

LYNX TRACKS

The Newsletter of the Lincolnville Central School

<http://www.fivetowns.net/lcs>

SEPTEMBER 17, 2021

Notes:

- **Cross Country Meet Date Changed-** Our meet scheduled for next Thursday at Medomak Middle School has been changed to Wednesday.

FALL SPORTS ARE BACK!



have the jurisdiction to mandate most things; it can only make recommendations. The civil state of emergency, declared by the governor, gave the DOE the power to mandate masks and other measures in schools. The CDC does have the power to mandate some things related specifically to disease outbreak and control; for example, if there is an outbreak in a school, the CDC could require the school to implement additional mitigation measures. The Maine CDC has given our Department of Education clear guidelines on masking. The DOE has provided schools with the following information as relayed by the Maine CDC: "If universal masks are worn indoors by all people and if that is enforced, there are additional flexibilities around the quarantine rule, and that can very much help to minimize it." When universal indoor masking is required within a school system, close contacts in classrooms may not be subject to quarantine from the classroom; the CDC will decide this on an individual basis. Essentially, if we require universal masking indoors, unvaccinated students who are close contacts of a positive Covid case in the classroom ONLY, will be able to continue attendance at school. (The close contact students will be required to quarantine from extra-curricular activities and all public spaces.)

As your elected School Committee, it is our collective goal to educate our students. We strongly believe that their best means for education is to be IN SCHOOL. We look forward to the day that we can leave the masks at home and see smiling faces everywhere we go; until that day and beyond that day, it is our goal to keep our students in school, learning.

Open communication is another goal; please, please, please contact Mr. Russo for questions regarding school, logistics, and all things school-related. He welcomes the questions!

Be well and we thank you for bearing with us during these challenging times, Tracee, Jared, John, Seth, and Melissa

Information From the Lincolnville School Committee

Welcome back to school, from your LCS School Committee! Moving forward, we, as a Committee, would like to give you a monthly, brief look at the work we have been doing; read on if you are interested!

First and foremost, School Committee meetings are open to the public and are held in Walsh Common at LCS (dates for meetings are on the LCS home page); we welcome all community members to attend and participate in the Public Comment session which remains at the top of our agenda for each meeting. During this time we are glad to listen to concerns, voices, and opinions. Our email addresses can also be used for communications and letters. The Committee meets every month to review, discuss and approve policies, financials, academic data and all sorts of exciting things. Our biggest and most intense discussions relate to spending taxpayers' money and Covid-19. We most recently gave our tractor a facelift, providing it with necessary functions for optimal use this fall; we are also looking at roof repairs, snow plowing contracts, and how to broadcast our School Committee meetings to people everywhere.

The School Committee has goals to become more transparent, interactive and communicative; we want your input! Moving forward, you will hear from the School Committee following our monthly meetings with a brief overview of our recent meeting in the LCS Newsletter. Additionally, all community members are invited to a 1-hour coffee chat with two School Committee members at LCS the Saturday morning before each Committee meeting. Finally, we will be inviting teachers, staff and groups of students to present to the Committee and Community during our meetings; let's get involved and learn about our school, what our teachers are teaching, what our students are learning and get our community engaged!

And, now, the most challenging discussion...there are so very many positions on masking...everywhere. The Maine CDC currently recommends masking for all K-12 students when indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Why is this not mandated? The CDC does not

Lynx Tame Vikings in Season Opener

The Lincolnville Lynx teed off against the Vikings of Searsport on Wednesday, September 15th at Lincolnville on a



gray and threatening day and emerged with a 6 to 2 win to start off their much anticipated, pandemic delayed title defense. It only took a little over seven minutes for LCS to get on the scoreboard when winger Maren Johnson crossed a ball from the right close to the goal mouth that passed through without being touched. Winger Jacob Talbot corralled it on the left side and sent it right back in, but it was intercepted by a Viking defender. Midfielder Liam Day-Lynch promptly stole it off the Searsport player's foot, shifted left to find an open lane to drive, then angled through the defense and drove the ball home from close range. Day-Lynch followed this with another effort at the 9:40 mark when he snagged a loose ball on the right side of the goal box, dribbled adeptly through the defense and slammed a hard finisher in from close range once again. Day-Lynch promptly completed his hat trick with 10:37 gone when he received a throw in on the left, made an angling run across and through the defense and caromed his shot off the downside of the crossbar so that it bounced into the net. After that, things quieted down for a bit, and both teams played rather evenly with both racking up several dangerous drives.

