

July 2019

# FOCUS on Education


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## GRADUATION 2019



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# High School Honors TOP GRADUATES



From left; Kylie Hall, Hannah Morrison, Gary Bocian, and Sarah Hayward

Recently I had the pleasure of interviewing the top graduates of the Lyme-Old Lyme High School Class of 2019. Kylie Hall has been named Valedictorian, Hannah Morrison Salutatorian, Sarah Hayward is Honor Essayist, and Gary Bocian is Class President.

The group was highly enthusiastic and complimentary of each other, their classmates, their families and the staff of Region 18.

Kylie Hall will be attending Wellesley College in the fall. She is not yet certain what her major will be, but is very interested in Physics and Biochemistry. She laughed and said she's also drawn to Political Science so may double major. The other top grads chimed in that she can do whatever she sets her mind to! Kylie plays oboe in band, helped to coach the Science Olympiad team and participates in the Community Service Club.

Hannah Morrison, this year's Salutatorian, will be attending Emory University in the fall at the school's Oxford College campus for the first two years. She is thinking of studying Psychology but is still undecided. Hannah is a talented artist, enjoying painting and drawing. She has participated in theater and numerous dramatic and musical productions. Hannah plays the saxophone and sings in the Show Choir.

Sarah Hayward is the Honor Essayist for the class of 2019 and plans to attend UPenn in the fall. She is enrolled in the School of Engineering but has not yet decided which area of engineering she will pursue. The other top grads teased that we would need an entire page to list all of Sarah's interests and accomplishments, but she particularly noted her participation on the Robotics and Mock Trial teams as highlights of her high school career. Sarah was awarded the "Most Outstanding Attorney" award for her performance at the Mock Trial state finals. She serves as the class Treasurer, has been the Secretary of the Student Leaders Club for the past two years and has played varsity softball for the past three years.

Gary Bocian has served as the President of his class since his freshman year in high school. He is attending Loyola University Maryland next fall and wants to major in Psychology. Gary volunteers as a Crisis Counselor for the organization Crisis Text Line. He has developed a passion for running through his participation on the Cross Country and Track Teams. Gary is beyond positive when referring to his classmates, of whom he is "extremely proud."

After the interview, I approached Principal James Wygonik to tell him just how impressed I was by this group of young people. While their accomplishments are numerous, I was more taken by how respectful, well-spoken and personable they are. We wish them the best in their future endeavors.

**Mimi Roche, Chair, Region 18 Board of Education**

## Middle School JAZZCATS

The Middle School Jazz Band, known as the JazzCats, has been actively spreading jazz and getting toes tapping throughout our community this past school year. You may have heard them performing at each of the elementary schools for the Holiday Jazz Tour in December, at the Lymes' Senior Center in May, or at the evening or lunchtime concerts held at the Middle School throughout the year.

Members of this band are selected by audition. This year, the JazzCats consist of 35 members in grades 7 and 8 with a few hard-working, talented 6th graders as well. The group rehearses every Friday after school from October to June. They work on music of the Big Band swing era, jazz-rock of the 60s and 70s and try some new jazz charts too. Some students choose to play solos while the band accompanies them in the background. It's a brave soul who can stand behind a microphone and play to the crowd with confidence!

This group hopes to continue to bring jazz and smiles to the people of the community next school year, so be on the look-out for the JazzCats of LOLMS!



## Middle School ART CLUB



The LOLMS Art Club was treated to an Origami Workshop by local artist Ben Parker of Ben Parker Studios in Essex. The focus in Art Club is to have fun exploring materials and techniques beyond the art curriculum. Students worked with paper and mathematical reasoning skills to create some challenging three-dimensional folded designs.

# High School SHOW CHOIR

The LOLHS Show Choir/Band *Amped Up* presented their 2019 show, *Rise: A Refugee Story* in Old Lyme and at competitions throughout New England. This original show was based on the experiences of the Hamou family, who escaped Aleppo, Syria and eventually settled in Old Lyme with the support of the Lyme-Old Lyme Refugee Resettlement Committee. The show wove popular music, traditional Syrian dance and melody, and standard choral music into an 18-minute performance by the 21 singers and seven instrumentalists of *Amped Up*.



