

EAST LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EXPOSITION OF EVENTS

June 2012
Volume 2, Issue 5

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

As the 2011-2012 school year comes to an end, we celebrate the incredible work of our teachers, staff, students and community members, whose dedication and support of our schools continues to excel in so many ways. Join us as we honor 17 of our staff members for their unique contributions to this year's East Lyme education experi-

ence. Enjoy reading about Niantic Center's Pizza Fractions experience, Lillie B. Haynes' "Gotta Keep Reading" week, and Flanders' Pride Night celebration. Be amazed, as I was, by the complex science experiment developed by four East Lyme Middle School scientists, an accomplishment that will soon be on its way to the International Space Station. Be sure to

notice the fascinating article on our high school archaeology students' recent excavation. I hope you enjoy these and many more articles as the summer season begins. Again, thanks to all of East Lyme for continuing to support our students and schools.

Dr. James D. Lombardo
Superintendent of Schools



2012 EAST LYME STARS AWARDS

On May 30th, East Lyme Public Schools honored the 2012 East Lyme Stars recipients during a reception held at East Lyme Middle School. Nominated by their peers, these individuals are recognized for their substantial contributions to the welfare and learning of East Lyme's children for the 2011-2012 school year.

CONGRATULATIONS EAST LYME STARS!

Liz Brouillard
Samantha Cregger
Chris Discordia
Paul Formica
Anita Fravel
Deb Galasso
Susan Gallant
Monica Gerlach
Dencie Guindon
Steve Hargis
Joe Kelly
Cindi Meek
Linda Nastri
Glenn Penkofflidbeck
Mike Ritz
Annette Thomas
Lisa Vaudreuil
Carla Voitovich

Language Arts Teacher
Science Long Term Substitute
Teacher (Grade 4)
First Selectman
Art Teacher
Science Teacher
Instructional Aide
Technology Consultant
Substitute Teacher
Athletic Director
Science Teacher
Account Clerk
Science Teacher
Science Teacher
Volunteer
Bus Driver
Teacher (Grade 3)
Library Media Specialist

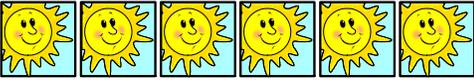
Middle School
Middle School
Niantic Center School
Town of East Lyme
Middle School
Middle School
Flanders School
Niantic Center School
Lillie B. Haynes School
High School
Middle School
Middle School
Middle School
Middle School
Middle School
First Student
Flanders
Middle School



Award Recipient
Christopher Discordia



ELMS Award
Recipients



FLANDERS PRIDE NIGHT

East Lyme Public Schools

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East Lyme Public Schools will inspire, engage and educate each student to become a contributing citizen and a responsible, independent, and critical thinker.

Thank you to our staff who contributed articles for this edition.



Flanders School held its 4th annual PTA-sponsored Pride Night on May 10th. Many parents, children, friends and family came together to celebrate the talents of our Flanders School students. The evening showcased student art work, video/media presentations, songwriting, and dance performances.

The art work on display around the building demonstrated various sculpture, painting, and drawing techniques that were taught by Art Teacher Mrs. Keller. All students displayed at least one piece of art work that was made in school, and had the opportunity to display something that was made at home.

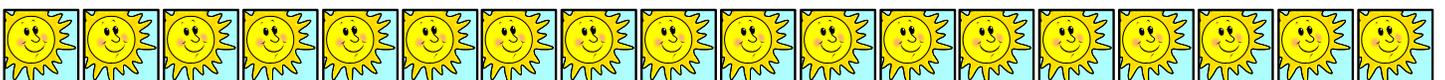
Songwriters, En-Hua Holtz (fourth grade) and Spencer Stanley (3rd grade) performed original songs complete with amazing lyrics. Accompanying Spencer was third grader, Zach Cabral, on drum set. All commented on the maturity of the talent of these two young song crafters.

Ms. Lima, our Physical Education Teacher, and her students brought a lot of excitement to the show with their dance numbers. Library Media Specialist Mr. Mullen had students demonstrate the power of technology and how it is used by elementary students through "Prezi" presentations.

All in all, the evening proved to be a huge success! We thank our Flanders parents, students and especially our PTA for their support of the arts here at Flanders!

