

November, 2008

Volume 1, Issue 2

# Windham Center School

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## Important Dates

Nov. 4 - No School - Election/Teacher In-service Day

Nov. 7 - End of marking period

Nov. 10 - Veterans Day Assembly

Nov. 11 - No school - Veteran's Day

Nov. 7 - 21 - Book Fair

Nov. 18 & 20 - Parent Teacher Conferences

Nov. 27 & 28 - No School Thanksgiving Recess

## From the Principal's Corner....

•October has been a very busy month at Center School. Our children completed the **NECAP testing** (New England Common Assessment Program) in the subject areas of Reading and Math for all grades and also Writing in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Everyone worked really hard and we're so proud of their efforts!

•**Fun Fitness** raised over \$16,000 for the student activity funds!

•Our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade had a wonderful time learning about animals and eating lots of treats at the Deerfield Fair!

•The 5<sup>th</sup> grade spent time at the Saugus Ironworks exploring the mill and water wheel construction of the 1600's!

•On Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> our staff worked together to learn Moodle training for our students portfolio's and Responsive classroom to

develop a common language in our school.

•Our **PTA** membership is still underway. Please consider joining if you haven't already done so. Your commitment of \$25 per family, made payable to the Windham PTA, goes to support the varied and exciting PTA sponsored events.

•**Veteran's Day Assembly** is being held on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30. Veterans and parents are invited!

## Snow may be here sooner than we'd like!

Any school delays or cancellations will be posted on the district web site: [www.windhamsd.org](http://www.windhamsd.org). The information will also be reported to the following:

### Radio:

WGIR 610AM

WFEA 1370AM

WBZ 1030AM

WZID 95.7FM

### Television:

WMUR Channel 9

WBZ Channel 4

WCVB Channel 5

WHDH Channel 7



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## Grade 3

We're falling into November here in the 3rd grade wing!

Frogs, owls, even worms! Our 3rd grade zoologists are studying **habitats and life cycles** of various animals. Our "Owl Lady" will be here for a visit to share her winged friends very soon. Now don't get spooked! We will be dissecting owl pellets this month!

On November 10th, the

3rd grade will host a **Veteran's Day presentation** at 1:30pm. We will prepare essays, songs, and artwork to show respect and appreciation for our Veterans and some local Veterans will be here to visit. All are welcome!

NECAP testing is finally over! But before we rest our weary heads, we will continue to explore the theme of "Changing Patterns" in our new

reading series and work on our Sitton Word Study patterns. The third grade has also started "mixing up" math classes by changing our different groups and teachers.

**Halloween** is right around the corner! Our party will be held on Friday, the 31<sup>st</sup>, from 1:00-2:15. We will parade around the school at 2:15. Look forward to seeing you!



## Grade 4

*Parent Conferences are scheduled for November 18th and 20th.*

Fourth Grade is well into our routines and curriculum. Be sure to check teacher websites if you have any questions regarding activities, homework, and schedules.

Testing is done! We appreciate the effort in attendance. State test results will be shared when received.

**New Hampshire** is a big topic in 4<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies class. We also continue to use our resources (Atlas, globes, maps) to complete our Daily Geography while learning about our great Nation.

Our first **field trip** is Science related as we explore the Equinox at the Planetarium this month. We will also be starting our health program through **Fit Kids** at the end of the month. We will learn about our health and our role in taking good care of ourselves through hands on activities.

In **Everyday Math**, students have moved on to numbers that are all encompassing in our lives. We will organize and evaluate the meaning of numbers and read and write numbers in the hundred millions place. Check out the Every Day Math

website for activities and homework help at home. <http://www.wrightgroup.com/index.php/home/everydaymathematics/emsecondupdate/familyletters/46?SID=2147>

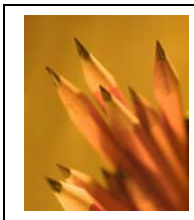
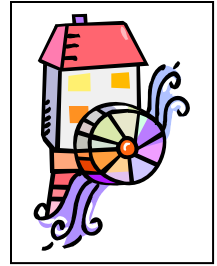
**Reading** is an integral part of our learning experience. Reading each night at home for 20 minutes is part of our every day homework. It should be enjoyable to promote life long reading habits. If you have questions about reading levels, we can assist you in finding books within your child's range.

