

# A Note from the Interim Principal

December 01, 2023

Hello December!

@eastlymems



East Lyme Middle School

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday and were able to spend quality time with family and friends. Thanksgiving is truly a time to reflect on all of the blessings in our lives. As a school and community, we have much to be grateful for. I would like to thank you for your support and participation at our recent Student-Led Conferences. Our students did a wonderful job exhibiting and highlighting their work in the classrooms. The children I spoke with were very proud of their efforts and most appreciative of those who were able to attend.

This past week, our music department had their first Winter performance. Our choir students have spent the last several weeks rehearsing for this performance, and it was incredible. We have two upcoming performances at East Lyme High School: December 6<sup>th</sup> our band will perform, and our orchestra will be playing on December 12<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing you at these performances.

Though the Holidays evoke feelings of joy and happiness, they can also add levels of increased stress. The following resource is provided by our counseling office, and is a support available not only during December, but throughout the year.

***The Child & Family Agency in New London now offers urgent mental health services through their Urgent Crisis Center. CFA's Urgent Crisis Center (UCC) provides walk-in (no appointment necessary) care to children and teens experiencing an urgent mental health or behavioral crisis, including:***

*Thoughts of suicide or self-injury*

*Feelings of depression, anxiety, or hopelessness*

*Out-of-control behaviors*

*Substance misuse*

*Any mental health crisis*

***This is a voluntary program that requires parent/guardian consent, presence, and participation. UCC offers crisis stabilization support, mental health assessments, collaborative safety planning, and connects you with ongoing mental health services/counseling in under 24 hours. This is a great option for students who are experiencing a mental health crisis and are having difficulty finding a counselor, as waitlists at many providers are generally long. Although appointments are not necessary, it is helpful to call ahead when possible. They are open Monday-Friday, 8 AM to 10 PM, and Saturday, 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM, for kids 18 and younger. UCC is located at 255 Hempstead St, New London. The phone number is (860) 437-4550. UCC accepts most insurance plans.***

This week's newsletter features Mrs. Leslie Woods, Curriculum Fellow for the World Language/Life Arts Department. Take a look at what your students are working on in their World Language classes as we enter trimester 2.

Regards,

*Claudine Kelly*

One can feel the holiday season in the air, especially in the World Language Kiva, where we are busy exploring the many cultural events around the world that happen this time of year. Our students really enjoy learning about celebrations in other countries, and they also love to share their own family traditions!

Our fifth graders have been exploring the French language this past trimester, learning greetings, numbers, the alphabet, days, months, seasons, and weather. In late January we will switch over to Spanish for the remainder of the year.

Both sixth grade French and Spanish students are currently practicing numbers and telling time. Soon they will start learning verbs so that they can talk about what they enjoy doing in their free time. This always opens up many fun opportunities to express themselves in a new language; a very rewarding experience.

Seventh graders have been wrapping up their unit of study on school life in French and Spanish speaking countries. They always find it amazing to see what their peers in other countries are doing in school. Soon, they will review and conjugate verbs to communicate what they and others do in their leisure time.

Eighth grade students have been learning vocabulary of family members and how to describe what they are like. This is quite involved as it requires them to use adjective agreement and differentiate the types of verbs they choose. Coming up is a unit on “getting around town”, a useful toolbox of vocabulary with real-life applications!

Please reach out to the World Language department if you have any questions or concerns. We wish you the best of the holiday season!

- The World Language Department



### **Pick-up Drop-off reminder:**

A safety and security issue has been brought to my attention regarding the well-being of our students. It seems that many children are being dropped off in the morning and are being picked up at the end of the day at the Youth Center. When this occurs, no adult is there to monitor the children in the lot or manage the cars. I kindly ask that parents use the back of ELMS for the allocated drop off/pick up procedures. While I recognize that a line may form at times, the well-being of our children and the supervision and management of safety measures is of utmost importance. Thank you in advance for your support and co-operation. - Claudine Kelly

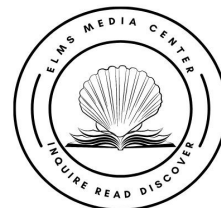
## Dates to Remember

December 6th	Winter Band Concert @ ELHS; 6:00 PM
December 8th	District-wide PJ Day
December 12th	Winter Orchestra Concert @ ELHS; 6:00 PM
December 22nd	Early Dismissal for Students; 11:55 AM
December 25th - January 1st	NO SCHOOL; School Holiday

## Counseling Office Link



## Media Center



ELMS 23/24 Yearbooks On Sale  
Now!



