

September
2011



WINDHAM

Windham Center School

Principally Speaking....

Dear Windham Center School Community,

Welcome Back! A new school year is upon us, and we couldn't be more excited! It is a warm and welcoming feeling to come into our building as it is once again filled with the laughter of children and the excitement of school and community activities that bring us together. With the end of summer and the anticipation of beautiful fall foliage comes the return of our students to bring the joy of learning into the building.

There has been much excitement here at WCS as we move into the school year. In fact, just think—our current third grade will be the future WHS Class of 2021! There are new staff and students to meet, new friendships to develop, new books to read, and new skills to master. We look forward to sharing each moment with you.

Our partnership and your continued support make all the difference as we work to ensure that each child's academic experience here at WCS is challenging and engaging. Our focus is on a developmentally appropriate education in which differentiation, rigor, relevance and relationships are key ingredients. Together we can achieve many wonderful things!

We envision a tremendous year filled with great opportunities to learn and grow. The door is always open so feel free to call, email or stop by Windham Center School.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Sincerely,

Kori Alice Becht and Kathryn Bates



Open House

Windham Center School Open House:
September 13th- Grade 3
September 15th- Grades 4 and 5

PTC Wizard: We are pleased to inform you that we will be using an on-line program called "PTC Wizard" to schedule parent teacher conferences again this school year. More information will follow in October.

Dates to Remember

- September 9 Ice Cream Social 6:00 pm
- September 12 Band Rental Night 7:00 pm
- September 13 Grade 3 Special Ed. Presentation 6:30 pm
Grade 3 Open House 7:00 pm
- September 15 Grade 4 and 5 Open House 7:00 pm
- September 23 School Picture Day
- October 7 Early Release
- October 10 **No School**



A Note From Guidance ...

Welcome back everyone! We would like to introduce ourselves as Windham Center School's new guidance counselors. We are excited to start the year and meet all of your children.

Elizabeth Baddeley- full time guidance counselor 4th & 5th grade

Barbara Sofield- part-time guidance counselor 3rd grade

*Barbara will be at WCS Tuesday afternoons, Wednesdays & Fridays



A reminder that NECAP testing will be October 4th, 6th, 12th, & 14th

Also Oct. 18th & 19th 5th grade only.

Get plenty of rest and have a healthy breakfast.

A Note From The Office...

The Abbey Group is offering breakfast to students before school starting at 8:20. Breakfast will include one or more of the following choices daily: Cold cereal, bagel with cream cheese, or a fresh baked muffin. Each breakfast includes: farm fresh milk, 100% fruit juice or fresh fruit.

Center School dismissal begins at 2:55 p.m. Any student who will take part in car dismissal, which is out in the back of the building, should adhere to the following guidelines:

Please send a note to the homeroom teacher explaining your plan. A signed note from a parent/guardian is required when there is a change to a student's end of the day plan for safety purposes. A signed note or email to the office is required if someone other than a parent/guardian is picking up the student or a change in buses, is to take place. There will be no dismissals from the office after 2:30 p.m. All dismissals after 2:30 p.m. will take place in the car dismissal line in the back of the building. If you arrive in the car dismissal line and the child is not aware he/she had a change in plans, you will be asked to circle around the front of the building and go into the main office while we locate the student.

A Note From Grade 3...

We are so excited to be back in the swing of things. The third graders seem to be transitioning to WCS with gusto! It is great to see all their smiling faces in the classrooms and hallways. The first week has been spent getting to know each other, our classrooms, our school and routines. Hopes and dreams have been discussed, rules have been generated and expectations have been established. All these things will continue over the next few weeks as we get into our routines and schedules. Mrs. Sherry Fay, Mrs. Nancy Hale, Ms. Christine Morabito, Mrs. Bethany Pellerin, Miss Erin Pineau, Miss Collen Prouty, and Mrs. Kristen Withee look forward to a wonderful year together.



A Note From Grade 4...

Fourth grade teachers were excited to greet their new students on Wednesday, August 31, 2011, the first day of school. Wonderful smiles and excited stories greeted the teachers as the students arrived full of stories to share with their classmates about their wonderful summer and their experiences with Hurricane Irene. Most of the stories and teachers were relieved to have had their power restored the evening before the big day.

This year there are eleven fourth grade classes which will be guided by the following teachers: looping teachers Mrs. Bouley and Mrs. Fleet, Mrs. Testa, Mrs. Bergeron, Mrs. Hurley, Mrs. Labo, Mrs. Neary, Mrs. Avallone, Mrs. Cataldo, Mrs. Mangelinckx, and Mrs. Sheehan. All of the teachers are as excited as the students to begin another wonderful year at the Center School!



