



SAU 28

Windham Middle School

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December 2011

Principals' Corner

The holiday season moves at a rapid pace for students and staff with winter sports, concerts, and extracurricular activities in full swing. Our school has been a flurry about reading. Our Reading Zone has been a great success with students reading an enormous amount of books. The seventh graders alone have read over 1,170 books. We are proud to report that the books are flying off of the shelves in the Media Center. Keep Reading!

During the past month, our students had the unique opportunity to participate in an assembly featuring a New York City Dance Troupe. The Dance Troupe gave a wonderful performance which followed in a great discussion about making good choices.

Congratulations to Ms. Wilbur for winning the Math Hero Award sponsored by Raytheon Company. This award is given to a math teacher who has been instrumental in students' math educational experience.

We would like to extend special thank you to the PTA for the delicious dinner they provided to our staff during parent teacher conferences. We really appreciated the tasty soups, salads, and desserts!

Another thank you goes out to all of the families that contributed to the school Food Drive and to our guidance counselors for organizing the event. We understand it was a difficult time to give with the power outages and tricky weather conditions.

A few important dates to note include the 7th grade field trip to the Museum of Science on Dec. 7th. The Winter Wonderland Dance on December 9th. The cost of the dance is \$10.00 and the proceeds are given to Windham Helping Hands.

Please join us for our Winter Band Concert on Dec. 14th at 7 PM at Windham High School and the Winter Chorus Concert on Dec. 15th at 7 PM also at Windham High School.

Lastly, Progress Reports will be going home on Dec. 15th.

We wish everyone a wonderful Holiday season! Enjoy the vacation time with family and friends.

Respectfully,

Dan and Brenda

Important Dates

Please continue to check the school calendar for changes:

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

- 12/7 7th Grade Field Trip (MOS)
- 12/8 Fit Club Session 2 Begins
- 12/8 Sports Pictures
- 12/9 Winter Wonderland Dance 7-9
- 12/14 WMS Band Concert at WHS 7:00
- 12/15 WMS Chorus Concert at WHS 7:00
- 12/15 2nd Quarter Progress Reports
- 12/20 Winter Concert Snow Date
- 12/26-1/2 Vacation
- 1/6 Ski N Ride Club Gunstock
- 1/11 Geography Bee 6:30
- 1/16 Martin Luther King Day—no school
- 1/18 Yearbook Orders Due
- 1/18 College Day for Students
- 1/18 Geography Bee Snow Date
- 1/20 School Dance 7-9
- 1/21 Ski N Ride Club Killington
- 1/24 End of 2nd Quarter
- 1/24 Spelling Bee
- 1/26 Spelling Bee Snow date
- 1/31 Report Cards go home
- 2/6 Winter Sports Awards Night



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Guidance News

M₂M



M₂M training will be held on December 13th and the connection will be on the 14th. The month of December is geared toward inspiring the students to give back to others by doing a good deed. The theme for the month is “Pay it Forward.” We must educate and inspire students to realize that they can change the world, one person at a time. Our goal this month is to have the students, staff and community members do a good deed and, in turn, have that person do something nice in return.

“The month of December is geared toward inspiring the students to give back to others by doing a good deed. The theme for the month is “Pay it Forward.”

The idea “Pay It Forward” was started after author Catherine Ryan Hyde wrote the novel “Pay It Forward” and introduced Trevor McKinney, a twelve-year-old boy who accepts the challenge that his teacher gives his class, a chance to earn extra credit by coming up with a plan to change the world for the better. Trevor chooses three people for whom

he will do a favor, and then when those people thank him and ask how they might pay him back, he will tell them that instead of paying him back, they should each “pay it forward” by choosing three people for whom they can do favors, and in turn telling those people to pay it forward. It’s nothing less than a human chain letter of kindness and good will (Pay It Forward Foundation, 2006).

Private High Schools

Attention 8th graders applying to private high schools . . . the application deadlines are approaching. Remember that all application materials should be submitted to Mrs. Wagner in the Guidance Department. We will then forward the application packets on to the private high schools before the deadlines.

Food Drive Update

Congratulations to Golden Brook School for winning this year’s Turkey Trophy, collecting over 1600 pounds of food. Middle School collected

over 1300 pounds for local families coming in a close 2nd. Thank you to all who participated!

Winter Wonderland Dance

Friday December 9th from 7pm-9pm in the Windham Middle School Café

The dance sponsored by the Guidance Department It is a dress-up affair in the Cafe. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Come and enjoy!!!

Fifty percent of the proceeds goes to our local charity Helping Hands.



