



Lyme Central School Newsletter

Patricia Gibbons, Superintendent

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LYME CENTRAL NEWS

As the 2023-24 school year draws to a close, we would like to say goodbye to some of our staff members whom have recently retired and/or taken positions elsewhere, as well as welcoming some new employees who joined the LCS family mid-yr.:

Retired/Resigned

Mr. Kevin Shampoe
Mr. Jacob Phelps
Miss Katie Shultz
Ms. Heather Archuleta

New Employees, titles

Ms. Alanna Haynes, Resource Teacher
Mr. Frederick Jackson, Head Automotive Mechanic
Ms. Jennifer Bray, Account Clerk/Tax Collector

As many of you may already know, there has been a period of transition in the LCS transportation department this spring. Unfortunately, this has left the department with several vacancies, specifically one full time school bus driver, and three substitute school bus drivers.

Several measures have been taken to alleviate some of the burden to our transportation staff, parents and students. The district has contracted with an outside agency, as well as with a neighboring district, to assist in filling the void for one of our regular bus runs (Alligator Bus) and transporting our students to and from field trips and sporting events. In addition, several of our families have graciously agreed to transport their children to and/or from school. The District is deeply appreciative of our family's and community's continued support! This has been a difficult situation for the district, since school bus drivers are sparse and in high demand throughout NYS. Advertisements have been posted and interviews are currently ongoing for these positions. Hopefully before the end of the school year, the transportation department will be back to normal staffing for the 2024-25 SY!

However, we are still seeking substitute bus drivers, as well as an anticipated opening for a FTE bus driver next school year. Therefore, if you or someone you know, is interested in joining our dynamic transportation department, please contact us at 315-649-2417, ext. 238 or via email to swilson@lymecsd.org for details. School Bus Driver Training will be provided, if necessary.

SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWS

Patricia Gibbons



Greetings all!

I am hoping we can put winter behind us and enjoy the burst of spring. Spring and summer are my favorite months, especially around our beautiful villages.

At the time of this writing, we are still awaiting details and hopeful revisions to the Governor's finalized budget. As you recall, the only source of revenue for all school districts are state aid and taxes. Our District, like many others around us, suffered significant cuts to our foundation aid, which is a vital component to our overall budget. Although there is hope that the hold harmless clause, which ensures that district's do not receive less foundation aid than the previous year, will be reinstated, we cannot count on the restoration this late in the budgeting process. We must move forward with our spending plan, anticipating that the drastic cut we received in our foundation aid may not be restored.

Therefore, the 2024-2025 spending plan will likely see an increase over last year's spending plan. This is mainly due to increases in required students services, general operating costs, and contractual obligations.

Despite these challenges, our Board of Education continues to practice long range strategic planning and conservative budgeting practices. Our Board of Education, in partnership with the Business Department, work diligently to ensure we are being fiscally responsible while also being mindful of creating the least amount of impact for our taxpayers. We appreciate and acknowledge Lyme's tradition of having strong community support for our academic programs, and diverse extracurricular offerings, while helping us to maintain a safe, secure environment for our students to thrive.

We have some wonderful news to share. First, our designs for our Capital Project are complete and will be submitted to the State Education Department (SED) for approval in early April. This approval process is rather lengthy. It will take SED about 26 weeks to approve our building project plans. Once approved, our architects can start bidding on the materials for the project. We are slated to start renovations in late spring of 2025.

Next, we recently applied for a Federal DoDEA grant for the purpose of extending our after school program (ASP) as well as offering organized clubs, activities, and family informational nights. If awarded, we would receive \$500,000 over the span of 5 years. We believe we submitted a strong application and hope to hear soon if we are afforded this wonderful opportunity for our students, families, and community members.

Finally, our efforts to advertise for the vacancy in the transportation department and for substitute teachers is paying off. We will be interviewing soon for a bus driver and in doing so, we hope to hire a successful candidate to avoid the stress of being down a driver in our fleet. Some of our own employees are signing up to be substitute drivers so that we have more support for our wonderful drivers. Our parents have been very supportive and understanding during this difficult time in our transportation department. Our friends at Alexandria CSD have also been a tremendous help in providing support to our drivers. It is amazing what can happen when we come together to solve difficult situations.

SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWS

Patricia Gibbons

(Continued)

Please keep an eye out for our budget notice. We have given the budget notice a bit of a makeover. The budget notice will be available after May 10th. It will provide a detailed look at the specifics of the proposed spending plan and the funding priorities of the Board of Education. The budget notice will be mailed out to all residents of both villages. The budget booklet or newsletter will be available on May 2nd. This publication will be available at the following locations:

- District website under the Board of Education tab/ Budget Information
- District Welcome Center
- Chaumont Post Office; Gouverneur Savings & Loan Bank; Watertown Savings Bank; County Store; Lyme Free Library

The budget vote for the Board of Education's 2024-2025 spending plan will be held on **May 21st, 2024 at the school. Polls will be open from 7am-8pm.** We thank our families, community members, and stakeholders for your continued support of our students, teachers, and staff of Lyme Central School.

Sincerely,
Pat

Mrs. Brennen's Third Grade Class *Receives an Unexpected Gift!*

Lyme Central's third graders recently spent a week doing a book study of "Roberto Clemente: Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates" by Jonah Winter and Raul Colon. The biography tells the story of Clemente's rise in major league baseball, his philanthropy, and his tragic death.

Word of the book study reached Victor Rivera, the Vice President of the Roberto Clemente Foundation of Puerto Rico. Mr. Rivera is a retired Command Sergeant Major from Fort Drum who still has a home in Jefferson County. He was so pleased with the students' project that he sent each of them a Roberto Clemente t-shirt and drawstring bag. The shirts say "Roberto y sus Amigos" - Roberto and Friends.

It was a great surprise for the kids!

~ Mrs. Margaret Brennen, Gr. 3 Teacher



NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL & ATHLETIC DIRECTOR MRS. EMILY BURKER



Principal News

What a great time of the year! With our third quarter just wrapping up we are excited to announce **72 students in grades 7-12 have made the HIGH HONOR ROLL and 24 students have made the Honor Roll!**

We are gearing up for all things spring here at LCS! We have some great talent at this school. Our Drama Club put on an amazing show in March - **Beauty and the Beast Jr.** Thanks to Mrs. Martineau and Ms. Gehrke for leading our students to some wonderful performances. We had 64 actors and 25 students running the stage crew, ranging in age from 7-18. Many students are also in the midst of rehearsing and preparing for both **bi-county, NYSSMA, and our spring concerts!** Please join us on May 7th for our elementary concert and May 14th for our secondary concert - both start at 6:00pm.

We also have many trips for our students to experience things in our community and prepare for life after high school. Our juniors and seniors have had the chance to visit **Clarkson, JCC, and SUNY Canton this year, and a SUNY Oswego** trip is coming up this spring. Our 10th graders visited **BOCES** to explore potential CTE programs for their next two years of high school. Of course, our seniors will have their special trip in early May to **Disney!** Our 5th graders spent a week at the **Star Base Academy** on Fort Drum. Upcoming opportunities include: **Career Jam** for 8th graders, a Kindergarten trip to **Rock Island**, our own **field days**, trips to the **TI pool**, and 5th graders and pre-k students visiting **Old McDonald's Farm**. Our students have been busy in the building hosting a Blood Drive with the American Red Cross, a Dodgeball tournament to raise funds for the Varsity Club, and much more!

We will celebrate our seniors in many ways this spring. We have the **Sports Banquet** tradition that we will carry on. This year we are also hosting a new **Senior Awards Night**. This will be a dedicated ceremony for our seniors to be recognized for their hard work and receive awards to help them after graduation. Mark your calendars for June 21st to celebrate our seniors with their graduation ceremony! Families of seniors will receive information on all of the upcoming events soon.

With all of the highlights and busy schedules we want to remind everyone to have a successful end of the year - please remember:

- **Attendance matters** - students must be here *every day*.
- **Kindness matters** - with all of the busy schedules and high energy activities we need to remind our children to be kind to one another - we are proud LAKERS!
- Our **home and school partnerships** are of the utmost importance. Without support at home we cannot do what we do here. We are grateful for your support!

Athletic News

We are grateful for all of the community support for our student athletes. As we find ourselves in the middle of the spring sports season we understand the commitment from families and we appreciate all that you do!

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MRS. EMILY BURKER'S NEWS (continued)



Our winter season finished at the end of February. We had almost 70 total student athletes on our seven teams! Our students are some of the most dedicated and committed young athletes. Drew Eassa, Ethan O'Brien, and Jillian Alberry were all recipients of the Frontier League Honorable Mention Award. Sofia Ososkalo was recognized as the Frontier League All Star! All three of our Varsity teams earned the Scholar Athlete Award, all with combined averages of 93% or better.

