

November 2014

Volume 4, Issue 1



Creativity and Innovation

EAST LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEWS & NOTES

Message from the Superintendent of Schools

Our fall issue of *East Lyme News and Notes* highlights the talented and inspiring new teachers and administrators who have joined us in East Lyme. Like schools all over the country, East Lyme is experiencing the retirement of our most experienced staff members, many of whom have been with us for more than thirty years. Our principals and hiring committees work hard each year to recruit and recommend the very best replacement teachers. This issue celebrates and welcomes our new staff.

Speaking of inspiration, one of East Lyme's hallmarks is the creative and innovative spirit of our teachers and students. This issue also celebrates many of the activities that our schools offer students. Read about how Flanders School has combined a focus on fitness with a program honoring our veterans. Enjoy learning how both Lillie B. Haynes and Niantic Center schools are encouraging students to focus on wellness as one way of performing better in their academic studies.

Our East Lyme Middle School is fea-

tured in a number of articles. Read about how ELMS is using a drone and a go-pro camera to spice up learning in a number of areas. Our ELMS science department has completed its first Project Oceanography tour, while the Sea Hawks have been studying algorithms as students try to solve the Rubik's Cube. Finally, you will enjoy reading about how cross country running has inspired more than 100 students to reach higher levels of fitness.

You will learn how ELHS art students have created incredible ceramic tiles to honor our veterans, while a new Maker Club has transformed a portion of the library into a flexible classroom and "maker space" where students engage in group projects that involve "brainstorming, tinkering, creating and innovating."

Thank you for your continuing support.

James D. Lombardo, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



East Lyme Public Schools News & Notes

CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

November 2014

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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.***



“One Life, One Flag, One Mile” Comes to Flanders Elementary School

As an incentive to honor local Veterans who joined us at the Flanders School Veterans Day All School meeting, Specials teachers Susan Parodi, Library Media Specialist; Roy Schryver, Music Teacher; Katie Lima, Physical Education Teacher; Lisa Keller, Art Teacher; and Beth Schultz, Technology Consultant joined forces to organize an all school program incorporating the inspiration of runner enthusiast Mike Ehredt in his personal tribute “One Life, One Flag, One Mile”.

In 2010, Mike ran 4,424 miles alone, from Astoria, OR to Rockland, ME placing 4424 flags, one every mile, for each casualty we endured in Iraq. In 2012 he ran another 2,146 miles and placed the same amount of flags in remembrance of every casualty in Afghanistan. We now have a wall of honor and gratitude stretching 6,570 miles across America!

To embrace a similar concept to honor our local Veterans, Flanders school Specials teachers planned an *All School Event* called “One Run, One Flag”. Students were sponsored by family members to run/walk for a 10 minute time period on the East Lyme High School track. The event took place on a beautiful fall afternoon and was kicked off by Mr. Wight’s class singing the Star Spangled Banner. Students zoomed off at the starting line and worked hard to run or walk for Veterans. Many children were walking for specific veterans, family members or friends. Every student wore a badge reading “I run for Veterans” and those that wished to specifically honor a veteran close to them had that veterans’ name added to their badge and that child in turn, dedicated their efforts that day to them.





ONE LIFE ONE FLAG ONE MILE

CONTINUED

At the completion of the event, every child was given a flag to place in the Memorial Garden outside of Central Office. This was the perfect way to end the tribute to all veterans, and to also signify Mike Ehredt in his effort to remember the service and dedication of veterans.

A total of \$1,675.00 was collected that day which will be donated to local veterans. Thank you to the students at Flanders School who worked hard to accomplish this goal, and to the generosity of the parents within the community. We had donations that were far reaching, including those whose family members living out of state decided to contribute by sponsoring a Flanders School student. The kindness of the community in which we live is inspiring and uplifting, and has no bounds as proven by the success of this program. We look forward to the *Flanders School All School Meeting* on Veterans Day, November 11, 2014 when we will present the donation to veterans and will Skype with Mike Ehredt to applaud him for his devotion. Finally, we applaud Flanders devotion to veterans as well.

