

FOCUS ON EDUCATION

JANUARY 2023

Message from the Superintendent & Chair

Dear Members of the Lyme-Old Lyme Communities,

The first few months of the school year have been exciting and full of activity. It's been wonderful to witness the vitality and energy that abound in all of our schools.

Thank you to those community members who participated in our information sessions regarding the PK-8 facilities project and for all those that came out to vote on the bond referendum. We are excited to move forward on this project. Applications for building committee volunteers are being accepted at the time of this writing and should be in place by mid-January. We've submitted applications for HVAC grants available from the state of Connecticut, and will soon begin a competitive bidding process to find an architectural firm that will begin design work.

As always, our sincere thanks to the communities of Lyme and Old Lyme for their continued support.

Ian Neviasser
Superintendent of Schools

Steven Wilson
Chair, Board of Education



Would you like to receive Board of Education updates regarding the PK-8 Facilities Project? You may subscribe by sending an email to PK8@region18.org asking to be put on the email list or you may find all updates on our website under the District Information tab.



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS *Please join the Board of Education for the following presentations*

- February 1**, Budget Forum, 6:30 PM • Regular BOE Meeting, 7:00 PM
- March 1**, Regular BOE Meeting, 6:30 PM

Meetings are held in the Board of Education Conference Room Center School, 49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme. Agendas, links to live-streams of meetings, and links to recordings of previous meetings are available at www.region18.org under the "District Info" tab

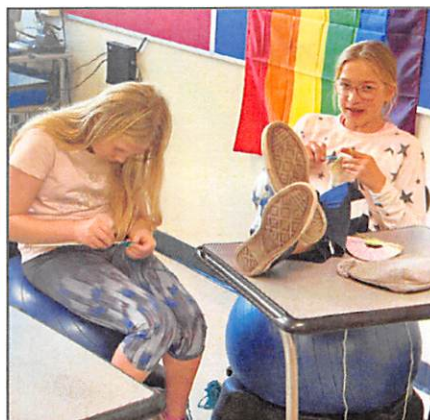


Pursuits Program

Knitting, floor hockey, and journaling are just a few of the options offered as part of an innovative program at the Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School. The Pursuits program was created in 2018 and strives to build community through shared experiences. In this multi-aged program, teachers meet with small groups of students to engage in an activity of mutual interest. Pursuit meetings also include a brief circle discussion during which students and teachers can share ideas and get to know each other.

With more than 28 topics to choose from, there is something for everyone. Groups meet every other week for 35 minutes with students choosing topics in the fall and again in the spring. Some current topics include book club, diamond painting, crafts and coloring, Pre-K reading buddies, outdoor walking, Foursquare fun, Legos, managing the school store, and yoga.

The response to Pursuits has been overwhelmingly positive. Students enjoy the chance to participate in an enrichment activity of their choice, and teachers appreciate the opportunity to connect and build relationships with students outside of the typical academic classroom environment.



Chase Gilbert Named All-Area Girls Cross Country Runner by *The Day*



Chase Gilbert, a freshman at Lyme-Old Lyme High School, has been named the All Area Girls Cross Country Runner of the year by *The Day* newspaper.

Pajama Day for Connecticut Children's

Students at Mile Creek School and Lyme School raised over \$2,500 for Connecticut Children's. To honor brave kids fighting cancer, students wore pajamas to school in exchange for a donation of at least one dollar.





Preschool teacher Kinny Newman

Gingerbread Family Day

For the last 20 years, Gingerbread Family Day has been a beloved preschool tradition where families are welcome to visit their loved ones' classroom and

decorate a gingerbread house with them. Preschool teacher Kinny Newman started this tradition with her classes at Lyme School and then at Mile Creek School. The tradition lives on today with all six classrooms at Center School participating.

Newman, along with 6th grade teacher Deb House, makes the dough each year in what is a large and messy undertaking in Newman's kitchen. Newman tells us she always uses the same Martha Stewart recipe, for which families donate most of the ingredients, and that this year they made a record 18 batches of dough. The process of making the dough, followed by rolling, cutting and baking, takes about 15 hours. The day before Gingerbread Family Day, teachers will help assemble the houses using royal frosting in a process that takes several more hours.

When the big day finally arrives, families are welcomed into classrooms and hallways decorated with a gingerbread theme and find no shortage of gum drops and candies to adorn their gingerbread houses while sipping hot cocoa.

Victoria Stout, a former student of Newman's and recent graduate of Lyme-Old Lyme Schools, has fond memories of this tradition. As a pre-K student, she recalls

her gingerbread house was accidentally taken by another student. The parents of that student were notified and ready to bring the house back to school, but the family dog found it first and gobbled it up before they had the chance. Victoria made a new one the next day with her grandmother. She has volunteered to help out on this special day for 9 years, coming to Newman's classroom to read to the children dressed as a gingerbread girl.



Says Newman, "I guess what I love most, other than the smell in my house as we bake, is the joy that it appears to bring to our students and families. It's a busy world and our families are busy so it's an opportunity for them to take an hour, slow down, and maybe start a new tradition of their own."





Lyme-Old Lyme Schools

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Help Us Reach Our Trex Recycling Goal

This year our schools are proud to once again participate in the Trex Recycling Challenge with a goal of increasing the amount of plastic film collected by 10 percent. The Trex Challenge pits schools against one another in a friendly competition to collect the most plastic for a chance to win Trex benches or other products for schools. Trex Company is a manufacturer of wood-alternative decking and railing made in-part from recycled plastic film.

You don't have to have students in school to participate! Trex bins are conveniently located at Old Lyme Town Hall, Lyme Town Hall, LYSB, and inside the doors of all of our schools.

Visit www.nextrex.com for more information on what can be recycled.

