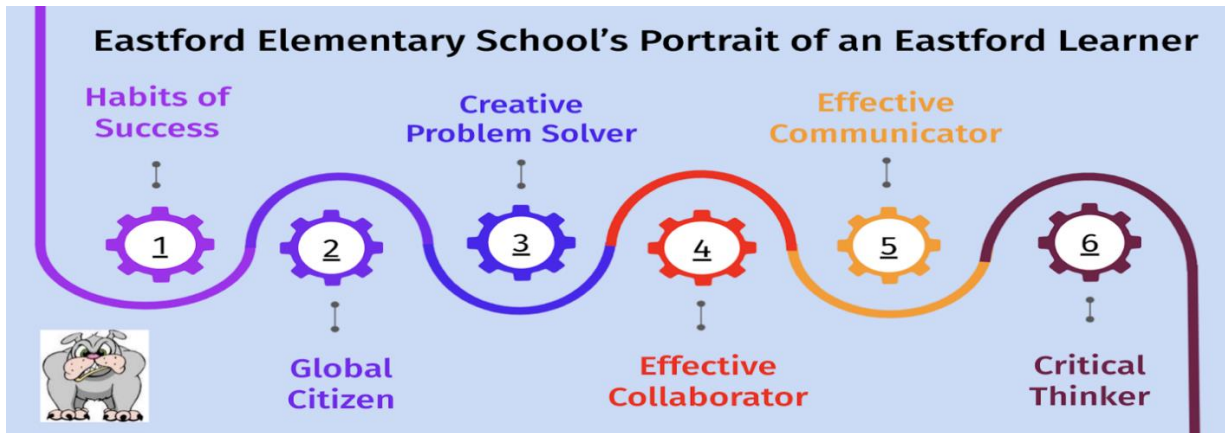


April 2026

# Shaping Futures Together



## From the Principal's Desk

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Dear Families,

As April begins, we are hoping to turn the corner with the weather. We look forward to longer, brighter, and warmer days and more time spent outside. It is often a time when students become busier with extracurricular activities and start to lose focus and interest in their schoolwork. It is more important than ever to stick to routines, make time for homework, and ensure plenty of time for rest from busy schedules!

Teachers are beginning to explore end-of-year options to celebrate the year together that may include some field trips as we move toward the end of the school year. We also continue to add items to our after-school enrichment offerings, so don't forget to check out that calendar and send in permission slips as appropriate. As events pop up, we will keep you posted through emails, flyers home with students, and information on our website. Please continue to check for updated information so you don't miss out on any deadlines!

Eastford Elementary School will be **closed the week of April 13 through April 17** for our spring vacation. When we return from this break, and through the month of May, students in grades 3-8 will be taking the **Smarter Balanced Assessment** in the areas of ELA and Math. In addition, the **Next Generation Science Assessment** will be given to students in grades 5 and 8. Homeroom teachers will share testing schedules with all

Eastford Elementary School Newsletter

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students and families as we get closer. It is important that students are well-rested and eat a good breakfast so that they have the energy, stamina, and concentration to do their best. **It is also important that they arrive at school on time.** For students in grades 3 and 4, a period of time – usually not more than an hour, with a break built in – is set aside for the first thing each morning that students are testing. After testing is completed for that day, students will resume their typical schedules. Middle school students will take these assessments during their regularly scheduled ELA, Math or Science class. Results of these standardized state assessments will be mailed to families as soon as they are released to districts in the fall.

The Board of Education will determine the official last day of school and the date for grade 8 graduation at their next meeting on April 9. We have had 5 snow days this school year that will result in a change to our existing school calendar. I will notify families once these dates are set.

We are pleased to welcome Ms. Jennifer York to our staff for the remainder of the school year. She is a certified special education teacher, and she will be working with other special education staff to support student needs.

In early May, students at all grade levels will be completing a school climate survey in school, and classroom teachers will share a link with families to access our annual school climate survey for parents/guardians. We appreciate your feedback and look carefully at each response so that we can set goals and work toward continuous improvement. We ask that you only send in/complete one response per family to give us the most accurate data. If you would prefer to have a paper copy of the survey, please let your child's homeroom teacher know and we will get that to you.

We continue to accept both **preschool and kindergarten registrations for the 2025-2026 school year.** Students currently in preschool at Eastford Elementary School **do not** have to register for kindergarten, but please spread the word if you know others in town who are eligible to attend kindergarten. Remember, recent legislation has changed the cut-off birth date for kindergarten entry to September 1. Children planning to attend kindergarten must turn 5 years old by September 1, 2026 to be eligible. Registration information is available on the school website. Click on the 'For Families' tab and then 'Forms.' Our preschool program operates under grant funding through Early Start Connecticut and the Office of Early Childhood and as such, comes with specific guidelines. In order for us to remain eligible for the grant, sixty percent or more of the children enrolled in our program should be from families whose income is at or below 75% of the State Median Income. Enrollment acceptance is determined and communicated to families in June so that other arrangements can be made as needed.

This spring we are asking families with children in grades **k-3** to complete a Family Reading History Questionnaire. This is in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-14ee (C.G.S. Sec. 10-14ee) and the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE). After this school year, the Family Reading

History Questionnaire will become part of our school registration process and will only be given to those entering kindergarten or the school for the first time. Teachers will have hard copies of the Questionnaire available for families during parent-teacher conferences and a QR code will be available for those that wish to take the Questionnaire electronically. You can also access the **Reading History Questionnaire** here. The Questionnaire consists of six questions and should only take a few minutes to complete. Filling out the Questionnaire is completely voluntary for families. If families choose to complete it, it will become part of the student's educational record. The CSDE will not collect these data.