Submitted by,

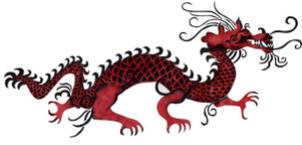
Susan Parodi, Library/Media Specialist

Roy Schryver, Music Teacher

Lisa Keller, Art Teacher

Kathleen Lima, Physical Education Teacher

Beth Schultz, Technology Consultant



ELMS Teachers Visit Xiangjiang School in Guangzhou China



On Wednesday, October 8th, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. James Lombardo; East Lyme Middle School Principal, Dr. Judy DeLeeuw; Library Media Specialist, Carla Voitovich; Math Teacher, Sean Ashburner; and Literacy Specialist, Nicole Burke traveled to Xiangjiang School in Guangzhou China.

During our visit we were able to share best practices in teaching with teachers at Xiangjiang through demonstration of lessons and observations. We shared our experiences with the Assured Research Project Program and Dr. DeLeeuw presented behavior management strategies, highlighting our successful PBIS program. During our first evening at Xianjiang, we were treated to a sampling of art and music demonstra-



tions by students and also were able to participate in a traditional tea ceremony. One of the most memorable moments of the trip was when we met with a group of 8th grade students who asked us dozens of questions about American culture, specifically about what the daily lives of our students are like.

As a result of our visit and the relationships we formed, we are planning on doing collaborative math and research lessons with the teachers and students from Xiangjiang. This will give our students a unique opportunity to share their ideas and culture with students from half way around the world.

*Submitted by,
Carla Voitovich, Library/Media Specialist*





Run to Glory™

at

Run to Glory™ Lillie B. Haynes Elementary School

It was a beautiful Friday morning on October 10th as our Haynes 4th grade students and their teachers boarded the school bus for their annual trip to the high school track where they participated in the One Mile Walk/Run Test.

Our students have been training for the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment since the start of the school year. The mile run is one of the four components of the assessment which also includes; push-ups, curl ups and flexibility. During their training, students learned how to pace themselves, breathe properly and gradually increase their running distances.

Throughout the One Mile Walk/Run Test, students were cheered on by many parents, classmates and Haynes Principal Dr. Miko. While each class and their teacher ran/jogged/ or walked the mile around the track, Mrs. Melissa Chiappone, our resident photographer, took class and individual photos.

Each student's ultimate goal this day was to achieve their personal best time. Enthusiasm was high and excitement on the part of the students was evident. To further inspire our students, a group of East Lyme High School PE students cheered as our runners passed them on the track.



At the completion of their run, each student cooled down by walking and stretching. Water and apples were provided to re-energize their bodies. David Day (Grade 4 student in Mrs. Ellal's class) was very excited to successfully complete his run and was quoted after he crossed the finish line, "my legs are a little sore and I am happy I finished and get to eat a healthy snack."

Following their return to Haynes School, each 4th grade student was asked to write a descriptive paragraph of that morning's experience at the high school track using all five senses. Each essay will be published and hung on the bulletin board in the school along with the student's picture for others to read and enjoy.

In summary, it was a picture perfect day, one that our Haynes 4th grade students will always remember as a highlight of being in elementary school. Hopefully, it will provide them with the knowledge and skills to continue practicing a healthy lifestyle.

"Nobody who ever gave his best regretted it" – George Hallas

Submitted by Judy Deeb, Physical Education Teacher





Body and Mind at Niantic Center School

Peek at the Niantic Center School playground on a crisp, chilly October afternoon. Five second-grade boys and girls cluster around pink and green hula hoops, trading advice on how best to keep the ring at their hips and not falling to the ground. They argue good naturedly back and forth.

