Empowering Students to Achieve Excellence

May 2026

# A Season of Growth, Exploration, and Community

Dear Lin-Wood Families and Community Members,

As we welcome the month of May, our schools are alive with energy, curiosity, and a strong sense of community. This time of year offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the growth our students have made while also celebrating the many ways they are engaging with learning both inside and outside the classroom. From academic achievements to service projects, our students continue to demonstrate what it means to be thoughtful, capable, and connected members of the Lin-Wood community.

Hands-on, experiential learning continues to be a cornerstone of a Lin-Wood education. You will read about sixth graders exploring electricity, magnetism, and chemical reactions, as well as middle school students tackling creative challenges like shelter building and STEM-based problem solving. Our students are also extending their learning beyond the classroom—whether through climate and career summits, Arctic research projects, or contributions in Industrial Arts—demonstrating both curiosity and real-world application of their skills.

Equally inspiring are the ways our students give back and connect with the broader community. From the EarlyAct Club's efforts to support the local food pantry to learning about flag etiquette from members of the American Legion, these experiences help instill a sense of responsibility, respect, and civic pride. We are grateful for our community partners who generously share their time and expertise to enrich our students' learning.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of Lin-Wood Public Schools. Together, we are creating a learning environment where students are encouraged to explore, contribute, and thrive. I hope you enjoy this month's highlights and take pride in the many accomplishments of our students and staff.

Go Lumberjacks!

Together,

Mary Steady

Superintendent

## IMPORTANT DATES:

- 5/7 - Reading and Kindness Take Flight K-5 Family Literacy Night
- 5/12 - Kindergarten Registration Day
  NH SAS Testing
  Harlem Wizards Basketball - Class of 2028 Fundraiser
- 5/13 - NH SAS Testing
  Policy Committee Meeting
  School Board Meeting
- 5/14 - NH SAS Testing
  Lumberjack Launch
- 5/15 - NH SAS Testing
  Taste of the World
- 5/18 - PTA Meeting
- 5/21 - Ice Cream Social and Middle/High School Band and Chorus Concert
- 5/22 - Middle School Step-Up Dance
- 5/25 - No School
- 5/27 - Facilities Committee
  School Board Meeting
- 5/28 - Elementary Spring Concert
- 5/29 - Bike to School Day
- 5/30 - Prom

# Lin-Wood to be Represented at Rotary Speech Finals

Sophomore Kai Mansharamani competed at Northern VT University with nine other students for the District Rotary Speech Competition. He placed second and moves on to the finals on June 13 in Orford, Quebec. Congratulations, Kai! Below he is pictured with local Rotarians who attended the competition.

# Hazel and Her Acorn

While on a nature walk, Hazel discovered acorns in varying degrees of germination. She wanted to share her excitement with kindergarten and was invited as a "guest lecturer." It was perfect timing as the class had just begun their plant observation journals. Hazel led a question and answer about seeds, passed out acorns for everyone, and finished up the lesson reading a story.

## High School Wellness Day is Back!

The Wellness Committee is thrilled to announce the return of High School Wellness Day. This event allows students to step out of the classroom and choose from two blocks of wellness activities. These sessions are led by our talented High School teaching staff and are built around their personal passions for health and fitness. To round out the day, students will participate in a school-wide grounds cleanup—a perfect way to get active while giving back to the community we love.

## Celebrating Spring with a Wellness

On Friday, April 24th, while the senior class was off on their senior trip, and some students got a jump start on spring break, the remaining Lin-Wood high school students celebrated spring and Earth Day with several wellness activities. During periods 4 and 5, students were allowed to choose from several teacher-led activities, such as pickleball and other net sports, ping pong, social board games, hiking, sunflower planting, HIIT (high intensity interval training), weight training, yoga, outdoor basketball, and a nature walk.

After lunch, they broke into different groups and combed the school campus and immediate community areas for litter. After disposing of the trash and some vigorous handwashing, students were treated to ice cream, courtesy of the wellness committee. It was a fun way to kick off spring break!

# Kids Heart Challenge: A Heartfelt Success!

Our elementary students recently completed another successful year of the Kids Heart Challenge, focusing on the importance of heart health and making positive lifestyle choices. Over the course of two weeks, the entire school participated in activities designed to keep them active and informed. We want to give a huge shoutout to Dori and the senior class for their incredible leadership and for joining in to support our younger students throughout the event.

Because of the immense generosity of our school community, we are proud to announce that we raised a total of $4,766.30 in just fourteen days! These funds will go a long way in supporting vital health initiatives. We have attached several photos from the challenge below so you can see the fun, energy, and school spirit firsthand. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this year's challenge such a resounding success!

