



SERVING THE LYME COMMUNITY FOR OVER 100 YEARS

THE LYME SCHOOL Newsletter

If you want **OTHERS** to be happy...
 practice compassion.
 If **YOU** want to be happy...
 practice compassion.
 - the Dalai Lama

Hey, Its February. (note the lack of an exclamation point)

As I listen to the radio or sit in on meetings it seems that the challenges we face, whether it is on a national or local scale, requires that people work together. Hope for any real solution is dependent upon a group of people from differing perspectives finding a way to understand each other's perspectives.

Every week I am presented with situations in which people are struggling to understand. One would presume this to be the case in an organization whose purpose is education. What may be surprising to some, is that more often than not, the pursuit of this understanding is not directed at understanding literature, writing, science, or math, it is the struggle to understand another human being. The source of frustration extends to relationships of any kind, adult and child.



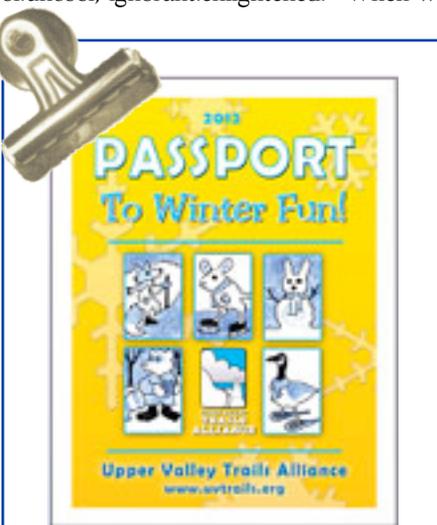
As a species, our ability to survive is a result of our ability to communicate and work in groups so that our collective efforts can accomplish greater challenges than individual efforts could accomplish alone. The irony is that even though the challenge becomes easier when you work as a group, working in groups can be significantly more difficult than working alone.

Schools are nothing if not a collection of different groups. Seemingly countless groupings of students, parents, educators and school members, are drawn together to shape the experience our children will have in their school -- each class is a group with its own culture and personality, influencing how well it functions.

There are many things which can make a group more or less effective. We have all worked in groups that seemed to gain momentum with every new obstacle, as well as, groups which had difficulty even sitting in the same room breathing the same air. Whether it is a class of students, a group of teachers, or a group of concerned citizens debating town issues, the ability and willingness of each individual to seek an understanding others' points of view will influence the group's outcome. Understanding provides the basis for respect; willingness to listen; willingness to contribute one's time, effort or ideas; and the basis from which we build our own capacity for compassion and empathy.



The challenge is that it is far easier to place people into generalizations, good:bad, friend:foe, us:them, liberal:conservative, cool:uncool, ignorant:enlightened. When we succumb to this weaker state, we see an increase of disrespectful behaviors, bullying, exclusionary grouping, cynicism, deteriorated trust or confidence and, ultimately, diminished potential for success. Avoiding the temptation to generalize in these ways may be the greatest challenge. It takes practice, which is why we focus on it in schools, among other places. Our ability to gain the mindset that enables us to work in diverse groups is one measure of our ability to succeed.



Fostering the willingness and capacity to understand differing perspectives and personalities is a skill learned through practice. This too requires the help of others who can remind us of what we are aspiring to be, to support our better efforts and discourage our weaker efforts. We are fortunate that we have many examples of success which we can use to encourage us and the freedom to choose to focus on those examples as opposed to the lesser alternatives.

For all these reasons it is a worthwhile effort to work on together, both at home and school, both with each other and our children. Together we can promote understanding and discourage behaviors that diminish others and ultimately, ourselves.



Smiling is encouraged

Awards for the whole Family..

Did you get your Passport.

Be sure to turn in your front flap to the office ASAP and start having Fun!





Lunch
Week of
2/13 to 2/17



CHaD Winter Carnival

Saturday, March 3rd
4 pm to 8 pm
Storrs Hill, Lebanon

Grab your friends and family and sign up for an evening of fun at CHaD's annual Winter Carnival! Saturday March 3rd from 4 to 8 p.m. at Storrs Hill in Lebanon. Go to www.chadwintercarnival.org to register.

This year's Carnival will be better than ever. For a change of pace, it will take place at Storrs Hill in Lebanon with skiing and boarding under the lights just for Carnival participants! It will be even more action-packed (an expanded return of the Snowbox Derby, ski jumping demonstrations, a running race to the top, and a torchlight parade!). It will be star-studded (our very own Hannah Kearney will be there helping out for CHaD kids!), and fun for everyone of all ages. In addition to skiing, riding, and snowbox racing, dinner is included, and there's throwing snowballs at targets, snowshoeing through the woods, and so much more!

CHaD kids need our fundraising help now more than ever. We are excited to also announce that money raised by kids will go twice as far due to a matching grant challenge! To encourage children to be inspired by the joy of giving, the Couch Family Foundation will match donations raised by kids for the 2012 CHaD Winter Carnival. Amazing!

Please rally yourselves and your friends to sign up and join in helping CHaD kids.
www.chadwintercarnival.org

Monday	Pasta w/ or w/out Sauce and Meatballs Green Beans Garden Salad Fresh Fruit
Tuesday	 Meat or Veggie Pizza Carrots Garden Salad Fresh Fruit Beef Pudding w/ whipped cream
Wednesday	Chicken Burger on a Bun lettuce, tomato, onion Pasta Salad Garden Salad Fresh Fruit
Thursday	 illed Chicken Breast Rice Stir-Fry Vegetable Garden Salad Fresh Fruit
Friday	Grilled Cheese Sandwich on white or whole wheat Chicken Noodle Soup Peas Garden Salad Fresh Fruit



ITS WORTH A SECOND REMINDER...

Be sure to turn in your front flap to the office ASAP and start having Fun!

RECEIVE ALL KINDS OF FREE STUFF...

ARE YOU STILL INSIDE READING THIS?.....

Contact the school or <http://www.uvtrails.org> for more information

**LYME NURSERY SCHOOL SPONSORING LOCAL COMEDIAN,
CINDY PIERCE!**

Dowd's Country Inn March 1st at 7pm
Adults only. Cash bar
\$35/ticket

email laughforkids@gmail.com for more information or to order tickets

VALENTINES DUCK SALE

Due to incredible demand, the Student Council is extending Valentine's Duck sales through to Monday the 13th, the day before Valentine's Day.

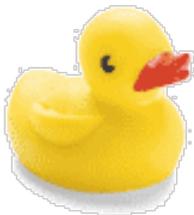
\$1.50 larger duck

~~\$1.00 smaller duck (Out of Stock)~~

(Duck will be delivered on Valentines Day)

Proceeds benefit the Humane Society

Kind gestures benefit everyone



Al a carte Fruit and Milk
are available everyday



Contact me at: JValence@LymeSchool.org
Phone: 795-2125 or just stop by.
You may print color copies of the Newsletters
at: www.LymeSchool.org



CONVERSE FREE LIBRARY

Plans are crystallizing for the winter family program
Saturday, February 25

9-9:30AM – Hot chocolate by the fire outside on the library lawn

9:30-10:30 AM – Debbie Miller talks about her book, Survival at 40 Below.

10:30-noon – Winter survival skills, science and crafts inside and outside the library.

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."



Happy VALENTINE'S
DAY