

FOCUS ON EDUCATION



Quarterly newsletter of Lyme-Old Lyme Schools
A private school experience in a public school setting

WINTER 2025



Message from the Superintendent & Chair

Dear Members of the
Lyme-Old Lyme Communities,

Please take a moment to read about the latest happenings in our schools, including information about upcoming student performances.

We are happy to report that the PK-8 building project is moving along as scheduled and is tracking on budget. Further details are available in this newsletter.

As always, we wish to thank the communities of Lyme and Old Lyme for their ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Ian Neviaser
Superintendent of Schools

Jason Kemp
Chair, Board of Education

Board of Education Meetings

Please join the Board of Education for the following meetings:

- March 5** Regular BOE Meeting, 6:30 PM
- April 2** Regular BOE Meeting, 6:30 PM
- April 7** District Budget Hearing, 6:30 PM

Meetings are held in the Board of Education Conference Room at Center School, 49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme. Agendas, links to live-streams of meetings, and links to recordings of previous meetings are available at www.region18.org under the "District Information" tab.

The Regional School District 18 Board of Education prohibits harassment and discrimination in educational programs, services, or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, military or veteran status, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, genetic information, sexual orientation, or past or present physical or mental disability in accordance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1991, the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and appropriate state laws.



Community Invited to Upcoming Musical Performances



Disney's Newsies

March 13 and 14 at 7:00PM
March 15 at 2:00PM

Lyme-Old Lyme
High School Auditorium

Tickets available at showtix4u.com
beginning March 1.
Limited availability at the door.

Adults \$17/ Students
and seniors (65+) \$12

District Choral Festival

March 18 at 7:00PM

Lyme-Old Lyme
High School Auditorium

Free of charge

MTI's Broadway Junior Revue: *Pure Imagination*

March 29 at 7:00PM
March 30 at 1:00PM

Lyme-Old Lyme
Middle School Auditorium

Tickets available online
beginning March 17

Adults \$10/ Students \$8



Update on the PK-8 Building Project

We are several months into the HVAC upgrades at Center School, Lyme School, Mile Creek School and Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School progressing slightly ahead of schedule. Work is currently being done within the ceilings and attics. When that work is complete, contractors will begin placing ceiling tiles. Replacement of rooftop HVAC units will take place during school vacations.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on February 13 at Mile Creek School to kick-off the commencement of all of the projects. Downes Construction gave an entertaining presentation about construction vehicles, safety gear and more to an enthusiastic crowd of students. Members of the Board of Education, representatives of Downes Construction Company, State Representative Devin Carney, State Senator Norm Needleman and Region 18 administrators were in attendance.



Athletics

Our student athletes always welcome fans!

Find game schedules and additional information
at www.region18.org/athletics.

Winter Wonderland Tradition Continues at Mile Creek School

Each January, Mile Creek School is transformed into a Winter Wonderland. Previously an evening event sponsored by the PTO, COVID and its restrictions resulted in a creative and reimagined full-day event. Which day this magical surprise takes place is a mystery to students each year.

On this special day, students arrive to find the hallways decorated in a winter theme of blue, white, and silver. Cut-out snowflakes hang from the ceiling, doors are decorated, and twinkle lights abound. Principal Kelly Enoch dresses up as the “Winter Queen” and on the morning broadcast shares that the children have earned a day of winter fun because of their efforts to adhere to the school pledge to be safe, kind, and to do their best.

Throughout the day, students engage in winter themed activities that are both curriculum-based and fun. Craft activities, science experiments, math activities, and story writing are connected with the winter theme.

Fourth grader Lucy summed it up by saying that it is one of her favorite days of the school year. She loves how everyone works together, how special the day feels, and that the hallways are lit by twinkle lights.



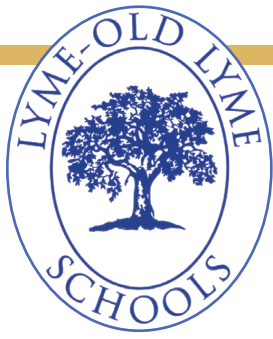
Lyme School Receives Grant

Lyme School is one of 15 communities to receive a grant through the Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids program. The \$23,753 grant will be used by the school to expand its work on composting, recycling, growing food, and more.

Composting and recycling efforts are spearheaded by the school's Green Team, a student club focused on the environment. Students are learning how to properly compost food scraps by learning to sort waste and recycle materials. The Green Team plans to invite families to join the composting program by providing compost buckets that families can use in their own homes.

Students will have the opportunity to visit Long Table Farm, where food scraps from the school currently help feed the animals. Working alongside farmers, students will learn to monitor the health of the compost and observe its role in nourishing crops. These crops will then be used to prepare nutritious meals as a part of Green Team and other school activities, providing valuable, hands-on learning experiences about waste reduction, local agriculture, and the full cycle of food production.





Lyme-Old Lyme Schools
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High School Chemistry Class Takes First Place in United States Crystal Growing Competition

Four chemistry students at Lyme-Old Lyme High School spent two months growing a crystal that took first place in a national awards competition.

The United States Crystal Growing Competition is a scientific outreach activity designed to provide students and teachers a fun, hands-on STEM experience as well as an exciting competition. Entries are judged by students and faculty of the University at Buffalo in New York.

The winning team focused on regularly filtering the solution that makes the crystal grow. This constant filtering helped give their crystal greater clarity. The winning team consisted of students Elsa Jungkeit, Cara Paonessa, Matilda Miller, and Islam Al-Rahyyi.

In addition to winning first place for best overall crystal in the grade 9-12 category, Lyme-Old Lyme Schools also placed in the top 10 for best overall crystal, best quality crystal, and “coolest” crystal. Chemistry teacher Luke Alexandru added, “In my opinion, growing an award-winning crystal is about consistency, curiosity, and collaboration.”