Submitted by: The Flanders Arts Team

*Congratulations to
East Lyme
Middle School
for being named the
Connecticut Middle School
of the Year for 2012 -2013*



SENIORS FROM ELHS DIG HISTORY

Every year since 1998, East Lyme High School has sent a representative group from its senior class out into the local community to do an archaeological dig. This anthropology elective allows students a six-week field study with this past fall finding our seniors investigating an old house and grounds on Upper Pattaganssett Road near the high school. Thousands of artifacts were uncovered from many different time periods, but greatest attention was paid to those of 18th century vintage as our mission statement specifically focused on the possibility that the 1820 home we were invited to investigate could very well prove older than previously thought.

Test pits around the home, barn, root cellar and graveyard produced coins from 1714 and another from 1758, along with some early rose head nails dating from that same period. Evidence of fire, that at one time may have claimed the original structure, was also found. Dr. Pfeiffer, a local archaeologist who frequently works with the class, indicated that the metal work, masonry, and the foundation of the home dated back to the 1700's. Several gravestones that were curiously inserted into that old



foundation made students wonder...Could this be the town's early "pest house," a place where victims of contagious diseases once went to die as suggested by oral tradition? The fact that the Pest House Cemetery (one of 19 cemeteries found in the Town of East Lyme) was located close to the house suggested that may have very well been the case. Students cleaned brush and weeded the area, finding gravestones that had been toppled or had been presumed lost. Two gravestones will soon be repaired and resurrected, courtesy of the East Lyme High School Anthropology program.

Submitted by:
James Littlefield, Teacher

EAST LYME HIGH SCHOOL

Biology Joins Anatomy and Physiology to Study the Human Body

During the 2011-2012 school year, Ms. Blank's Biology class joined Ms. Hiltz's Anatomy and Physiology class on two occasions to share what they were learning of the human body. Students from both classes enjoyed the opportunity to share the work they were learning with one another.



On the first occasion, students discussed the human skeletal system. Using samples of different bones and skulls, the students shared what they had learned about shapes and functions of bones. Students were asked to decide how the shape of the bone helps perform its function in the body, and this opportunity helped students prepare for an upcoming

exam.

The second occasion involved a demonstration by Anatomy and Physiology students of the dissection of a sheep brain. Students were shown the dissection and they identified parts of the brain and their functions. The Biology students were able to handle the brain, identify the parts and review their functions as they had learned in their own class. This was an excellent opportunity for the Biology students to participate in an activity they would not have otherwise had the opportunity to engage in with their peers.



Submitted by: Mary Ann Blank, Teacher

ELMS BIG BLUE TEAM CELEBRATIONS

The 8th grade Big Blue team at East Lyme Middle School shared in many celebrations this year. For one, students were recognized with Big Blue Wave Awards, given out year-round to individuals for exceptional behavior or achievements.

Big Blue students celebrated East Lyme's veterans in November with a very special project. Social studies classes created a timeline to mark every conflict with North American involvement since colonial times. Students summarized each conflict and then charted the names of the East Lyme citizens who served in the conflict using documents provided by various sources. Meanwhile, Language Arts classes read documents relating to East Lyme cemeteries and even watched clips of *Our Town* to tie the message of the community into the history of our town and the United States. The entire team visited Old Stone Church Cemetery on Veterans Day and placed red carnations on the graves of the veterans. At that time, students also received lessons in our town's history from several



notable local historians and veterans, who told stories about specific East Lyme vets and showed students monuments in the cemetery.

****Pi Day****

♠ To celebrate Pi

Day in March, Big Blue Math classes participated in a variety of activities, including a contest reciting as many digits of Pi as possible, creating artistic representations of Pi (such as "Pi-Napple"), and of course, a Pi pie eating contest.

In addition to our graduation celebrations, Big Blue ended the year with an exciting field trip to the Smith Harris House to celebrate the students' successful completion of Civil War studies. The program, generously created by the folks at the Smith Harris House, included songs from the Civil War by folk musician Rick Spencer, historical re-enactments of people and events, a clothing lesson demonstrating Civil War era dress, and more.

Big Blue faculty congratulates their fabulous students who will be graduating from East Lyme Middle School and would like to note that East Lyme High School should be celebrating the amazing students they will have as freshmen next year!

Submitted by : Amanda Just, Teacher



PIZZA FRACTIONS AT NIANTIC CENTER

While learning about fractions, Niantic Center School's first graders worked with Ms. Manwaring, head of our kitchen, and Mrs. Leville, Director of Dining for Chartwells, to make their own whole pizzas.

Before creating their pizzas, students had to do some predicting as the

number of equal pieces (parts of a whole) their pizza would be cut into. Next, they had to write the name of that fraction (whole, halves, thirds and fourths) and draw a circle cut into the fraction they had predicted.