This pattern continued into the second half until a few injuries brought some key Lynx players onto the bench for a spell. Searsport leapt to take advantage and drove in a long ball from the left at 31:23 followed by another at 40:58 when they took exploited an LCS defensive lapse. With the recovering of several key Lynx players, Lincolnville again began to dominate and tallied another score when Abby Webber kicked a long feed to the left side which striker Mickey Nowell fielded and then using his fine turn of speed, he blew by the defense and to go in alone, finishing by slipping a soft shot past the charging Viking keeper and nestling it inside the far post at 53:30. Nowell struck again with 57:36 gone after a Vikings' handball just on the LCS side of midfield. Nowell made a brilliant move to open space on the Vikings' right side, and Day-Lynch quickly sent the free kick up to spring Nowell loose so that he could blaze past the defense once again, ending by burying the ball in the back of the net. Johnson ended the scoring at the 59-minute mark when she intercepted a throw out by the Searsport keeper, make a quick dribble forward, and beat the keeper with her ensuing shot.

The game featured a number of fine individual performances, not least from the scoring pair of Day-Lynch and Nowell. Sophia Skrivanich made a fine debut anchoring the defense at the sweeper position, Bryson Hise and Abby Webber gave the team some excellent minutes at the wing defensive positions, and Jack Lytton performed well as the stopper. Teaming up with Day-Lynch at midfield to dominate the crucial middle of the field were Olivia McManus and Natalie Bolduc with Bolduc also putting in some crucial time at sweeper to fill a hole for an injured player. The rest of the team also played valuable supporting roles on the field as well.

The Lynx have next week off but will resume play on Monday, September 27th against Appleton on the LCS pitch.



Lynx Off and Running

The 2021 season kicked off yesterday on a beautiful late summer afternoon at our home course. The team finished well with both the girls and boys in second place behind a very strong CRMS squad. A total of five schools competed, however not all had the required five participants to be included in the team scoring. Those schools were Appleton, Camden-Rockport, Oceanside, St. George, and Lincolnville.

In the first race, the Lynx girls were led by Liana Talty who finished the 2.2 mile course with a time of 16:22, which netted her third place overall. Other members of the LCS top five were Elise Talty in fourth place (16:55), Acacia Hartly in her debut as a Lynx runner finished in tenth place overall (18:29), Maggie McCarthy (19:29) in nineteenth, and fourth grader Maggie Feeney (19:47) who also completed her first race for the Lynx.

Team scores for the race were: CRMS 21, LCS 42, and AVS 83.

The boys were also hard at work against a very formidable CRMS team. LCS runner Cole Nowell was the only non-CRMS participant to break into the top ten with an eighth place finish at 15:48. Nowell was followed by teammates Thomas Leadbetter (16:28) in eleventh place, Zach Egeland (17:30) in twenty first, followed closely by rookie team member Ray Beach (17:34) in twenty second place, and Grant Morrison (18:08) rounded out the scoring for LCS.

The team scoring was: CRMS 15, LCS 46, OMS 93. Complete results for both races are posted on our team page at <http://lcssports.sportsoffice.com/>

The next meet is this coming Wednesday 9/22/21 at Medomak Middle School. The boys will run first at 4:00 PM.

Lincolnvile Central School PTO

The PTO is here to enrich the lives of our students by supporting their teachers and building community.

Get involved! All Lincolnvile Central School parents are invited to participate in the PTO.

- Join our email list to receive information and updates on PTO activities.
- Volunteer to help with one of our fundraising efforts or community events.
- Attend our monthly meetings to participate in planning and organizing current & future projects.
- New and fresh ideas/perspectives are always welcome!
- No membership dues.

PTO meetings are held at 6pm on the second Wednesday of the month at Lincolnvile Central School. Childcare is provided.

If you are interested in joining the PTO or our email list please fill out and detach the lower portion of this form. Completed forms can be sent to school with your child.

For more information contact Emily at berryej9@gmail.com

LCS PTO Contact Form

Name

Email Address

Child(ren)

Grade(s)



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0023

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

A. PENDER MAKIN
COMMISSIONER

To all Maine Families:

We are happy to announce that school meals will continue to be free for all students during the 2021-22 school year! Any Maine family, regardless of income eligibility, will be able to participate in the nutritious and tasty meals your district provides at your child's school. This past school year has certainly had its challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and remote and hybrid learning models. We are thrilled that despite these challenges, all Maine children have been able to access free healthy school meals on a daily basis. We would like to extend our gratitude to Maine parents and caregivers who have participated in their districts' meal programs, despite the many changes to child nutrition programs.

We are calling on you to take action this school year by taking the time to complete the Meal Benefit Application. Any family can benefit from participating in school nutrition programs, and this application is important for a number of reasons. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, when school meals became complementary, there has been a significant drop in Meal Benefit Application returns.

You may be wondering: why is completing the Meal Benefit Application necessary if meals are free anyway? Even though any family can participate in school meal programs at no cost, the family income data provided by completing the application informs key funding for academic resources. This application is one way you as a parent or caregiver can invest in your student's education. Completing a Meal Benefit Application not only determines if your student(s) qualifies for free/reduced school meals—you can also be connected to other important benefits. These benefits can include additional nutrition assistance through the Pandemic EBT program, as well as other family services.