Laughter sounds from nearby on the blacktop. Three children lurch to and fro on purple, orange, and green bucket stilts. A line circles the four-square grid while two fourth-grade girls hopping up and down yelling encouraging praise to their classmates in the squares.

Or, visit a bright kindergarten classroom in the afternoon sun. Tiny wriggling bodies stand, twisting like pretzels as they practice Brain Gym® exercises. Their hands clasp together, press, pull, hug, and stomp. In another exercise, they draw large figure eights, crossing their bodies with little hands. In less than two minutes, all 15 girls and boys bend back over their math activities.

And walk by the enormous bulletin board overflowing with multi-colored fish in the school's entry hallway. Students designed and created the fish as visual representations of their

uniqueness to tie in with the picture book, *Only One You*. The book served as a mentor text in a new thematic literacy unit integrating character education themes, reading, writing, math, social studies, and art.

Body And Mind

These snapshots of mornings and afternoons at NCS provide a glimpse into a yearlong, school-wide initiative called Body And Mind (BAM). In response to parent and staff surveys given in May 2014, we are committed to having a healthy and positive school environment. To this end, NCS created a multi-faceted program focusing on physical health, kinesthetic activities that stimulate the brain, school-wide celebrations, and thematic literacy units that tie into the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

In August, a committee comprised of the principal, teachers, and instructional staff began forming and planning the BAM initiative as a unique way to continue molding and fostering a positive environment at NCS. The elements of BAM have been rolled out during the first two months of the school year.



BAM Elements

B

A

M

In September, NCS kicked off BAM by reading *Have You Filled A Bucket Today?* This picture book explains that everyone travels through life with an invisible bucket. It introduces the concept of bucket fillers and dippers, those who practice kindness in many different ways and those who don't. In morning meetings, art projects, and opinion writing pieces, children talked, created, and explained what it meant to be a bucket filler. These discussions, activities, and curriculum projects will continue throughout the year.

In September, teachers and instructional staff introduced another element of the BAM initiative—healthy bodies—during two morning sessions on the playground. Children rotated between 10 stations at which the adults modeled how to use new playground equipment and play four square and hopscotch. In the two days, children in grades 1-4 played with new hula hoops, jump ropes, bucket stilts, basketballs, Frisbees, and hi-li baskets before being able to use the equipment at recess. In the coming months we will continue to support students as they learn to play these new games and use the new equipment.

Each day, in classrooms throughout NCS, children take part in brief Brain Gym® activities, which research has proven both calm and stimulate the brain to get it ready to learn (Ratey, 2008). Each activity is modeled for children first before they practice exercises that cross the body or require top-to-bottom coordination. The short activities release stress, expend excess energy, and enhance learning (Dennison & Dennison, 2010). As older students and adults can benefit, Brain Gym® activities will be included in the NCS *Friday Note* and in notices home from teachers.

In October, NCS held the first of five school-wide celebrations to highlight bucket-filling behaviors and student achievement. The celebration introduced BAM and a logo designed by art teacher June O'Connor. It also included Brain Gym® activities using technology, recognition of exemplary student writing, music, and a healthy lifestyle quote. The celebration was run by fourth-grade students.



In addition, NCS started a bi-monthly Bucket Book program. With it, every classroom receives a new mentor text, along with a teacher-created thematic unit. Books are carefully chosen to integrate themes found in *Have You Filled Your Bucket Today?* The unit includes a variety of close reading, writing, math, social studies, and arts lessons that incorporate CCSS. In October, each classroom introduced *Only One You*, and *Those Shoes* will be next. Every book also ties in with an ongoing character education initiative that began in the 2013-2014 school year.

We are excited about our new school initiative because as we know a healthy body plus a healthy mind helps to create a happy life!

