


July 2018

FOCUS on Education


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GRADUATION 2018



 : Lyme-Old Lyme Schools

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High School Honors TOP GRADUATES

Lyme-Old Lyme High School recently announced the Class of 2018 top graduating seniors. Gabriel Stephens-Zumbaum was named Valedictorian, Reed Spitzer Salutatorian and Hannah Wisner the Honor Essayist. Madeline Zrenda is the Senior Class President.

Gabriel Stephens-Zumbaum will be attending Yale University in the fall where he plans to major in chemical engineering or a related discipline. Gabriel says that he has always had a love of science and math.

Reed Spitzer will be attending Tufts University and plans to major in data science or physics and probably will also pursue a minor in applied math. Reed views math as his second language!

Hannah Wisner will be attending Northeastern University in the fall. She is not sure yet what she will major in, but is very interested in languages. Hannah began studying Spanish while in middle school which she has continued throughout high school, where she also studied Chinese.

Madeline Zrenda has served as the Class President for the class of 2018 since her sophomore year. She plans to attend Villanova University where she will study business management. Maddie has been very involved in athletics and especially soccer, as she played for the state championship team this past fall.

As a group, they noted the walkout for school safety as having a great impact on them to use their voices for change. Those that participated in the music program in Pearl Harbor last year highlighted that trip as significant to their high school experience as well. While they spoke highly of all of their teachers, they



specifically wanted to thank Mr. Wilson for his understanding and empathy, Mr. Rayder for his enthusiastic physical education classes, and Mr. Elliott for his birthday cakes and playing HQ.

We wish these outstanding young people all of the best in their future endeavors!

Arts in the Middle CONFERENCE

Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School Art Club students attended the annual "Arts in the Middle" Conference sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Schools. This conference is held on the campus of the University of Hartford Art School where students from all over the state participate in art workshops led by artists and art teachers. It provides opportunities for students who love art to experience learning on a college campus.

Our students enjoyed meeting other students from diverse backgrounds and creating art side-by-side with them. Workshops included wire sculpture, photograms in the photography darkroom, printmaking, cardboard sculptures in the ceramics studios, painting, charcoal drawing and so much more.



MOCK TRIAL Team



Mock Trial is a national competitive law program that simulates a courtroom trial. The Lyme-Old Lyme High School Mock Trial team works with local attorneys, including Rob Stiles (Coast Guard Academy), Frank Sablone (Defense Attorney), and David Smith (Prosecutor), to prepare either a criminal or civil case to present in court. The program provides students with a strong law foundation, critical thinking skills, and expertise in public speaking. The LOLHS team has won their regional competition four years in a row! The 2018-19 program will see the team attending the Harvard Mock Trial Invitational as well as competing in the Civics First State Competition.

Upstanders Tree Planting CEREMONY

The UPstanders club of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School is an all-inclusive club, which meets bi-weekly to focus on school climate and culture. With the overarching mission to spread kindness, the UPstanders club decided to hold a tree planting ceremony on May 16th, which happens to be National "Love a Tree" day.

The Peace Tree, as it has come to be called, is a white Weeping Cherry tree planted in front of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School and it stands to signify the school's solidarity for peace and safety in all schools.

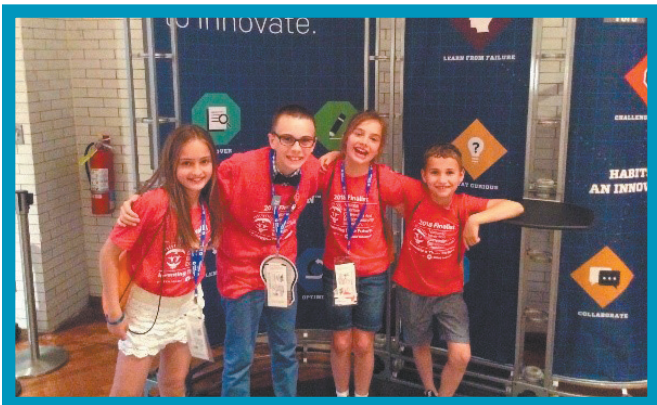
Many people gathered in attendance for the ceremony. Students lined up and each placed a shovel-full of dirt to help root the tree and pledge their solidarity. Attendees were given a parting gift of

Seed Blooms, wildflower seed pods, handmade by the UPstanders club members, packaged along with a message of kindness and tied with a white string to represent the wish for peace to always remain sacred throughout our schools and community.

In addition to the efforts made by the UPstanders club, the Lyme-Old Lyme High School students in teacher John Goss' class created a plaque to officially dedicate the Peace Tree and commemorate the ceremony for years to come.

Many hands and hearts came together on this day to honor and to represent the solidarity of peace and safety in all schools.

Invention CONVENTION



This year's Invention Convention resulted in nine students from Mile Creek and Lyme Consolidated advancing to the regional competition along with four Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School students. Six of those elementary students, along with two middle school students, advanced to the state competition which was held at Gampel Pavilion.

At the beginning of the invention process, there were 108,000 students who participated across the country. 450 students were invited to attend the national competition which was held in Dearborn, Michigan. We are excited that five of our six elementary students were invited to represent Lyme-Old Lyme at this event. We are so proud of all of our inventors' hard work and dedication.

The Look for the Good CHALLENGE

After attending a leadership conference in January, six fifth grade Lyme School students knew that they wanted to take on the 'Look For The Good' challenge. The students trained for the campaign for three weeks prior to running a school wide kick-off assembly. Their focus was to get the school to practice writing down small notes of gratitude while remembering that everyone can be a H.E.R.O. (Help Everyone Respect Others). Over the course of two weeks they collected over 2,000 sticky notes and displayed them in the front lobby of the school. It was a wonderful program and truly reminded everyone at Lyme School to "look for the good."



WLYM Student News



WLYM Student News is a weekly news program where students deliver, edit, and produce news assignments. They then work together to produce the show with a news desk anchor and more. This year we had a team of 13 dedicated students who produced 26 videos showcasing the LOLHS community.

Smarter Balance SELECTION

Lyme Consolidated School has been selected by the State Department of Education to be featured nationally in the Digital Library on the Smarter Balance Consortium's educator website. The three-minute video will include interviews with teachers and administrators on their experience using interim assessment blocks.

In addition, our district has been selected to be showcased nationally for best practices in reading interventions at the elementary and middle school level. This video will include expert commentary with footage of interventions across grade levels and will appear on Understood.org's webpage. Understood.org is a leading non-profit organization providing resources for parents and educators.

Application NOTIFICATION

This summer, the Lyme-Old Lyme Schools will apply Grub Gone to our high school athletic fields. The product Grub Gone is an organic biologic and not a prohibited 'lawn pesticide'. This product is based on a naturally occurring microbe specific to dealing with the grub population.

Conversations with DEEP representatives at the state level have taken place, and they have confirmed the application of this product is acceptable as it is not a 'lawn pesticide' due to its biologic nature.

For more information, please visit: greenearthagandturf.com/biological-grub-control-phyllom-grub-gone-bt.shtml