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Sixth Grade News

The Sixth Grade carried on its Thanksgiving tradition in having a morning snack of Munchkins and cider on the day before Thanksgiving. Students have been settling nicely into the routine of Middle School since our return from Camp Bournedale.

6th grade math is moving into our unit on fractions and decimals. Students got new books titled "Bits and Pieces I" (referring to the "bits" and "pieces" that fractions make of a whole). We are comparing fractions to benchmarks, ordering them on number lines, and learning to take fractions of the whole in real-life situations. Soon we'll move onto decimals and percents relating them back to our knowledge of fractions. Sixth Grade Science is finishing up our Ecosystem units and moving on to measurement!



Seventh Grade News

Seventh grade math is still finishing the unit on percents; they will solve percent word problems using proportions. They will use Integers in the context of temperature, bank balances, etc. and explore Absolute Value and Integers on a number line. They will learn rules for addition of Integers and also compute subtraction problems. Seventh grade PreAlgebra will complete work with signed rational numbers using order of operations and evaluate and simplify algebraic expressions with signed rationals. They will then move on to solving one step equations algebraically. Seventh grade Algebra will explore proportional and non-proportional relationships.

They will then use the slope-intercept formula for linear relationships and look at point-slope form; they will investigate the slopes of lines that are parallel and lines that are perpendicular.

In language arts, students will begin the month by practicing writing 5 paragraph essays, analyzing various literary elements within *Tangerine*, by Edward Bloor. In reading, we will finish up *Tangerine* with a small group project - *The Tangerine Times* - where students need to synthesize key aspects of the book in a newsletter.

The remainder of the month will be spent studying Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. We will read an abridged version together in a

Readers' Theater, as well as excerpts from the original work. Together, we will explore the historical context and rich figurative language of this holiday classic.

Seventh grade science students are learning about infectious diseases caused by viruses and bacteria. Each student is researching a disease and creating a three fold brochure like you might find in a hospital or doctor's office about their disease.

The seventh graders will be going to the Pompeii Exhibit at the Museum of Science on December 7. They will be starting their mythology unit in Social Studies.



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Eighth Grade News

Students in science are currently studying atoms and bonding and have begun looking at the organization of the periodic table of elements. Students will be assigned 2 elements to research and create element "trading cards" that will be displayed for an in-class element fair. Ask your son or daughter what happens when you mix alkali metals with water in a bathtub. Hint: The bathtub loses!

In Language Arts, the students have been studying Gothic horror. A major focus has been on Edgar Allan Poe's life and contributions to the genre. The students continue to spend an impressive amount of time reading their novels and are working diligently towards their individual reading goals set in Reading Zone. Next, we are moving onto reading and writing commentary; we will also

continue our study of Greek and Latin roots.

Currently, students in 8th grade Social Studies are analyzing the presidential administrations of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. In the upcoming unit, students will be exploring the idea of Manifest Destiny with a primary focus on the Lewis and Clark expedition.



"Don't forget to check Moodle!"

SMILES Club News

The SMILES Club will be heading up to the Kids Cafe in Manchester. There will be 28 students and 6 staff chaperones going on this trip. The Kids Café is sponsored by the Salvation Army. Our volunteers will set up the cafeteria in the gymnasium, serve the food and clean up afterward. Then our students will work in the computer room, in the art room and play games in the gym. Every day the Kids Cafe provides much needed meals for the youth in the greater Manchester area. Most of the 100 plus youngsters attend the various elementary schools in Manchester. This will be our 6th trip to the Cafe.

Music News

BAND AND CHORUS CONCERTS! This years' winter concerts are scheduled for December 14th (band) and December 15th (Chorus). Both concerts are scheduled for 7:00pm at the High School auditorium. The public is welcome. Come support the musicians of your school! Notices for band and chorus members will be sent home this week to give more information on call times and dress requirements.

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Media Center News

The students continue to impress the administration, teachers and librarian with their excitement about reading this year. Library circulation continues to be over 1,000 books/month. Keep on Reading!

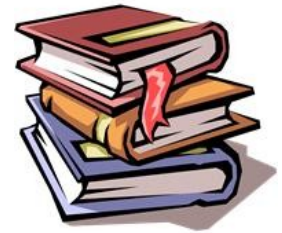
Thanks go out to the Parent and Student Book Fair Volunteers. We had a very profitable Fall Book Fair, and will be rewarded with many new books and materials for the

library and classrooms. The Book Fair would not be a success without the dedication of our Coordinator and her "staff".

Parents, please help your children remember to return library books and other materials in a timely manner. They are allowed to check out books for three weeks, and flash

drives for five days. While we are thrilled by the number of books in circulation, there are *many* overdue books and flashdrives. Thanks for your help!