Once the pizzas were cooked, they were then cut into various fractions. Students recorded the fractions their pizza was cut into and recorded their information on the "Pizza Fraction" sheet. When they were finished, they proudly ate their pizzas for lunch.

The children eagerly completed their tasks and appeared to enjoy this hands-on learning experience. Even Dr. Lombardo seemed to enjoy himself as he made a special cheese and broccoli pizza for Mrs. DeLoreto.

(She thought it was delicious!)

In addition to learning about fractions, students learned key components of a nutritional lunch and the planning that occurs to ensure that each lunchtime meal meets the federal nutritional guidelines.

Submitted by: Diane Swan, Teacher



NIANTIC CENTER REMEMBERS A SPECIAL STUDENT



This past month brought a wonderful smile to many faces at Niantic Center School. Teachers, students, and visitors could see the progress made on the garden behind our school. The hard work and daily efforts came from a group of fourth graders that enlisted classroom helpers to till soil, pull weeds, and remove rocks from an existing garden that had seen better days. The students worked together cooperatively. They laughed, they joked, and they had no time to argue as they began what became a labor of love. After a few days, a pretty garden emerged and with the generous donation of plants from Smith's, a young girl who meant so much to so many was remembered once again in a rededication. It truly touches our hearts and makes us proud to remember Leah Beyer.

The paragraph below was read by Mrs. McCabe at the rededication celebration.

Dear Niantic Center School Friends,

We gather today in this beautiful garden to honor the spirit of one of our

students that is no longer with us named Leah Beyer. You did not know her but many of you know Leah's brother Richey. He is a third grader, a hard worker and a great friend to many students. Several years ago his beautiful sister, Leah, passed away and went to heaven. Like her brother, she was a very kind and caring friend that brought smiles and happiness to others. When she left this earth, her classmates created this garden to honor her. Over time and use, the garden lost some of its beauty. Because Leah's sunshine and spirit is honored here, several students embarked on a mission to rejuvenate the garden. This garden is a result of their efforts. Today the garden honors Leah and gives us a place to come and create happy memories of fun and laughter that Leah would be proud of. Today we rededicate this garden that will bloom for many years in hopes that friendship, kindness, and respect will also bloom here.

Submitted by:
Angel McCabe, Teacher



"GOTTA KEEP READING" AT LBH

"Seeing how eager the students were to share their words was simply magical," said Master Word Wizard, Nick Kasprzak, a Special Education Tutor at Lillie B. Haynes.

According to the National Reading Panel, students should be actively involved in thinking about and processing new words. Throughout the distinctive week, students and staff used various lessons and experiences to encourage students to value vocabulary knowledge.

Each morning, BNN (Bee News Network) greeted the students with the familiar song "Gotta Keep Reading" and celebrity readers. First Selectman Paul Formica, Retired Town Clerk Esther Williams, retired LBH's Library/Media Specialist Carol Day and East Lyme Public Schools Superintendent Dr. James Lombardo delighted the children by reading various poems and stories. Christina Cody, a children's author, shared her process for choosing *just right words* for her popular books. In fourth grade, author MJ Allaire, discussed the significance of *word choice* and how it helped her to connect with the readers five senses.

On Friday afternoon, after enthusiastically taking part in a real magic show, all the students were thrilled to grow from apprentices to become real word wizards themselves. "Word Wizards Week added an enchanting spin to the education and success of our students at Lillie B. Haynes," the Master Word Wizard concluded as children left the Town Meeting wearing their exquisite hats.



Submitted by: Andrea Sadler, Language Arts Consultant

NIANTIC CENTER 4TH GRADE SPRING CONCERT



On the evening of Thursday, May 24th, the 4th grade students presented their final concert of the year. It was a wonderful evening showcasing the musical talents of the students.

This year the 4th grade students were instructed by Instrumental Music Teacher Nick Stellner on the violin, clarinet, and trumpet. Featured in this portion of the concert were student essays on the three instruments, informative presentations of the instruments, and instrument demonstrations. It provided a remarkable sampling to the audience of all the hard work the students have done through the year in their instrumental music classes. Following the instrumental portion

of the concert, the children presented a variety of songs, Directed by General Music Teacher Eileen Newton. Their selections included patriotic music, theme songs from musicals, and their favorite, "Rockin' Robin," featuring Mr. Stellner on drums. There were also featured solos, duets, small groups, and narrations. The 4th graders have shown excellent progress throughout the year.

Best wishes to all of the students as they continue their musical endeavors at the middle school!