Submitted by Kimberly Hill, Reading Recovery Teacher

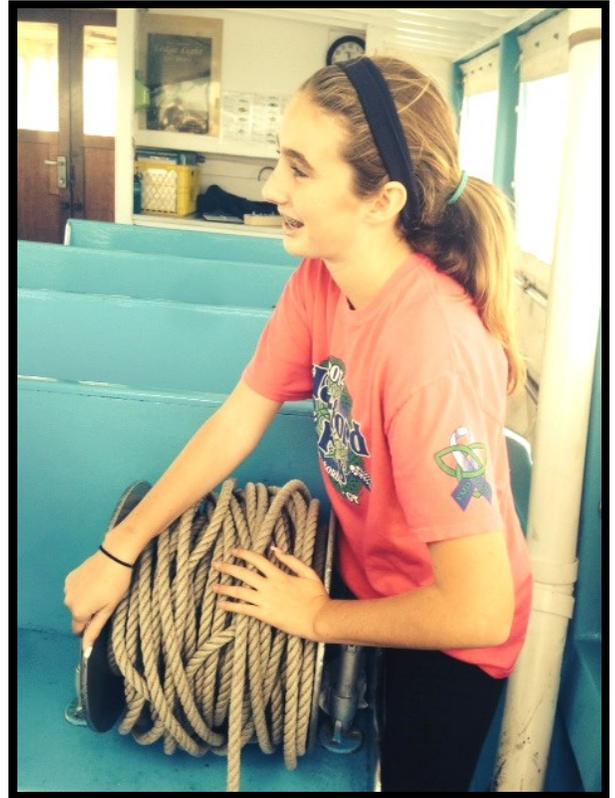


Project Oceanology

East Lyme Middle School

Thirty Breakers students traveled to Avery Point on October 15 for the first of three Project Oceanology field trips. The beautiful and warm day was perfect for the afternoon boat trip out to Long Island Sound, with the students using a variety of scientific instruments to analyze the water conditions and sea life found in our coastal waters. These field study excursions feature hands-on, minds-on marine science that supplements classroom curriculum. Students also actively participated in the morning laboratory activity, experimenting with density columns and learning about the properties of water and floating object in different densities.

The Project O lab programs model the science lab portion of Connecticut standardized testing, specifically the CAPT and CMT. The programs assist in understanding and applying basic concepts, principles, and theories of biology, chemistry, physics and earth sciences including ecology and their interrelationships. Recognizing and participating in scientific endeavors which are evidence-based and use inquiry skills leads to a



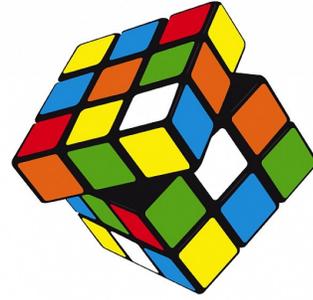
greater understanding of the world.

One third of the Breakers team attended the first trip, with two additional trips planned for the other students. Students and teachers are very appreciative for this opportunity which the East Lyme Schools offers them.

Submitted by Glenn Dewell, Science Teacher



SEA HAWKS SOLVING THE RUBIK'S CUBE AT ELMS



Sea Hawks students in Mrs. Stroebel's math class have been busy studying algorithms in order to solve the Rubik's Cube. The class set of Rubik's cubes was obtained from a grant through donorschoose.org. During the past two weeks, students have broken down the process of solving the six-sided figure. They have learned to get from the Extended Plus, to solving the Middle Layer, to the Blue Plus and finally to orienting the last Four Corners.



The best part of this exercise has been the sharing between students. These 6th graders are so excited when they accomplish a particular step, they want to share it and help other students get there. They have also learned to spend time analyzing something that initially was very frustrating. Through practice, patience and perseverance, these Sea Hawks have learned that they, too, can tackle and solve difficult problems.