# Chemistry Students Explore the Science of Stoichiometry

Chemistry students recently put their scientific thinking into action. Students worked collaboratively to determine the most effective stoichiometric ratio of sodium bicarbonate and a 5% acetic acid solution through careful observation, measurement, and analysis. The experiment explored how chemical reactions depend on precise relationships between reactants. Students investigated the important concepts of limiting and excess reactants—learning how the amount of one substance can affect the outcome of an entire reaction.

# Middle School Sustainability Action Summit

Recently a group of grade 8 students joined students from 11 other schools at the Middle School Sustainability Action Summit held at the Squam Lakes Science Center. It was hosted by high school student leaders with support from non-profit organizations including NH Energy Education Program & NH Environmental Educators. Students attended workshops such as Stitch It, Don't Ditch It, Schoolyard Makeover, and Water Warriors. They hope to bring new ideas and projects back to Lin-Wood!

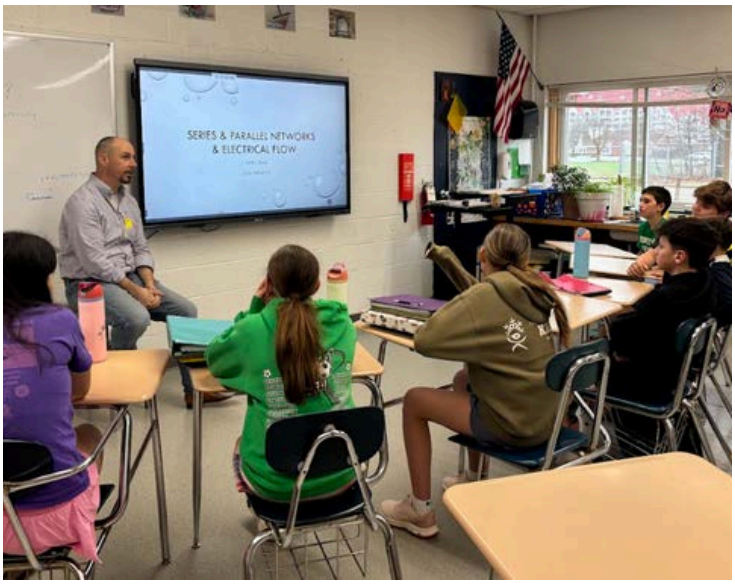
## Congratulations to Ryder, Veda, Mae, and Kay!

***These students were all recognized by the NH Fisher Cats as Most Improved Students.***

## From Circuits to Wind Turbines: Sixth Grade Gets Hands-On with Energy

Sixth grade students recently welcomed a guest speaker as part of their unit on electricity and magnetism. Electrical engineer Seth Prentiss of Terradyne Engineering spoke with students about the work engineers do and shared engaging demonstrations that illustrated how electricity flows and can be controlled, much like water. Thank you to Mr. Prentiss for taking the time to visit and inspire our students.

The class extends its appreciation to the New Hampshire Energy and Environment program for supporting the experience. This affordable and valuable resource allowed students to explore multiple methods of generating electricity, including Faraday coils, hand-crank generators, hydropower, and wind turbines.



## Congratulations to the students who competed in the True Robotics Competition!

***This was Lin-Wood's first visit and the team did great!***

# Into the Arctic: Curiousity, Research & Mastery

In a stunning display of interdisciplinary mastery, Lincoln-Woodstock Elementary School's first graders recently transformed their classroom into a shimmering Arctic tundra to showcase a sophisticated blend of literacy, biological science, and engineering. The journey began with an intensive deep-dive into Arctic survival structures, where these young scholars transitioned from curious readers to dedicated researchers. The culmination of their hard work was the formal publication and dedication of their very own book, Into the Arctic. Each student authored an informational paragraph and created a detailed illustration, ultimately standing proudly at a podium to share their hard work with an authentic audience of family, staff, and administration. In a powerful testament to the school community, the event saw a remarkable turnout with every single student supported by a loved one in attendance.

While many adults might stumble over the term, these first graders use "biomimicry" with eloquent ease. After the reading and book signing, the Arctic tundra—complete with shading projects integrated from their Art curriculum—became the backdrop for a high-tech Science Fair. Students acted as expert docents, guiding visitors through exhibits that explored how human innovation mimics nature. Using 3D pens, students engineered physical models of everyday objects inspired by Arctic animal structures, such as insulation materials modeled after polar bear fur, non-slip grips inspired by walrus flippers, and structural designs based on the skeletal frames of Arctic birds.

