



SERVING THE LYME COMMUNITY FOR OVER 100 YEARS

THE LYME SCHOOL

Newsletter

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Principal's Report 2009 Part II

Excerpt from the Principal's Report which appears in the town's Annual Report. This is the final installment to appear in the Newsletter; Part I appeared in issue #18.

[At the Lyme School] we work to instill the idea that service to others is intrinsic to being a citizen of the United States. Service to others can take the form of contributing time or money, but it also involves modeling of the values that motivate the efforts: the demonstration of concern and respect for others. In this sense, service to others can be expressed through everyday acts of understanding and patience, appreciation and humility. Often these everyday acts are more challenging than the work required to raise awareness of or money for a cause.

Good citizenship and the pursuit of intellectual and personal growth require many of the same skills—the willingness to work hard, the ability to learn from one's experiences, and the ability to learn from those around you. And to these I would add one more: the understanding of how one's values influence perspectives and actions.

This past year we worked with students to develop the Lyme School's shared values:

- Respect for oneself and others
- Companionship and belonging
- Creativity and individuality
- Honesty
- Kindness
- Work ethic
- Fairness
- Responsibility

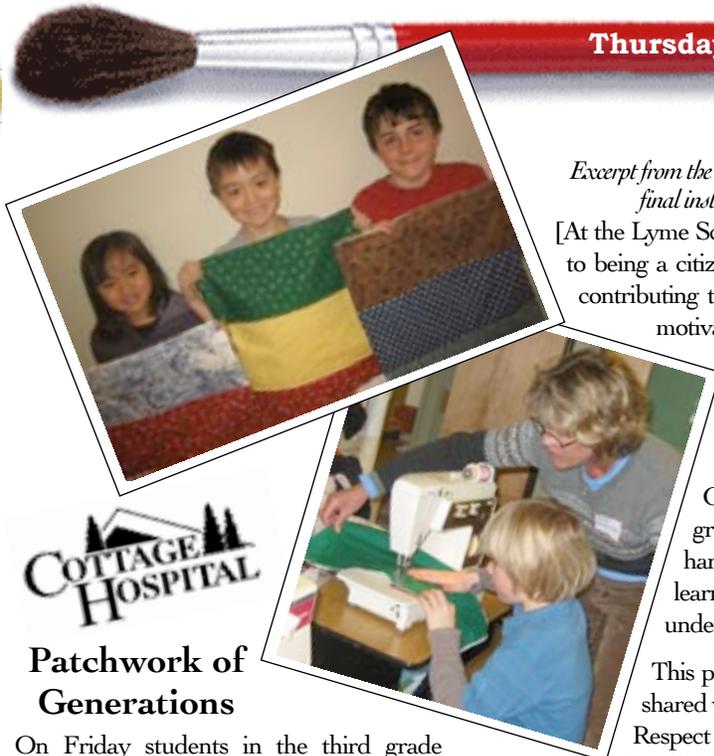
As part of the process we discussed the difference between ethics, morals, and values. We discussed how these can often conflict with one another, resulting in dilemmas. One of the most difficult types of dilemma is right versus right.

A right versus right dilemma is a situation in which one must choose between two or more options, each having its own ethical merits. Right versus right decisions often involve truth versus loyalty, individual versus community, short term versus long term, or justice versus mercy.

The right versus right dilemma is one that is quite common this time of year, as it is the time when we construct, debate, and vote for or against the school's budget. On one side of the dilemma are the lives and futures of the youngest members of our society. On the other are financial pressures faced by property owners in a challenging economy, pressures which are exacerbated further by local taxes. Both of these groups are at the heart of our community, and neither would wish to compromise or complicate the lives of the other. So we seek compromise, hoping that we will find a comfortable place where both can be satisfied and controversy can be averted. If this place could be plotted on a map, the paper marking its location would be worn through, for it is a place we all seek and would like to believe we could always end up.

However, it is called a dilemma because a solution is not easy. There are days when one longs for that time in our lives when we could see things in black and white, things that now appear as shades of gray. Were I able to see only deep blacks and brilliant whites, I could say that our sole responsibility is to provide for the education of the children in our town. Life has enough obstacles in its path without our compromising a young person's primary tool for success—an education suited for the challenges they will encounter, a benefit we were all provided when we were young. However, as a teacher and as a citizen I also recognize the pangs of anxiety when the costs of living exceed one's income. Both situations are real, both have consequence, and each will be viewed by some as "right." What remains is the dilemma: the responsibility of a free society to choose where and how to invest its resources.

