

# DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

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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](http://www.windhamsd.org), you can link to all of the Windham

### 6th Grade News

Students in grade six were able to participate in their first Super Bowl competition. The Super Bowl is where students generate factual questions regarding current events from newspapers, news magazines, television, or other news media. Each quarter winning teams from Social Studies classes compete against other sixth grade classes. Each quarter there is a winner who will advance to the end of the year tournament and compete for the final sixth grade championship. This quarter's winner was Mr. Kingsley's homeroom. After the Super Bowl, each quarter, several sixth grade students are selected by the sixth grade staff to receive the Outstanding Student Award. This award honors students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of attitude, effort, and leadership. It is always a difficult selection process being there are so many outstanding students. Good job to all who were selected this quarter. In addition, we have many students who received citizenship this quarter. Keep up the good work! We look forward to another good month. We hope everyone has a good holiday season.

### French News

Grade 8 - Students have reached the end of their extensive review and are on to new material! They will begin with a simple future tense and the verb "to go" to use with all their new vocabulary for places.

Grade 7 students have finished their second unit that worked on phrases to use with friends and family. This included vocabulary for family members, numbers, dates, and birthdays. Unit 3 is a favorite - ordering and paying for food in a cafe!

### Seventh Grade News

The seventh grade math classes and the Pre-Algebra classes have completed the unit on Integers; the students investigated the uses of integers, plotted the graphs of integers, and mastered the operations with integers, including combined operations and algebraic expressions with integers. This month the regular math classes will investigate the rational numbers, looking for connections and comparisons with decimals and fractions; operations on the rational numbers will be reviewed and students will be using combined operations and algebraic expressions with rational numbers. The Pre-Algebra classes will be solving equations and inequalities algebraically and working with formulas. Perimeter and area of rectangles will also be reviewed.

Seventh grade science classes have begun their study of cells! They are starting to explore the organelles and are creating cell models to demonstrate their understanding. This is always a favorite project of many students, since they have an opportunity to be creative and imaginative with their presentation of the material.

Seventh grade Social Studies classes are just finishing up the Greek Unit. Next we will be learning about Athens, Sparta, and the Persian Wars and then we'll be moving right along to the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire. It's hard to believe that students have uncovered almost 3,000 years of world history in only 3 months!

In Reading, students are focusing on learning about the Five Elements of Plot. They are doing sequence charts and story maps. Book Reports are connected to identifying plot elements found within their independent reading novels. In the Literature Text we will be reading short stories from noted authors, such as Chaim Potok. Vocabulary study will be included as we read textbooks and material of varied types. Context clue study is an important key in comprehension of any written work. We will be learning/reviewing recognizing several context clue signal terms and in writing original work applying context clues.

The Language Arts classes recently completed a quick review of capitalization rules. By creating a "Capitalization Book," the students reviewed many key concepts in the Language Arts curriculum. In December, classes will learn about commas and apply them to their everyday writing. As a final activity to this unit, the students will create a comic strip using many of the comma rules. This activity is meant to be a fun way to reinforce the comma rules.

### Eighth Grade News

Just like winter, the eighth grade curriculum is moving briskly into December. In Social Studies this past month, the eighth grade explored Westward Expansion and will soon be moving on to the Civil War. The students are learning about the Table of Elements in science and have completed quite a few labs. In Reading and Language Arts students completed the Gothic Horror unit and will be moving on to the advertising/media unit next. It will be the perfect time for students to watch the advertising techniques used during the holiday season. Mrs. McCorkle's classes also just finished the heart-warming story "Flowers for Algernon".

The Stock Market Game is coming to a close in math classes, and one of Windham's teams is currently in First Place and just may be future financial planners! Overall, the game has helped many students understand an integral part of American Society, the risk and rewards of the Stock Market. In Pre-Algebra, students are immersed in the concept of variables and have been simplifying expressions.