This bridge between home and school provided the "authentic pressure" that turns a simple lesson into a core memory. Families didn't just watch; they were engaged by their children in high-level scientific discourse and advanced literacy, seeing firsthand the empowerment that comes from mastery. Hosting this public showcase helped students recognize their own growth and the real-world application of their learning. As the noted by the teachers, "When a child realizes their research has an audience, their level of dedication changes. They aren't just students; they are authors and engineers." Through this experience, students truly felt a sense of empowerment as they shared their research and findings with the world.

## Save the Date: Taste the World - May 15th!

***More details to come!***

## Wyatt Weeden Inspires Peers at Climate and Careers Summit

On Friday, April 10th, Wyatt Weeden attended and spoke as a panelist for high schoolers and college students at the Appalachian Mountain Club Highland Center in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire. The day brought together students from across the White Mountains region for hands-on workshops exploring careers in the sciences, trades, arts, and more.

Hands-on sessions were led by AMC scientists, educators, and professional trail crews, focusing on climate science, energy, conservation, education, and sustainable operations. Partner-led workshops helped further engage students in the White Mountains, fostering hope, joy, and momentum for climate action. Thank you Kevin Bell and Loon Mountain for giving Wyatt the opportunity to support the Loon Mountain community.

## Lumberjacks Get Fancy

Eigth grade students took a break during the recent middle school semi-formal to smile for the camera. The evening, which took place at the Community Center, was a great night full of positive vibes and good times.

# News from Industrial Arts

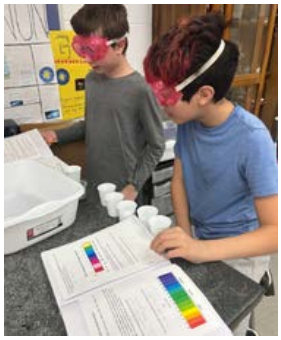
Middle school woodworking has continued to make cutting boards, boxes, bird houses and other items of interest with a focus on learning to properly and safely use hand tools. Students begin by learning how to mark, measure and saw lengths of wood. Students then learn wood burning techniques and how to sand and finish their project.

The high school industrial arts class produces more complex projects. Welding is also incorporated into projects for students who already have the training and skills.

Students of all ages are able to participate in self-guided projects. This year students have made pickleball paddles, bird and bat houses, coat hook racks, step stools, picture frames, cutting boards, coasters, mini corn hole boards, and more! The class also takes requests from staff who need items for their classrooms.

# Hands-On Science: 6th Grade Investigates Chemical Change

Recently the grade 6 science classes focused on Chemical Reactions. Students conducted three investigations to better understand two of the NGSS performance expectations: "Analyze and interpret data on the properties of substances before and after the substances interact to determine if a chemical reaction has occurred;" and "Develop and use a model to describe how the total number of atoms does not change in a chemical reaction and thus mass is conserved."



# Honoring the Flag: 6th Graders Learn from American Legion Post 83

Sixth grade students at Lin-Wood Public School recently participated in a Flag Etiquette presentation led by Mr. Ross and Mr. Schirduan of the American Legion Joseph Newton Smith Post 83. The presenters shared important guidelines for properly handling, displaying, and respecting the American flag. Students learned about the history and significance of these traditions and why they remain meaningful today. The presentation provided a valuable opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of citizenship and national pride.

# Surviving the Cay: 7th Grade Shelter Challenge

Lin-Wood 7th graders recently traded their pens for palm fronds (and a little bit of cardboard!) as they stepped into the shoes of Phillip and Timothy from Theodore Taylor's The Cay. After exploring the themes of survival and resilience in the novel, students were tasked with a high-stakes hands-on challenge: designing and building a scale-model shelter. To pass the "survivor test," each structure had to withstand three grueling elements:

- The Sun: Providing enough shade to prevent heatstroke.
- The Rain: Keeping the interior bone-dry during a simulated tropical downpour.
- The Wind: Staying rooted to the ground against "hurricane-force" gusts from a high-powered fan.

It wasn't just about building a fort; it was about engineering, teamwork, and understanding the sheer grit it takes to survive against the odds. From sturdy A-frames to clever drainage systems, our young engineers proved they have what it takes to weather any storm!

# Engineering an Escape: STEM Meets Literacy

After finishing Lois Lowry's The Giver, our Grade 8 students didn't just discuss the ending—they engineered a way to change it. Taking on the role of Jonas's secret allies, students were tasked with a high-stakes design challenge: How do you transport an infant safely across a frozen, perilous landscape on a single bicycle?

