

# Lempster Community School

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Dear Friends of the Lempster School,

I want to thank everyone who came out to the **school's budget hearing** last Tuesday. Several Lempster citizens gathered in the school's cafeteria to learn about the proposed budget for the 2024-2025 school year. Next to keeping your children safe, our number one priority is to maintain the improving academic trends of the last three years. We have accomplished this by analyzing data and responding to specific needs. Our classroom teachers and paraprofessionals have had a strong positive influence on the scores and we plan to keep the staff as the focus of the budget. We made many cuts to account for the lost ESSER money and increased insurance charges, but we are proud to present a budget that increases less than 3%.

After the PowerPoint presentation last week, various members of the audience asked clarifying questions. Good questions! We always appreciate when folks come to the school, or reach out to the school, with questions. If you hear something that doesn't sound right, or seems extreme, the information is likely inaccurate at some level. **Your school prides itself on transparency.** If you have any questions about any aspect of the school please do not hesitate to contact us. You can reach us by the email address in which you received this newsletter, a landline call to the office at 603.863.1080, or a text or call to one of the school's cell phones. Their numbers are: SAU, 603.504.9017; or the office, 603.504.9018.

Related to the proposed budget, please join us on **Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00PM** in the school's gymnasium. This is the time when registered voters of Lempster are asked to cast their votes to express their feelings regarding the operating budget as well as other warrant article items. By ballot your opinion will be sought for whom you would like representing you on the school board, the new paraprofessional contract, and funding for a two reserve accounts. You are always welcome to ask informational questions before or at the meeting.

Our **winter activity** last Friday was a huge hit. Part of a well-rounded education is learning to work with others and respect their rights. It is also knowing when to take a break from working hard to relax. Our students had a great time at the Keene Ice Arena on Friday, pausing from their hard work to enjoy a day of fun. Please help me thank all the staff who put together this extra day of activities for the students.

I also want to thank all the students and adults who participated in the **Valentine's dance** last Friday. The dance created such a positive atmosphere that most children participated in both the dance aspect, as well as the socializing component. Again, the Lempster School and its PTO are simply outstanding at offering safe opportunities for your children.

Valentine's Day is officially tomorrow. It's always nice to see the youngest students trying to figure out the meaning of the day. If your child is planning on handing out Valentines to his or her classmates, would you **please make sure he or she has enough cards** to present one to each classmate? We hate to see tears of rejection on Valentine's Day.

Related to Valentine's Day, and more precisely hearts, tomorrow the school will take part in a "**Jump Rope for Heart**" activity. In short, this is a terrific opportunity to teach all of our students that they can engage in an effective cardiovascular activity even during the winter months.

We are **continuing to address the water issue** we encountered back in December. As you may remember our PFOA numbers are 1.5Ng/L too high. (Some medical tests report results in nanograms (ng) per litre (L). A nanogram is one-billionth of a gram. A gram is about 1/30 of an ounce.) We had the folks from Second Wind out here a couple times to determine the best course of action to take. There is no immediate danger. This concern could (emphasis added) take place over a long period of time. Right now it seems we will consider a reverse osmosis system that directly links to the handwashing and bubbler stations, as well as our kitchen. To purchase a larger system that covers every drop of water that comes in to the building would be paying for a system that would literally be treating water that we'd be flushing down the toilet. We'll continue to research options, but we'll need to put a system in sooner than later.

The Dental Initiative is here this week and it's not too late to sign up. If you are interested in a **free dental screening** for your child by certified hygienists please contact our nurse at [JDelude@SAU71.org](mailto:JDelude@SAU71.org).

**Winter vacation** begins at 3:00PM this Friday. School will return in session on Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 AM. I hope you have a pleasant and safe time with friends and family.

*Jim Lewis*

Jim Lewis  
Superintendent

**Fascinating fact to share with family and friends:** The fear of teeth or going to the dentist is known as "Odontophobia."

**Answer to last week's puzzler:** The score would be KC 41 and SF 29. Congratulations to: Roman, Zoey, Julz, Marylin, Avery, Fern, Emmy, Emmett, Madison, Macie, Abigail, and Emmett who submitted a correct answer and earned a Wildcat Buck.

**Puzzler:** Wisdom will be spending the week of vacation helping a famous artist work on his epic painting. The artist spent \$530 on paint, \$223 on the easel, \$55 on the frame, and \$421 on the canvas. The artist plans to sell the painting for \$3264. How much profit will he make?

**Our school strives to provide opportunities  
for students to make the most of their abilities.**