A Note From Grade 5...

We are so happy to have your children back with us at Center School. If you are new to our school, welcome! Fifth grade is a busy and fun year for both you and your children. We have lots of exciting learning opportunities and chances to get together with all fifth graders (and their parents) to learn and enjoy each other's company. We look forward to meeting with you at Open House on September 15th when we will speak with you about 5th grade expectations and events. There are a few dates before that day which you should keep in mind. On Sept.6th there is a band information night for parents of those students who wish to take band, followed by band rental night on the 12th. We will probably see many of you at the Ice Cream Social on the 9th. Most of our students take buses to school. Bus Driver Appreciation Day will be held on the 8th of September. We told you there are many activities!

Fifth Grade teachers are requesting that you sign your child's agenda each night to be aware of your child's homework. Each child should have no more than 50 minutes of homework nightly. This is a good way to communicate with us if you have a question. Jot a note in the agenda and we'll get back to you. We also can be contacted by e-mail (the initial of the teacher's first name and their last name followed by @windhamsd.org) whenever you have a concern. It is only by parents and teachers working together that each child will have a successful year.

Happy Fall!



A Note From The Library...

We are off to a busy start in the Media Center. All classes are hearing the book *One* by Kathryn Otoshi, a wonderful book with a subtle message about the importance of standing up to a bully. Ask your child what it means to “Be a one” in relation to the book. I am challenging every student to “Be a one” this year.

Not only will I be recommending great books to students each library period, but students will be recommending books to their classmates as well. Recommended books will be displayed on a special book rack. Students will also have an opportunity to place a star on the inside cover of books that they deem extra-special – a book they will remember for years to come. It will be fun to see which books accumulate multiple stars over the course of the year. All of these recommendations are tools to help students find interesting books that are at an appropriate reading level. It can be daunting to a child that doesn’t enjoy reading to walk into the media center and have to make a choice from over 10,000 books.



If we look at ourselves as a community of readers and share our favorite books, everyone will benefit.

Mrs. Greenleaf, Media Specialist

A Note From Nurse...

Welcome to Center School to all our third grade and transfer in families and welcome back to all our returning families!! Hopefully, we will have a healthy and safe school year.

Medication at school: Please remember, the nurse at school is just like a nurse in any other institution, we are not allowed to administer any prescription medication (i.e. Anti-biotics, inhalers, epi-pens, eye/ear drops, lotions/creams, or any other prescribed medication) without the **written permission from both medical provider and parent.** When your child will require medication at school, please remember to follow this policy. For your convenience, you can download a “Permission for Medication Form” on the school district website, under health notices in the left hand column.

Home injuries: When your child is hurt or injured outside of school, and will require care or special accommodations while at school, please call the health office and discuss the situation with the nurse. We will make every effort to make sure they are as safe and comfortable as possible at school.

Allergies/Emergency Care Plans: If your child has an allergy/medical condition that requires the use of an Epi-Pen or other emergency medication, please contact the nurse and complete the necessary paperwork as soon as possible.

Safety Phone: If your child is going to be out sick **OR** tardy, please remember to call the safety phone line @ 432-7962 (messages may be left at any time of day or night) or e-mail the absence or tardy message to WCSnurse@windhamsd.org. If the school does not hear from you and your child is on our absentee list, you will receive a call to confirm their absence. **We appreciate your timely calls/e-mails** as it helps us to streamline the process of accounting for each absent child.

Again, welcome back and if you have any health related concerns, please contact me at 432-7962. Kathleen Baroni, R.N.



A Note From Art...

Welcome back to all our awesome artists at Center School. Please make sure that your student has a smock to protect their clothing when we do messy projects in art classes. A smock can be an old t-shirt or button down shirt that will be put on over clothing. Aprons are also acceptable as long as the student doesn't get too exuberant with paint or clay. These smocks are stored in the classrooms and will be sent home periodically throughout the year for cleaning. Having a smock for art class contributes to preparedness grades.



The third graders are starting out the school year by discussing the six basic shapes. We then are looking around the classrooms to find objects that have the shapes and are learning how to draw the objects after careful observation and analysis. There will be at least six drawings on a practice paper done before students begin a final drawing using the objects over and under lapped to create an interesting composition. These final drawings will be traced with markers and colored in with color pencils before they will be displayed in the hallways at school. Most finished papers will be displayed (as long as there is space) for about two weeks before they are returned to the students to take home. Occasionally, projects will be kept at school to be placed into a show of work at the high school. Withheld papers will be returned to students after the shows.