We continue to encourage you to join your children in the "Reading Zone." It's a great way to relax during this busy holiday season!



Keyboarding Practice Time Available

It is becoming increasingly more important for students to master keyboarding skills at a young age. Starting on Monday, December 5, Mrs. Smith will begin offering before and after-school Keyboarding Practice Times in the Media Center. Morning sessions will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 to 7:30. Afternoon sessions will take place on Mondays and Thursdays from 2:30 to 3:15. Please contact Katy Smith at ksmith@windhamsd.org for details, or to register your child. These sessions are available to all WMS students.



More Music News

MONARCHS GAME - SELECT CHORUS!! The Windham Middle School Select Chorus will be singing the National Anthem at the January 15th Monarchs game at the Verizon Wireless Arena in Manchester. Love hockey? Why not come and enjoy a game while supporting the Select Chorus at the same time? Tickets are \$19.50 for adults and \$11.00 for youth. Order forms can be found in the foyer of the middle school or by contacting Mrs. Cuneo. Ticket orders and money are due no later than January 5th. Tickets will be distributed to students the week before the game.



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Reflections from the Reading Zone



"I realize a lot about me as a reader this quarter, but the thing I realized the most is that I was able to get into "The Zone." I have never had that happen before. It feels like you are with the characters in the book. It is a fun feeling to experience. I felt most in "The Zone" when I read, *I Was Walking With the Dead.* That is what I realized about myself as a reader during Term 1."

-Luke Leonard Grade 6

"I like reading more than before. I forgot how cool reading is." -Laura Pomeroy, Grade 8

"I like reading more since it allows me to expand my vocab. and explore new genres." - Natalie Boyd, Grade 8

More 8th Grade Reflections

"I tried a couple new strategies so far this year. In books that were long and got kind of uninteresting at some points I skimmed to get to important parts. I also tried different genres to see if I liked anything else. Along with different genres I tried many diverse lengths. I noticed that I read some books quicker and some took more time. This helped me get more out of the books and enjoy them more."

"Yes, it's Tuesday," you say. Finally you get a half hour to dive into that book you've been dying to finish or get started on that new horror story you saw in the bookstore the other day. Reading Zone is a place where you can just shut out the whole world and let your imagination run wild between the pages of a book.



"I have been extremely proud of my reading in the first quarter. My reading effort has definitely improved since last year. I have read four more books than I did last year in the first quarter."

"My favorite book that I read this quarter was *The Hunger Games*. ...There were many times where I was reading and I just didn't want to put it down even though I had hockey or baseball."

"I hope to get through 4 or 5 books this quarter and keep up my effort. I find it much more fun to read when you are always trying to have a book that interests you instead of only reading when you need to."

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Yearbook Information

2012 WMS Yearbook! New low price \$20!

On Sale Now through Christmas break!

Delivery in June before end of school year!

Two ways to order:

1) send in check for \$20 payable to WMS, attn: Mrs. Rawley

2) order online and pay with credit card at <http://jostensyearbooks.com>. Link to Jostens website can also be found in Daily bulletin.

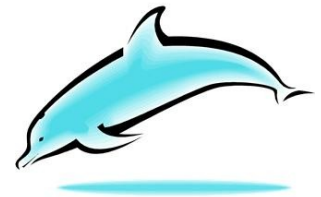
Earth Shuttle

It's not too late to sign up for Earth Shuttle!

- Earth Shuttle is an educational program for students interested in learning outside the classroom. Students take notes in all educational programs to use in writing a report when they return.

This year's itinerary includes:

- **Busch Gardens:** Behind the scenes animal encounters, visit animal rescue and rehabilitation, get up-close encounters with giraffes, zebra, rare white rhinos and their equally awesome black rhino cousins while you learn about endangered and at-risk animals in the wild
- **Fort DeSoto State Park** –Participate in a dissection and kayak around mangroves in search of exotic plants and animals. Snorkeling, dip netting and beach study.
- **MOSI- Museum of Science and Industry:** Participate in a simulated space mission in the Challenger Learning Center. Create a comet using common household materials.
- **American Pro-Diving:** Snorkel w/Manatees; learn about the history and conservation of these endangered animals, explore Rainbow River and its abundant wildlife and search for prehistoric sharks teeth.
- **Discovery Cove** - "Dolphin & Coral Reef Experience"



Students may register for the 2011 trip by picking up a registration form from Mrs. Pierpont or Miss Corbin. You may also register online at www.worldstrides.org using the trip ID# 58197. Cost of this year's trip: Student \$2144.00 Adults \$2251.00