

APRIL 2008

KORI ALICE BECHT
Principal

DAN MOULIS
Assistant Principal

SCHOOL NURSE & SAFETY PHONE
893-0434

Windham Middle School

112A Lowell Road
Windham, NH 03087
(603) 893-2636
Fax: (603) 870-9007

SCHOOL COUNSELORS
893-2636



We encourage you to utilize the District and Middle School Web sites to obtain information. By going to the district site at www.windhamsd.org, you can link to all of the Windham Schools.

Important Dates

Please continue to check the school calendar for changes:

<http://www.localendar.com/public/WindhamMS>

April 3—Parent Meeting Washington DC 7 PM

April 4—School Dance 7-9 PM

April 7– 10 Spring Book Fair

April 9 and 10—Parent Conferences

April 16—Chorus Concert 7 PM

April 17—Band Concert 7 PM

April 18—School Dance 7-9 PM

April 23—Earth Shuttle Meeting 7:30 PM

April 28—May 2—School Vacation

May 5—May 9 Washington DC Trip
Earth Shuttle Trip

6TH GRADE FIELD TRIP

Students will visit the historic Lowell Boot Cotton Mills and Tsongas Industrial History Center during the month of April where they will increase their understanding of environmental history related to turn of the century industrialization. This field trip increases their awareness of the importance of conservation as well as makes a connection to the previously studied Immigration Unit

POETRY IN YOUR POCKET

April is National Poetry Month, and at WMS we will be celebrating poetry with Poetry in Your Pocket. Every day between March 31 and April 18 students will hear a poem on the morning announcements. There will be copies of these poems in pockets outside each Reading teacher's room and students will be encouraged to take a copy and keep it in his or her pocket to read throughout the day. Students will also be encouraged by their teachers to write a poem, and submit it to be read as part of the celebration. Each week the best poem from every grade will be read, and the chosen poets will receive a prize. This is in conjunction with the first national Poem in a Pocket Day, April 17. For more information visit <http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/406>

7TH GRADE NEWS

In Social Studies, seventh grade students are nearing the end of their study of the Middle Ages in Europe. Each student was responsible for a project about the time period, choosing among models, drawings, or museum exhibits on their particular Medieval topics. The projects have been outstanding, some of the best ever! They will all be on display at our Medieval Banquet on March 28th. It's shaping up to be the most exciting Medieval Day ever! Watch out for news of the event in our next newsletter!

FRENCH NEWS

Grade 7 students recently created postcards using Microsoft Publisher to show and describe famous landmarks in Paris. We will soon be sharing those in our classes! Students have also just finished Unit 4 and a major review of their work so far this year, ending with a comprehensive exam. Now we begin a new unit which focuses on descriptions of people and things - adjectives!

Like the 7th grade classes, students in Grade 8 just completed a comprehensive review and exam. The next unit will introduce more vocabulary and new verbs. Most importantly, students will begin working with past tense.

CURRICULUM FAIR

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the Curriculum Fair a great success. As usual, the Café Rosa was a highlight, with delicious Spanish and French cuisine. Senor Boisvert, Senora Ripley and Madame Hone were instrumental in creating this authentic café environment, with 8th grade World Language students working diligently in many capacities. Also, special thanks to Mr. Cassidy and the Jazz Band, Mrs. Cuneo and the Select Chorus, and all the café performers. It was a wonderful event!!

6TH GRADE NEWS

The sixth grade shined at our annual and newly updated International Expo at the end of March in which the students showcased their posters representing more than 120 different countries from around the world! Moving into April, the students will wrap up their study of our northern neighbor, Canada.

In Language Arts, the upstairs team will be conducting an ancestral search as they move into their Immigration Unit. All Language Arts classes will continue their work with Classical Roots Vocabulary and Vocabulit in which the students are increasing their word power.

The Reading classes are studying a montage of units including the novel, *Where the Red Fern Grows*, in which the students are using the worldwide web to conduct an author study as well as to complete a webquest. Other reading classes are continuing to learn about other cultures through the readings of short stories such as "Abd al-Rahman Ibrahim", and "The Dog of Pompeii."

In Math, students are working on *Bits and Pieces II*, learning how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions. In Pre-Algebra, students have completed a unit on comparing and scaling and have begun integers.

Finally, in Science, the students are testing rocks and minerals using methods similar to actual geologists to learn authentic identification methods. In addition, we are eagerly anticipating the arrival of guest speaker and presenter, Mr. Gordon Corbett, who will speak with us about volcanoes and earthquakes, enriching the information the students learned earlier this year.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Science students will continue to work on the mathematics of simple machines and then the students will construct Rube Goldberg inventions using simple machines to perform an everyday task.

