FOCUS ON EDUCATION

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

Summer 2025













Message from the Superintendent & Chair

Dear Members of the Lyme-Old Lyme Communities,

Summer is in full swing and it's hard to believe in a few short weeks we will welcome our students back to school. We hope you will take a moment to read about the latest happenings in our schools, as well as to celebrate our recent graduates.

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:

August 6, Regular BOE Meeting, 6:30 PM

September 3, Regular BOE Meeting, 6:30 PM

October 1, Regular BOE Meeting, 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.



Please join us in recognizing the following retirees for their many years of service to the communities of Lyme and Old Lyme:

Rebecca Bocian, Pre-K Teacher at Center School, 36 years

Marianne DeBruyn, Special Education Teacher at Mile Creek School, 20 years

Thelma Halloran, Art Teacher at Center School and LOLMS, 17 years

Bruce Hrozenchik, 5th Grade Teacher at Lyme School, 32 years

Jeanne Manfredi, Assistant Principal, World Language Teacher at LOLHS, 30 years

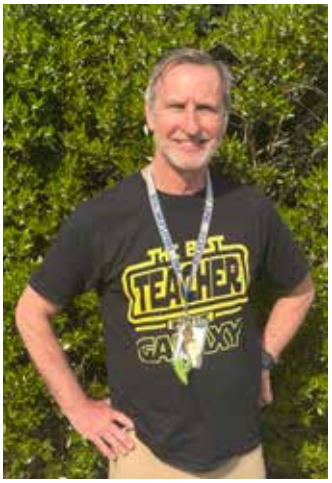
Susan Whritner, 5th Grade Teacher at Mile Creek School, 38 years

Jeanne DeLaura, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, 34 years

Regina Wohlke, Special Education Instructional Assistant at Lyme-Old Lyme High School, 12 years



Rebecca Bocian, Jeanne DeLaura, Thelma Halloran



Bruce Hrozenchik



Susan Whritner, Marianne DeBruyn



Jeanne Manfredi, Regina Wohlke

Tom Bushnell Named Assistant Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School



We are pleased to announce the appointment of Tom Bushnell as the next assistant principal at Lyme-Old Lyme High School. Bushnell began his new position in July. He previously served as an assistant principal at North Haven High School, a position he held for four years.

Bushnell has also worked as a social studies and math teacher at Adams Middle School in Guilford and St. Thomas More School in Oakdale. Bushnell has a Sixth Year in Educational Leadership from The University of Connecticut, a M.A.T. from Sacred Heart University, and earned his B.A. from Connecticut College. Bushnell resides in Old Lyme with his wife and two children.

Congratulations to Our Top Graduates!



Valedictorian **Simon Karpinski's** priority this summer is spending time with family and friends before heading to Harvard University this fall as a government major. Simon participated in cross country, track, mock trial, WYLM (the LOLHS news broadcast), and math team. He was also a member of the Athletic Leadership Council, the French Club/French Honor Society, National Honor Society, and the LOLHS GeoChallenge team, as well as a class officer.

Simon moved to the area before starting fourth grade and fondly remembers meeting his teacher and principals for the first time and how welcomed he and his family felt. He wishes to thank all of the teachers and staff that made his school journey possible.

In his own words, "a couple of Buffalo Wild Wings trips and random Wednesday afternoon running excursions are all I have on the calendar."



Salutatorian **Ryan Shapiro's** summer plans include spending time with friends as well as working to save some money. He wisely notes that this is likely the last summer before he has to start contemplating internships and other professional goals and intends to make the most of his free time.

Ryan will attend Columbia University and plans to major in physics. Before that, he is taking a gap year to backpack around Asia with hopes to travel through China and India. Ryan was involved with the Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut, president of the Model UN and Chinese Honor Society and also Mock Trial co-captain. He also did genomics research at Mt. Sinai Hospital in NYC. "Every teacher I've had has had a genuine passion for what they do and the students they teach, and I don't know where I would be without them," added Ryan.



Honor Essayist **Kaela Hoss** will be spending the summer completing seven weeks of basic training for the United States Coast Guard Academy. Kaela is committed to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy for college with plans to major in Marine and Environmental Science. She will also play for the women's soccer team.

Kaela was president of her class for all four years of high school and also served as President of the Spanish National Honor Society and Secretary of Ski Club. She is a member of the National Honor Society and was captain of the girls soccer team. Outside of school, she is a D-3 rated member of the Shetucket Valley Pony Club.

Kaela moved to the area in 7th grade and says "I would not be the person I am today without the people and community here. There are so many opportunities for everyone to find their passion in Old Lyme, and I am grateful that I have been able to pursue many talents and interests with much support."

Lyme-Old Lyme Schools
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PK-8 Building Projects Update



Year-round staff have been relocated to the high school this summer as the building projects at Center School, Mile Creek School, Lyme School, and LOL Middle School are in full swing. When school resumes in the fall, the vast majority of the improved security vestibules are expected to be finished. Significant HVAC work will have been completed including new boilers and rooftop units, and a majority of the site work at Mile Creek School will be complete. We thank our communities and staff for their patience and flexibility while this work is done.