Submitted by Laura Stroebel, Math Teacher



ELHS ART STUDENTS HONOR VETERANS



The Ceramics and Art Co-Op classes at East Lyme High School have created ceramic tiles in honor of Veterans Day. Every tile is unique and original, and made to hang on a wall. Students sketched their ideas first, and used a clay slab rolling technique to create the tiles. They were encouraged to choose clay surface designs that best suit the execution of their idea, such as transferring their drawings using a template technique, texture, carving, incising, and three-dimensional relief design. Students researched relevant imagery and ideas to serve as inspiration for their designs. The ceramic tiles will be donated as a gift of appreciation to veterans visiting East Lyme High School this Veterans Day.

Submitted by Eloise Gada, ELHS Art Teacher



MAKER MOVEMENT

The maker movement is a trend where people create items that are created using discarded or broken electronic parts or any product made from a computer-related device.

“MAKING” THINGS
HAPPEN
AT THE FRANCES
HART EWERS LIBRARY
EAST LYME HIGH

In the spirit of the current Maker Movement sweeping across the country, we have transformed a portion of our library into a flexible classroom and Makerspace. This space is intended for group projects that involve brainstorming, tinkering, creating and innovating. The Maker Club at the high school is a group of students responsible for hosting group projects related to some kind of creative, hands on activity. We will be inviting students from the community to participate in these afterschool projects and will be announcing a date very soon. We will be offering the following two projects for our first event in November: Christine Greeley and Maker Club students will be teaching us how to create paper flowers using Origami, and Dylan Miller and company will be hosting a project using Scratch, an online program to create stories, games and animations, to program and animate on the computer. Another student, Brian Chen, will be offering a workshop soon where he will be demonstrating how he built a light saber and will guide participants in creating one for themselves. Stay tuned for more information about this.



Throughout the school year, we will be collaborating with the East Lyme Public Library and the Salem Free Public Library as we add more projects to our event schedule. We are also interested in learning from experts outside of our school system and will be inviting them to visit our lab, or Skype with us if they are out of the local area, to talk about their own creations or innovations.

Some of the items we have available which students may tinker with are robotic kits, Arduinos (a sensory processor), Raspberry Pi (a microcomputer), a pen tablet for drawing on the computer and a 3D printer. We are also using Scratch and will be hosting a Minecraft event sometime this year. We are still a work in progress and are very excited about working with the other schools and libraries in East Lyme and Salem to promote critical thinking and encourage creativity in a non-traditional classroom setting.





MIDDLE SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY PROMOTES WELLNESS AND INDIVIDUAL GROWTH

In 1997, the East Lyme Middle School Cross-Country program was started as an intramural club by science teacher and coach, Joan Love. It was an instant success, and participation grew steadily over the first few years. Now, 17 years later, over 100 students (or 10-12% of the ELMS student body) join the team each year. For the past five years, Physical Education teacher, Josh Sheppard, has ably served as co-coach.

Now an interscholastic team, ELMS XC is a dominant force in regional meets. Each year, individual ELMS runners medal at the McGee Invitational and the CT Middle School Championships.



In recent years, both our boys' and girls' teams have placed in the top 5 in the state. Many of East Lyme High School's top runners began their careers in the ELMS Cross-

Country Program, including ELHS runner Vann Moffett, who finished 5th at the divisional championships this year and qualified for the State Open.

Despite these accomplishments, however, ELMS XC remains first and foremost a developmental program that focuses on wellness, individual progress and fun. The team is open to all students from all grades and fitness levels, and provides an excellent way for middle-schoolers to make new friends.

Throughout the season, students develop not only their fitness,

but their character. They work hard, look out for each other during practices, and encourage both their teammates and runners from other schools at meets. As always, in early November we will end our season with a party to celebrate each student's individual progress. They receive certificates noting their years of participation and specific accomplishments, along with a complete list of personal race times for the current and past years

The success of our program is truly a group effort. We are fortunate to have a core group of supportive parents, led by Pamela Kosinski, who assist in the running of our home meets and provide a hospitality table of healthy refreshments. We are also extremely grateful to the staff of the ELMS health room for their support.

Looking forward to another great season in 2015!