As one of the people charged with leading our school my priorities are clear: to use the resources made available to the school as efficiently as possible to ensure that our children will receive the fullest educational potential of those resources and to annually advocate for the needs of the youngest and least-represented members of our town, those who will carry the fullest measure of our decisions, the children of our community.



Patchwork of Generations

On Friday students in the third grade worked with 18 volunteers, sewing machines in tow, to create quilts to be donated to the newborn clinic at Cottage Hospital in Woodsville, NH. Students used donated fabric as well as their own sense of style to create 23 blankets, currently on display in the lobby, that will be delivered to the hospital soon. Thank you to all the volunteers!



Heritage Project Project Begins

The 6th grade took time out to show the 5th graders the ins and outs of Ms. Cornell's Heritage Project, a unit which has become a tradition within the 5th grade curriculum. (pictured above)



INK Spot

Imagination and Knowledge



Speaking of Sewing...

Quilted pillows created during double activity: Kennedy, Nate & Joe, 6th grade





The Lyme Nursery School will again be running Camp Color Wheel this summer. Kelly Downing, Director and teacher at the Lyme Nursery School, is in charge of the program that blends outdoor activities with art. One-week sessions are being offered June 29-July 31 for children 3-1/2 to 6 years old. The cost is \$125/week; drop-off at 8:30 am and pick-up at noon.

Kids Dance Night Starting Friday March 13 (continuing every other Friday)

Instruction & Dancing Swing – Salsa – Ballroom for Kids Ages 8 to 18 years Boys & Girls from all towns welcome. Starting Friday, March 13, 6:30 – 8:30PM Also: March 27, April 10, 24, May 8, 22 Richard W. Black Center, Hanover, NH 48 Lebanon St (across from the High School) \$5/student. (Parents are free and encouraged to participate) All proceeds go to support the club. Carry in Clean Shoes. For info: 603-359-5166



School Board News

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Dear Lyme School Parents:
Thursday, March 5, at 7pm
The meeting lasts about an hour, and certainly should be finished by 8:30pm.

In recent years, parents have been in the minority in terms of the Lyme voters who appear at this meeting. While we believe the proposed FY10 budget is very attractive -- a 0% increase with 0% increase on taxes for next year -- we need as many parents to appear to support the school budget this year. Despite our best efforts, some in the community are not supportive of the budget and a good turnout would help significantly. We are also aware of some concern about the new teacher contract, even though it actually saves the school district money compared to the current contract. Again, a good turnout from parents -- 100 people or more -- would help ensure its passage.

Hope to see you on Thursday.

Peter Glenshaw Chair, Lyme School Board



Lunch
Week of
3/9 to 3/13



Monday	Beef Tacos Corn Chips with Salsa Hot Vegetable Fresh Fruit Brownies
Tuesday	Macaroni and Cheese with or without Hot Dogs Garlic Bread Garden Salad Ice Cream
Wednesday	Chicken Nuggets Garden Salad Fresh Fruit
Thursday	Cheese Burgers Tater Tots Mixed Vegetables Fresh Fruit
Friday	Homemade Thin Crust & Thick Crust Pizza Garden Salad Mixed Fresh Fruit Cookies



Ala carte Fruit and Milk are available everyday



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Contact me at: Jeff.Valence@valley.net
Phone: 795-2125
or just stop by.



You may print color copies of the Newsletters at:
www.LymeSchool.org

Message from the **P.T.O.**

Poem In Your Pocket drawing is tomorrow during Friday Morning Meeting.
Feeling LUCKY come join in the B-I-N-G-O Night fun Friday 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Deadline to pre-order your pizza dinner is 3/11. Cost for slice of pizza and a drink \$3.00.

Limited amounts will be available the night of the event. Contact Mrs. Barton for additional

pizza dinner forms.

A BIG THANK YOU to Ann Steyn for popping popcorn last Friday!!!



CONVERSE FREE LIBRARY

**Thursday, March 12 for
Grades 3-5
MOVIE: Disney's Snowball
Express
Rated (G)**