

March 01, 2024



@eastlymems



East Lyme Middle School

A Note from the Interim Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to take this time to congratulate our girls' basketball team, who advanced to the finals this week. They played Ledyard on Thursday, and lost a hard fought game, 53-28.

Congratulations to both our programs and the coaching of Ms. Asciolla and Mr. Cunningham. Our students experienced the true sense of teamwork, sportsmanship, and comradery Thank you for a great season!

At ELMS, we have begun the interview process for an Assistant Athletic Director for our building. Once this position is secured, we will start posting for coaches and promoting the athletic offerings for the 2024-25 school year. More to come!

This week's curriculum update is provided by Mrs. Ciacchero, who is the Fellow for the counseling department. Please take a moment to review her news.

Regards,

Claudine Kelly

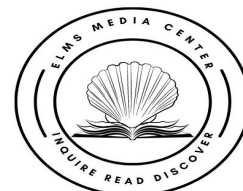
Dates to Remember

Monday, March 11th	SCHOOL IS IN SESSION
Wednesday, March 13th 6:00-7:00 pm	Incoming Grade 5 Parent/Guardian Information Night & Tour
March 18th - 19th	Early Dismissal for Students (11:55) Student-Led Conferences (12:45-2:45)
March 20th	Early Dismissal for Students (11:55) Professional Development for Staff
March 29th	No School - School Holiday

Counseling



Media Center



Dear East Lyme Middle School Families,

We hope this update finds you well and provides you with insights into the exciting initiatives and support services happening within the East Lyme Middle School Counseling Department. As partners in your child's educational journey, we are dedicated to fostering a safe and supportive environment for all our students.



New Counseling Suite Unveiling:

We are thrilled to share our new counseling suite space for the 23-24 school year ! This space has been designed to create a warm and welcoming environment where students can feel comfortable discussing their social, emotional, and academic needs with our dedicated counseling team.

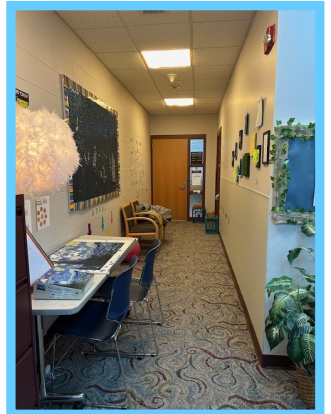
Support Services Overview:

Our counselors work with students in 5th-8th grade, meeting with them individually or in groups as needed throughout the school year. Our sessions cover a range of topics, including welcoming new students, study skills, organizational skills, managing anxiety

and stress, and fostering positive friendships. We aim to provide a safe space for students to share and navigate challenges.

Advisory Curriculum Focus:

Our students are actively engaged in our advisory program, designed to enhance their social and emotional development, which meets two times a month. In February, the focus was on relationship skills. For the month of March, our attention will shift towards self-awareness, empowering students to better understand themselves.



Naviance Exploration:

Naviance is a program designed to help students explore their strengths and interests, set goals, and plan for their future. Our counseling team will be guiding students through the Naviance platform to support their academic and career development. Our 8th graders have participated in this program and it will be introduced to our 7th graders in the month of March. Our 6th graders will be able to explore the Naviance program later this school year.

Please continue to read our Counseling Newsletter with our bi-monthly department updates and access to our Virtual Counseling Office. Thank you for entrusting us with the well-being of your children. We look forward to continuing our partnership to create a positive and supportive learning environment at East Lyme Middle School.

Thank you,
East Lyme Middle School Counseling Department



Around Town

STARS to STEM Regional Planetaryarium

At The East Lyme High School • 30 Chesterfield Road • East Lyme, CT 06333

Winter 2024 Planetaryarium Series

Saturday (February 3rd through March 16th)

One World, One Sky is a 27-minute full-dome planetaryarium show that follows Sesame Street's Big Bird and Elmo as they explore the night sky with Hu Hu Zhu, a Muppet from Zhong Jin, the Chinese co-production of Sesame Street. Together, they take an imaginary trip from Sesame Street to the moon, where they discover how different it is from Earth. At the end of the show, Big Bird, Elmo, and Hu Hu Zhu pick a friendship star to reward those that no matter how far apart they might be, they can always look into the night sky and cherish their shared memories.

You Must See This! A production of Stars to STEM, featuring Sesame Street, Muppet Show, and Sesame Street. This show is presented with support from the National Science Foundation. They thank the University of Connecticut.

Show times: 11 AM for neurodivergent children/adults and their families.
2 PM show is for all audiences.

Back to the Moon for Good! In case you haven't heard, the Moon is trending again... and in a big way. Inspired by Tim Allen (voice of Buzz Lightyear), this is a complete behind-the-scenes feature on the \$28 million Google Lunar XPRIZE, the largest incentivized prize in history. Adapted from the award-winning digital planetaryarium show, the 24-minute movie chronicles 18 teams from around the world looking to make history by landing a privately funded robotic spacecraft on the Moon. This global competition is designed to spark imagination and inspire a renewed commitment to space exploration... not by governments or countries... but by the citizens of the world.

Show time: 12 PM

Dark Matter Mystery This 35-minute show focuses on exploring a Cosmic Secret: What does keep the universe together? What are the building blocks of the so called "glue" we have not found yet, that makes the universe look the way it looks today? This planetaryarium show takes you on a metaphysical journey quest. You will see why we know that there must be dark matter at all and how this search becomes one of the most challenging and exciting searches astro-physics has to offer. Join the scientists on their hunt for dark matter. May it be in space or deep underground. Will they be able to reveal the dark matter mystery?