Submitted by Joan Love, ELMS XC coach since 1997



EYE IN THE SKY

East Lyme Middle School
has a new baby...
a Phantom quadcopter
and GoPro camera.

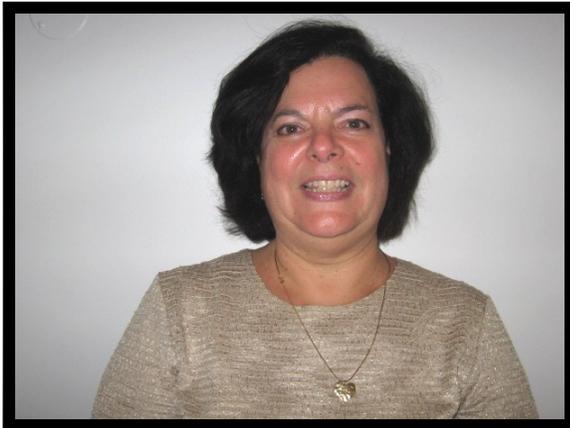


This aerial robot is relatively easy to fly and safe in the hands of supervised students. This amazing technology stimulates excitement in the students and captivates their interest. Not only is the quadcopter highly educational, it is also fun to fly!

Teachers in the Blue Crabs kiva are challenging themselves to integrate the Phantom quadcopter and GoPro camera into their lessons. This equipment can be used to explore the principles of physics and engineering in science. Students can consider how the weight and strength affect its ability to take off, how the friction and design of propellers affect flight, and how the GPS enables the quadcopter to know where it is. The camera can be used to explore the environment, for example, looking at how tree canopies change through the seasons. In math, students can explore quadratic equations through analysis of altitude of the quadcopter. In language arts and social studies, the camera will provide an aerial view of our environment and stimulate students to think about looking at things from a different perspective. So, if you see an unidentified flying object over ELMS, it's probably the Blue Crabs students flying the quadcopter.

Submitted by Michelle Jeff, ELMS Science Teacher

INTRODUCING OUR NEW TEACHERS



DONNA GITTLEMAN

**Interim Assistant Superintendent
East Lyme Public Schools**

Mrs. Gittleman is joining East Lyme Public Schools as an Interim Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Personnel for the 2014-2015 school year. Mrs. Gittleman recently retired from Cromwell Public Schools as the Director of Special Education and previously worked as a Special Education Director for Enfield Public Schools. Welcome Mrs. Gittleman!



KRISTEN ANDERSON

**Grade 2 Teacher
Lillie B. Haynes School**

Ms. Anderson is a graduate of Eastern Connecticut State University with a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. Ms. Anderson previously worked as a Pre-Kindergarten Teacher and Special Education Teacher at the Friendship School in Waterford. Welcome Ms. Anderson!



SHAYNE ANDERSON

**Math Teacher
East Lyme Middle School**

Mr. Anderson is a graduate of the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education and a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction. Mr. Anderson previously worked as an Intern for the Connecticut State Department of Education and as an Intern for Bulkeley High School in Hartford. Welcome Mr. Anderson!



ERIN BOHANNON

**Special Education Teacher
East Lyme Middle School**

Ms. Bohannon is a graduate from Sacred Heart with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and from Southern Connecticut State University with Master of Science in Special Education. Ms. Bohannon completed her student teaching in Westbrook and Madison schools. Welcome Ms. Bohannon!

INTRODUCING OUR NEW TEACHERS



NICOLE BURKE

Literacy Specialist

East Lyme Middle School

Ms. Burke is a graduate from Stonehill College with a Bachelor of Arts in English. Ms. Burke previously worked as a Language Arts Teacher and Reading Specialist in Middletown, CT after teaching in Hyde Park, VT. Welcome Ms. Burke!