Click here to see the  
2024-2025  
ELPS Calendar

## Around Town

East Lyme Rowing Association Raffle - Drawing on December 7, 2023

PJ Day - December 8, 2023

ELHS Cocoa with the Clauses - December 16, 2023

Leadership Program - Tuesdays starting January 9, 2024

Girls Circle - Mondays starting January 28, 2024

ELHS - Sponsor a Scholarship

# ELMS PTA

President: Rita Quiles-Glover  
ritaglover@sbcglobal.net

Vice President: Nila Kaczor  
ncascio@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Danielle Deeble  
danielledeeble327@gmail.com

Secretary: Tina Conlin  
3peaparents@gmail.com

*Don't forget to join our East Lyme Middle School facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1042924832497235/>*



December 2023

Families,

We wish you the warmest wishes for a joyous holiday season and a happy New Year! Please remember you can always reach out to any board members with questions or ideas. We welcome all ideas and suggestions to help support all students at ELMS.

## **Exciting Happenings:**

**NEXT MEETING** - Our November meeting was scheduled on Thursday, November 30 from 6:30-7:30 PM in the ELMS cafeteria. We do not have a December meeting. Our January meeting will be Thursday, January 18 from 6:30-7:30 PM in the ELMS cafeteria.

**MEMBERSHIP/NEW MEMBERSHIP SITE** - Please complete the [membership form](#) and return it with your child. You can still be a member. This is required in order to volunteer at PTA-sponsored events and vote on any items. We are very excited to share that our membership form has gone digital! You can now become a member without sending in checks. Please visit <https://elmspta1.memberhub.com/> to join us today. The digital payment platform has a small fee (less than \$2).

**SPIRIT Wear** - Thank you for supporting this fundraiser. Are you still interested in buying spirit wear? Do you want to buy more spirit wear for the holidays? The website is still open and we have added new winter apparel! Items purchased can only be delivered to your home; no pickup available - [Holiday Spirit Wear Link](#) We will have a PTA-sponsored spirit day in January - kiva color day! More information is forthcoming. Most recently, the student leadership team met with PTA officers and a survey was provided to all students gathering information on what spirit days they would like to have!

**FUNDRAISERS** - Our next fundraising event will be butter braids which will be happening in late February with delivery in time for Easter.

If you'd like to opt out of fundraisers and just donate funds towards the PTA-sponsored activities, please consider using the alternative PTA form - [Alternate Fundraising Form](#) or donate digitally <https://schoolfundr.org/fund/elmsptaaltfundraiser>

**PTA SPONSORED ASSEMBLY** - We are looking to sponsor a spring assembly. If you have ideas for a motivational speaker or presentation appropriate for middle school students, please contact us!

**Volunteer Forms:** Forms are required to be completed to help with events, per school policy - [Volunteer Process Forms](#)

**February Dance** - The PTA-sponsored dance is scheduled for February 9th, More information is forthcoming but if you are interested in helping, please contact us!

You can always reach us on the East Lyme Middle School PTA Facebook page too!

As always, please remember you can always reach out to any PTA board members with questions or ideas:

President: Rita Quiles-Glover: [ritaglover@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ritaglover@sbcglobal.net)

Vice President: Nila Kaczor: [ncascio@hotmail.com](mailto:ncascio@hotmail.com)

Treasurer: Danielle Deeble: [danielledeeble327@gmail.com](mailto:danielledeeble327@gmail.com)

Secretary: Tina Conlin: [3peaparents@gmail.com](mailto:3peaparents@gmail.com)

