

March 29, 2024



@eastlymems



East Lyme Middle School

A Note from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we step into the month of April, it is a pleasure to witness the blossoms of spring and the vibrancy and new growth it brings. I hope this newsletter finds you well and ready for the exciting events and opportunities ahead.

Upcoming Events:

1. **Spring Break:** Beginning next week (April 8th -13th) our students and faculty will be on break. This is a time for students to recharge, spend quality time with family and friends, and reset their goals as the conclusion of the school year approaches.
2. **Earth Day:** (April 22nd) Our 5th and 6th grade students have been participating in Audubon's Debris Prevention Education in the Long Island Sound Watershed program this year within their science classes. In advance of Earth Day, our 5th graders made posters to hang around the school to raise awareness of the goal to reduce plastic waste in our school yard. "What goes on the ground goes in the sound!" Concurrently, the 6th graders wrote letters to Parks and Rec asking them to install better garbage cans out at the sports fields with supporting evidence from our general observations and school yard clean-up data.

On Monday April 22nd (Earth Day), we will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony for our two new water fountains with bottle refill stations installed in the gym and the cafeteria. This year's Earth Day International Theme is "Planet vs. Plastics" which makes this the perfect day for this event. Thank you to our PTA who contributed to the fountains.

Academic Updates:

1. **Focus on Growth:** As we move further into the trimester, we encourage students to remain focused on their academic goals and continue striving for growth and improvement. This may include diligent study habits, seeking support/help if needed, or exploring new areas of interest.
2. **Standardized Assessments:** As standardized assessment season is approaching, please assist us in reminding our students to approach these evaluations with confidence, a growth mindset, and to take the time to apply strategies reinforced throughout the year. Schedules will be shared in the later part of April as the assessment window will begin in early May.

Community Highlights:

1. Members of The Vikes for Vets Committee through East Lyme High School are holding a fundraiser called The Field of Honor Fundraiser. "Flags can be purchased and dedicated in honor of or in memory of a family member (a veteran, active service member, in the family's name, etc.) Flags will be assembled and put on display along the athletic field fences during the month of June for Flag Day and again in November for Veterans Day." Please see the following link for additional information: [Field of Honor](#)

Lastly, our Curriculum Fellow update is shared by Mrs. Frisbie, Science Fellow. Please take a moment to review an overview of content and curriculum covered.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend. As always, I am grateful for your continued support and partnership.

Regards,

Claudine Kelly

Hello from the ELMS Science Department!

Everyday the ELMS Science Department continues to find creative methods to engage students in our shared love of learning Science, whether it is through hands-on, inquiry based activities, field experiences, and/or project-based learning. Here is a sneak peek into some of our ELMS Science classrooms!

Grade 5 & 6 collaborate with the CT Audubon Society to Raise Awareness about Marine Plastic!

This year we have had the honor to be chosen to participate in the *Debris Prevention Education in the Long Island Sound Watershed program with the CT Audubon Society*. This program is funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Federation Long Island Sound Futures Fund. The students have met with Audubon educators three times thus far. We conducted a school yard clean-up in October and picked up 146 pounds of trash around our school, including nearly 2000 pieces of plastic and 194 plastic beverage bottles. The students will take action by developing a school-wide campaign to raise awareness for the greater community and other steps to reduce plastic debris that could potentially end up in Long Island Sound. With additional funding provided by our generous PTA, we have purchased two water fountains with refill stations for our school in an effort to reduce plastic bottle waste.



Our Grade 7 science students have been studying properties of matter. Within this topic, students have been engaging in hands-on opportunities to develop their scientific skills to precisely observe and measure different properties of matter. Student scientists have also been learning about experimental design, specifically differentiating between independent, dependent, and controlled variables. Lastly, students explore atomic structure, molecules, mixtures and compounds and what changes occur during chemical reactions.

Finally, our Grade 8 science students participated in a field trip to Project O located at University of Connecticut Avery Point campus this Fall. While on campus, students worked in the lab to make qualitative and quantitative observations of many organisms that live in Long Island Sound. The enthusiasm in the classroom was very high as students discussed characteristics of lobsters, skates, horseshoe crabs, blue crabs, puffer fish, and so many other organisms. Then students spent their afternoon aboard Project O's research vessel where they worked in science teams to collect both biotic and abiotic data in an effort to analyze the overall health of Long Island Sound.

All 7th and 8th grade students are looking forward to our upcoming trip to Quassy Amusement Park in May to participate in a STEM day to observe forces and motion in a real world setting! Permission slips are due on April 5th. Please reach out to your student's Science teacher with any questions about this awesome field experience!



Dates to Remember

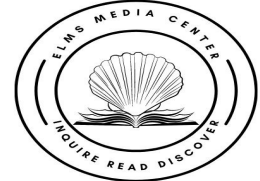
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|----------------|----------------------------|
| April 8th-12th | No School - School Holiday |
| May 24th | No School - Snowflake Day |
| May 27th | No School - School Holiday |

Counseling Office



[Click here to see the 2024-2025](#)

Media Center



Around Town



STARS TO STEM Regional Planetarium
At the East Lyme Senior Center • 30 Connecticut Ave., Lyme, CT 06353

Total Solar Eclipse Special Show
TOTALITY!
Saturday, April 6

Join us on April 6th for this special show!
Be moonstruck about the upcoming total eclipse crossing North America on April 8, 2024.

Planning time 20 minutes, suitable for ages 6 and up.
Show times: 10AM, 11AM, 12PM, 1PM, 6, 2PM

Admission \$10.00 per person.
Visit <https://www.starsandscience.org/totality> or use the QR code to purchase tickets. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

By attending this show you will ...