## Grade 5

To welcome the month of October the fifth grade class participated in a field trip to **The Saugus Iron Works** in Saugus, Massachusetts. The fifth grade students enjoyed visiting this National Historic Site where they learned how European iron makers

brought their special skills to a young Massachusetts colony. Students and chaperones observed some of the three hundred year old artifacts, working waterwheels, and mill machinery that were responsible for establishing industrial iron working in the

early colony. During the remaining portion of the month the children have been working diligently on their NECAP state testing which will wrap up during the middle of the month. They are looking forward to celebrating the rest of October by participating in the school-wide Halloween



## Enrichment

**Third Graders** will be exploring Animal Habitats this month, a subject that they are truly enthusiastic about. In a world where climate changes and pollution are real issues, this Unit gives students an empathetic feel for those issues,

and empowers them to make positive changes in their own world.

**Grade Four and Five** students are busy practicing for our first Continental Math Meet, which will happen at the end of the month. We will continue to review problem solving

strategies, and practice our math facts, as both are essential to our success with these challenging word problems. We will also be sharing some critical thinking exercises to keep our brains in all-around good shape.

## Library

**Book Fair Safari:** The fall Scholastic Book Fair will run from November 7 to 21. Extended evening hours will be on parent conference nights (Nov. 18 & 20). The fair will be open after the grade 3 Veterans Day presentation on Nov. 10. Classes will preview the fair on Nov. 7, 10, & 12, and the fair will be open for normal business Nov. 13-21. Look for Scholastic jungle fliers to prowl home soon.

Book Fair homepage:

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/cptoolkit/publish/windhamcenterschool>

Featured Books:

<http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/books/elem.asp>



Library, cont.

Ladybug Book Award Grade 3 students are reading the 10 nominees for the NH Ladybug picture book award. Each student may vote for their favorite book in November.

Great Stone Face Award: To be eligible to vote in April, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders must read 3+ books from the list of 25 nominees, posted at <http://destiny.windhamsd.org> under "Windham Center School"—Reading Lists.

Book Group The Breakfast Book Club will start the year reading *Oggie Cooder*. Watch for a notice to come home.

Vote for Books Kids can vote for their favorite chapter, series, and picture books at [voteforbooks.com](http://voteforbooks.com), on November 4. Vote just for fun!

### Fun Fitness Festival

Windham Center School would like to thank the community for its support of our Second Annual Fun Fitness Festival that took place September 30th. The students of Center School raised over **\$16,000** to be placed in their student activity fund to help with field trips, school plays and different activities that take place during the school year. We extend our appreciation to the PTA for all their time and effort in helping to raise

donations for the Tea Cup raffles for the students. Also to the **PTA** a huge thank you to all the members who came that day to help with the students' fitness activities and to help count all the donations made to Center School. To all who made donations to the Tea Cup Raffle, our final assembly to choose the winners was a most exciting afternoon. The donations for the raffles were a huge incentive for the students and we appreciate each and every donation. This successful event was also made possible

with the assistance from the **Unified Arts Team** consisting of Mrs. Middleton, Ms. Coakley, Mrs. Fothergill and Mr. Cicchitto They took extra time out of their classes to run the different activities for the students. Congratulations to **Natalie Boyd** for winning the T-shirt Design Contest. All students who raised over \$25 will receive a free t-shirt with the winning design. The students felt this was a fun way to raise donations for their school while being active and healthy and hope to do it again next year!

**Thank you to the following businesses and families who made donations to the Windham Fun Fitness Festival Tea Cup Raffle!**

Park Place Lanes  
Canobie Lake Park  
Chunky's Movie Theatre  
Mrs. Anne O'Neil and Family  
Windham Recreation Dept.  
Lowell Devils  
Artistic Creations Salon

Happy Feet Dance School  
Apple Acres  
Windham Summer Camp  
Bail Family  
Manchester Monarchs  
Karate International  
NE Gymnastics Training Center  
Cyclones Arena

Sidekick Taekwondo  
Strong Family  
Letourneau Family  
Windham Pilates  
Homsey Family  
Walmart