Submitted by:
Eileen Newton & Nick Stellner,
Teachers



SCIENCE SPECTACULAR LILLIE B. HAYNES

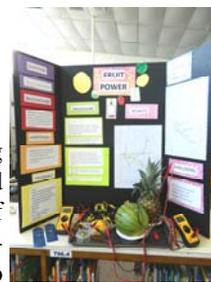
On Thursday, May 17, Lillie B. Haynes held its fifth *Science Spectacular*. This annual event brings together students and families in the celebration of science. The idea for the *Science Spectacular* came from Lillie B. Haynes parent, Raji Kurumbail, five years ago when it was an evening event, and has since grown into a several week science investigation project.

The kickoff to the *Science Spectacular* was held in April when third and fourth grade students were invited to complete their own science investigation. These were presented through projects which arrived at school last week and were on display in the media center during the Spectacular. The student scientists asked and answered such ques-

tions as: *How does temperature effect a ball's bounce? How does increasing the height of a ramp effect how far a ball rolls? and Which cereal stays crunchiest in milk?* Students worked through the scientific process with each investigation: asking a question, forming a hypothesis, testing the hypothesis, and sharing their conclusion. The results were fascinating!

The final day of *Science Spectacular* involved students sharing their projects with peers as well as parents coming into classrooms to lead students in various science activities. Under the leadership and organization of Haynes parent, Kim Fennell, students explored density and solved a "crime" using forensic science. Students created wave machines, tested which items sank or floated, and even dusted for fingerprints. Students were heard saying that it was the best day of school ever!

The day long event culminated with an "Evening of Science," which allowed parents to view all of the third and fourth grade projects but also brought the high school into the action. Under the guidance of East Lyme High School teachers, Lori Singer and Sam Harfenist, high school students facilitated hands-on science activities for our Haynes students. This year, children created silly putty, sampled honeycomb candy, tested physics with inertia tricks and a marble run, and were awed with a chemistry magic show. There were even live birds on the playground and rockets zooming through the air! Over 350 people attended this year's event.



Submitted by: Kara Arnold, Teacher

ELMS RACE TO SPACE!

East Lyme Middle School is excited to update you with the latest news on our Student Spaceflight Experiment Program (SSEP). Our 5th and 6th grade students spent 6 weeks researching and developing experiment proposals that examined the effects of microgravity aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

Throughout this process, we were also hard at work fundraising to reach our goal of \$20,000 to cover the cost of participation in this program. We were supported by Pfizer, CT Space Grant, and Dominion. In addition, we received many personal donations from parents and community members. Without the overwhelming support from our parents, this program would not have been possible.

Our highly successful "Race to Space Night" was held on Thursday April 19th and attended by over 1,000 people. More than 100 student teams presented their proposals to a panel of 22 judges. Our judging panel was made up of school board members, science teachers, school administrators, and science professionals from our surrounding community.

Of the over 100 proposals submitted, our judging panel selected three finalists whose proposals were sent to the Washington D.C. based Step 2 review board at SSEP. The three excellent proposals all looked to examine how they could improve life aboard the ISS. One wanted to examine healthy bacterial growth in milk as a possible fresh food source. Another looked at the possibility of growing mushrooms.

The Step 2 review board convened in May and officially selected a winner on May 31st. A team of 5th grade students from Glenn Penkoff Lidbeck's science class were pronounced the winners. Students Noah Barnhart, Brandon Hall, Nick Hyde, and Makaih Olawale designed an experiment to examine the effects of hydrogen peroxide on mold growth in a microgravity environment. The boys hope to discover a safe cleaning solution for astronauts aboard the ISS.

The experiment is set to be flown to the ISS late September aboard the second commercial rocket flight to the ISS in U.S. history. This summer we will begin fundraising efforts to send our winning group to the rocket launch. Please contact Carla Weitovich if you would like to help: Carla.Weitovich@eastlymeschools.org



Submitted by: Carla Weitovich, Library/Media Specialist

The SSEP on-orbit educational research opportunity is enabled through NanoRacks LLC, which is working in partnership with NASA under a Space Act Agreement as part of the utilization of the International Space Station as a National Laboratory.



that includes teaching behavioral expectations across school settings and with the use of common language. This year's successes have included completion of the three year training, being featured on Channel 3's "Cool Schools", and a presentation at the statewide coaches' meeting.

