



SERVING THE LYME COMMUNITY FOR OVER 100 YEARS

THE LYME SCHOOL

# Newsletter

THE GILDER LEHRMAN INSTITUTE of AMERICAN HISTORY

## NH History Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Madame Officer!  
WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!



## Our New Kindergarten Maypole Turns 25 Teacher!

*Contributed by Helen Skelley*

It is the time of year when our staff finalizes their plans for their futures, and some of these plans no longer include us. This is the time when one is confronted with clichés “change is inevitable”, and a reference to our communities feeling like families. As much as I revile platitudes as they are often used insincerely, I have to accept that they feel this way here. So it is hard to see two members of our faculty leave —two members who have contributed so much of their time, joy, and talent. Megan Donegan is leaving to commit her time to be a full time mom to her 1-year-old daughter. Danielle Scully, who apparently seeks change in a way that is familiar to me, but utterly incomprehensible to others, is leaving to take on the challenge of a new school and teaching a new grade.

After adjusting to the idea that our staff will be absent some of our members, it is reassuring to know that our students will still come to know the kind of warmth, compassion, and expertise their classmates have experienced before them. In the case of our Kindergarten class, students will have the fortune of one of our finest teachers, Mindy Lyons, who leapt at the chance to lead the K-kids. Mindy has been a second, third and fourth grade teacher at the Lyme School for the past 5 years. She is likely one of the kindest people you will meet and her instinct for children and talent for teaching and how to draw out the best in her students is among the finest I have seen.

We are very pleased to be able to initiate the transition, which started this week, in anticipation for her beginning next year. She, Danielle and Tracy are busy sharing ideas about what has been working and what we planning to differently.

Twenty-five years ago my husband’s Middlebury College alumni magazine came in the mail and memories of my fifth grade came flooding back. On the cover was featured a beautiful Maypole with college students weaving brightly colored ribbons.

Those May celebrations were some of my fondest childhood memories and I thought, “Why not give my students their own memories of May?” Hence, the Lyme School’s Celebration of Spring was conceived.

The first step was to gather information about the dance. I contacted the alumni office at Middlebury and soon had a printout of the dance. Next, where to find a pole? My husband and I cut a tree and Matt Hewes (fifth grader and Steve’s son) readily offered an old bicycle wheel for the top of the pole. Sheets were gathered, ripped, hemmed and dyed. They weren’t exactly the grosgrain ribbons of my childhood, but they were colorful and they worked.

That first celebration was small, with only the weaving of the Maypole, but it was beautiful and only the beginning of a wonderful community tradition in Lyme. What has made this so unique in the past twenty-five years are the contributions of so many talented people. After Sandy Fitzpatrick (fifth grade teacher) retired, Bonnie Cornell took her place. Mike Beck, our very talented custodian, ordered a new aluminum pole and planted the permanent fixture in the green to support the pole. (Bonnie and I used to hold it for the weaving!) I continued to teach the dance, but Ms. Cornell brought grace and rhythm to the performance. Kathy Sherlock, the music teacher, brought grades k-4 into the program and I will always think of Kathy when I hear the “Inch by inch, and row by row” song the little first graders sang. Kathy Ragonese (music teacher) brought the Morris dancing to the fourth grade, and our very own Kristen Bushway added her own piece to this with the remarkable sword star pattern at the end of that dance. Nancy Wilson and Jake Cooke have enhanced the program with their gift of music. We have had an Alpenhornist, and last year it was Oliver and his father, Mathew Greenway. And last, but not least, Principal Valence has left his own

mark on this festive occasion - his PINK pants! (Some would call them Nantucket red :) which he has agreed to wear once a year.

I hope everyone in town will again join us for this special occasion on May 26 at 1:00.





### Used Children's Book Sale

7,000 used books, something for all kids

**Friday, May 20th, 11:30am - 7pm**

(paperback \$1, hardcover \$2)

**Saturday, May 21st**

**\$10 Bag Sale, 9am - 12pm**

Tracy Hall, Main Street, Norwich

to benefit the Marion Cross School Library



### Evening Event for 7th Graders, Parents, Lyme School Staff

### Family History Night

"St. Albans Raid" - Michelle Arnosky Sherburne

Wednesday, May 25, 6:30- 8:30 See flyer for more information.



**Empower Lacrosse Club:** Memorial Day Lacrosse Clinic on Monday, May 30, for 3rd-9th grade girls at Sachus Field in Lebanon, NH. Sarah Martin and Whit Willocks are the lead coaches. Please go to <http://empowerlacrosseclub.com> for information.

## SUMMER PROGRAMS

@ THE LYME SCHOOL



### Menus

Week of 5/23 to 5/27 • Week of 5/31 to 6/3



July 11th-14th  
8:30-11:30  
Cost: \$125  
Open to: entering 3rd through 8th grade  
Contact:  
[tshipman@lymeschool.org](mailto:tshipman@lymeschool.org)

### Nature Writing Camp

Are you an outdoor kind of person who loves to write? Well... the Lyme School is offering a nature writing workshop for students entering grades 3 through 8. This workshop will focus on creative writing that connects to nature. We will explore various authors, poets, and naturalists who spend their time outside observing and

recording. To have authentic writing experiences much of our time will be spent outside (weather permitting) writing in journals about the world around us.

June 14th - 17th  
12:00-3:00  
Cost: \$120  
Open to: entering 5th through 8th grade  
Contact:  
[jp Pratt@lymeschool.org](mailto:jp Pratt@lymeschool.org)

### Indoor Rock Climbing Camp

Spend four days on the walls at the Green Mountain Rock Climbing Center in Quechee, VT. Learn the basic skills of Top Rope climbing and Bouldering within the safety of the area's largest indoor facility. Multiple routes for beginners and lots of options

for those who are looking for more of a challenge. You will learn how to properly belay a partner, spot a climber as well as improve your technical skills on the wall.

Instructors: Jennifer Pratt, Chris Lord and the highly trained staff at GMRC

\*transportation to and from GMRC is not provided\*

June 14th - 17th  
8:00-3:30  
Cost: see right  
Open to: entering 2nd through 6th grade  
Contact:  
[tharkins@lymeschool.org](mailto:tharkins@lymeschool.org)

### Spanish Camp

Do you like having fun while learning Spanish? Come play games, sing songs, make up stories, and have a great time with friends at Spanish Camp. Hope to see you there!

### Three options:

Morning only 8:00-11:30: \$100  
Afternoon only 12:00-3:30: \$100  
Full Day 8:00-3:30 \* \$175

\* Subject to enrollment • lunch not provided

<b>Monday</b>	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> Homemade Mac & Cheese Corn Bread Broccoli Fresh Fruit  Option: BYO Salad	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> All Beef Hot dogs, WG Bun Potato or Mac Salad Corn Watermelon  Option: BYO Salad	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> Chili & Baked Potato Bar w/Toppings EG Crackers Fresh Fruit  Option: BYO Salad
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> Cheese or Chef's Choice Pizza WG Chips Salad Bar Fresh Fruit  Sandwich Option: Egg Salad	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> Cheese or Chef's Choice Pizza Salad Bar Sautéed Fresh Spring Veggies Fresh Fruit  Sandwich Option: Egg Salad
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> Brunch for Lunch Scrambled Eggs Sausage, Home Fries WG English Muffin Fruit  Option: BYO Salad	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> N.E. Baked Cod Roasted Potatoes WG Roll Corn on Cob Fresh Fruit  Option: BYO Salad
<b>Friday</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> WG Macaroni, Beef & Cheddar Casserole Peas & Carrots Salad Bar Fresh Fruit  Option: Tuna Salad