## Appointment of NEW PRINCIPAL



The Lyme-Old Lyme Schools are pleased to announce the appointment of Kelly Enoch to the position of Principal of Mile Creek Elementary School. Mrs. Enoch will replace Dr. Patricia Downes who is retiring after 30 years of service to the district as both a teacher and an administrator.

Mrs. Enoch currently serves as the Director of Pupil Services for the Clinton Public Schools, a position she has held since 2014. She has

also worked as a Supervisor of Special Services in Clinton and was a classroom teacher in kindergarten, first, second, third, and fourth

grades at West Vine and West Broad Street Schools in Stonington, Connecticut. In addition, Mrs. Enoch worked as a special education teacher and program manager for students with autism spectrum disorders. From 1993 to 1997, she served as a preschool special needs teacher. Mrs. Enoch resides in Old Lyme with her husband and her son who is a student at Lyme-Old Lyme High School.

Lyme-Old Lyme Schools Superintendent Ian Neviasser stated, "After a long and extremely thorough process that began back in February, we are very excited to welcome Kelly Enoch as the new Principal of Mile Creek School. Kelly comes to us with a wealth of experience in a variety of areas. Her intelligence, work ethic and genuine care for students impressed the search committee, which consisted of stakeholders from our entire school community."

Mrs. Enoch will assume her new duties beginning July 1, 2019.

## Special Thanks to our RETIREES

**KATHRYN BARTUS**, School Nurse at Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School, 18 years of service

**MARY CIKATZ**, Technology Facilitator at Lyme-Old Lyme High School, 17 years of service

**PATRICIA DOWNES**, Principal of Mile Creek School, 30 years of service

**GLENN ELLIOTT**, Science Teacher at Lyme-Old Lyme High School, 20 years of service

**MALGORZATA HOLSZANSKA**, Special Education Teacher at Lyme Consolidated School, 19 years of service

**MARY MURRAY**, 6th Grade Teacher at Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School, 19 years of service

**BARBARA O'LEARY**, Mathematics Teacher at Lyme-Old Lyme High School, 18 years of service

**KAREN PASIUK**, Math Implementation Coach, 29 years of service

**REBECCA POTE**, 5th Grade Teacher at Lyme Consolidated School, 41 years of service

**MARY BETH SCHREINDORFER**, Physical Education Teacher at Lyme-Old Lyme High School, 40 years of service





# Lyme-Old Lyme Schools

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## World Language K-5



It is said that we all smile in the same language. All students in kindergarten through 5th grade are given the weekly opportunity of a lively elementary world language lesson. Students learn about the importance of connecting with others through language and understanding the value of global citizenship in our changing world. Young students begin to build proficiency and knowledge of Spanish vocabulary in order to express themselves in various units of study such as the calendar, classroom, body, family, foods, weather, clothing and the community.

This year, the topic of animals was a favorite for grades K-3 as our Spanish lessons also related to their classroom visits to the zoo, beach and local museums. Young students donned animal masks to express themselves verbally, played charades to recall vocabulary and listened to stories, in addition to reading and writing activities.

Themes of study throughout the year connect to calendar events and cultural holidays as well, in order to build competency and to interact with cultural understanding. Fourth graders enjoyed games related to the body, labeling skeletons and describing clothing, while comparing and contrasting holiday customs. A favorite event this year to recognize the success of our 5th graders was a culminating "Taco Fiesta" to coincide with Cinco de Mayo. It was an opportunity for "real-world application" of knowledge, while students used language related to food and manners.

Each year elementary students develop further language proficiency within the novice level through lessons related to the "Five C's" of Communication," based on the state standards and recommendations of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, with the long-term goal of students not only being college/career-ready, but "world-ready." If language and communication are at the heart of the human experience, it can only begin with smiles!