### Enrichment News

Several 8th grade students assisted Mrs. Williams and Mr. Shirley at the Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference in Nashua. Many thanks to : Nick Aldwin, , Amy Couture, Laura Cunningham, Kevin Delfosse, Lindsay DiSpirito, Brian Guessetto, Brian Kuehl, Alex Valentine, and Alison Vivinetto. Our presentation , The Power of PDAs in the Classroom, enabled students to share their knowledge of the Zire 71s.

## Important Dates in DECEMBER

December 12 - Winter Choral Performance

December 13—Winter Band Performance

December 15—Ignite Executives 7 am

December 16—Midterm Reports go home  
- Dance 7-9 pm

December 23-No School-Winter Vacation

January 3—Return to School

January 4—Earth Shuttle Meeting

### Guidance News

With one quarter under our belts students should be getting the hang of Middle School and what their teachers expect from them. However, some students may find it difficult to clean out the old and organize for the new quarter. Guidance is now offering a class to help with organization. Any student who is in need of some organizational skills for the new quarter or in general may participate. Students will meet with Mrs. Jodoin and/or Mrs. Lichtmann during a study hall or we have set aside Tuesday, December 6 after school from 2:15-3:00. If interested please let us know.

#### 10 Ways to Help your Child with Homework

1. Let your child know that homework is important and valuable.
2. Set a regular time each day for homework allowing some time to unwind after school before getting started.
3. Be sure your child has all essentials, such as papers, books, school notebooks and pencils.
4. Help your child get organized by providing folders for papers and a calendar /agenda.
5. Have a quiet, clean and well-lit place to study with a comfortable chair. Keep all school work there.
6. Discourage distractions, including TV during study time. Allow study breaks at intervals.
7. Be available to answer questions or help quiz your child, but keep homework as his or her responsibility to complete.
8. Spot check homework when it's complete, but don't correct assignments unless the teacher has asked you to.
9. Read any comments the teacher has made on returned assignments.
10. If a homework problem arises, contact the teacher for clarification.

### Expect the Best from Your Child... And Get It

When researchers look at what makes students successful, they always find that expectations play a key role. If parents and teachers hold high expectations, children usually live up to them. That's true in academics, athletics and for behavior as well. Emphasize the 3 A's: Attendance, Attitude, & Achievement

**Attendance-** Businesses know how important attendance is. When they call schools before hiring a graduate, they ask first about attendance...then grades. Show your child that you value attendance. You go to work with a headache or if the weather is cold and your child should go to school on those days too.

**Attitude-**Jesse Jackson often says, "It's your attitude and not your aptitude that determines your altitude". In other words, even the brightest student can fail if they don't work hard. Let your children know you expect them to try their best.

**Achievement-**We all need goals. Help your child learn to set goals...and achieve them. When they reach one goal, show them you are pleased and that you expect them to set their sights even higher next time.

#### Add the 3 B's

Be Positive, Be Consistent, & Be there for your child

### IGNITE

December 15th: Ignite -Executives meet in the Café at 7:00 am. All Mentors meet at 8:30 in the Cafe. Connections with 6th graders will be from 9:30—10.

This month's theme is Accepting Differences.

### HOLIDAY CONCERTS

This year's holiday concerts will be on the following dates: Chorus Monday, December 12, 2005 at 7:00pm and Band Tuesday, December 13, 2005 at 7:00pm. Please come join us for some great music performed by the talented music students here at Windham Middle School! They have all been working so hard and they sound phenomenal!

### Reminders

All Parents have access to their own child's grades and assignments. Passwords were given out the night of conferences. Contact the office if you do not have a password. Also, students need to be on time for school. After 3 late arrivals, students will serve an after-school detention.

### High School Integration Committee to Hold Community Focus Groups

The Integration Sub-committee of the Windham School Board wants to hear the community's questions, comments, and worries about Windham High School. All middle school students will be participating in focus groups during their regular Social Studies classes on Friday, December 2.

Separate focus groups for current high school freshmen and for all other members of the community will take place simultaneously on Monday, December 5, at 7pm at Windham Middle School. Please come and share your thoughts to ensure that our high school meets your needs.