With the spring temperatures comes the spring athletic season. We began our spring season March 11th. Our Varsity Softball, Baseball and Golf teams have started their games and matches, with our modified team contests beginning on April 30th. We have over 70 student athletes participating this season. We celebrated Evan Froelich's signing to D'Youville University to play baseball earlier this month, congratulations on all of your accomplishments! As we navigate the weather, please double check [schedulegalaxy.com](https://www.schedulegalaxy.com) for the most updated game schedules.



SOLAR ECLISPE DAY

Exciting news!! As you know, April 8, 2024 was Solar Eclipse Day. Our area being in the direct path of a full solar eclipse, a once in a lifetime event! In recognition of this amazing occurrence, LCS had been planning for months. Teachers incorporated the science behind a solar eclipse into their classroom curriculum as a special study. A planetarium simulation program was set up on our stage with each class having an opportunity to observe the solar system and learn of the sequence of events which takes place during a solar eclipse. As you can imagine, our science teachers were beyond ecstatic over this natural phenomenon, which we were all be able to witness first hand.

In preparation for the big day, the District provided special eclipse viewing glasses for all students and staff. This allowed everyone to safely view the eclipse without damaging their eyes while doing so. In addition, in anticipation of an influx of visitors to our area and as means of keeping our students and staff safe during the time of the eclipse (3:22 pm – District dismissal and student transportation time), the district was closed on April 8, 2024.

Hopefully, our students and their families, staff, and community members were able to enjoy viewing this exciting event! What a remarkable opportunity for the North Country!

Notes from the Nurse Justine Dowe, RN



Parents and Guardians,

With Spring Break coming up, the rest of the school year will fly by!

The nurse's office is already looking ahead to next school year. Our Medical Director, Dr. Gianfagna, is expected to be here to perform physicals in May.

Immunization schedules per grade are as follows:

- ❖ Students in grades **1, 3, 5, 7, 9,** and **11** will need physicals during the 2024-2025 school year
- ❖ Students entering **6th grade** will need their TDAP vaccine
- ❖ Students entering **7th grade** that are 11 years old will need their Meningitis vaccine
- ❖ Students entering their **senior** year will need their second Meningitis vaccine

Reminders will be sent out to parents of those students this spring and summer. Pediatrician offices fill their appointments quickly at the end of summer, try to plan in advance to schedule these needed vaccinations.

I hope everyone has a safe and healthy spring and summer.

Stay well,
Mrs. Dowe, RN

UPCOMING LCS EVENTS

Please, mark your calendars for the following upcoming LCS Events.
We hope to see you soon!

- ❖ April 18, 2024: Kindergarten Screening
- ❖ April 19, 2024: Give Back Snow Day – No School
- ❖ April 22-26, 2024: Spring Recess – No School
- ❖ May 4, 2024: Make-A-Wish Basketball Game
- ❖ May 5-8, 2024: Senior Trip
- ❖ May 7, 2024: Elementary Spring Concert, 6:00 PM
- ❖ May 7-8, 2024: Gr. 3-8 Math State Tests
- ❖ May 14, 2024: Secondary Spring Concert, 6:00 PM
- ❖ May 15, 2024: Gr. 5-8 Science State Tests
- ❖ May 21, 2024: Annual Budget Vote & Member Election
- ❖ May 21, 2024: Health & Wellness Fair
- ❖ May 27, 2024: Memorial Day Holiday – No School
- ❖ June 8, 2024: Junior Prom
- ❖ June 10, 2024: Varsity Awards Banquet – 6:00 PM
- ❖ June 19, 2024: Juneteenth Day – No School
- ❖ **June 21, 2024: GRADUATION – 6:00 PM**
- ❖ June 25, 2024: Last Day of School for Students (1/2 day)
- ❖ June 25, 2024: Kindergarten Graduation – 8:30 AM

June Regent schedules listed on our website calendar.



For additional information, and other upcoming events, please check our website!

“Teacher for a Day”

~ Mrs. Christina Trottier

Quinton Courtney, is a LCS Kindergarten student in Mrs. Stumpf’s class, and has mastered all of his Kindergarten sight words. In recognition of this accomplishment, he got to be the “teacher” in his small group with me. Quinton helped his friends and encouraged them to *“Try Again!”*, then told them the words if they were unable to identify them on their own. Notice, he is using his pencil as a pointer, a true teachers’ skill!

Well Done Quinton, Keep up The Good Work!!



