



Lyme Central School Newsletter

Patricia Gibbons, Superintendent

P.O. Box 219, 11868 Academy Street, Chaumont, NY 13622
phone: 315•649•2417 fax: 315•649•2663 www.lymecsd.org

Volume 24 Issue 2

May 2023

Table of Contents

Welcome Spring	Pg. 1
Superintendent's News	Pgs. 2-3
Principal/AD News	Pg. 4
Notes from the Nurse	Pg. 5
NHS News	Pg. 6



Welcome Spring

As we welcome spring, LCS is *buzzing* with the renewed energy that comes with the arrival of spring following the long winter months! Students and staff alike are excited to enjoy the warmer days of spring during recess, and to be winding down the school year in anticipation of the soon to come, lazy days of summer. As such, many district activities, field trips, spring concerts, and end of year exams, have been scheduled over the next few months.

That being said, please note the upcoming events listed on page 5 of this newsletter, and on our district website calendar. Many activities and events have been planned to round out the last few months of school....you don't want to miss out!

In addition, for parents of graduating seniors, Class of 2023, please watch for pertinent information from your child's class advisors, and/or our guidance office and administration for necessary dates and times related to details on all upcoming graduation activities.

As always, if you have any questions regarding any of these upcoming events, feel free to contact the school at 315-649-2417, or via Parent Square, to your child's teacher or administration. We look forward to a productive and positive end to another successful year at LCS, and we hope to see you soon!

SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWS

Patricia Gibbons



Dear Residents and Stakeholders of the Lyme Central School District:

As we anticipate the culmination of the current school year, and eagerly plan for the year ahead, we do so with much pride and optimism for the future of our district. Our mission, *“Preparing Today’s Students to be Tomorrow’s Citizen’s”* is at the forefront of our planning, conversations, and decision making to ensure we are offering the very best educational, extracurricular, and athletic experiences for all of our students. We are proud of the work that we do but, we acknowledge that we cannot do this work alone. Our parents, community members, and stakeholders remain vital components of, and are key to our district’s success.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Administrative Team, and the entire LCS staff, I am pleased to share the proposed 2023-2024 Lyme Central School Spending Plan. The district once again approached the budget season with some very specific goals in mind:

- 1) Expand and/or maintain as many of the academic and extracurricular opportunities for students as financially possible
- 2) Consider necessary facility updates and staffing needs as part of our obligation to provide our District’s stakeholders with a safe, well-maintained student-centered learning environment
- 3) Respond to our financial requirements and responsibilities in ways which create the least amount of impact on our taxpayers.

We are optimistic that our community will appreciate and fully support the direction we are taking in order to meet these important goals and with only a minimal increase of 0.14% (totaling a \$12,561 increase) in the overall spending plan.

Beyond the district’s success in meeting high academic and athletic standards of performance, I am pleased to share that we have continued with our priority of identifying and applying efficiency strategies, and implementing cost-saving measures such as participating in shared services with neighboring districts, BOCES, and local municipalities. We have successfully utilized all available resources and the Board of Education’s long range strategic planning and conservative budgeting practices have been beneficial in supporting our academic and extracurricular offerings for students, in addition to updating and improving many areas throughout our facilities. The Board of Education continues to evaluate all areas of the budget regularly as the long-term sustainability of the Lyme Central School District, for our students and their families, remains a steadfast priority.

Budget Facts:

- ~ Public Schools operate primarily on money (revenue) they receive from two sources, state aid and tax dollars
- ~ The 2023-2024 spending plan consists of a minimal overall spending increase of 0.14% (totaling a \$12,561 increase)
- ~ The Board of Education is projecting a 1.67% increase in the tax levy. This modest increase (\$100,000 home=approx. \$20.35 increase for the year), is primarily due to increases in required students services, general operating costs, and contractual obligations.

Continuing Cost-Saving Measures: During the 2022-2023 school year, the Board of Education, Administration, and Staff have continued their intentional focus of ensuring that LCS operates in an efficient and fiscally responsible manner. The following measures have been implemented and/or continued:

- ~ Cafeteria Manager Share: BOCES Shared Service
- ~ Shared Fuel Facility with Town of Lyme, Village of Chaumont, Three Mile Bay Fire Department, Chaumont Volunteer Fire Department
- ~ Identification and utilization of grant funds to pay for staff development opportunities, materials, and staffing

Superintendent's News *(continued)*

- needs whenever possible
- ~ Staffing adjusted for enrollment
- ~ Monitoring of day to day operating expenses
- ~ Utilization of district vehicle for transportation eliminating mileage reimbursements

We remain grateful for the many community partnerships we have formed over the years and are excited to once again be able to open our facility for community use in collaboration with local agencies, businesses, instructors, and so on. We look forward to building upon and enhancing those opportunities as we head into the 2023-2024 school year.

