A Note from the Interim Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Over the past two weeks, the administrators at East Lyme Middle School met with all students and teams to review new guidelines regarding expectations and consequences for school-sponsored events/activities/field trips. At each meeting, time was allocated to answering questions and clarifying the changes going into effect. These standards are designed to encourage positive behavior and responsible conduct amongst our students during any school-sponsored event or activity. The aim of these guidelines is meant to promote a safe and positive experience for all participants, recognizing and having our students realize that field trips are a privilege, and considering each child’s individual needs and maturity level at each grade level. These new guidelines will go into effect on January 22, 2024.

As always, it is critical for students, parents, staff, and administrators to collaborate to support our student growth and development while at ELMS. There is a parental component, so please take the time to review the following link so you are cognizant of the changes and expectations moving forward.

[ELMS Field Trip Guidelines]

A big congratulations to the cast and crew of *Legally Blonde Jr. the Musical* for three wonderful performances this past weekend. ELMS is so fortunate to have such talent and dedication from our students. I am grateful to our families for the support, time commitment, and dedication. I would like to recognize Ms. Wendelin and Ms. Renski who devoted countless hours and guidance to our students. The combined collaboration of all made for a truly moving weekend of amazing shows.

Regards,

Claudine Kelly
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 cooperation. - Claudine Kelly
Around Town

Wear your favorite sports jersey on Friday, February 9, 2024 to benefit
THE MIRACLE LEAGUE
OF SOUTHEASTERN CT

All monies raised will go towards Phase III of our Miracle League Field,
a fully accessible playground!

Donations can be turned in at school or via PayPal.
For more info about the Miracle League SE CT visit: www.miracleleague SCT.org

Every child deserves...
...a chance to play.

Try It Lacrosse Clinic
Sponsored by East Lyme Lacrosse Association and run by the East Lyme High School Lacrosse Teams
Where: Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024
Sessions: Girls 1-2 U, Boys 2-3-4-5
Where: Lillie B. Haynes Gym
Cost: Free
- Free gifts for East Lyme residents in grade K-6
- Light refreshments (no cooking, no raw eggs, heated, no nuts or peanut products)
- On location at East Lyme High School for coaching and playing.
- Contact ELLA’s alumni to help with setup and help during the Clinic

Register at https://ella.sportngin.com/

WINGS FIRE Book Party

Join us for a special screening of
SCREEN AGERS

GROWING UP IN THE DIGITAL AGE

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Around Town

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The leadership program engages students in a professional social change experience through service learning, community engagement, and leadership development.

Guest Speakers:

- Aubrey, a member of the 2023 Ohio State University Class of 2023, who discussed her experiences as a leadership program participant.
- breat三个月

The Clubhouse

Come join us on the first Saturday of each month at The Clubhouse!

The Clubhouse is a community center for kids in our area, offering a place for kids to hang out, socialize, and enjoy various activities.

The Clubhouse offers:
- Free playtime
- Homework assistance
- Art and craft projects
- Board games and puzzles
- Snacks and drinks
- Special events like parties and holiday celebrations
- Access to a fully equipped gymnasium

The Clubhouse is open for kids of all ages, and we encourage parents to bring their children to enjoy the various activities and make new friends.

Visit our website for more information or call us at 555-1234.
Families,

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 January meeting was held on **Thursday, January 18 from 6:30-7:30 PM** in the ELMS cafeteria. We will not be meeting in February due to the shortened month.

**SPIRIT Wear** - Thank you for supporting the holiday fundraiser. We raised additional funds that will go directly towards student activities such as the dance. Spirit day was Friday, January 12 - kiva color day. Please visit [PTA Spirit Day - Color Kiva](#) for more information.

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! They will help to promote this spirited day!

**February Dance** - The PTA-sponsored dance is scheduled for February 9th! More information is forthcoming but if you are interested in helping, please reach out to one of the PTA Officers.

**8th Grade Committee** - A big thank you to Lindsay Adams, 8th grade parent, who will be leading this committee. Please reach out to her at Lindseya.adams@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping to organize this important event!

**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/](https://elmspta1.memberhub.com/) to join us today. The digital payment platform has a small fee (less than $2).

**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](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](#)

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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!