

April 26, 2024

@eastlymems



## East Lyme Middle School

### A Note from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I am thrilled to share some exciting news with all of you. Several of our dedicated staff members have been selected for a prestigious opportunity through the Fund for Teachers program.

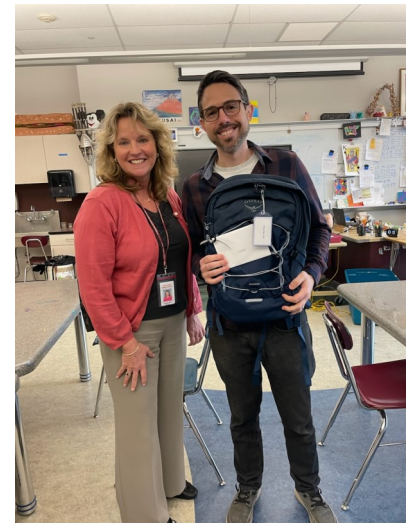
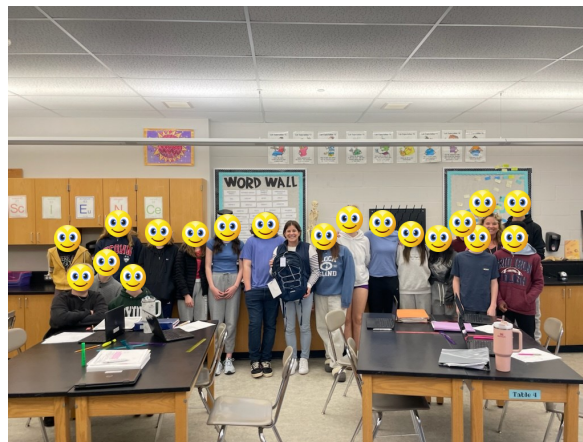
The Fund for Teachers organization provides educators with the chance to design and embark on self-directed professional development experiences during the summer, which directly impacts their teaching practice and student learning. It's an honor and privilege for our school to have staff members chosen for this enriching opportunity.

Please join me in congratulating the following teachers:

**Carla Frisbie-** Mrs. Frisbie will be traveling to Iceland to participate in field experiences and strengthen her understanding of climate change and sustainable practices.

**Daniel Bohman-** Mr. Bohman plans to travel to Portugal to work with local artists to learn traditional ceramic techniques. Additionally, Mr. Bohman will work with a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of historical tiles.

We look forward to both of our faculty members participating in these experiences and appreciate their commitment to their profession as well as enhancing their teaching skills and bringing new insights and perspectives to our students at East Lyme Middle School.



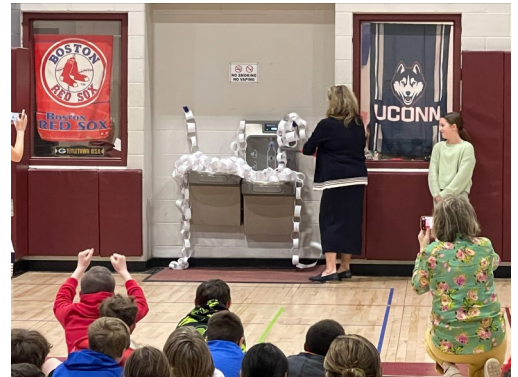
I would also like to share wonderful news of an assembly which occurred on Monday, April 22 - Earth Day. The assembly was a culmination of a year-long Science project completed by our Grade 5 and 6 ELMS students. ELMS was awarded a \$2500 grant through the National Fish and Wildlife at the start of this school year. Due to this grant, Grade 5 and 6 ELMS students participated in a project-based learning program called "Audubon's Debris Prevention Education in the Long Island Sound Watershed."

“In September, Audubon educators came to science classrooms over multiple days to build understanding about Long Island Sound, watersheds, and plastic pollution. In October, students participated in a successful school yard clean-up, picking up **146 pounds of trash** around ELMS! In March, students created beautiful campaign posters to raise awareness of our goal to reduce plastic waste at ELMS-- the campaign slogan is "What goes on the ground goes in the Sound!" Students have also appeared on the morning news and written letters to East Lyme Park and Rec asking them to install higher quality garbage cans on the sports fields to reduce the amount of trash on the ground. They used their data to support their arguments.”