Social Studies classes will be continuing our discussion about World War II. On April 1, Mr. Paul Levasseur, a World War II re-enactor, will be doing presentations for the students. Following our unit on World War II, we will be looking at the Cold War and its effect on America and the world. Students will also be preparing for their trip to Washington, D.C.

In Pre-Algebra we are starting to investigate the Pythagorean Theorem and its uses in the world of mathematics.

It's another busy month in Language Arts. With the Health Unit behind us, Mr. Kirste's students are back with him as they tackle Lois Lowry's "The Giver," a fascinating novel of ideas that's generating some interesting discussions among the students in their Literature Circles. A handful of enterprising students are even tackling Ayn Rand's "Anthem," a richer novel with similar themes, as an enrichment activity.

Mrs. McCorkle's classes are in the midst of the Holocaust Unit, reading the play "The Diary of Anne Frank" and studying a variety of supplemental materials to explore this dark time in our history. All eighth grade students were able to once again enjoy a moving and enlightening presentation by Judith Black, a gifted story-teller who guides her listeners through the history of the Holocaust through a dramatic enactment of one survivor's real-life experiences.

DRAMA CLUB

"Radio Daze" was a hit! We had our biggest crowds in years, as families, friends, and a record-number of supportive students came out to cheer on the Drama Club for three performances this past month. With a stellar cast of 27 acting up a storm and a cracker-jack crew of nine keeping it all moving along flawlessly, it was truly a production to remember. Thanks to all who came out, and Mr. Kirste and Mrs. Smith would like to send a special "thank you" to the many parents who stepped it up to help make this show a success.

MUSIC NEWS

This year's Spring Chorus Concert will be on Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at 7:00pm and the Spring Band Concert will be on Thursday, April 17, 2008 also at 7:00pm. Both concerts will be held in the middle school gymnasium. A notice will be sent home soon for those participating that will give dress requirements and other information for the concerts.

Please come support our student musicians as they have worked extremely hard to put on a high level and high quality performance! It will be a night filled with great entertainment and fantastic musical enjoyment!

ART NEWS

The Lochness Monster has been sighted in the library! (Or you can see it online!) And rumor has it that there is a mermaid about as well.....Our 8th grade Art Elective class did a grand job putting together some permanent artwork for the Middle School media center! It's nice to see the school becoming colorful!

A reminder that your child could not sign up for the 2008-09 Art Elective if they were taking Band or Chorus. A notice had gone home at the beginning of the 3rd quarter in regards to that issue.

It has been a great year working with all of the students as well as having Miss Ells join our UA group! She is an excellent addition to WMS!

This last quarter goes by fast...Let's enjoy it!

SPRING BOOK FAIR

Don't forget our Spring Book Fair will be held the week of April 7th. Students can visit the fair during lunch period every day that week. The fair is also open after school during parent conferences. This is a great opportunity for children to pick up a few books to read over April vacation.

YEARBOOKS

April will be the last month to order Yearbooks. Please see Mrs. Lichtmann or Mrs. Rawley to order you're 2008 Yearbooks. Yearbooks will be available for sale during the conferences. All orders should be in by April 21st. Checks can be made out to Windham Middle School for \$30.00.

GUIDANCE NEWS

M2M

The theme for March was **Respect**. Our objective was to increase awareness of others and build the value of treating others with high regard apart from one's perceived status at school. When you come in for Parent/Teacher Conferences check out our great RESPECT posters in the hallways.

April is **celebration** month for our mentors. We have started our recruitment for next year's mentors. Please obtain an application from one of the M2M Advisors.

M2M DANCE

M2M will host the monthly dance on Friday, April 4th (7-9). Get creative and sport your favorite hat! Prizes will be given to the most creative hat worn.

We have started our recruitment process for next year's Mentors. Please get an application from Mrs. Lichtmann. All completed applications are due on April 4th.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Any parent interested in meeting with their child's Guidance Counselor during Parent/Teacher conferences please contact Mrs. Lichtmann or Mrs. Jodoin.

The weather is starting to get better and what a great time to offer alternatives for watching TV. Watching too much TV can have negative effects on your child's learning. Instead of turning on the TV why don't you suggest one of the following?

Ride a bike
Read a magazine
Build a model car
Draw a picture
Walk the dog
Listen to music
Play some music
Help cook dinner
Write a letter to a friend
Enjoy the outdoors!