Show time: 1 PM

Admission \$10.00 per person.
Visit <http://www.starsandstem.org/events> or use the QR code to purchase tickets.

WOODSTOCK ACADEMY GIRLS CO-OP OPEN HOUSE SKATE

SATURDAY MARCH 2ND 1PM-2:30

MEET THE PLAYERS AND COACHES
AND LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR
GROWING COOPERATIVE TEAM
REPRESENTING EASTERN CONNECTICUT

CO-OP SCHOOLS

BACON ACADEMY
EAST LYME
ED SMITH
FITCH
GRISWOLD
KILLINGLY
LEDYARD
LYMAN MEMORIAL
MONTVILLE
NEW LONDON
NORWICH FREE ACADEMY
PLAINFIELD
PUTNAM
ST. BERNARD
STONINGTON
TOURTELLOTTE
WATERFORD
WHEELER
WINDHAM
WOODSTOCK ACADEMY

JAHN RINK
POMFRET SCHOOL
20 BROWN STREET
POMFRET, CT



"A Day Among the Stars"

Ribbon Cutting & Dedication

Saturday, March 16, 2024
11AM-3PM

At East Lyme High School • 30 Chesterfield Road • East Lyme, CT 06333

Dedication in honor of Donald Bloom and Robert Meyer.
Former ELHS Science Teachers and Planetaryarium Directors

Northern Light Gems \$1,500 shopping spree winner announced.



Food Trucks will be on site for food purchases from 11-3!



Free Activities Include:

- Crafts for children
- Planetaryarium Shows every 45 minutes
- Photo Ops with our Astronaut, Alien & Space Dog
- Name the S2S Alien Contest

WINGS OF FIRE Book Party

Wednesday
March 20
3:00 - 4:00
at the
East Lyme
Public Library
Ages 9 and up
Pre-registration required
860-739-6926 ext. 2

East Lyme
Public Library
131 South Main Street

ENRICH Your Relationship with Your Child

FREE parenting workshop sponsored by ELPS

3 Zoom sessions
Learn new techniques
Get support
Applicable to ALL ages
All parents and caregivers welcome

You may choose to attend one, two, or all three sessions
Register for FREE at bridges@elpsk12.org

Session 1: Encouraging children, showing and teaching empathy, naming emotions & managing negatives in life. February 28, 7:45-8:45 pm

Session 2: Respect, the use of reasoning, the benefits of redirection, the importance of identity & various levels of parental involvement. March 6, 7:45-8:45 pm

Session 3: Communication, consequences, humor, health, & happiness and some specific strategies for resilience. March 13, 7:45-8:45 pm

Zoom meeting link will be sent to all participants.
Email: bridges@elpsk12.org to register

Presented by Dr. Debbie Kruegel-Farr, founder of Flourishing Families, and a passionate parent coach, consultant, and educator.
Dr. Farr's book "ENRICH Your Relationship With Your Child" goes with the class and can be purchased through Amazon.

EAST LYME PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS

AUTHOR NADIA LIRA

Saturday, March 9th, 3:00 PM
in the East Lyme Room

Join us with middle school author Nadia Lira as she talks about her children's novel "The Crystal Quest". Copies will be available for purchase and signing.
Registration recommended at
860-739-6926 ext. 2.

March 2024

Join the PTA!

Families,

First and foremost, we'd like to thank ALL the volunteers who helped organize our PTA-sponsored dance and for all the donations! As many of you are aware, the school was not affiliated with this dance and so without the volunteers and donations this event would not have been possible - thank you, thank you!

The PTA is also sponsoring an upcoming assembly on March 25 which combines amazing BMX bike tricks with educational character messages for all students. Your donations and fundraising efforts help to make this event happen - so thank you.

The town is still deliberating on the school budget. Recently, the Superintendent presented a proposed 2024-2025 budget to the Board of Education and the PTA proposing a 5.77% increase over the current fiscal year. Here are upcoming events to help support the BOE budget:

March 5: 5:00 PM Presentation to Board of Selectman at Town Hall

March 25: 5:30 PM Presentation to the Board of Finance at Town Hall

Upcoming PTA Events:

Next Meeting Date - Tuesday, March 21 from 6:30-7:30PM in the ELMS cafeteria. Hope to see you there!

Final Fundraiser: Our final fundraiser is Butterbraids! Purchase desserts and pastries just in time for Easter. Order forms were sent home, and the fundraiser ends on March 4! Orders will be delivered to the school for pickup on Monday, March 18 (Parent-Teacher Conference day)! Here is the link for information - <https://my.mcmfundraising.com/signup/ZYJR> 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>

Spring Book Fair: The book fair is back! The dates will be March 18-22. A big thank you to Maura Ament for taking the lead in organizing this great event! Although students will have an opportunity to shop during the school day, the fair will also be open during parent-teacher conferences! **We will need volunteers.** Please use this link and scroll down to the volunteer link - [Scholastic Book Fair](#)

Spirit Day: In addition, PTA along with the student leadership team will be providing our students with another spirit day - Decade Day on Friday, March 22 - [Spirit Day - Decade Day](#)

Teacher Appreciation Day: On May 7 we will be organizing a luncheon for our fantastic teachers. This will be a focus of conversation at the next meeting. We will need help. Please consider donating or being part of the committee when information goes out.

8th Grade Committee - A big thank you to Lindsey Adams, 8th grade parent, who will be leading this committee. Please reach out to her at Lindsey.adams@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping to organize this important event! She will be scheduling meetings in April. More to come!

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

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/>

