

# Blizzard or Bust?

Now that we have officially been reminded that it is winter, it is a good time to review the school closing process. Typically (except in the case of Tuesday's delay) it begins around 4 or 5 am with a call being sent out at 6am. In those early hours 4 to 5am we are consulting weather experts like this guy to the right. (\*ugh\*).



The Great Playground Ball of All Weather Knowingness

The decision to close is determined by a combination of people (the town road crew, the bus company, weather forecasters, surrounding schools, and the school itself). Considerations include the conditions which are predicted to exist at drop off or the drive home. These conditions take into consideration general conditions on main, well-traveled roads, but are more more significantly influenced by the conditions on the dirt roads at higher elevations that busses and cars will be carrying school aged children. If this sounds logical, reasoned and straight forward - you are a very generous person. Weather, as it turns out, is not as predictable as the weather channel would like us to believe. Very often a decision needs to be made 4 to 10 hours before the storm has arrived. With all these variables all sense of assurance is gone and the decision comes down to what is most probable and is the safest. The best indication that the decision was correct is that no one gets hurt. However, I recognize that may mean that some may be inconvenienced by a change in routines - not the kids mind you, they love this change of plan— typically principals and parents are the ones who are muttering to themselves.

So even though it may seem at some point this winter that I am consulting the advise of a crystal ball (or in this case the "Great Playground Ball of All Weather Knowingness"), please be assured that there are other factors contributing to the decision. And while I can not predict what weather will do, here are some things that I can predict:

- You will be notified at 6am of school cancellation or delay by phone and email (unless you have NOT notified us of changes to your phone numbers or addresses).
- The voice you hear when you pick up the phone, although it will sound like me, is a recording. So please do not attempt to debate with it.
- It has been pointed out to me that my voice sounds a bit too cheerful. Please excuse any perceived cheerfulness in my voice, it does not reflect my attitude towards interrupting your morning. It was recorded at a time of day when I felt human and was not tormented by indecisive weather patterns or the meteorologists whose only skill appears to be to know to wear a rain jacket and who lack credibility to such an staggering extent, that when they are reporting the weather they have to stand outside in the actual storm in order to convince people that it is happening.
- You can also check local radio and tv stations as they have also been notified of our plight, but I don't know why you would, you are going to receive a personal message delivered to your own personal phone.
- Delays most often are 2hr delays and if conditions worsen could be followed by a closure (and you would receive another personal message to your personal phone).
- If school is open, but conditions are unsafe where you live in town, do not travel. You may justify this with the following reasons: school will be here when you get here, we are not the official safety assessor of your front steps or your road, we prefer you remain in one piece and we prefer you not suffer with PTSD from the drive into school. (You can reserve that for when our children are driving themselves to school).

If you have any questions, please contact me at school and if you are unsure if we have your correct contact information or would like to add a number or email address, please email :

[MFranks@Lymeschool.org](mailto:MFranks@Lymeschool.org)



(Even an English major can do this math)

## Jacket? Shoes? Yes, Please

Yes, you have seen this article each year about this time, however it is a good time to remind everyone that wintertime is a time to wear "winter clothes". I understand it can be difficult for adolescents to recognize appropriate winter clothing, so here are a few tips to help them: Generally, if the words *snow* or *winter* precede the article of clothing, it is what they are looking for. Please also try to remind them about "gloves" and "hats" which, admittedly, can be tricky because they do not include either the word "snow" or "winter". Note that tee-shirts and shorts, even if they have words "snow" or "winter" printed on them, should not be mistaken as winter clothing. Again, this can be an understandable misinterpretation of this concept. Despite my complete lack of fashion sense I understand that "really cute sandals" are popular, but I believe they clash with blue toes, (I will have to check with my daughter to confirm that, however.)



