

Lempster Community School

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Dear Friends,

We would like to announce the name of the **new principal** who will be taking over the reins from Mr. Peterson in July. Renee Croteau will be coming to us from the Winchester School. After an extensive search, the Search Committee found her to be the best match for what we were looking for in a new principal. Ms. Croteau is currently the Assistant Principal of Winchester School, which is about twice as large as the Lempster School. Similar to Lempster, Winchester sends their ninth graders to a regional high school. Miss Croteau has been both a teacher and an administrator and she has demonstrated talent addressing issues by using data analysis. Mr. Peterson will work closely with Ms. Croteau to ensure an effective transfer of power. We are very excited about having Ms. Croteau join our team! We hope to physically introduce her to the town of Winchester at the School District meeting on Saturday, March 8.

Related to the School District meeting, we would like to complete our due diligence of notifying everyone that there are positions available for individuals to be part of the Lempster School District. Currently the **positions open for election** are: School Board member, Moderator, Treasurer, and Board Secretary. A couple people have inquired about the positions but to highlight our democratic society we want to make sure everyone is aware of the opportunities. Please let me know as soon as possible if you have any interest in any of these positions.

Related to the intricacies of running the district, the operating budget for the 2025-2026 school year will be presented at the annual Budget Hearing. At the hearing we'll explain the proposed changes to the budget and why we need the specific identified amount of funds to operate the school for the next school year. **The Budget Hearing will be on Tuesday, February 11th beginning at 6:00PM in the school's cafeteria.** I hope you will be able to join us.

And related to hearings, we need to hold a hearing to approve withdrawing money from the capital reserve fund **to pay for the new carpet** we had installed in the library. We'll have the regular monthly school board meeting immediately following the hearing. The hearing will begin at 5:30PM and both will be held in the library. Please join us and check out the new carpet!

We are always talking about how your Lempster School tries to offer the best possible experiences for the children of Lempster. Another example of how the school offered more than your average public school education was realized last week. We invited a **foreign exchange student to visit our school** on Thursday. Carlotta is a 16-year old young lady from Italy, who is attending Sunapee high school while living with a family in Lempster. Sunapee was having their midterms last week so the host family and I agreed to let her come here to see youth in an American elementary school. Carlotta visited some of the grades, read a story to the younger children as she practiced her English, and even helped with some math. The students seem to

get a kick out of the fact Italian was her primary language. It was nice to be able to show people from other countries the best that the United States has to offer - the students at the Lempster School! We have connections with the company that places international students. If you are ever interested in hosting a foreign exchange student, please let me know.

The Lempster School received a state grant for a hydroponics station, recently. Hydroponics is the technique of growing plants using a water-based nutrient solution in an artificial environment rather than using soil – think space travel or desserts. The equipment is brand new and is set up in Ms. Clough's fourth grade classroom. We shall be experimenting with **growing plants without soil** in the upcoming months. Look for future pictures on our Instagram page.

The Department of Safety will be visiting the Lempster School in February to explain the **benefits of the 911 system**. They will offer a 30-minute presentation, which will review the basics and everything a student should know about calling 911. This is a vital system in our country. All of us should have a complete understanding of how this system can save lives.

Grades for the second quarter closed yesterday. I hope you are aware of your child's progress. There is no doubt the children at the school are expected to work hard and learn a great deal of information. And after a lot of effort it's always beneficial to take a break to celebrate the successes. The Lempster School will do this by going on an **all-school tubing event** on February 21st. The plan is to transport the students to Granite Gorge at the beginning of the day and stay until the afternoon. Also, all the staff would like to thank every parent who encourages their child to just try. Please note, even if a parent simply asks what their child learned in school on any giving day sends a message that education is important and promotes engagement!

Groundhog Day is Sunday. Fingers crossed Punxsutawaney Phil does not see his shadow!

Have a pleasant week.

J Lewis

Jim Lewis
Superintendent

Fascinating fact of the week to share with friends: The largest sand castle in the world measured 54 feet high.

Answer to last week's puzzler: The mean average of 96, 69, 83, 73 and 85 is 81.2. Wisdom would get a B if converted to a letter grade. Congratulations to everyone who submitted a correct answer, hence earning a Wildcat Buck.

Puzzler: Wisdom, Mycoft, Johnny, and Heshimu decided to go for a run. They decided to add all the miles together to see how far they ran. When they finished adding, they saw together they ran 26.54 miles. Wow! Wisdom ran 12.63 miles. Mycroft ran 3.67 miles. If Johnny and Heshimu ran the exact same distance, how many miles did each of them run?

“All who have meditated upon the art of governing...have been convinced that the fate of empires depend upon the education of youth.” – Aristotle