.A.R.E. graduation is planned for May.
- Students in grades 5-8 will have a presentation from a retired State Trooper, school resource officer, and former National Guard member about character and empathy. George Vangel is now a volunteer with the Travis Manion Foundation established in memory of two veterans who sacrificed their lives in the Afghanistan War.

Special Notes and Thanks:

- Congratulations to Grace Witter on being nominated to perform in the CMEA honors music ensemble with other fifth and sixth graders across the state. She did an amazing job on her flute with advanced level music!
- Congratulations to Leah Talaga and Wesley DePercio on their nomination to receive the CABA Student Leadership Award.
- Congratulations to Mitchell Norman and Sofia Gillet on their nomination to receive the CAS Scholar-Leader Award.
- Congratulations to Kara Norman. Her artwork was selected to be part of the 2026 Casella Calendar. All grade 3 students submitted entries, and hers was selected by Casella. A representative from Casella will come to EES to recognize Kara. She will receive a framed copy of her artwork, a congratulatory letter, a certificate, and a \$25 gift card. Both Kara and the school will receive five copies of the full calendar.