

▶ FOCUS ON

EDUCATION

2025/26 School Year

Issue One

Dear Members of the Lyme-Old Lyme Communities,

As we move further into the school year, we invite you to take a few moments to learn more about the many accomplishments, initiatives, and activities taking place across our schools.

Planning for the 2026/27 school year is now underway. Community members are encouraged to participate in the budget development process by attending meetings in person, viewing meetings online, or reviewing budget-related presentations. All materials and meeting information are available on our website at www.region18.org. You may also notice several changes to the format of this publication. Along with a refreshed design, Focus on Education will now be published three times per year rather than four. This slightly expanded format allows us to continue sharing important district news while also realizing modest cost savings.

As always, we are grateful for the continued support of the communities of Lyme and Old Lyme. Your partnership plays an essential role in the success of our schools.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,
Ian Neviaser
Superintendent of Schools

Jason Kemp
Chair, Board of Education



 Lyme-Old Lyme Schools

 [lymeoldlymeschools](https://www.instagram.com/lymeoldlymeschools)

 www.region18.org



Congratulations to our Student Athletes

Congratulations to the **Lyme-Old Lyme/Westbrook girls co-op field hockey team** for winning the 2025 Shoreline Conference Championship.

Congratulations to the **Lyme-Old Lyme girls cross country team** for finishing third in the Connecticut CIAC Cross Country State Championship.

Congratulations to **senior Chase Gilbert** for winning the CIAC Cross Country State Open.

PK-8 Building Project Nears Completion



In November of 2022, the voters of Lyme and Old Lyme approved the issuance of bonds to address facility needs within our schools. These changes included replacing and repairing heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems at Center School, Mile Creek School, Lyme School, and Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School as well as bringing these four schools up to current code compliance for accessibility, safety, security and other building and fire code requirements. The project also included adding additional classrooms and workspace to Mile Creek School.

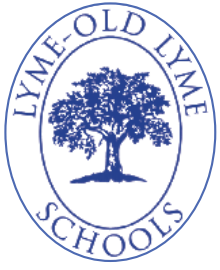
We are proud to share that the HVAC systems are nearing total completion in all four schools with testing and temperature controls being fine-tuned. New classrooms at Mile Creek School are complete and teachers began using them in January. Directional safety signs have been installed in the parking lot at Mile Creek School with remaining outdoor work to be completed over the summer when school is not in session. The project remains within budget.

We commend the PK-8 Building Committee for their significant commitment of time and energy in overseeing this project.

Facilities Updates

Several planned upgrades to our schools were completed this summer including improvements to athletic fields, changes to some playground equipment at Center School, improved lighting for the middle school auditorium, and a sound system upgrade for the high school auditorium. The district remains committed to maintaining facilities responsibly and transparently.





Lyme-Old Lyme Schools
49 Lyme Street
Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371

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.

Please join the Board of Education for the following meetings:

FEBRUARY 4: Budget Forum, 6:30 PM and Regular BOE, 7:00 PM

MARCH 4: Regular BOE Meeting, 6:30 PM

APRIL 1: Regular BOE Meeting, 6:30 PM

APRIL 6: 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.

Kindness Club



Kindness Club members presented flowers to Miss Laura and Miss Kelly who work in the cafeteria serving breakfast and lunch each day. Additionally, students made decorations and hung them so cafeteria workers were greeted with signs, flowers and banners.

There is a new club at Lyme School this year, the Kindness Club! Led by kindergarten teacher Mrs. Watson and P.E. teacher Mrs. Ambruso, the club seeks to show gratitude to members of the Lyme School community that make a huge impact but are often not recognized for all they do. An impressive 46 students in grades 2-5 are participating this year. Students created a list of people they would like to recognize, followed by brainstorming ideas of what they can do to show appreciation and how to put those ideas into action. "The students have been so thoughtful and creative with their ideas. It has been truly impressive," said Mrs. Ambruso.

Veterans Day

While many schools close on November 11, Lyme-Old Lyme Schools are in session for one of the favorite days of the year for many students, staff and community members. This year was no exception with special activities and assemblies at all of our schools. A big thank you to all of our Veterans!



SAT SCORES

Lyme-Old Lyme High School once again ranked in the top ten for the average SAT test scores in the state of Connecticut for the 2024/25 school year for both math and English language arts. The high school also ranked in the top ten in the state for the Next Generation Science Standards.

CONNECTICUT SCHOOL RANKINGS

Highest Average Math Score

1. Darien High School
2. New Canaan High School
3. Staples High School (Westport)
4. Weston High School
5. Wilton High School
6. **Lyme-Old Lyme High School**
7. Avon High School
8. Ridgefield High School
9. Hall High School
(West Hartford)
10. Greenwich High School

Highest Average ELA Score

1. Darien High School
2. New Canaan High School
3. Wilton High School
4. Staples High School (Westport)
5. Weston High School
6. **Lyme-Old Lyme High School**
7. Daniel Hand High School
(Madison)
8. Greenwich High School
9. Avon High School
10. Ridgefield High School

Highest Average NGSS Score

1. Greenwich High School
2. Wilton High School
3. Canton High School
4. New Canaan High School
5. Simsbury High School
6. Weston High School
7. Avon High School
8. **Lyme-Old Lyme High School**
9. Farmington High School
10. Joel Barlow High School
(Redding)



Teacher of the Year

Susan Oliver, third grade teacher at Mile Creek School was named our Teacher of the Year. She has worked for our schools since 1995 and is recognized for her kindness and dedication to all.



Employee of the Year

Our Employee of the Year is Kevin Partridge, custodian at Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School. Employed by our schools since 2021, he is recognized for his commitment to finding innovative solutions, his proactive nature, and his commitment to always doing quality work.

A warm welcome to our newest Board of Education members

Mike Hansen
Cynthia Love McCollum
and Sheryl Shyloski



A sincere thank you to our outgoing board members for their dedicated service to our schools.

Laura Dean-Frazier
Martha Shoemaker
and Chris Staab



Old Lyme Players Perform for a Full House

In November, the Old Lyme Players performed *The Election* to nearly sold out audiences at Lyme-Old Lyme High School. The play tells the story of Mark Davenport, who figures he will cruise to victory in a special election after an embattled student body president resigns in disgrace. After all, his opponent is nerdy Christy Martin, who wants to eliminate football. But when a mysterious Super PAC gives Christy an unlimited budget, things start to get very ugly. Mark must face total annihilation or accept the services of a slick professional campaign manager with questionable ethics and a million-dollar Super PAC of his own.



Social studies teacher Sarah Hylas directed the play and remarked that when Don Zolidis wrote *The Election* he couldn't have known just how eerily close his satire would come to reflecting our own political headlines, debates, and dinner table discussions. "More than once, I was asked, 'Wait—when was this written?' It's been inspiring to see these students channel their real-world awareness into performances filled with authenticity, humor, and heart. Their professionalism has been astounding—a true ensemble of a hardworking, playful team that made every rehearsal feel like collaboration at its best," said Hylas.