

APRIL 2009

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Windham Middle School

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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 1—Parent Meeting Washington DC 7 PM
- April 3—School Dance 7-9 PM
- April 6—8th Grade Swing Dance 7-8:30 PM
- April 7—M2M Executives—7 AM Meeting
- April 8—M2M Connection
- April 9—Delayed Opening—School Begins at 9:40 AM
- April 10—End of Marking Period
- April 14—Band Concert 7 PM
- April 15—Chorus Concert 7 PM
- April 16—Earth Shuttle Meeting 7:30 PM
- April 22 and 23—Parent Conferences
- April 27-- May 1—Spring Vacation
- May 4— May 8—Washington DC Trip
Earth Shuttle Trip

6TH GRADE NEWS

Grade Six is ushering in SPRING with a great deal of activity.

Language Arts classes are continuing with research. Students are writing their Immigration Paper which is connected to their own unique heritage. They first researched their own family tree and from there they are finding out important facts about immigrants coming to America.

Reading classes are studying the two genres of Science Fiction and Fantasy. Different selections will be read and discussed to learn how authors develop theme, setting, plot and character traits within these types of literature.

In Math students are finishing up a Unit on Shapes and Designs and will be moving into Bits and Pieces II learning about the operation of fractions. Pre-algebra students are moving into a unit on Ratios/Proportions/Percents.

Social Studies classes are finishing up learning about the ancients. Students have completed their international country research by creating a display on tri fold poster board and sharing their information with students and parents at the Country Project Expo. The next course of study is to learn more about our Canadian neighbors.

Our Science students are finishing up their unit on the study of Volcanoes. The next unit will be about the study of Rocks and Minerals. Students will be investigating the origins of rocks and minerals, their uses, and where they are found throughout the world. They will be investigating through technology and hands on experiments.

MOODLE TRAINING FOR PARENTS

Parent Moodle training is being offered at WMS on 4/21 or 5/6 at 7:00p.m. Please call the school (893-2636) to register for this informative session.

THANK YOU PTA!

The staff at WMS would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the PTA for a most impressive Teacher Appreciation Week. A superb luncheon was served on Monday, a hearty breakfast on Wednesday, and chocolate delights on Friday. We were also able to enjoy lotions, sprays and soaps from Lady Primrose. With the chocolate treats on Friday, a photo of a picnic table with an appreciation message let us know that in the spring two picnic tables will be delivered to school. Thank you so much from all of us at WMS!!

PTA is sponsoring its 3rd annual **Essay Contest** for 8th grade students. The topic is "Pick a Person from the Past You Would Want to Meet. Tell us Who and Why" Essays should be 300 words. Email entries to president@windhampta.org by June 1st for a cash prize of \$150, which will be awarded at Academic Recognition Night in June.

7TH GRADE NEWS

This month we will be finishing up our literature circles unit in Reading. After finishing their books, students will complete an individual project to synthesize what they've learned. For the remainder of the month, we will explore poetry. Students will have the opportunity to read, write, analyze, and - of course! - enjoy poetry together.

In Language Arts, we will continue our review of the parts of speech. Students will complete a compare/contrast essay this month, as well.

In Science, students are finishing a unit on modern genetics which includes genetic disorders and advances in genetic engineering and gene therapy. We will be starting a unit on healthy body systems as an introduction to the study of the human body.

Spanish students practiced forms of the verb ser (to-be) using subject pronouns and adjective agreement in oral and writing activities.

March 27th was the culmination of a unit in Social Studies which focused on various aspects of the Middle Ages, such as feudal society, castles, weaponry, chess as a medieval battle, art, music, religious life, and the plague. Students dressed in Medieval costumes, paraded outside and then entered Midwin Castle (a transformed café) for a day of festivities. A banquet was followed by a tournament where the Midwinian manors (homerooms) tested their strength, skill, and agility in friendly competitions.

MUSIC NEWS

The Windham Middle School Music Department's Spring Concerts are as follows:

WMS Band Concert - Tuesday, April 14, 2009 - 7:00pm

WMS Chorus Concert - Wednesday, April 15, 2009 - 7:00pm

The students here at Windham Middle School are extremely talented and these concerts are a great way to hear some fantastic music. We hope to see you there!

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Pre-algebra classes are working on The Pythagorean Theorem and Area. Geometry students are working with parallelograms and the related theorems and proofs.

ILS classes will complete a school newsletter using Microsoft Publisher.

Science 8 students are finishing a unit on Newton's Laws of motion by conducting a lab on the transfer of momentum. Our next adventure in science will be simple machines, for which students will construct oak tag trebuchets. Students then will be required to design, build and demonstrate Rube Goldberg inventions.