Fourth graders have started talking about simple machines in their art classes. The six simple machines were discussed and then identified in Rube Goldberg cartoons and in a video. Students will be practicing drawing the simple machines on a piece of practice paper, including as many of the ways they can be used, before they move to a final paper to draw the contraption in the style of Rube Goldberg. The final papers will be finished with markers, shaded with color pencils, and have text boxes to help explain the progressions. We will be discussing the art of adding text to drawings so that it is legible and understandable. All finished papers will be displayed in the halls and returned after about two weeks unless they are being saved for a show at the high school.

The fifth graders have begun their studies of two - dimensional and three - dimensional shapes. We discussed the differences between two and three - dimensional shapes, learned the names and how to draw them. Students made connections between art and math when they analyzed a cube in order to make a geometric net or pattern. They will be using the nets to create patterned paper cubes before we move on to more complicated three dimensional shapes.

A Note From Music...

In the Third Grade

As the school year begins, our third graders will be singing patriotic songs that go along with their patriotic unit. They will be learning about and dramatizing the story of our national anthem as well as learning to sing, "The Star Spangled Banner." The third graders also have the wonderful opportunity to learn how to play the recorder in third grade. This will help them learn how to read music and to prepare them for playing a band instrument in the future. The order form will be sent home and will give students the opportunity to choose their favorite recorder and strap colors! I highly encourage all of the third graders to purchase a recorder and the method book, if they do not already own one, as we will be using them frequently during music class.

In the Fourth Grade

Our fourth graders will be continuing to learn how to play a more challenging song on their recorder. They will perform this song for you in a Winter Concert on Thursday, January 19th at 9:30AM. Fourth graders may also order any additional materials they need for their recorders. They will be learning choral songs that they will sing for you in the Winter Concert as well. Fourth graders will be starting a unit on tone color and timbre. They will be identifying instruments by listening to the way they sound.

In the Fifth grade

Our fifth graders will begin their unit on music composition. They will be reviewing note values and naming notes on both the treble and bass staff. They will use figurative language to write poems that they will integrate with song writing. They will orchestrate their poems by playing the piano or by incorporating sounds using a software program called, Garage Band. They will also be learning to sing songs from a musical they will perform for you at the end of the year in the wonderful Windham High School auditorium. All students will have the wonderful opportunity of being involved in this performance!



Band/ Strings Parent Night (for new students)
Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at 7:00 P.M.

On Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. in the Center School cafeteria, the Center School instrumental music department will have a Parent Night to explain the requirements and expectations for all new young musicians participating in the 2011-2012 instrumental music program at Center School. This meeting will provide you with important information about the music program (grading, accessories, instrument care, technology, schedules, rental and/or purchasing options and costs, etc.). I will also explain how you can assist your child in making their instrumental learning experience more fun and enjoyable. Though this meeting is not mandatory, I recommend that you attend or arrange to pick up an information packet. The more you know about Center School's instrumental music program, the easier it may become for your child to practice, participate, perform and be prepared for class.

Rental Night (for new and existing students)
Monday, September 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.:

You will meet with our primary instrumental rental company (Darren's Music), and complete the necessary paperwork to rent an instrument. You can also purchase accessories, books, music stands, etc

Rental Companies:

Our primary instrumental rental company will be Darren's Music located in Derry, New Hampshire. The Windham School District has been using Daren's Music for almost 20 years, and the store is in close proximity to Windham. Instrument repairs that I cannot repair myself will need to be brought to Daren's Music by the parent. Parents currently renting, or who would rather rent an instrument from another dealer may do so. Enclosed is a rental policy for O'Leary's Music.

Payment:

There is a monthly rental fee for each instrument, and insurance can be purchased for an additional cost. Both companies explain their policies in the enclosed documentation.

Darren's Music will accept credit card, check or cash during rental night.

Important: You will need to bring a valid driver's license!!! The methods book the students are using in grade 4 is called Traditions of Excellence and costs \$9.95. The snare/ bells method book costs \$12.95. The violin methods book students are using in grades 3, 4, and 5 is called Essential Elements 2000 and costs \$8.99. Each student will also need a music stand to use at home, during morning band rehearsals and concerts. The cost of the music stand is \$10.00. I also recommend a music stand case for safety and care purposes (sold separately for \$10.00).

Band/ String Lesson Requirements:

I would like all new and returning students to bring a binder (3 ring) to their first band/ strings class. Please include a pencil bag/ holder so they have easy access to a pencil and highlighter. Students will receive a packet of information (different then the packet provided to parents at rental night) that will consist of their daily band schedule, morning band schedule, practice charts, music, rhythm exercises, scales, technology facts and grading information, etc. that will be helpful and necessary for a successful year in band/ strings. Keep in mind that I do not have a classroom, and therefore could be teaching anywhere in the school on short notice. Each student must come prepared, as I will not have extra music, pencils, books, etc. readily available to provide to him/ her. Students will need their instrument, highlighter, pencil, music folder (binder), and methods book every class. They will not need to bring their music stand to school for individual group lessons. However, students will need their music stand for all 4th and 5th grade morning band and 3rd grade full string rehearsals.