Community Partnerships: Ways in which our community utilize our School:

- ~ North Country Family Health School-based Dental Services for Students
- ~ Fully Equipped fitness/exercise room with morning, evening, and weekend hours
- ~ Lyme Youth Commission- Athletic Practices & Events
- ~ Summer Theater Camp
- ~ Sports Clinics- Throughout the Year
- ~ Author Visits
- ~ Soccer Camp
- ~ Veteran's Day Celebration
- ~ Fort Drum Holiday Concert
- ~ Drama Club
- ~ Tri-Board Meetings (Village, Town, and School District)

The 2023-2024 Budget Notice will be mailed to residents following the Annual Budget Hearing which will be held on May 4th, 2023 at 6:00pm. The Budget Newsletter, available after April 27th, provides a detailed look at the specifics of the proposed spending plan and the funding priorities of the Board of Education. This document is available at the following locations:

- ~ District Website under the Board of Education Tab/Budget Information
- ~ District's Welcome Center
- ~ Chaumont Post Office; Gouveneur Savings & Loan Bank; Watertown Savings Bank; Town of Lyme Library

New Sign-In Process When Voting In-Person:

We will be implementing a new process for registering and/or checking in our voters for in-person voting. We now have the availability to electronically register our voters. This new electronic system will make your experience more efficient and enjoyable. This system will speed up the voter check-in process and decrease voter wait time.

Here is how the new process will work: You will simply state your name to the election inspectors. The inspectors will pull up your information on an electronic device. You will confirm your address to ensure the correct voter is chosen. You will electronically sign your name on the device to verify your attendance as a registered voter. The voting process itself remains the same as in years past. Voters will be given a paper ballot to cast their vote discretely in the voter booth. Ballots will be deposited in the locked voter box and will be counted by election officials when the polls close.

We are optimistic that Lyme's tradition of strong community support for our district's academic excellence and a safe, student-centered environment will continue into the year ahead. With your continued support, we will work diligently to ensure the longstanding tradition for providing strong educational programs and extracurricular activities for our students and community to participate in and enjoy. I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the entire LCS Community for your unwavering support.

Please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience should you have any questions prior to our **Budget Vote on May 16th, 2023**. Best wishes for a positive and productive end to the school year. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Respectfully,
Pat

NEWS from the PRINCIPAL/AD

Mr. Christopher Marshall



Lyme Central School Selects a New District Mascot

Following the rebranding of our district as the **Lyme Lakers**, the district moved forward in the process of determining if a mascot would also be selected to represent the district. Prior to the selection of a mascot, the district put out a survey to determine if, in fact, a district mascot was wanted/needed. The results showed undeniably, that the community, students and staff, and alumni were all in favor of having a district mascot; a positive role model, to be present at various events such as sporting competitions, open house, pep rallies, spirit week, book fair, etc.

From that point, the district proceeded to survey our community, staff, and students for ideas for an appropriate mascot. The Board of Education and the Mascot Committee narrowed the submitted ideas down to three choices. Once again, those three options were put to a vote, and the winning selection as the new district mascot was....the **EAGLE!**

Lastly, the District and Mascot Committee set out to receive vendor quotes, and work with their design teams to create just the right mascot image to represent the district. This resulted in the “birth” of our very own, **LCS EAGLE**, pictured at right.

For the final decision, one last survey was sent to students in grades PK-12, asking for their help in naming our Eagle. Suggested names were submitted from each classroom, and those names were put to a vote. The results are in, our mascot’s name is..... **Ontario the Eagle (Rio for short)!!**



So, get ready to cheer along with *Ontario the Eagle*, and show your support at various upcoming LCS events!!!

WE ARE LYME LAKERS PROUD!!



Notes from the Nurse Justine Dowe, RN



Parents and Guardians,

National Water Safety Month in May prepares us for the fun activities that will increase during the hot summer months. Per the CDC, every year in the United States there are an estimated 4000 fatal unintentional drownings, an average of 11 per day.