I would like to remind everyone that our Board of Education has a **Wellness Policy** (no.6142.101) This policy is designed to promote the health and well-being of district students, to review any available state or federal guidance on wellness issues, and to assist in formulating recommendations for specific goals and guidelines aimed at promoting lifelong wellness practices among district students. In alignment with this Policy, **students are discouraged from consuming beverages with high sugar or caffeine content during the school day, and carbonated beverages and glass containers are not allowed.** Many students now carry water bottles around with them throughout the school day. These should only be used to hold water, not other high-sugar, caffeinated or carbonated beverages. Students **are** permitted to have juice, milk and other non-carbonated beverages during designated snack and lunch times, but students will be asked to dispose of any liquids other than water if they are not consumed during these designated times. We also discourage students from sharing the food they bring from home for snack or lunch with other students. Many students have allergies to specific ingredients and any student could have an adverse reaction at any time. It is important that students only eat the food they have brought for themselves.

We are looking forward to our spring Scholastic Book Fair. This year's event will be held May 28 - June 3. Mrs. Bibeault will share additional details about this, including hours of operation, as we get closer. What a great opportunity to stock up on books for the summer!

As we move through the month, we will continue to keep you updated on spring activities as they evolve. Don't forget that our PTO continues to meet virtually on a monthly basis. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend these meetings. PTO meets on the first Thursday of each month at 6:15 PM. Let me know if you are interested in joining, and I can share the virtual log-in information with you.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. McCombe

# Kindergarten News – Ms. Garvie

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We started the month of March with Read Across America Week, and it was packed with special days and engaging events and activities. We had a special reading time with Mrs. Boyd and did yoga during story time. Grade 3 came over to do “book buddies” with us. We also did a “Switcharoo” and got to visit other classrooms to hear a story. The week was also filled with fun spirit days!

In math, we finished our unit about decomposing and composing numbers within 10. Moving forward, will learn about teen numbers and count groups of up to 20 objects. Our science lessons included learning about forces like push and pull. We played a fun game called “Don’t Knock Down that House”. Children had to experiment with the force of a paper wrecking ball to knock down a wall of cups. The challenge was, they couldn’t knock down the paper houses!

Other exciting events included our trip to the Eastford Public Library, doing the rainbow mosaic art project, and having a book break with the author Carter Higgins! It sure was a busy month!

Please enjoy these pictures from the month of March!





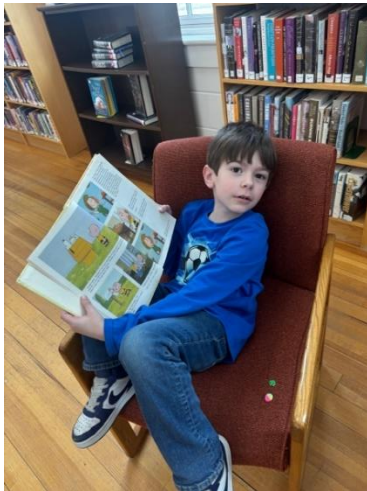
# Grade 1 News – Mrs. Boccacio

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March in first grade was busy, exciting, and full of learning! The first graders worked incredibly hard each day as they continued building their reading, writing, and math skills. We also focused on growing as a classroom community, showing kindness, teamwork, and responsibility. One of our biggest accomplishments was filling our star jar—a wonderful reflection of all the positive choices and hard work our class has shown!

We are off to a great start in April and are excited for all that this month will bring. With spring in the air, students have been energized and ready to learn. April also brings our much-anticipated spring break, which many students are really looking forward to. They have been sharing exciting plans, including trips, family time, and fun activities they hope to enjoy over the break.

In addition, we are looking forward to our rescheduled field trip, which will be a fun and meaningful experience for our class. It's always exciting to connect our learning beyond the classroom, and students are eagerly anticipating this special event. April is shaping up to be another wonderful month filled with learning, growth, and memorable experiences for our first graders!



ool News

# Grade 2 News – Mrs. Rhynhart

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Will April showers bring May flowers? The second graders are learning there is more to that question than meets the eye! Are those showers the only thing the flowers need? Do the showers need to be heavy or light, constant or occasional? Will the flowers be healthy or weak? The second graders will be able to answer these questions after studying plant growth in our science unit! Through our investigations, we will also learn how some plants can grow in one of the hottest and driest areas on Earth, Death Valley, CA. We will also find out what causes occasional “superblooms” in this region.

This month second graders will be reading about important historical figures including a biography about Jackie Robinson and stories about Ruby Bridges and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Our math unit this month focuses on working with the fractions of one half, one third and one fourth, telling time to the nearest 5 minutes, and solving problems involving the value of coins.

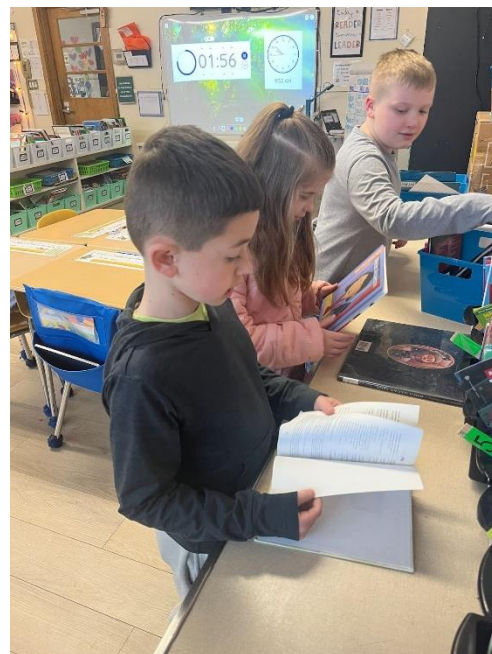
Our Second Step social skills curriculum will take us through positive problem solving strategies by helping us name the problem without blaming, consider possible solutions, and choose a solution that benefits all involved. And, of course, we will watch for those April showers as well as other signs that spring is finally in the air!