KOLLEEN CALLAGHAN

Special Education Teacher

East Lyme Middle School

Ms. Callaghan is a graduate from Wheelock College with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary and Special Education and from Rutgers University with a Master of Education in Special Education. Ms. Callaghan previously worked as an Instructional Aide for East Lyme Public Schools and worked with students with disabilities in New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts. Welcome Ms. Callaghan!



ALISON DOMBROWSKI

Science Teacher

East Lyme Middle School

Ms. Dombrowski is a graduate from the University of Rhode Island with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology and from Quinnipiac University with a Master of Arts in Teaching and Secondary Education. Ms. Dombrowski completed her student teaching in New Haven and was an intern for both New Haven and North Branford Schools. Welcome Ms. Dombrowski!



COLLEEN FOSTER

Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher

East Lyme High School

Ms. Colleen Foster is a graduate of the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies and from Capella University with a Master in Counseling. Ms. Foster previously taught Family & Consumer Sciences in Greenwich, CT before joining the ELHS staff as a Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher. Welcome Ms. Foster!

INTRODUCING OUR NEW TEACHERS



ROBERT FOURNIER
Physical Education Teacher
Niantic Center School

Mr. Fournier is a graduate of Rhode Island College with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education. Mr. Fournier previously worked as Physical Education teacher in Norwich and Old Lyme and as a Varsity Baseball Coach for Stonington Schools. Welcome Mr. Fournier!



SARA GRIFFITH
Social Studies Teacher
East Lyme High School

Ms. Griffith is a graduate from the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary History & Social Studies Education and a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction. Ms. Griffith completed her student teaching in Glastonbury and was an Intern for the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford. Welcome Ms. Griffith!



KRISTEN GUERCIO
Math Teacher
East Lyme Middle School

Ms. Guercio is a graduate of SUNY Cortland with a Bachelor of Arts in Adolescence Math Education and from the State University of New York at Stony Brook with a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies. Ms. Guercio completed her student teaching in Smithtown New York. Welcome Ms. Guercio!



MARCELO GUINEZ
Spanish Teacher
East Lyme High School

Mr. Guinez is a graduate from Eastern Connecticut State University with a Bachelor of Arts in General Studies and Master of Arts in Bilingual Education. Mr. Guinez previously taught Spanish at Salem and Tolland Schools. Welcome Mr. Guinez!

INTRODUCING OUR NEW TEACHERS



CATHERINE INGRAHAM
Special Education Teacher
East Lyme High School

Ms. Ingraham is a graduate of Central Connecticut State University with a Bachelors of Science in Secondary English Education and a Master of Science in Special Education. Catherine previously worked for Region 16 and Cheshire Schools as a Special Education Teacher. Welcome Ms. Ingraham!



JACQUELINE KAPUSTA
Social Studies Teacher
Coastal Connections

Ms. Kapusta is a graduate of Western New England College with a Bachelor of Arts in History and from Sacred Heart University with a Master of Arts in Secondary Education. Ms. Kapusta was a History Long-Term Substitute Teacher and a Teaching Assistant for East Lyme Public Schools. Welcome Ms. Kapusta!



KRISTY MCFADDEN
Math Teacher
East Lyme Middle School

Ms. McFadden is a graduate of Indiana University with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Math Education. Ms. McFadden previously taught middle school math in Federal Way, WA. Welcome Ms. McFadden!



MICHELE MURPHY
Technology Education Teacher
East Lyme High School

Ms. Murphy is a graduate of the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Business Administration and from West Texas A&M with a Master of Business Administration. Ms. Murphy previously taught Technology Education for East Haven High School. Welcome Ms. Murphy!

Introducing our New Teachers



SUSAN PARODI

**Library Media Specialist
Flanders School**

Ms. Parodi is a graduate of the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies and from Southern Connecticut State University with a Master of Library Science. Ms. Parodi was the Young Adult Librarian and Head Children's Librarian for Old Lyme, CT. Welcome Ms. Parodi!



