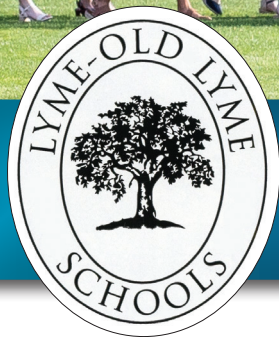




July 2021



FOCUS on Education

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GRADUATION 2021



Photos by: Warner Swain, Deep River Recording

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 : Lyme-Old Lyme Schools

 : lolschoolsct

 : lymeoldlymeschools

Planning Ahead for NEXT YEAR

Last year in this newsletter we wrote that we were at the end of arguably the most unique school year in the 47-year history of our region. The 2020-21 school year proved even more extraordinary as we were one of few regions that returned to school five-days-per-week, dutifully wearing our masks and social distancing. Students and staff rose to the occasion and forged ahead teaching, learning, exploring and playing in new imaginative ways. As the pandemic began to subside and restrictions were loosened, we were able to resume a few activities reminiscent of years past, such as outdoor field days and our traditional graduation ceremony with friends and family in attendance.

Now we look to next year. On May 4, the towns of Lyme and Old Lyme approved a \$34.87 million budget for the 2021-22 school year. We have submitted the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan as required by the state of CT. The plan outlines our intention to return to a more typical school setting so long as it is safe to do so. It includes details such as masks only being required should public health measures dictate a need for them, as well as some of the implemented good hygiene practices that will remain in place such as the handwashing stations installed this past year. The plan may be found on our website at www.region18.org. Comments are welcome and may be sent to lolreopening@region18.org.

Thank you to the parents, staff members, and the community for your part in making this year a success.

Ian Neviaseer, Superintendent of Schools
Diane Linderman, Board of Education Chair

Facilities UPDATES

Lyme-Old Lyme Schools have received federal relief funds and will use those funds to build outdoor classrooms at Mile Creek, Lyme School, and the middle school. The outdoor pavilion at Mile Creek is being built in partnership with students at Vinal Technical High School in Middletown. The relief funds will also allow for playground renovations and replacement of certain pieces of outdated equipment at Mile Creek, Lyme School and Center School.

The tennis courts at Lyme School will be resurfaced this summer and the front steps, which are crumbling, will be repaired.

The multi-purpose athletic field is currently under construction with the artificial playing surface expected to be ready for use at the beginning of the school year.



Board of Education MEETING DATES

AUGUST 4, 2021

SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

OCTOBER 6, 2021

NOVEMBER 3, 2021

DECEMBER 1, 2021

JANUARY 5, 2022

FEBRUARY 2, 2022

MARCH 2, 2022

APRIL 6, 2022

MAY 4, 2022

JUNE 1, 2022

JULY 6, 2022

Meetings are held at 6:30 PM in the Board of Education Conference Room, Center School, 49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT. Agendas, links to live streams of meetings, and links to recordings of previous meetings are available at www.region18.org

Special Thanks to our RETIREES

RETIREES:

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



Left to right: Mary Pope, Kelly Craddock, Steven Ernst



Jill Ressler

Kelly Craddock, 4th Grade Teacher at Mile Creek School, 38 years of service

Steven Ernst, Music Teacher at Mile Creek School, 21 years of service

Mary Pope, Speech Pathologist at Center School, 15 years of service

Jill Ressler, English Teacher at Lyme-Old Lyme High School, 16 years of service

Around REGION 18

- Two Lyme-Old Lyme High School alumni, Austin Hack and Liam Corrigan, have been chosen for the USA 2020 Olympic Rowing team. They are the only athletes from Connecticut chosen for the team.
- The girls tennis team completed a perfect season and were named the CIAC Class S state champions for the first time in school history!
- Lyme School once again worked with the National Circus Project. This not-for-profit brought trained circus artists into the school for one week to teach students plate spinning, stilt walking, juggling and more. Students of all grades participated culminating in a performance by the 5th graders.



High School Honors TOP GRADUATES

Congratulations to this year's top graduates! Of note, all three of these bright, ambitious students are headed to school in Pennsylvania this fall.



Valedictorian Connie Pan will be attending the University of Pennsylvania and plans to study design, with a possible double major in environmental studies. Connie was active in a wide variety of activities including the varsity girls swim and dive team, science olympiad, math team, founding member of the environmental club and, her favorite, the high school trivia bowl. She also participated in the geography challenge, art club, mock trial, athletic leadership conference and the National Honor Society. She adored her art classes which she attributes to Mr. Allik "the best teacher ever" and says the English department "is wonderful beyond words."



Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania is where Salutatorian Megan Cravinho is headed this fall. She is interested in studying

biochemistry and molecular biology with a minor in Latin American, Latinx, and Caribbean studies. Megan would like to continue to follow her passion for music as a part of Dickinson's music department. Megan was the principal flute and piccolo player for the wind ensemble and served as band president her senior year. She was the student advisory council president, the manager for girls tennis, secretary for the Spanish National Honor Society, treasurer for the class of 2021 and a member of the National Honor Society. Band, AP Chemistry and AP Spanish were favorite subjects, and she noted her teachers' dedication and enthusiasm as key to her engagement. Mr. Wilson has been a mentor figure throughout her time in high school and she credits his music program as shaping her into the musician she is today. Megan volunteers at Backus Hospital and plans to complete her EMT training course this summer.



Honor Essayist Riley Nelson will attend Villanova University this fall. Her intended major is in Global Interdisciplinary Studies with a minor in Peace and Justice. Riley would like to join the Peace Corps or a different social justice organization as she believes making a change in the world is important. She participated in mock trial, Model United Nations, girls volleyball, French club and the National Honor Society. Her favorite class of all time was AP European History, though she enjoys learning and liked all of her classes. Riley has danced for the last six years at Dance Center of Old Lyme. Riley thanks her mom, dad, and sister for their support as "without it, I would not be where I am today."

We are certain these talented students will go far and look forward to seeing what they achieve next.