



Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
 From: Carole McCombe
 Date: April 30, 2025
 Subject: May 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.
- On June 4, grade 4 students will visit the Connecticut River Museum in Essex, CT, to study Connecticut River ecosystems.
- 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):

Longwood Gardens	Desert Plant Adaptations	Grade 4	05/08/2025
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Eastford Readiness Program:

The Program has 15 students enrolled at this time. I have not yet heard whether we have been awarded additional funding under RFA part B for next school year. We have twelve students registered and confirmed for next year with three additional inquiries for a total of 15 possible students. Due to parent requests, we granted approval for early kindergarten entry for 4 students, giving us 19 students registered for kindergarten for next year.

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. Since our last meeting, I have met with Dr. Leake and First Selectman Deb Richards to share information with them about forming or joining 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. EastConn is assisting us with this transition.

Data on Student Progress:

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.

High School Information and Updates:

There are no changes to our high school planned attendance for the fall.

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.

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. We have also been learning about the new NAEYC accreditation standards and how these will impact our Readiness policies and family handbook.
- Staff have been working independently on professional development that supports their Growth and Evaluation Goals for this school year.
- Mr. Kernan and I are participating in a pilot program to onboard our MTSS documentation into CT-SEDS.

Upcoming events:

- With our After School Grant, we have a full calendar of after-school enrichment activities planned. 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 grade 5 are participating in the D.A.R.E. program. Their D.A.R.E. graduation is planned for later in May.
- Experience Eastford will be held on Saturday, May 10. There will be several town-wide special events that day, including a 5K run, library book sale, and numerous activities and booths at EES.
- The Town of Eastford Memorial Day Celebration will be held on Monday, May 26. The parade begins at 9:30 at EES. Mrs. Burns will lead EES singers in patriotic songs at the Ivy Glenn after the parade.

- There will be a band concert featuring both our beginner band and advanced band students on June 10 at 10:00 a.m. in the EES gym.
- We will celebrate our Field Day on June 11.
- Grade 8 Graduation will be held on June 12 at 6:30 p.m.
- The last day of school for students will be on June 13.

Special Notes and Thanks:

- 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. Casella will be at school on June 5 to present Kara with her award, and she will be recognized at our end-of-the-year awards celebration.