



Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
 From: Carole McCombe
 Date: April 1, 2026
 Subject: April Report to the Board of Education

Field Trips:

- Grades PK-8 have arranged monthly walking trips to the Eastford Public Library.
- Students in K-4 will attend a performance of The Magic School Bus at the Loos Center for the Arts at The Woodstock Academy on April 23, 2026.
- Students in preschool and kindergarten will travel to Southwick Zoo in Mendon, MA on May 1, 2026 to experience diverse animals and habitats.
- Students in grades 4 and 5 will attend a performance of the opera, Cinderella, at the Loos Center for the Arts at The Woodstock Academy on May 5, 2026.
- Grades 7 and 8 will visit Washington, D.C. May 19-May 22, 2026. Six parents plan to chaperone. They will enjoy a Washington Nationals baseball game, visit Arlington Cemetery, the National Monuments, the Smithsonian Museums, the National Zoo and the National Spy Museum.

Virtual Field Trips (CILC):

Provider	Program	Grade	Date
Smithsonian American Art Museum	The Lure of the West	2 programs Grade 8, Grade 5	4/8/2026
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore	Watching our Watershed	Grade 3	4/9/2026
Southeast Arizona National Parks	Ecosystem Connections	Grade 3	4/23/2026
Fizzics Education	Science of Sound	Grade 4	4/27/2026
Center for Puppetry Arts	Anansi the Spider: An African Folktale	Preschool	5/8/2026
The BLM Campbell Creek Science Center	Creekside Curiosities	Grade 3	5/21/2026

Eastford Preschool Program (formerly Eastford Readiness Program):

The Program has 14 students enrolled. We provide walk-in speech services for one preschool-aged child who is not attending the program. Our National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) annual report was submitted prior to the April 1 deadline. Mrs. Kopplin and Ms. Garvie are holding a series of transition opportunities for current preschoolers and new registrants to visit the Kindergarten classroom and get to know Ms. Garvie in preparation for next school year. An evening Kindergarten Orientation for parents is planned for May 28, 2026.

Early Start CT and Local Governance Partnership (LGP) Update (formerly Eastford Readiness Council Update):

The Local Governance Partnership (LGP) is tasked with overseeing local programs in its jurisdiction. Our LGP covers the towns of Bozrah, Chaplin, Eastford, Franklin, Hampton, Scotland, and Sprague. The LGP has named our collaborative group Eastern CT Early Start Collaborative (ECESC). The group is currently planning for their annual Needs Assessment Survey. Once updated, the Survey will be provided to Eastford families. The next Community Table meeting of the ECESC is scheduled for May 7 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Data on Student Progress:

We anticipate a great turnout for parent-teacher and student-led conferences on April 1 and 2. Students in grades 3 and 4 are now presenting student-led conferences for a portion of the scheduled conference time.

Students in grades 3-8 took the NWEA assessment in Language Arts, Math, and Science in March. Grade 2 students will take this assessment in May. 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 May 8.

High School Information:

- One student has applied and been accepted at ACT; they plan to attend
- One student has applied and been accepted at Ellis Tech; they plan to attend
- Five students plan to attend The Woodstock Academy

Professional Development:

This year PD has focused on:

- Individual goals connected to District goals and objectives in our Strategic Improvement Plan
- Committee work to revise our report cards to produce a streamlined format that aligns with standards and is user friendly for students and families
- Curriculum work to ensure alignment with resources and standards in preparation for State requirement to post curriculum on district websites by July 1, 2026

- Understanding and proactively addressing student behaviors that impact learning – including Restorative Practices and Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs)
May 15 Professional Development Day: Tools for Restorative Practices and relationship building.
- Recently, the state conducted an assessment audit for all districts. I am working with the MTSS team to review our assessment audit results and to evaluate and make decisions about the number of, need for, and frequencies of our assessments.

Fall Sports Update:

We have 8 boys and 17 girls interested in playing school soccer in the fall. I have reached out to Union School to see if they have any interested students. We are hoping to get a few more boys signed up so that we can field two teams, otherwise we will need to have one co-ed team.

Upcoming events:

- The April calendar of after school activities has been shared and permission slips are out for sign-ups. A variety of events will be offered this month that include Ragged Hill Woods, Roger Williams Park Zoo, Mystic Seaport, Board Games, Crochet, and Art Club. There will also be one after school movie, Academic Support, and a Family evening workshop on Raising Resilient Kids. The YMCA childcare is offered daily before and after school.
- Students in grade 5 have been participating in the D.A.R.E. program through the CT State Police. This began on January 26 and should wrap up near the end of April.
- Parents of students in grades 7 and 8 will be holding a “Someone Special” dance and they will be selling Munson’s Candy Bars to raise additional funds in support of this year’s trip to Washington, D.C. A suggestion was made to institute class dues for students beginning in Kindergarten to start building an account balance for the trip in either grade 7 or grade 8.
- On April 2 we will hold our Second Trimester Awards celebration in the gym. Grades 2-4 will begin at 9:00 a.m. and grades 5-8 will begin about 9:20 a.m. We will also recognize Honor Roll recipients that morning during homeroom with breakfast treats.

Special Thanks and Recognition:

- Congratulations to third graders Savannah DeLay and Keagan Murphy. Their artwork has been selected to be part of the 2027 Casella Calendar. All grade 3 students submitted entries, and these two were selected by Casella. A representative from Casella will come to EES to recognize them before the end of the school year. They will receive a framed copy of their artwork, a congratulatory letter, a certificate, and a \$25 gift card. Both students and the school will receive five copies of the full calendar when it is printed in the fall.
- Congratulations to our preschool students. They have been recognized by Young Writers USA. They will have their “Tiny Poems” published in My First Poem (pending parent permission). The school will receive a copy of the collection, which I will share with you once we have it.