# Grade 3 News – Mrs. Bisson

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Third Graders have been learning all about famous Americans who made a difference. We read about Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony, Marian Anderson, Rosa Parks, Cesar Chavez and Wilson Bentley. Students then chose a person that interested them and, using an additional source of information, began collecting facts and writing all about the person's life and their accomplishments. We read, organized, added to, revised, drafted and soon we will be publishing our informational writing pieces and sharing it with others. We noticed themes about determination, perseverance and hard work throughout each story and can't wait to show off our hard work!

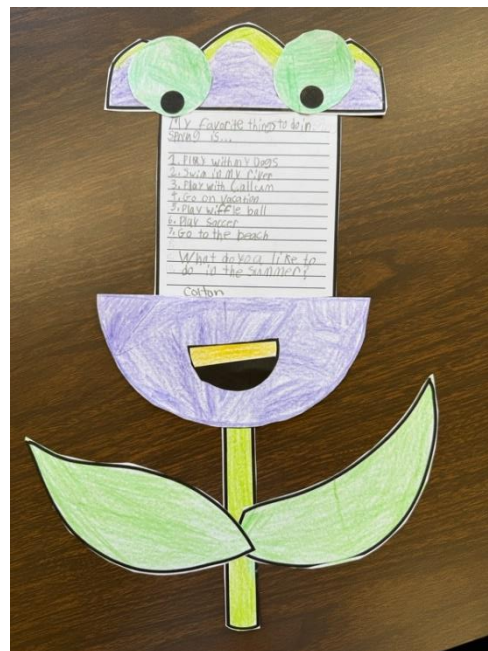
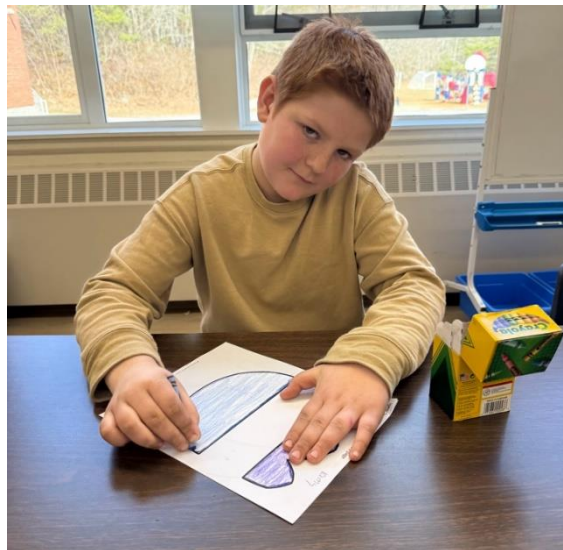


# Grade 4 News – Ms. Dill

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## Spring Fever!

It's amazing how one little phrase can mean so many different things! In the classroom, "spring fever" brings a sense of excitement as we work hard to wrap up important learning, prepare for end-of-year assessments like SBAC, and make the most of our time together by creating special memories. For students, spring fever means sunshine, outdoor play, favorite sports, and maybe even a few sweet treats along the way! The good news is - we can meet right in the middle. We'll continue to stay focused on our learning goals while also embracing the energy and joy that this time of year brings. It's a wonderful season for both growth and celebration!



# ELA – Mr. Salsich

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Dear Families,

Middle school ELA students are currently immersed in an exciting narrative writing unit, and I wanted to share a glimpse into the work they've been doing in class.

Across all grade levels, students are using detailed, student-friendly rubrics to guide their writing. These rubrics were created by the students and fine-tuned by me, and they outline what strong narratives include—such as developed characters, clear settings, engaging plots, and effective use of dialogue and description. Students regularly refer to these rubrics as they plan, draft, and revise their work.

One of the most engaging aspects of this unit is student choice.

- In grades 6–8, students are selecting their own genres, which has led to a wide variety of narratives—from realistic fiction to mystery, suspense, and sports stories. This choice allows students to write about topics and use styles they are passionate about while still meeting the expectations of strong narrative writing.
- In grade 5, students are focusing on fantasy, applying their creativity to build imaginative worlds while practicing key narrative skills like setting, character development, and plot structure.

Before drafting, students spend significant time in pre-writing. They develop their ideas through planning activities that help them clearly picture their settings, understand their characters, and map out their story events. This preparation sets them up for stronger, more focused writing.

Each day, students also receive a “Narrative Pro Tip”—a quick, targeted strategy to improve their writing. These tips might focus on crafting stronger dialogue, “showing instead of telling,” varying sentence structure, or building tension in a story. Students are encouraged to immediately apply these strategies to their drafts.

Throughout the writing process, I provide ongoing, in-class feedback. This allows students to make meaningful revisions as they go, rather than waiting until the end. They are learning to view writing as a process—one that involves refining and improving their work over time.