We are in our second full year of implementing PBIS, and the PBIS team has completed the third and final year of training. Recently, we had our annual visit and evaluation. Nancy Mercer, the LEARN Program & SW-PBS Coordinator, toured the school

LBH IS A "COOL SCHOOL"

Lillie B. Haynes continues to utilize Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Our school community has collaborated to develop a framework

and interviewed 10 adults and 15 students, which included inquiries about expectations and recognition of positive behavior. Lillie B. Haynes received a 100%, indicating that both adults and students understand and apply our school rules of *kindness, respect, and responsibility*.

Our school was also recognized on "Cool Schools." The feature included our impressive BNN News Show, our PBIS Bee Buck System, our well-mannered cafeteria, our inquisitive trout explorers, and the earth-conscious Big Sac recycling program. Kindergarten through fourth grade students were filmed, capturing a truly positive school environment.

Also, three team members (Alicia Rose, Stacia Halko, and Nick Kasprzak) presented at the PBIS statewide coaches' meeting. The presentation focused on the collaborative community of Lillie B. Haynes. Team members shared successes, challenges, and future plans for continuing to create a positive school climate for all students and adults.

We are proud of our accomplishments and the positive impact the PBIS Program has made on our learning community.

Submitted by: Alicia Rose, Occupational Therapist

THE VIKING PRINT SHOP AT EAST LYME HIGH SCHOOL

A very successful revision of the graphics curriculum took place at the high school this semester. Using the Partnership of 21st Century Skills as a framework for change, the traditional introductory graphics curriculum has been transformed to a hands-on *Graphics Design for Production* course whereby students create and produce a wide variety of custom designed products. Students can now make real world connections as they gain an understanding of why they need certain technology skills to complete a customer's order.

The Viking Print Shop is an innovative idea developed by Technology Education Teacher, Rachel Redding, who has a professional background in commercial graphics design. She observed that traditional classroom assignments were not always motivating students to use 21st century skills of critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. "I developed the Viking Print Shop to give students real life experiences and to help them understand how the business world works," said Ms. Redding. "Students can take an idea to a completed project."

Although The Viking Print Shop is in



its infancy, it has had many customers this spring. In-district customers include the ELHS Athletic Department, Flanders School, and individual teachers. Other school districts, such as Guilford and Old Saybrook have placed orders, as well as the corporations Pfizer and Prudential Realty. East Lyme Town Soccer and East Lyme Little League are two of the community agencies who have also placed orders. A website is under development for marketing and sales for the coming school year.

There are many products to choose from, and the offerings continue to grow! All graphic design work is custom and created by students under the direction of Ms. Redding. The Viking Print Shop began with holiday cards, mugs, and water bottles, followed by coasters, magnets, posters, bumper stickers, logos, invitations, and tickets. In addition to these items, customers can order custom designed items such as canvas bags, clothing, and hats.

Through authentic project-based learning, students now learn how to define the

problems associated with each job, understand their clients' needs, and plan for technology requirements. Students and teacher brainstorm techniques and solutions for each production, as they evaluate and refine prototypes in quick iterations to enhance and improve the overall solution. Students are also learning 21st century career and life skills including

leadership, self-direction, flexibility, and accountability through the revised curriculum. For example, students are responsible for aspects of business management, and they will be supported by accounting students in the fall with writing proposals and tracking finances.

The Viking Print Shop has been so successful that classroom space has had to be expanded to accommodate all of the production activity. Supporting these efforts, Mr. Susi has allocated and upgraded space to handle requirements of many types of printers and machinery.

Most importantly, students like this new way of learning technology using 21st century skills in an authentic, hands-on environment!

Submitted by:
Marie Shaw and Rachel Redding,
Teachers

CONGRATULATIONS TO ELHS DRAMA STUDENTS CONNECTICUT HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC THEATER AWARDS

The East Lyme High School Drama Club's production of *Legally Blonde* recently earned three nominations from the Connecticut High School Music Theater Awards. Participating school actors from around the state were judged during their live performances. From there, the judges compared the performance against other competing high school drama productions. The judges then announce their nominations with the actors being invited to the awards gala. The awards gala, a black tie event, was held at the Palace Theater in Waterbury on Monday, June 4th.

The actors nominated were: Outstanding Supporting Female Actor – **Emily Young**, Outstanding Ensemble Member – **Megan Minucci**, and Outstanding Ensemble Group – **Skylar Bowers, Miranda Mugovero and Kaley Roberts**.

Congratulations to **Emily Young**, WINNER for Outstanding Supporting Female Actor and **Megan Minucci**, WINNER for Outstanding Ensemble Member.



We are proud of all of them for their hard work and dedication to their craft!

Submitted by: Kathy Martin, Administrative Assistant