Using their ingenuity and compassion, "allies" built prototypes for a specialized carrier designed to keep Gabriel safe and secure during the flight to Elsewhere. It was a powerful fusion of storytelling and hands-on building as students worked to ensure Jonas and Gabriel reached their destination.

# Lincoln-Woodstock FOOD pantry

**The FOOD PANTRY is Open:**
**Tuesdays 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM**
or by *appointment*
Monday – Friday
8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

*The Lincoln-Woodstock Food Pantry is **not** a part of the NH Food Bank system. It survives by the generosity of community members like you.*

***Located at the:***
*Lincoln-Woodstock Community Center*
*194 Pollard Road*
*PO Box 25*
*Lincoln, NH 03251*
*Phone: (603) 745-8958*

## Needed Items:

- Bread
- Milk
- Butter
- Meat
- Cheese
- Soups
- Juice
- Rice
- Dinner Mixes
- Oatmeal
- Baked Beans
- Pasta
- Peanut Butter
- Tuna/ Canned Meat
- Jelly
- Pasta Sauce
- Toilet Paper
- Cereal
- Mac & Cheese
- Canned Fruits
- Canned Veggies
- Paper Towels/ Cleaning Products

**MONETARY DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AND ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

**Checks can be made out to the Lincoln-Woodstock Food Pantry**

**Donations can be dropped off Monday – Friday 8 AM - 2 PM**

***If the building is locked, please leave your donation in the bin outside the main entrance door. Thank you.**

- Smaller, rather than jumbo-sized items are best
- Please check EXPIRATION DATES

# SMALL HANDS, BIG IMPACT: EARLYACT CLUB GIVES BACK

The EarlyAct Club, a community service club for students in grades 3-5, recently completed a community project, holding a food drive for the Lincoln-Woodstock Food Pantry. The food pantry typically receives lots of donations during the holiday months but is in need at other times of year. The club also got to take a walking field trip to the Community Center to see the Food Pantry in action. They helped decorate the food pantry boxes that will be distributed in the future and stocked some of the items that our elementary school community donated.

EarlyAct wants to remind our community that you can make donations to the food pantry at any time by bringing them directly to their building!

# Pathways & Learning Opportunity Series

To support students as they prepare for life after Lin-Wood, staff have created a yearlong series of learning opportunities. Here is what is on the calendar for May:

## Lumberjack Launch

May 14, 6 PM (8th grade & families)

## AP Exams

May 5-18, RM 31

## Game Schedule:

5/4 - Girls Varsity Softball vs Moultonborough: Away
5/6 - Girls Varsity Softball v Lisbon: Away
Boys MS Baseball v Lisbon: Home
5/8 - Girls Varsity Softball v Pittsburg: Home
5/11 - Girls Varsity Softball v Littleton: Away
5/13 - Girls JV Softball v Mount Royal: Away
Boys JV Baseball v Mount Royal: Home
5/15 - Girls JV Softball v Profile: Home
5/18 - Girls Varsity Softball v Colebrook: Away
5/20 - Girls Varsity Softball v Moultonborough: Away
5/21 - Boys JV Baseball v Gorham: Home
5/22 - Girls Varsity Softball v Lisbon: Home
Boys JV Baseball v Lisbon: Away
Boys MS Baseball v Lisbon: Away
5/25 - Boys JV Baseball v Interlakes: Home
5/26 - Girls JV Softball v Profile: Away
5/28 - Boys JV Baseball v Pittsburg: Away
5/29 - Girls Varsity Softball v Woodsville: Away

## News from the Lin-Wood Wellness Committee

In accordance with School Board Policy #JLCF and the requirements of the National School Lunch Program, the Lin-Wood Wellness Committee meets at least four times a year. Our mission is to champion the health of our students, staff, and families by providing resources and organizing activities that make wellness a natural part of the school day. Over the years, the committee has been proud to establish several core initiatives at Lin-Wood, including:

- Active Learning: Middle and high school hikes and after-school opportunities like volleyball and pickleball.
- Community Events: Wellness days for both students and staff.
- Healthy Habits: Guidance for nutritious snacks at school events and classroom parties.
- Open Communication: Regular updates via our school newsletters and wellness page on the school website.

**READ MORE**

## Fueling Your Family: Tips from the Classroom

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle is a team effort. This month, High School Math Teacher, Jess Halm shares a relatable challenge: finding quick, easy, and nutritious meals that fit into a busy family schedule. “One of my biggest needs as a parent is coming up with healthy meal ideas that don’t take hours to prep,” says Jess. If you are looking for some “brain food” inspiration, check out these delicious recipes for breakfast, lunch, and dinner: Healthy Recipes for Busy Families