In addition to writing, we continue to do a great deal of reading. Students are using the books they read as mentor texts, identifying examples of strong

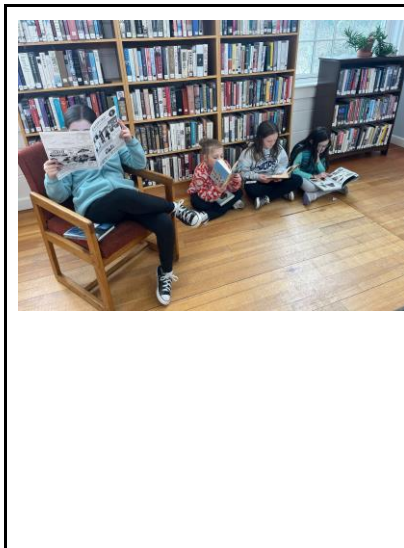
narrative techniques and connecting them directly to the elements on their own rubrics. This helps them see what effective writing looks like in action and apply those same strategies in their own work.

It has been wonderful to see students take ownership of their writing, experiment with different techniques, and grow in confidence as storytellers.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or would like to learn more about our work in class.

Sincerely,

James Salsich



# Science News – Mrs. Mead

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Middle school science students are wrapping up units and heading into new topics and adventures! Grade 5 has begun an introductory chemistry series, and grade 6 will soon be starting a unit on biodiversity, which introduces traits and genetics and traits. Grade 7 is working on an ecology unit that focuses on a rocky shore ecosystem, and grade 8 is beginning to analyze Earth's changing climate.



Here, Grade 6 students are finishing an engineering challenge. The purpose was to design an inexpensive, above-ground rainwater collection system that collected and filtered water while preventing evaporation. Although not every prototype was initially successful, many refinements were uncovered, and the engineering process was thoughtfully explored!





In other science news, Mystic Aquarium's Penguin Ambassador, Green-Black, (named for the beads on the coded arm band that he wears) visited with families here at school in late March to teach about conservation and ecology. He even painted this souvenir original artwork for us to keep at school.



# Social Studies News – Mr. Kernan

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Grade 5 students have stepped back in time to deepen their understanding of Colonial America, with a particular focus on the development of the colonial economy. Students have been exploring how geography, resources, and trade shaped the three colonial regions and influenced daily life. Through discussions and activities, they examined how goods, labor systems, and economic needs connected the colonies to one another and to Europe.

In addition, students engaged in a meaningful project celebrating the achievements of influential women in history. Each student selected a figure to research and crafted a narrative highlighting her contributions, challenges, and lasting impact. This work not only strengthened research and writing skills but also helped students recognize the important roles women have played throughout history.

Students in Grades 6 and 7 have begun an exciting new unit on the Age of Exploration. They are learning about the motivations behind European exploration, including the search for wealth, power, and new trade routes. Our studies have focused on the roles of Spanish conquistadors and Portuguese explorers, examining how figures such as Hernán Cortés and Vasco da Gama contributed to the expansion of European influence across the globe. Students are exploring the impact of these expeditions on indigenous populations, global trade, and the exchange of goods, ideas, and cultures.

Students also took time this month to celebrate women in history by researching and writing narratives about individuals they selected. These projects highlighted the diverse contributions of women across time periods and regions, encouraging students to make meaningful historical connections.

Grade 8 students have been progressing through the early 19th century, examining the Era of Good Feelings (1816–1824) and the Age of Jackson as they begin to piece together the underlying causes of the American Civil War. Students have explored themes such as nationalism, political change, expansion, and growing sectional differences between the North and South. Through class discussions and analysis, students are beginning to understand how economic, political, and social tensions developed during this period and how they set the stage for future conflict.

In addition, students participated in a cross-grade project focused on women in history. Each student researched a historical figure of their choice and created a narrative highlighting her achievements and impact. This work emphasized both



# Library & Media Center – Mrs. Bibeault

A total of thirty-seven bookmarks were submitted to the bookmark contest! The winning bookmarks were printed and made available in the library for all students to enjoy. Thanks to a generous donation from Jody Blanchette, every participant received a book as a token of appreciation for their entry!

## Congratulations to the Bookmark Contest winners!

**Rory Ball  
DeGostin**



**Abel Born**



**Tony**



## Read Across America Week at EES

Reading took center stage at Eastford Elementary during this year's Read Across America Week. Even with a weather delay and early dismissal, the week was packed with fun and memorable reading moments, from Masked Readers to therapy dog visits that delighted students.

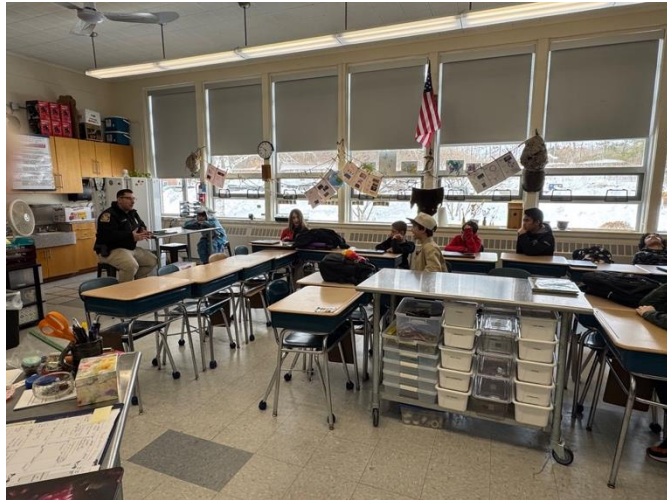
The week kicked off with an exciting Character Parade, where students and staff dressed as their favorite book characters. Mrs. Lynch helped start the celebration by reading a story and sharing an inspiring quote, while students from her enrichment group served as poetry readers during the opening ceremony.