Grade 4 & 5 Morning Band rehearsals will begin in mid October from 7:30 A.M. to 8:15 A.M. The morning band schedule has already been created for this year. I will enclose the schedule in your child's music packet, which he / she will receive during his/ her first class. You can also find it on my "Moodle" page. Fourth grade (**first year band**) will rehearse on **Tuesday's** and fifth grade (**second year band**) will rehearse on **Thursday's**.

Grade 3 Morning Violin Classes will begin several days after rental night. Third grade students (first year violinists) attending **Center School will not** have any morning rehearsals. However, **Grade 3 violinists at Golden Brook School will have violin practice every Friday morning at 7:30 A.M.** All morning classes will begin promptly at 7:45 A.M., so please have your child at school by 7:30 A.M. Grades 4 and 5 morning violin class information is located further in this packet.

All students must participate in these morning band/violin rehearsals/ class. These rehearsals prepare students for the concerts. If band/ violin class is canceled for any reason, there will be an announcement at the end of the school day and on my website.

FYI: LABEL EVERYTHING WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.

Most of the instrument cases, music stands, and books look the same and can be easily lost or switched with another student. Also, make sure your child's name is on their personal music binder or folder. There are about 20 music stands lost each year because students do not have their name on the stand.

Contact:

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at Windham Center School (432-7312) or e-mail me at jcicchitto@windhamsd.org.



Windham Center School 5th Annual Fun Fitness Festival

Great news for Center School Families.....Center School has heard your request for a fundraising alternative and we are pleased to share an exciting program that will replace the traditional magazine drive. No more products to sell or buy!

As part of our ongoing commitment to promote healthy choices for our students, Center School has adopted a fundraising program encouraging physical activity. Our Fun Fitness Festival gives students the opportunity to choose the physical activity best suited to their abilities and interests while raising donations for their efforts. We are confident this approach will help emphasize the important role exercise plays in a healthy, active lifestyle.

In conjunction with the school district's efforts to develop a Wellness Program for our school, we are sponsoring our Fun Fitness Festival. The event will be held October 5th with a rain date of October 13th. The times are as follows:

Fourth Grade: 8:45-10:20

Fifth Grade: 10:25-12:00

Third Grade: 12:25-1:10 and 2:00-2:45

If you would be interested in volunteering for our activities or helping to coordinate the raffles and monies, please contact the PTA.

It is our belief that when parents understand the goals of a school fundraiser, they will be more supportive and generous. You can be assured that all monies collected from our only, yearly school fundraiser will be spent on the numerous supplemental activities and programs the school has found to be the successful and beneficial for our students. Since there are no commercial products sold, we are able to keep all the profits.

Every student will participate in an activity of their choice for 45 minutes. Students must return their Activity Sign Up Sheet by Wednesday, September 31st. There will only be a certain number of spots for each activity, so sign ups are on a first come first serve basis for the student's first choice of activities.

Students will collect donations in advance. Donations should be in check form made out to Windham Center School. Any donated amount is acceptable. For every \$5.00 donation a student returns, they will be given a raffle ticket to be placed in our Tea Cup Raffle. All raffles are based on our continuing effort to promote activity. For students who raise \$25 or more in donations, they will receive a t-shirt designed by a Center School student as well as their raffle tickets. For any donations over \$100, students will have an opportunity to win tickets to either a Celtics or Bruins game in the AT&T Sports Deck.

We are very excited to bring this opportunity to Center School. We hope you will help us to make this the most successful event ever. Thank you in advance for your support and generosity!

(tear this section and return to your child's teacher)





Name _____ Teacher _____

Activity Choice: (please list your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice)

_____ Dance Revolution _____ Scooter Board Hockey _____ Rescue 911

_____ Capture the Flag _____ Environmental Adventure

September

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1	2	3
4	5 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> <i>Labor Day</i>	6 Band Parent Info Night 7:00pm 	7 Volunteer Orientation 9:15am	8	9 Ice Cream Social 6:00pm 	10
11	12 Band Rental Night 7:00pm 	13 Grade 3 Special Education Presentation 6:30pm Grade 3 Open House 7:00pm	14	15 Grade 4 and 5 Open House 7:00pm	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 SCHOOL PICTURE DAY 	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

2011