LAURA PLUMMER

**Math Teacher
East Lyme High School**

Ms. Plummer is a graduate of the University of Alabama with a Bachelor of Science in Education and Master of Arts in Education. Ms. Plummer previously taught Geometry at Cane Bay, South Carolina before coming joining the ELHS faculty. Welcome Ms. Plummer!



ROBERT REAS

**Art Teacher
East Lyme High School**

Mr. Reas is a graduate of Montserrat College of Art with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. Mr. Reas previous taught Art at Stamford Public Schools, Putnam Science Academy and Norwich Schools before joining the ELHS faculty. Welcome Mr. Reas!



DAWN RODEKOHR

**Grade 4 Teacher
Flanders School**

Ms. Rodekoher is a graduate of the University of Rhode Island with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Elementary Education. Ms. Rodekoher has worked for East Lyme Public Schools as a Teaching Assistant and Long-Term Substitute before joining the Flanders Staff as a Grade 4 Teacher. Welcome Ms. Rodekoher!

Introducing our New Teachers



AMANDA ROY
Grade 3 Teacher
Niantic Center School

Ms. Roy is a graduate of Hofstra University with a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education and English Creative Writing & Literature. Ms. Roy completed her student teaching and clinical experience in New York before joining the NCS staff as a Grade 3 Teacher. Welcome Ms. Roy!

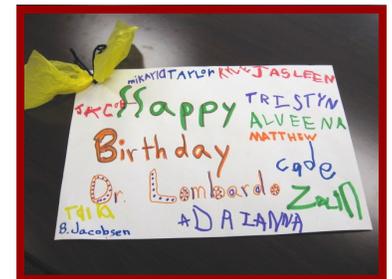


CASSANDRA SPAKOWSKI
Grade 1 Teacher
Flanders School

Ms. Spakowski is a graduate of Western Connecticut State University with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. Ms. Spakowski completed her student teaching in Danbury, CT and previously worked for Putnam Public Schools as a Long-Term Substitute Teacher before joining the Flanders School as a Grade 1 Teacher. Welcome Ms. Spakowski!



**Flanders' Kindergarten
Students Surprised
Dr. Lombardo
on His birthday!**



EAST LYME RANKS HIGH

Newsweek Magazine

2014 High School Ranking



East Lyme High School was ranked 228 nationally and sixth in the State of Connecticut based on a variety of AP exams, state assessment results, and college readiness.



We thank our students for their hard work, our K-12 teaching staff for their dedication to their students, and our parents who provide incredible support to our school district.

Best School Districts for Your Buck in Connecticut

By Karen Rosen (www.nerdwallet.com/blog/author/kamran/)

October 26, 2014

East Lyme Public Schools Recognized as One of the Best School Districts in Connecticut.

Article:

<http://www.nerdwallet.com/blog/cities/economics/best-school-districts-connecticut/>



Notification System for School Delays and Closings

East Lyme Public Schools utilizes the Parent Reach Emergency Broadcast System. This notification system enables us to contact parents, faculty, and/or students simultaneously in the event of an emergency closing or other important announcement. This system allows us to send an immediate telephone and/or e-mail message that provides important information about school plans, updates, and, when necessary, logistics for picking up your children in the event of an emergency.

What you need to know about receiving calls sent through the East Lyme Schools Emergency Broadcast System

- Caller ID will display 1-411-411-411 when the announcement is delivered.
- **The technology must hear a voice to deliver the message: Be sure to say “Hello” when you answer the phone. There will be a brief pause before you hear the message.**
- The system will leave a message on any answering machine or voicemail.
- The system will **not** call extensions.
- If you have Privacy Manager, the call will be blocked from your phone. Contact your phone service for unblocking procedures.

The successful delivery of information is dependent upon accurate contact information for each parent, so **please make certain that we have your most current phone numbers and e-mail addresses.** If your main telephone contact number or email address is not currently on file with the school or needs to be updated, please inform your school’s main office.