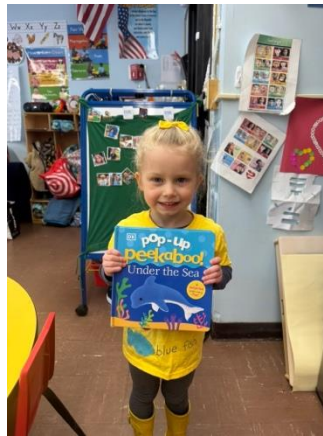
A big thank you to Sarah Boyd, Trish Moran, and Nate Kneeland for participating in our first Masked Reader event. Students thoroughly enjoyed the stories and were especially excited for the big reveal when the readers were unmasked.



Mrs. Boyd also pulled double duty by serving as a guest reader and story time yoga facilitator in classrooms for students in PK–3. We are also grateful to our guest readers who shared their time with students throughout the week, including Mr. Hutchings, who read with students in grades 5–8, and Trooper White, who visited with students in grades 3–6.



Throughout the week, Principal McCombe’s morning trivia questions added an extra layer of excitement, and the winning classes were rewarded with a new book for their classroom library.



Students also enjoyed meeting with their Book Buddies for shared reading and activities. Students in grades 3–6 had the opportunity to visit with therapy dogs, a favorite event that brought plenty of smiles while encouraging a love of reading.



**Thank you to everyone who helped make this week such a wonderful celebration of reading at EES!**

# P. E. & Health – Mr. Cody

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## P.E:

Our PK through 3rd grade students had a blast with parachute games and activities in P.E. We have moved forward to **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 chase-and-flee tag games, which help improve agility, spatial awareness, and decision-making skills.



Students in grades 4–8 will continue developing their volleyball skills during upcoming classes. Instruction will focus on key fundamentals such as proper serving techniques (underhand only), forearm passing (bumping), setting, and controlled hitting. Students will also participate in cooperative drills and small-sided games to build communication, positioning, and teamwork on the court.

In addition, students will begin preparing for the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment. Preparation will include practicing components such as cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility. Activities may include running or pacing exercises for endurance, curl-ups and push-ups for strength and endurance, and stretching routines to improve flexibility. Students will also learn about goal setting, proper pacing, and strategies to help them perform their best while maintaining a positive and



healthy mindset toward fitness.

Please encourage your child to stay active, get plenty of rest, and come prepared with appropriate footwear for class.

*All students in grades 6–8 are required to change for Physical Education class. Changing into appropriate PE attire helps students participate more comfortably and safely during activities while also promoting proper hygiene.*

*With warmer weather approaching, this expectation becomes even more important. Being active in higher temperatures can lead to increased perspiration, and changing clothes helps students stay clean, dry, and ready to return to their academic classes.*

*Please ensure your child comes prepared with appropriate PE clothing, including athletic shoes, comfortable shorts or pants (no jeans), and a t-shirt. Thank you for your support in helping students stay healthy, confident, and ready to learn.*



## Middle School Health:



**Grade 5:** We will continue to work with Trooper White and the state D.A.R.E. program. Combining Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco units with the D.A.R.E. program will help reinforce the messages they're learning about healthy choices and staying safe. Students can focus on making decisions, avoiding peer pressure, and practicing strategies for staying drug- and alcohol-free.

We are excited to share that our Grades 6-8 students have just completed their First Aid and CPR unit with Ms. Spink. The class was a great success, and students are now equipped with valuable life-saving skills. We are proud of their efforts and participation throughout the unit!

As we move into April, we will begin our unit on Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco. This unit is designed to provide students with important knowledge and skills to make healthy decisions and resist pressures related to substance use. We will be discussing the effects of these substances, as well as strategies for staying safe and healthy.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL HEALTH 5-8**

I wanted to give you a heads-up that following our Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco unit, we will begin our state-guided reproduction unit. I believe in keeping parents well informed, so I will send an email when the time comes to ensure everyone is prepared. Keep an eye out for an identical email mid-April. We will likely start the reproduction unit early May.

***Dear Parents and Guardians,***

***I wanted to take a moment to inform you about an upcoming topic that we will be covering in health class. Starting in May we will be covering the reproduction unit. Throughout this unit, we will be following the guidance of our health textbook and state standards to ensure that your child receives accurate and appropriate information about this important topic. We will cover a wide range of subjects related to reproduction, including anatomy, and sexually transmitted infections.***

***It is our goal to provide your child with a comprehensive understanding of these topics in a safe and supportive environment. We will create an open and honest dialogue about these sensitive subjects and ensure that all questions are answered in a respectful and informative manner.***

***If you have any questions about this unit, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, school administration, or Mrs. Schleicher.***

***Thank you for your continued support,  
Mr. Cody***

# Art News – Ms. Weinland

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**Papier-mâché art of Zelda character Bluppee, by Jillian Norman, grade 7**  
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## **BRUSHSTROKES IN MOTION: LITTLE ARTISTS MAKE BIG IMPRESSIONS**

Pre-K learning has focused on paintings inspired by the French Impressionist painters. By using dots, dabs, and soft brushstrokes, they experimented with color and texture, focusing on how small marks can come together to create a full picture.



## **KINDERGARTEN ART: COLOR, LAYERING, AND MOTION**

Kindergarten artists explored color, pattern, and texture through two projects. In their flower paintings, they layered warm-colored dots over green-toned lines to create textured compositions. In their collages, tissue paper hearts were layered, showing how overlapping shapes and colors can form visually rich designs.





### MEASURING, COUNTING, WEAVING, CREATING

Third graders tackled weaving through painted paper and yarn basket projects. They combined color, pattern, and repetition with careful measurement and counting, building problem-solving and critical thinking skills while creating vibrant, structured designs.