### Celebrate the Season!

Celebrate the Season will take place in downtown Hanover on **Friday, December 2, 2016 from 4:00 to 8:00 PM.**



# A HOLIDAY THOUGHT



If you believe what we see in advertisements and the media, this is the season of boundless joy and happiness. While this is true for some of us, for others this season can be a reminder of things we have lost or are missing; for some it is just very, very, busy (for some the thought of another holiday with their "Crazy Uncle Charlie" is too much to bear). Whatever our circumstance we should all try to take this opportunity to share our care, appreciation and patience with each other. As teachers or parents you are unique individuals in that you have made the choice to dedicate your life to others. I would like to extend my deepest appreciation and hope that you find periods of joy and contentedness in your life, and that your relationships here at the Lyme School can be the source of some of that happiness.



**Please support the 8th grade...  
Order a holiday wreath!**

The 8th grade is selling Paphanh Sithavady's beautiful, locally made wreaths. Proceeds benefit the Lyme School 8th grade trip to Washington DC in Spring 2017 and Paphanh's sponsorship of schools in impoverished communities in Laos. You can order a wreath here :

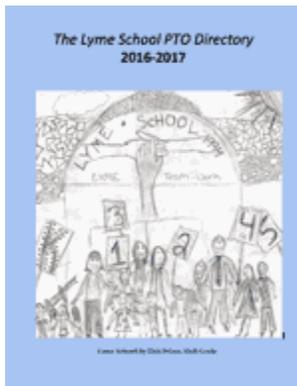
[Wreath Orders 2016](#)

or stop in at the school office and fill out a form. The last day for new orders is December 3. Thanks for your support!



**Congratulations to our  
PTO School Directory  
Cover Art Contest  
Winners:**

**Elsie Prince, June Clark,  
Maev Donegan, and  
Burke Pekala!** Artwork from additional students is also showcased in the print directory this year. Print Directories will be distributed to students who have ordered them



**December 6th.** Additional copies may be for sale in the office after that date dependent upon availability. Keep your eyes out for an email invitation to access for our online directory [www.myschoolanywhere.com](http://www.myschoolanywhere.com) going live soon! Please send any questions to [pto@lymschool.org](mailto:pto@lymschool.org).



Middle School Dance

Friday, December 16 7 - 9 PM

## HOLLYWOOD HOLIDAY

Semi-Formal

\$5 dressed in theme attire

\$6 without

### Menus

Week of 12/5 to 12/9 • Week of 12/12 to 12/16

Al a carte Fruit and Milk are available everyday



<b>Monday</b>	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> Chicken Fritters, Baked Potato, Mashed Carrots and Parsnips, Fresh Fruit  Option: BYO Salad	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> Grilled Ham and Cheese, WG Bread, Tater Tots, Sweet Peas, Sald Bar, Fruit  Option: Egg Salad
 <b>Tuesday</b>	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> Homemade Macaroni and Cheese, Garlic Bread, Peans and Carrots, Fresh Fruit  Option: BYO Salad	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> Local Beef Stroganoff, Egg Noodles, WG Dinner Roll, Mixed Vegetables, Fresh Fruit  Option: BYO Salad 
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> Cheese or Chef's Choice Pizza, Salad Bar, Oven Fries, 100% Fruit Juice or Fresh Fruit  Option: Turkey & Cheese Sandwich	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> Cheese or Chef's Choice Pizza, Salad Bar, WG Sun Chips, 100% Fruit Juice or Fresh Fruit,  Option: Ham & Cheese Sandwich
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> Local Beef Bolognese with Tortellini, WG Dinner Roll, Sweet Corn, Fresh Melon  Option: BYO Salad 	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> Chicken Enchiladas, Refried Beans, Local Organic Tortilla Chips, Fresh Pico de Gallo, Baked Apple Crisp  Option: BYO Salad
<b>Friday</b>	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> Bruch for Lunch! Fresh French Toast, Local Sausage, Homefried Potatoes, Juice, Fresh Fruit, Local Maple Syrup 	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> New England Baked Fish Sandwich, WG Bun, Oven Fries, Maple Baby Carrots, Salad Bar  Option: Tuna Salad