Here are some tips to keep in mind when children are around water

- Protecting children around water should always be a number one safety concern.
- An adult should always be supervising children around water, whether it's a pool, lake, or waterpark.
- Follow all facility rules and don't rely on floatation devices for keeping your child safe.
- In the water, make sure an adult joins the child.
- Employ layers of protection including barriers to prevent access to water, life jackets, and close supervision of children to prevent drowning. Bathing suits should be bright colored to ensure adequate visibility.
- Know what to do in a water emergency—including how to help someone in trouble in the water safely, call for emergency help and CPR. For more water safety tips, visit <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/water-safety>

Stay well,
Mrs. Dowe, RN

UPCOMING LCS EVENTS

As the 2022-2023 school years draws to a close, please note the following dates for upcoming events:

- ❖ May 8-12, 2023: Scholastic Book Fair
- ❖ May 9, 2023: Family Literacy & STEM Night
- ❖ May 8-9, 2023: Gr. 3-8 Math Assessments
- ❖ May 11, 2023: Gr. PK-12 Spring Concert
- ❖ May 16, 2023: Annual Budget Vote and BOE Member Election
- ❖ May 16, 2023: LCSTA Scholarship Plant Sale
- ❖ May 16, 2023: Health & Wellness Fair
- ❖ May 25, 26 & 29, 2023: Memorial Day Recess – No school
- ❖ June 6, 2023: LCS 2022-23 Sports Awards
- ❖ June 10, 2023: LCS Jr. Prom
- ❖ June 14-16 & 20-22, 2023: Regents Exams
- ❖ June 19, 2023: Juneteenth Day – No School
- ❖ June 22, 2023: Kindergarten Graduation
- ❖ June 23, 2023: Class of 2023 Commencement

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



“If you want to fly, give up everything that weighs you down”



Lyme Central School

National Honor Society News

By Adrienne Teachout, NHS Co-advisor



The LCS Chapter of the National Honor Society was very busy this winter and spring!

In February, NHS held their annual Food Drive to support the local food pantry. In grades PK-6, we continued the tradition of the homeroom with the most donations to receive a trophy to display in their classroom, filled with a sweet treat for the class. This year's winner was Mrs. Perkins's Fourth Grade Class! NHS wanted to provide an extra incentive for 7th-12th grade students to donate items, so members of NHS volunteered to be pied in the face by the grade that donated the most items per person. The winning class was the 8th grade! A huge thank you to all who participated in this great service project to benefit our community!

In March, NHS sponsored the annual Rolling for Relay event. Once again, the students of Lyme Central School displayed their generosity by donating money to the Lyme Lights Relay for Life Team. NHS members collected and counted all of the money donations from each homeroom class. Mrs. Stumpf's Kindergarten Class won the trophy and sweet treat in the Elementary and the first period 12th Grade English Class won breakfast for donating the most money per student. As a school, \$553 was raised to assist in the fight against cancer through the American Cancer Society.

On March 30th, the Senior Members of NHS were honored at the annual Jefferson-Lewis School Boards Association recognition event at Watertown High School, in which senior NHS members from all Jefferson-Lewis BOCES schools were invited to attend.



NHS students who volunteered to be pied for PI Day



Mrs. Stumpf's Kindergarten, winners of Rolling for Relay donations

Lyme students who attended the NHS Senior Recognition Ceremony



VARSITY CLUB EASTER EGG HUNT

The LCS Varsity Club hosted their first annual Easter Egg Hunt on April, 2, 2023. Mrs. McIntosh, Varsity Club Advisor, and many of the Varsity Club Members spent hours filling approximately 2600 plastic eggs with goodies, and hiding them around the playground, fields, and outdoor basketball court.

The event was a huge success!! Many students and community members came to seek their Easter egg treasures, free of charge. Refreshments of cookies and juice, as well as a gift bag for each participant. In addition, children were surprised to have the Easter Bunny himself, make a guest appearance! The cold winds did not dissuade the many participants, all in all, it was a great time for the whole family!

Many thanks to the LCS Varsity Club for hosting this community event, we look forward to possibly having it become an annual tradition!



ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

PATRICIA GIBBONS, SUPERINTENDENT

CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL
PRINCIPAL & ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

TIFFANY LAVANCHA
SCHOOL COUNSELOR

DEBORAH WILKINSON
CURRICULUM & DATA COORDINATOR

JUSTINE DOWE, RN
SCHOOL NURSE

STACEY LINKROOM
PSYCHOLOGIST/CSE CHAIR

HEATHER ARCHULETA
TAX COLLECTOR

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MRS. DEANNA LOTHROP, PRESIDENT
MS. LYNN REICHERT
MRS. SHERRI WILSON, CLERK

MRS. KATHY GARDNER, VICE PRESIDENT
MR. RAY MCINTOSH
MRS. SHAUNA DUPEE

MR. SCOTT RICKETT
MR. JON LAFONTAINE