### A FOX IN THE WOODS: FOURTH GRADE WATERCOLOR SCENES

Fourth grade artists explored watercolor techniques to create scenes inspired by the snowy end of winter, featuring a fox outside in the landscape. They experimented with washes, blending, and layering to show soft skies and textured trees. Students focused on controlling water and pigment while building depth and contrast in their work.



Our new custodian, Mr. Dan, has been sharing his artistic talent in the art room! Recently, he began creating fun, animal-themed drawings on the whiteboard and plans to continue with weekly sketches. His artwork has brought extra brightness and cheer to the space.



After school  
Program  
Calendar

April 2026

| Sun. | Mon.                                                                               | Tue.                                                                                                   | Wed.                                                                              | Thu.                                                                                                                        | Fri.                                                                         | Sat. |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
|      |                                                                                    |                                                                                                        | 1<br><u>Volleyball Gr 5-8</u><br><br><u>YMCA After School Care</u>                | 2<br><u>Early Dismissal at 12:30pm</u><br><br><u>YMCA After School Care 12:45-5:30pm</u>                                    | 3<br><u>Holiday No School</u>                                                | 4    |
| 5    | 6<br><u>Ragged Hill Woods Enviro Program</u><br><br><u>YMCA After School Care</u>  | 7<br><u>Academic Support Gr 2-8</u><br><br><u>YMCA After School Care</u>                               | 8<br><u>Board Games Gr K-1</u><br><br><u>YMCA After School Care</u>               | 9<br><u>ART CLUB GR 4-8</u><br><br><u>YMCA After School Care</u>                                                            | 10<br><u>YMCA After School Care</u>                                          | 11   |
| 12   | 13<br>APRIL VACATION NO SCHOOL                                                     | 14<br>APRIL VACATION NO SCHOOL                                                                         | 15<br>APRIL VACATION NO SCHOOL                                                    | 16<br>APRIL VACATION NO SCHOOL                                                                                              | 17<br>APRIL VACATION NO SCHOOL                                               | 18   |
| 19   | 20<br><u>Mystic Seaport</u><br><br><u>YMCA After School Care</u>                   | 21<br><u>Academic Support Gr 2-8</u><br><br><u>Crochet Gr 5-8</u><br><br><u>YMCA After School Care</u> | 22<br><u>Board Games Gr 2-3</u><br><br><u>YMCA After School Care</u>              | 23<br><u>ART CLUB GR 4-8</u><br><br><u>YMCA After School Care</u><br><br><u>Resilient Kids Family Workshop 5:30-7:30 pm</u> | 24<br><u>Movie 5:05 PM Pick up time</u><br><br><u>YMCA After School Care</u> | 25   |
| 26   | 27<br><u>Ragged Hill Woods Enviro Program</u><br><br><u>YMCA After School Care</u> | 28<br><u>Academic Support Gr 2-8</u><br><br><u>Crochet Gr 5-8</u><br><br><u>YMCA After School Care</u> | 29<br><u>Roger Williams Park Zoo Program</u><br><br><u>YMCA After School Care</u> | 30<br><u>Mystic Aquarium Program GR 2-4</u><br><br><u>YMCA After School Care</u>                                            | <u>YMCA After School Care</u>                                                |      |

# **Eastford Elementary School Shaping Futures Together**

## **Second Trimester Honor Roll Middle Level - Grades 6-8 March 2026**

### **High Honors**

*Grades of A including A+ and A- in every  
academic and special subject allowing for one B+*

Owen Barlow  
Katherine Douglass  
Xander Sughrue

Georgia Barlow  
Logan Gillett  
Jillian Norman  
Grace Witter

### **Honors**

*Grades of A or B including B+ and B-  
in every academic and special subject*

Alina Platt

Myckenzie Coldwell  
Olivia DePercio  
Isla Lupacchino  
Chloe Minor  
Ilsa Reiner

Aiden Abbamonte  
Blake Gilbert  
Callum St. John  
Jericho Hillman

### **Recognition**

*Students must hand in homework, seek extra help,  
participate in class,  
and work to best of ability*

Trey Hutchings  
Sylas Platt

McKenna Tacy  
Leilani Soucy-Brodeur

## AMERICA 250 CELEBRATION

As part of the America 250 celebrations in Eastford, a white oak sapling will be planted at the Nathaniel Lyon Memorial State Park, birthplace of General Lyon, located in the **Natchaug State Forest on Kingsbury Road in Eastford, at 6:30 pm on April 27**, by Boy Scout Troop 92 and other Eastford youth. Noreene Stehlik, a member of the Quiet Corner Garden Club and a Woodstock resident, will give brief remarks on the historical, ecological, and symbolic significance of white oaks in Connecticut and the United States. Families are invited to attend so that youth can look back decades from now and recall this historic event.

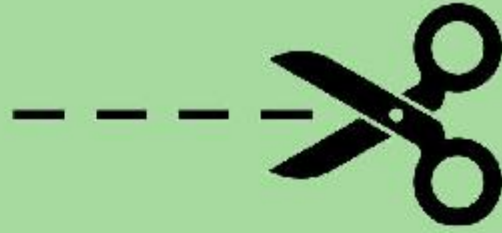
The **white oak is the Connecticut state tree**, in honor of the Charter Oak, a majestic white oak that grew in the state capital of Hartford and in which American colonists hid Connecticut's Royal Charter in 1687, to prevent its confiscation by British authorities. A violent storm felled the Charter Oak in 1856, when it was an estimated 500-600 years old.

