

# Focus on Teaching and Learning

Last year at about this time the school began the process of building this year's budget. As seems to be the case every year, we were looking at ways to continue to improve as a school while keeping the cost of education affordable. We eyed the goals in the strategic plan, now in its final year, that we had yet to accomplish. In each of the previous four years our goal was to create two positions. One which could focus on our curriculum as its primary role, the other to assist students with improving their writing in the middle school. Neither position was included in any of these years' budgets in order to lower the increase of that year.

Again, last year, we were faced with similar increases as the years prior, as well as the anticipated increase associated with hiring a new Superintendent. As a school and Board we began to see opportunity where previously we had seen a mounting challenge. The solution was, as many of you know, to restructure the administration, avoid the impending increase, and use the savings to offset the cost of the two strategic plan goals. As a result of this we established the position of Academic Director and in the spring hired Elise Foxall, an experienced teacher who had most recently been teaching in Austria, and who previously taught in Hanover at the Richmond School, as well as India, Ecuador and Chili.

As our new Academic Director, Elise has been busy getting to know the Lyme School, its teachers, students, and our academic program. In the most general terms, her role is to oversee teaching and learning at our school.

In addition to Elise's work mentoring our new teachers in their transition to a new school, and providing feedback and outside perspective to our veteran teachers, she oversees our curriculum development process and helps align our instruction to national grade level targets. In her role, she researches and shares best practice in K-8 education, organizes our professional print and digital resources for the teachers, and ensures we examine and apply the most up to date instructional research. Her work will also include monitoring and analyzing student data to continue to push our practices and programs to meet the varying needs of all our students.

This role, and the talent that Elise brings to it, have already made a difference. We are embarking on a long standing effort to bring engineering and innovation to our school by means of robotics and "maker" programs. This effort will be funded in part by a grant recently offered by NH Department of Education. Elise is also assisting middle school teachers with an initiative they began last spring to establish an advisor program whose goals are to build broader relationships, provide a direct point of contact for parents, and practice effective resolution and communication skills among our middle school student body.

While the changes to NH legislation, debate of High School funding models and the challenges inherent in any organization can divert our time from the work of improving our instruction, our new administrative configuration has proven it can confront these challenges, while keeping our focus on what made us love this work, helping our students learn about themselves and the skills that allow them to investigate, discover, and contribute to the world around them.



## Learning to Appreciate the Outdoors Around US

In a town in which 93% of the land is held in conservation and current use, it might not come as a surprise that our school values the incredible resource around us. Several years ago Trish Gautreau partnered with the Conservation Commission and other agencies to establish "Forest Fridays" in which 3rd graders spend every Friday all year round learning in their outside classroom in the Big Rock preserve. The following year, Steven Dayno and Skip Pendleton joined their classes in an activity they call "Wind, water and weather" which has the 4th and 6th grades outside collecting data in the Grant Brook Trail area of town. This year Mindy Lyons is working with Ms. Gautreau to bring a similar experience of "Forest Friday" to the Kindergarten. This past week our entire middle school and the entire lower school took a half day to hike two of our local mountains as classes for decades have done before them.







# THANK YOU!

To everyone who joined us at our open house and a special thank you to our awesome

Chef Larry

for putting together a great sampling of his talent and our local farms





The next American Red Cross Babysitting Certification class will be offered on Saturday, October 28, 2017 from 8:30am to 3:30pm at the Lyme Congregational Church. The cost is \$28.00. Scholarships are available. Students must be at least 11 years old and must attend the entire session to receive their certification. Class size is limited to 8 students; a minimum of 4 students is needed to offer the class. All participants should bring a morning snack, a bag lunch and a water bottle. Please call the church office at 795-2850 if you are interested or email the class instructor, Lorry Kenton at [lorry.kenton@gmail.com](mailto:lorry.kenton@gmail.com). This class is popular and tends to fill quickly so register soon.



Congratulations to the PTO directory art contest winners : Mauve Donegan, Ellie Knaus, Elsie Prince, and Isaac Prince! Several additional student art submissions are also included in this year's directory. Directories will be distributed this week to those who ordered them. We will also have some copies for sale in the school office for \$8.00 while they last!



### Lyme Pumpkin Festival

On Saturday October 28, 2017 Lyme will hold its annual Pumpkin Festival at 10:00 am a costume parade will start

off around the common lead by the Lyme Town Band. After the parade prizes will be awarded for the biggest pumpkin in the following categories: pre-school- grade 1, grades 2-4 and grades 5-8. There will be goodie bags for all of the children.

Bring a pumpkin baked item to the common by 9:30 for judging!! Please label with bakers name and item name.

And for the 2nd year.... The Pie Eating Contest!!!

Please reply to [emilougray@aol.com](mailto:emilougray@aol.com) if you are interested in competing, or stop by and sign up at the pie table before the parade on the 28th!

**We are always looking for volunteers!! If anyone is interested please contact Emi Gray at 795-9970**



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**OCTOBER 15TH, FROM 1- 4PM**  
Westshire Elementary School 744  
Rte. 113, West Fairlee, VT

### THE SECRET LIVES OF CATERPILLARS

Caterpillars are wondrous creatures that keep hidden from everyday view. They are easily overlooked, but their secret lives are surprising and busy! Caterpillars are present in tremendous diversity and you will be enchanted by what you see and learn about these little critters at this acclaimed live-animal program.

Admission Free - Children & adults of all ages welcome - Refreshments

*Proudly sponsored by the West Fairlee & Thetford Conservation Commissions*  
Questions? Please contact Peggy Willey: 333-4155 or Libby Chapin: 333-9308




Contact me at: [JValence@LymeSchool.org](mailto:JValence@LymeSchool.org)  
Phone: 795-2125 or just stop by.






**Menus**

Week of **10/16 to 10/20** • Week of **10/23 to 10/27**

Al a carte Fruit and Milk are available everyday



<b>Monday</b> 	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> Egg Noodle, Alfredo with Grilled Local Chicken Garlic Bread Glazed Carrots & Parsnips Fresh Fruit  Option: BYO Salad	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> <b>Brunch!</b> Texas French Toast Local Maple Syrup Home Fries Applewood Smoked Bacon Fresh Fruit  Option: BYO Salad
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>HOT LUNCH</b> "Power House Chili" with Local Beef, Fresh Southwest Corn Bread Salad Bar Fresh Fruit   Option: Tuna Salad on WG	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> Han & Cheese Melt on WG Bread Potatoes au Gratin Corn on the Cob Mandarin Oranges  Option: BYO Salad
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> Cheese Pizza or Chef's Choice Sautéed Vegetables Salad Bar Fresh Fruit, Juice  Option: Turkey & Cheese on WG Bread	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> Cheese Pizza or Chef's Choice Peas, Parsnips & Carrots Salad Bar Fresh Fruit  Option: Egg Salad on WG Bread
<b>Thursday</b> 	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> Hearty Beef Stew with Local Top Round of Beef Root Veggies WG Dinner Roll Fresh Fruit  Option: BYO Salad	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> Chef's Homemade Corn Chowder Garlic Dinner Rolls Oyster Crackers Tortellini Pasta Salad Fresh Fruit  Option: BYO Salad
<b>Friday</b>	<b>HOT LUNCH:</b> Baked WG Chicken Fritters Baked Fries Sautéed Green Beans Salad Bar Fresh Fruit  Option: Egg Salad	<b>HOT LUNCH</b> Sweet & Sour Pork Loin Steamed Oriental Vegetables Vegetarian "Fried" Rice Salad Bar Fresh Fruit  Option: Turkey WG Bread

Hot Lunch Discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. "In accordance with Federal law and US Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."