- learn how an eclipse happens.
- how to safely view the total solar eclipse.
- see the exact path where totality will occur.
- get an informational flyer for the Solar Eclipse Event at the East Lyme Public Library on 4/8.

Don't miss out - North America will not see another total eclipse until 2045!
The winner of our "Name the S2S Alien" contest will be announced!

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

East Lyme Public Library

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!



Fill out a digital survey at [eastlymepubliclibrary.org](https://www.eastlymepubliclibrary.org)

EAST LYME PUBLIC LIBRARY, STARS TO STEM PLANETARIUM, EAST LYME PARKS AND RECREATION, AND THE EAST LYME SENIOR CENTER PRESENT

THE NORTH AMERICAN SOLAR ECLIPSE

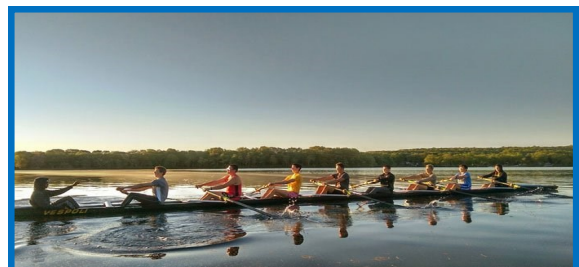
CELEBRATE THE TOTAL ECLIPSE WITH FUN INDOOR AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, GAMES, CRAFTS, AND PRESENTATIONS **FOR ALL AGES!**

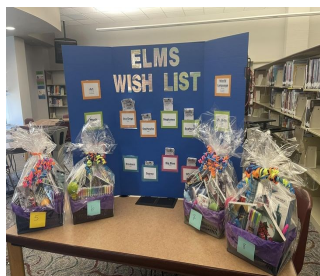
Monday, April 8th, 1:45 - 4:15 PM
East Lyme Community Center
39 Society Rd. East Lyme

While supplies last, free eclipse glasses will be available beginning March 18 at the East Lyme Public Library.

RAIN OR SHINE!
www.eastlymepubliclibrary.org

ELMS PTA Sponsored Spirit Day
Earth Day
Monday, April 22
Wear Green





Families,

It definitely feels like spring and there is much going on with the ELMS PTA! First and foremost, we'd like to thank ALL the volunteers who helped with the Scholastic Book Fair. A big thank you to Maura Ament who took the lead on this.

Exciting Events:

We had a few exciting events this past month. In addition to the Scholastic Book Fair, we had our spring assembly on Monday, March 25. A BMX presentation this assembly focused on trying your best, perseverance, and kindness. All students were a part of this assembly and it was well received. Our fundraising efforts help to pay for these types of school-wide events. In addition, on March 22, students participated in the school-wide PTA-sponsored decade day! We will continue to have monthly spirit days in hopes to improve the school climate.



New Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

Teacher Appreciation Day and Subcommittee:

PTA will provide all staff with a luncheon and flowers on Tuesday May 7 during Teacher Appreciation Week. PTA funds will cover the major costs of the luncheon, however we will need some donations. Please use this link if you are willing to fund a few needed items or volunteer in helping to setup - [Sign Up Genius for Teacher Appreciation](#)

In addition, we asked faculty to identify items that would enhance classroom instruction and student growth. We used this information to create an *East Lyme Middle Wish List*. With your help, we would like to fulfill all of these wishes for Teacher Appreciation Week. Please consider supporting this initiative by purchasing an item on our Amazon Wish List on or before May 1st. All items will ship directly to the school. For more information go to: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/33EYOX2DLVBD6?ref_=wl_share



If you would like to be a part of the teacher appreciation committee, please reach out to president, Rita Quiles-Glover at ritaglover@sbcglobal.net

Nomination Committee/Positions Opened

It is time to nominate individuals to serve on the 2024-2025 PTA Board. The following new position is vacant - president-elect. The president-elect aides the president and vice president, performs the duties of the president in the president's absence or inability to serve, and performs such other duties as may be provided for by these bylaws, prescribed by the parliamentary authority, or directed by the president, the Board of Directors, or the Executive Committee. Nominations can be sent to Kate Caristo at katecaristocalora@gmail.com by May 10. You can nominate yourself or someone else. A formal vote by current PTA members will be held on May 16, 2024. If you have any further questions about the roles and responsibilities of this position, please contact the PTA president, Rita Quiles-Glover at ritaglover@sbcglobal.net. Serving as an officer of the PTA is a great way to become involved and support your student(s) and school. Please consider volunteering your time and talents to help our school

Join the PTA!



NEXT Spirit Day - Earth Day on April 22

Let's celebrate Earth Day on April 22 and wear green. Using PTA funds, we will be supporting the purchase of new touchless water fountains to help reduce the use of water bottles! A special celebration will be happening on Earth Day with grades 5 and 6. Hope your child will participate in the PTA-Sponsored Spirit Day - [Earth Day Spirit Day](#)

8th Grade Subcommittee:

A big thank you to Lindsey Adams, 8th grade parent, who will be leading this committee. Most recently, there was a fundraiser that raised \$300! Please reach out to her at Lindseya.adams@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping to organize this important event! She will be scheduling meetings in April. More to come!



Next Meeting Date - Thursday, April 18 from 6:30-7:30PM in the cafeteria. Don't forget when you attend you get an opportunity to win a gift card! Each meeting there is a teacher representative who provides updates, as well as administration.



Nominations for open board positions will be accepted. Please let us know if you are interested in the President-Elect board position. Hope to see you there!

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/>