Native Americans had multiple uses for the white oak. In addition to using acorns for food, native Americans used tea made from the bark to bathe in, for relief from chills and fevers; to apply to chapped skin; and to drink to relieve asthma. Oak wood was used for lumber and firewood; oak splits were used in baskets and woven chair seats. Fresh oak leaves were used to wrap dough for breadmaking. Because oak saplings are extremely pliable, Native Americans bent them to mark trails. White oak was also prized for bowmaking.

The white oak is a keystone native species that is host to more insect larvae than any other tree in North America, and its acorns are a food source for birds and other wildlife. White oaks, which can grow 80-100' tall and last for centuries, support more forms of life than any other tree in North America. Native wildlife, including deer, squirrels, woodpeckers, turkey, quail, and ducks, depend on its acorns during winter; and the white oak is a prime larval food source for over 900 caterpillar species.

**The long-lived nature of these trees symbolizes the continuing strength, endurance, resilience, and continuing growth of the United States as it celebrates 250 years as a nation and looks forward to the next 250 years.**

The tree is being donated by the Quiet Corner Garden Club, which is a member of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut. The planting was supported in part by a Plant America grant provided by the National Garden Clubs Inc. As part of this project, the Quiet Corner Garden Club is also planting a white oak in several other towns in northeastern Connecticut, as well as the Massachusetts towns of Dudley and Webster.

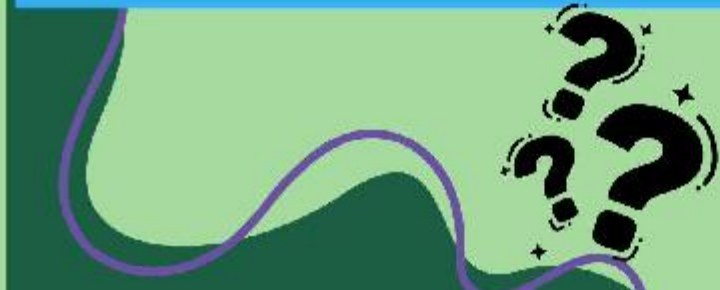


**Have your SNAP benefits changed?**

**Need help applying for SNAP benefits?**

**Have SNAP related questions?**

**Contact Therese Horvath:  
thereseh@teegonline.org,  
860-336-6634**



**Dragons Head Inn First thursday of every month 4:30-5:30**

# **D&D** **Night**



**Looking for 6 adventurers  
to start a quest with.  
Ages 11-13. The quest will  
begin at Eastford Public  
Library. Please sign up at  
the front desk.**

# Community Connections & High School Choice

*Parent Information Night*

Please join us to learn  
about the following for  
all ages:

- Local & State Agencies
- Family & Individual  
Community Resources
- Education Options  
throughout the  
Northeast



Free  
Entry!



April 9, 2026

5:00 - 7:00 PM



**EASTCONN**

376 Hartford Turnpike

Hampton, CT 06247

- A & B Conference Room

For more information,  
please reach out to your  
program director or

- Kelli Carchidi  
[kcarchidi@eastconn.org](mailto:kcarchidi@eastconn.org)
- Morgan O'Malley  
[momalley@eastconn.org](mailto:momalley@eastconn.org)



# RAGGED HILL WOODS

OUTDOOR  
ACTIVITIES



Wednesdays  
Grades Pre-K - 5

March 31 & April 1

Fire Building



April 7 & 8

Cardboard Ovens



To register email  
raggedhillwoods@gmail.com  
or call 860-974-1122

Tuesday/ Wednesday  
4:30pm - 5:30

Sign up for all sessions or single sessions  
\$20 per child per session  
Sign up for All Sessions \$110 per child

RAIN OR SHINE  
ALL PAYMENTS ARE NOT REFUNDABLE / MUST PRE-PAY

Tuesdays  
Grades 6- 8

April 14 & 15

Make your own pizza in  
your cardboard oven



April 21 & 22

All About Eggs



April/ May  
2026

April 28 & 29

Intermittent Streams



ALL PROGRAMS  
HAPPEN AT  
WINDHAM-  
TOLLAND 4-H  
CAMP  
326 TAFT  
POND RD  
POMFRET  
CENTER

May 5 & 6

Rocks, Rocks & More Rocks





SCAN TO REGISTER HERE  
←

# 2026 SPRING VOLLEYBALL

DEVELOP AND IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS AS YOU PRACTICE AND SCRIMMAGE OVER 6 WEEKS.  
WOODSTOCK ACADEMY'S GYM ALLOWS FOR 3 COURTS PROVIDING THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
ACCOMMODATE PLAYERS WITH VARYING ABILITY & EXPERIENCE.

**DIRECTOR & COACH: JEFF BOSHKA**  
**CURRENT ASSISTANT VARSITY COACH @ WA**  
**30 YRS COACHING EXPERIENCE**

Woodstock Academy Gym  
57 Academy Rd  
Woodstock CT

QUESTIONS?  
EMAIL JBOSHKA@GMAIL.COM  
PHONE (401) 864-5283  
\*SPACE IS LIMITED\*

COACHES:  
-MIKE MCKEON-MILLBURY HIGH  
SCHOOL HEAD COACH. 20 YRS  
COACHING EXPERIENCE  
-HEATHER ALLEN-FORMER D1 CORNELL  
UNIVERSITY PLAYER