Quinton Courtney, Kindergarten



Lyme Central School Receives Grant Funding

Lyme Central School has received funding from the Safe Schools Endeavor of Northern New York Community Foundation. This funding is for the purpose of providing training and outfitting/equipment for volunteer crossing Guards. There are four community members whom have volunteered their time to be crossing guards at the NYS Route 12E and Church Street intersection during the months the Town of Lyme and/or Village of Chaumont employees are unavailable due to other duties or work schedules.

The District would like to extend our thanks to the Northern New York Community Foundation for their generous grant, and to the following persons for volunteering their time to ensure our students’ safety:

Mr. James Morrow
Mr. Jerri Lothrop



Mr. Leo D. Wilson
Mr. Mike Nichols



Lyme Central Senior Signs With Division II University!



Lyme Central School Senior, Evan Froelich, was the honored guest at a signing event where he put pen to paper by signing a letter of intent to attend D'Youville University in Buffalo, NY, as a member of the Mens' Baseball Team.

On March 28, 2024, Evan was joined by his parents, faculty & staff, students in Gr. 7-12, as well as his past and present baseball coaches to witness his commitment to play at the next level of competitive sports. Evan spoke of his accomplishments and hopes for the future in an interview with WWNY-7 News Sports.

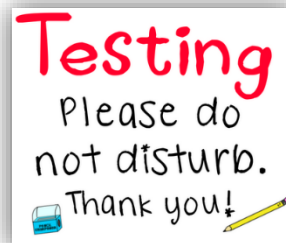


Congratulations, Evan!

From Lyme Lakers, to D'Youville Saints, we are certainly proud of you!



**NEWS, from Mrs. Deborah Wilkinson,
Curriculum & Data Coordinator**



Navigating Spring Testing Season: Strategies for Success

As spring blooms and temperatures rise, so does the anticipation surrounding state testing in our school. While assessments may evoke mixed feelings among students, educators, and parents alike, they serve as valuable tools for measuring student progress, identifying areas for growth, and informing instructional decisions. I'd like to take a moment to explore strategies for navigating the spring testing season with confidence and purpose. The following list includes strategies that we can use both at school and at home.

Embrace a Positive Mindset:

Approach testing with a positive attitude, emphasizing its role in supporting student learning and growth.

Prepare Strategically:

Provide students with ample preparation and practice opportunities leading up to test day.

Maintain a Balanced Perspective:

Remind ourselves that test scores represent just one measure of student achievement.

Support Social-Emotional Well-being:

Foster a supportive and nurturing environment that emphasizes self-care, stress management techniques, and resilience-building strategies.

Leverage Data for Continuous Improvement:

Understand the importance of using test data as a diagnostic tool for identifying areas of strength and areas in need of additional support.

Celebrate Achievements and Growth:

Recognize and celebrate student achievements and growth, regardless of test scores.

As we navigate the spring testing season together, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting student success, promoting a positive testing culture, and utilizing assessment data to drive continuous improvement in our schools and communities. With dedication, collaboration, and a focus on student well-being, we can ensure that testing serves as a meaningful and constructive part of the learning journey for all students.

Spring Testing Dates to Watch:

Grades 3-8 ELA, Math, and Science

Just a reminder, Grades 3-8 NYS Testing will be Computer-Based (CBT) this year.

- ELA testing will take place on April 16-17.
- Math testing for Grades 3 & 5-8 will be on May 7-8 and for Grade 4 on May 9-10.
- Science testing will also be CBT this year and will take place on May 15 for Grades 5 and 8 only.
- This year the make-up window for all testing areas is open until May 17. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out.

Mrs. Deborah Wilkinson's Report (continued)

Grades 8-12 Regents Exams

June Regents Exams will be here before you know it. Please be on the lookout for a detailed Regents Exam Schedule as well as a Regents Review Class Schedule coming out via ParentSquare shortly.

- Algebra I Regents-June 4
- All other Regents Exams-June 14-25



MAY 21, 2024 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM, Room 140

LYME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE AND BOARD MEMBER ELECTION

ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

PATRICIA GIBBONS, SUPERINTENDENT

EMILY REMINGTON-BURKER
PRINCIPAL & ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

TIFFANY LAVANCHA
SCHOOL COUNSELOR

DEBORAH WILKINSON
CURRICULUM & DATA COORDINATOR

JUSTINE DOWE, RN
SCHOOL NURSE

STACEY LINKROUM
PSYCHOLOGIST/CSE CHAIR

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