The Meal Benefit Application for the 2021-22 school year can be completed at any point starting July 1, 2021 or after. Your district's Food Service Director will provide application information then. More information, including application assistance and other materials, are forthcoming.

On behalf of the Department of Education Child Nutrition team: we wish you a happy and healthy Maine Summer!

For questions or comments, please contact Caroline Bennett: Ending Hunger in Maine AmeriCorps VISTA (caroline.bennett@maine.gov).

**DEVELOP YOUR HOCKEY SKILLS,
COMPETITIVE GAME PLAY AND HAVE FUN!**



MAINE COAST STORM HOUSE HOCKEY PROGRAM

AGES 9-14 YEARS

**2 SKILLS PRACTICES PER WEEK
PLUS IN-HOUSE GAMES**

SKATING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

10/4/21 - 3/4/22

MIDCOAST RECREATION CENTER, ROCKPORT, ME

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER
MAINECOASTSTORM.ORG**



Should 3 Hours A Week of Gaming Be The law?

China has just launched new video gaming restrictions for kids under 18: Kids cannot play video games (on computers or phones) during the week, limiting their video gaming from 8 pm to 9 pm, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and on public holidays, totaling no more than 3 hours per week.

The last time China made restrictions for youth was in 2019, which stated that gaming could only be done for 1.5 hours each weekday and banned gaming from 10 pm until 8 am. Also, they set the maximum hours allowed for weekend days and holidays to three hours total.

Why these rules?

The Chinese government has provided several reasons for these policies, such as concerns over video game addiction, nearsightedness, failing academics, and more. Xinhua News Agency is the official state-run press agency of the People's Republic of China. In an article, they quoted a spokesperson from the government agency responsible for announcing the new policy:

"Teenagers are the future of our motherland, protecting the physical and mental health of minors is related to the people's vital interests, and relates to the cultivation of the younger generation in the era of national rejuvenation."

Are the rules enforced?

Last week I called an acquaintance in Beijing who is a father of a teen boy. The dad explained that many youth in China bypass the time-limit restrictions by signing on with their parent's identities. He was not sure if his son was doing this. He mentioned that he had not heard many parents and or kids talking much about the new restrictions, and he thinks this is because it will be hard to enforce.

I have read many accounts from news sources reporting similar sentiments from other people in China.

Yet, that said, the stock prices of gaming companies did take a nosedive after these new time restrictions got instituted.

For quite a while, the Chinese government has been trying to reign in the power of tech companies, and they are letting gaming companies know that they will be paying close attention to see if the companies enforce the rules with their under 18-year-old users.

So what to make of this?

This new law is clearly a major move by the government. The world's biggest game company is Chinese-owned Tencent. There is a high likelihood that our kids know games that Tencent either owns or has a stake in, such as "Call of Duty," "Fortnite," and "League of Legends."

China is far more severe in its steps than many countries, but other governments have instituted some limits. For example, Germany passed laws making game developers replace realistic red blood with a green version. Australia is working to ban portrayals of drug use and violence to some degree in games.

What do I think?

Video game time restrictions by the Chinese government is an extreme move that I do not believe will get fully implemented, nor do I think it should be. I don't want to get into the politics of China. However, I think this topic is ripe for discussion — in what ways should governments and public institutions address the availability and impact of the gaming industry on our youth?

I have been hearing different reactions from adults on this topic. A friend of mine who works in tech in Silicon Valley and has kids wrote this to me about China's new decree:

"Fascinating that China is demonstrating leadership on this... I'd love to see the gaming and social media giants do the same in the US, but pure capitalism is unlikely to allow this."

Meanwhile, here are a couple of examples of reactions on this topic from our Facebook page:

I.H. says:

"I doubt that will happen in reality. I bet old tech like DVD-based games will make a comeback which will take away the social aspect of gaming, further exacerbating the 'only child syndrome.' Hopefully, there will be opportunities for sports and clubs. I could be mistaken, but most preteens and teens don't have brothers and sisters, right? The policy allowing 2 children just started in 2016."

K.A. says:

"This is not a decision to be made by government in a free nation. But it should definitely be a wake-up call to us as now the youth in China will need to find a more productive way to spend their time while our youth is ... playing video games."

What do your kids and students think?

Ideas to get the conversation started:

1. What would your reaction be if there was a law restricting video gaming to three hours a week?
2. Can you think of things you think the government should regulate regarding video games and people younger than 18? Things they should not regulate?
3. Should our public institutions, such as schools and community centers, offer alternatives to video gaming, such as the wide availability of in-person sports and other activities?