**PRICE: \$150**  
PER SESSION

**VENMO: JEFF-BOSHKA**

\*PLEASE PUT NAME OF PARTICIPANT IN VENMO MEMO\*

**WHO? GIRLS & BOYS ENTERING GRADES 4-12**

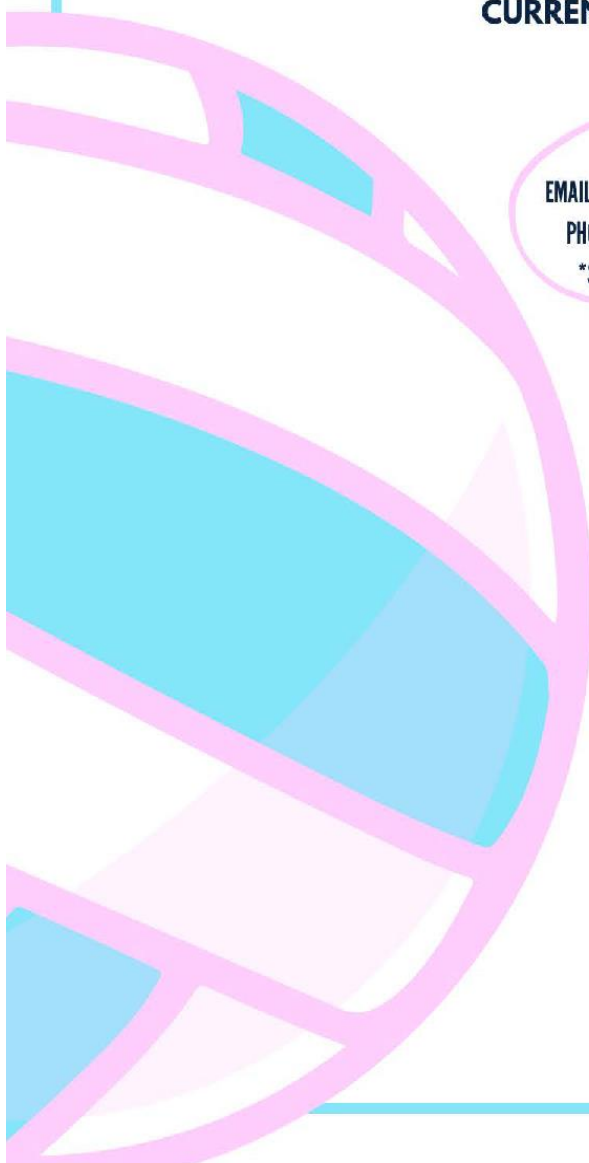
**DATES: 4/12, 19, 26, 5/3, 17, 24**

**TIME: 1:00-2:30 PM**

### UPCOMING CAMPS

Summer 1: 7/7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23

Summer 2: 7/28, 30, 8/4, 6, 11, 13





# Naturally Natchaug Clean Water Festival



Windham Water Works  
174 Storrs Rd, Mansfield

SAT.  
MAY 2<sup>nd</sup>  
9:30-3:00

Join us for a fun day to discover how  
to keep our watershed clean and healthy!

## Event Highlights:

- Guided tours of drinking water treatment plant
- Hands-on educational exhibits
- Presentation by water experts
- Family-friendly activities and games
- Delicious food for purchase

More  
on the  
Natchaug  
project,  
scan  
QR code



All activities: 9:30 am - 3:00 pm  
Presentations: 10 am & 1 pm  
Tours: 12 pm & 2:30 pm



Have questions?

Contact Maura, Eastern CT Conservation District at [maura.robie@comeast.net](mailto:maura.robie@comeast.net)



**OPEN HOUSE  
WINDHAM-TOLLAND  
4-H CAMP**

**April 18<sup>th</sup> 10am-2pm**



**REGISTER FOR CAMP**



- Take a Tour
- Meet the Staff
- Have a Snack

**860-974-3379**

**326 Taft Pond Rd  
Pomfret Ctr. CT 06259**

[www.4hcampct.org](http://www.4hcampct.org)

LICENSED BY THE STATE OF CT, ACA ACCREDITED



# 72ND ANNUAL WINDHAM COUNTY 4-H AUCTION & TAG SALE

326 Taft Pond Rd, Pomfret, CT

**MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2026**



Join us for a great cause! All proceeds benefit the Windham County 4-H Foundation, Inc., sponsors of the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp and Ragged Hill Woods Environmental Program



Over 4,000 sq ft of household, garden, toys, tools, linens, Christmas... We have it all!



A little bit of everything will be on the auction block. Restaurants, tourist attractions. New & antique furniture & collectibles.

**Preview @ 5 pm Auction @ 6 pm with Auctioneer Ernie Eldridge**

### Friday, May 1

- 9 - 10:30 am \$5 Early Bird Buy-In
- 10:30 am - 5 pm (free)

### Saturday, May 2

- 9 am - 5 pm (free)

- **FRIDAY** come bid on a Cape Escape or a ride on the Essex Steam Train
- **SATURDAY** is sports night including 2 VIP Red Sox Tickets for July 21, signed memorabilia from the Bruins and much more!

Donated Items may be delivered to the lower level of the lodge at Camp April 15 - April 28

M-W-F: 9 am - 5 pm Tue & Thurs: 9 am - 7 pm Saturday: 9 am - 2 pm

contact info: 860-974-3379 or wc4hfounders@gmail.com



# SPORTS CAMP

Register by July 5, 2026  
to receive a free T-Shirt!

July 27 - 31, 2026  
8:30 am - 12:15 pm  
Ages 4 - 12  
\$65 per camper

*\*Limited scholarships available\**  
Email [cceastford@gmail.com](mailto:cceastford@gmail.com) before  
registering if you have a financial need.



Soccer



Cheerleading



Flag Football



Team 45



Basketball

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/](http://cceastford.org/sports-camp/)