The Social Studies classes are working on their World War II Archive Projects. Students will be working with a partner to create a museum quality display on a topic of their choice relating to World War II. The finished products will be displayed at the Swing Dance, which will be held on Monday, April 6th from 6:30-8:30. Students may receive extra-credit in Social Studies for attending the Swing Dance. We look forward to seeing students and their families that night!

It has been an excellent third quarter for 8th grade Language Arts students. Classes are tying up a unit on "The Power of Persuasion" with the completion of a Persuasive Research Essay and a speech/debate. Mrs. Morrow's students began reading Janet Tashjian's The Gospel According To Larry. This novel is part of a unit on propaganda and commercialism. The novel is a big hit for students so far and has sparked some great discussions in Mrs. Morrow's classes. All 8th graders will be reading the popular novel within the next few weeks. Mrs. McCorkle's students are wrapping up the Holocaust unit in time for Judith Black's Holocaust presentation. Ms. Roy's students are finishing up their speeches.

WMS S.M.I.L.E.S.

The second community service activity for S.M.I.L.E. S. was at the Kids' Café, an organization affiliated with the Salvation Army, which provides the inner-city children of Manchester a safe place to hang out and have fun after school. The Kids' Café provides the children with a meal and some fun activities to do. Middle School S.M.I.L.E.S. volunteers helped the younger children eat and set the tables before the older children arrived. After dinner, everyone went to different activities in the gym, game room, art room, and computer lab. In the gym, we had a fun game of nerf-dodgeball with some of the younger children. Everybody in the gym had a great time and enjoyed themselves. Other volunteers played some exciting games of air hockey with the older children.

The next event will be a visit to COR UNUM in Lawrence, MA. You may visit the website: www.corunummealcenter.org to find out more information on this facility. We are also asking for donations, which we will bring to COR UNUM on behalf of Windham Middle School SMILES/Advisory. Please see attached list for items to donate. We will be volunteering on Friday April 17, 2009 from 3:30 to 7:00. The bus will be leaving WMS at 2:45 and will probably return at 7:30. This meal center offers free meals, breakfast and supper, 7 days-a-week. We will be setting and cleaning tables, and serving food.

MEDIA CENTER NEWS

April 12-18 is National Library Week. We will be sponsoring an author bingo game, a trivia contest and a game where students have to match childhood favorite books to the appropriate staff member.

Don't forget our spring book fair will take place during the week of parent conferences. This is a great opportunity for your child to stock up on books to read over the summer.

March was a busy month in the media center with both Mrs. Morrow's and Ms. Roy's classes coming in to do research for their debate/persuasive essay. Mrs. Shirley even brought her PE classes up for a day!

Due to NWEA testing, we unfortunately have to be closed to classes for the month of April. Students may still come in to check out a book when testing is not taking place.

VIRGIN HEALTHMILES SCHOOL FITNESS

CHALLENGE

Windham Pilates and Wellness Center has teamed with VirginHealthmiles and WMS to offer a new program that promotes physical activity for students. The 10-week fitness challenge program provides exciting and fun physical activity plus rewards for students and school. Three homerooms at WMS were chosen at random to participate in the challenge: Ms. Roy's, Mrs. Fava's and Mr. Shirley's. Each student in the homeroom has received a Virgin HealthMiles GoZone pedometer and has started uploading weekly steps to computers. The computer collects and stores each student's steps so that individuals and teams can track progress. Prizes include T-shirts, I-Pods, Celtic Tickets and special rewards for classrooms.

OFFICE REMINDER

Students need to be in their homeroom by 7:40 a.m. every morning. Students are considered tardy after 7:40 a.m. Four or more unexcused tardies in any one quarter, results in the student having to serve an after school detention.

GUIDANCE NEWS

The Theme in Advisory for March was **Fitness**. Our advisories have been busy learning creative ways to stay fit and eat healthy.

April is transition month for our mentors. We have started our recruitment for next year's mentors. Please obtain an application from one of the M2M Advisors. All completed applications are due by April 24th.

M₂M Dance

M2M will host the monthly dance on Friday, April 3rd (7-9). Get creative and sport your favorite hat-prizes will be given to the most creative hat worn.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

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

Yearbooks

April will be the last month to order Yearbooks. Please see Mrs. Lichtmann or Mrs. Rawley to order you're 2009 Yearbooks. Yearbooks will be available for sale during conferences. All orders should be in by April 21st. Checks can be made out to Windham Middle School for \$25.00. There are still a lot of 8th grade students who have not purchased their yearbooks yet. We will have a limited supply available for purchase the night of yearbook signing.

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!

Time Capsule

The 8th grade students are working on gathering items for a time capsule to be hidden in Windham High School for viewing upon the 10th year reunion of this graduating class. If you have any great ideas-please contact Mrs. Lichtmann.