The Grade 5/6 Science Team hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for our new refillable water bottle fountain that is in the gym. The theme for Earth Day International is "Planet vs Plastics" which made for the perfect day for the event.

I wish to extend my appreciation to Mrs. Galasso, Sea Hawk science teacher who spearheaded this initiative, our grade 5/6 science teachers, The Audubon Society, Mr. Coombs, Head Custodian, and our PTA for assisting with financial costs associated with the refillable fountain.

It has been an amazing year of learning for our ELMS students about the human impact on our Long Island Sound.



Lastly, our Curriculum Fellow message this week comes from Mr., Gregg Landry, Social Studies teacher. Please take a moment to read a highlight of the content and curriculum our students have been privy to.

Warm Regards,

*Claudine Kelly*

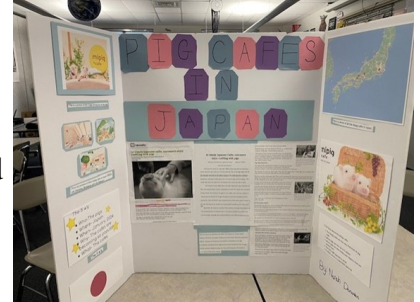


# Social Studies

Spring has sprung and Social Studies classes at ELMS have been busy in their third trimester. Students will participate in the annual school Geography Bee at the end of the year. The following is a snapshot of what each grade has been up to in their social studies classes.

## 5th Grade

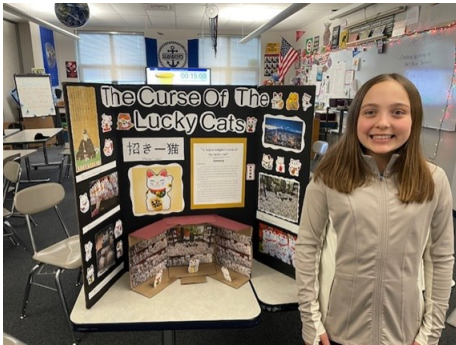
Kids used the Smithsonian website to write a news article about whether or not the Native Americans intended to sell Manhattan to the Dutch. They used primary sources to formulate their opinion and take a stance. Students published their articles and shared them at their Student-Led Conferences.



## 6th Grade

### East Asia Current Event Projects

Students in the Neptune and Seafarer teams researched current events from East Asia to summarize and design projects about. Creative posters, dioramas, slideshows, and other multimedia presentations were shared in all social studies classes on both teams.



## 7th Grade

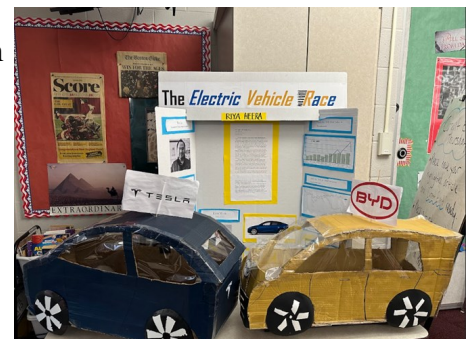
Breaker's students finished their unit on North Africa and Southwest Asia by researching a country in the region and completing a choice project. Students chose between making a video, slide show, or poster to teach their peers about the country they chose. Everyone did a fantastic job presenting their projects! The rest of the year will focus on the geography, history, culture, and economics of Europe. Breaker's students will take a traditional assessment to end the European unit. They will then end the year with a two week-long mini unit on the Holocaust.

Osprey students recently completed their studies on Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, and the geography of Europe. They are starting their last World Studies Unit, the Middle East. Students have been learning about the topography, geography, and political features of the area so they can have a better sense of how where one lives affects how they live.



## 8th Grade

During trimester 2, 8th grade students in Mrs. Zielinski and Mr. Rockwell's classes worked through their common assured research projects with the help of Mrs. Voitovich. This project analyzed a common question through multiple perspectives and focused on research, note taking and discussion skills all culminating in a final presentation on the Westward Expansion group that each student chose as their focus. In addition, the ELHS Cultural Awareness Club came to talk with Mrs. Zielinski's students and it was such an awesome experience that they came back to spend a day with Whelks, Breakers and Osprey the week after Spring Break!









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](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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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!



## **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](mailto: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, May 16 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](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)

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