

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

STEPHEN PLOCHARCZYK
Principal

KORI ALICE BECHT
Assistant Principal



Windham Middle School

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

SCHOOL NURSE & SAFETY PHONE
893-0434

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

December 8 — **Midterm Reports**
December 8 — **Dance 7– 9 PM**
December 12 — **Band Concert 7 PM**
December 13 — **M2M Executive Meeting 7 AM**
December 13 — **Chorus Concert 7 PM**
December 25-January 1—**Winter Vacation**

6TH GRADE NEWS

Students in grade six were able to participate in their first Super Bowl competition. 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 Mrs. O'Shaughnessy'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 as 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.

ART NEWS

The art department is looking for donations of magazines, clean yogurt cups, clean butter/ cool whip tubs. You can drop them off anytime of the day. Thank you ahead of time! Mrs. Mercier :-)

STUDENT COUNCIL - TOY DRIVE

Student Council is sponsoring a Toy Drive from December 1st through the 15th. We would appreciate items appropriate for middle school students: books, music cd's, games, etc. If anyone would like to make a donation, please make a check out to Helping Hands.

CHRISTA MCAULIFFE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

Mr. Shirley and Mrs. Williams would like to thank the following students for their assistance at the Technology Conference in Nashua: Matt Cannone, Melissa Higgins, Swaitha Maripuri, Michael Melino, Maddie Smith, and Matt Vincent. Students helped conference participants use the Palm Zire 71s by demonstrating educational applications.

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

In 7th grade Social Studies, students are in the midst of projects designed to show the vast difference between life in Athens and life in Sparta during Classical Greek times. Groups are working on a variety of products to show what they have learned, including videotaped documentaries, newspapers, magazines, and plays. Following their presentations, we will concentrate on the great contributions to our own culture from the Athenians of this period.

Seventh grade elections were recently held following a short, but enthusiastic campaign. Teachers were very pleased at the manner in which the whole process was conducted. Campaigns were waged fairly, and the speeches were outstanding. Twenty-one students ran for office, and it was obvious that most were truly interested in working hard for their fellow students, if elected. Many would have made outstanding officers, but it had to be narrowed to four. Our congratulations go out to the following newly elected 7th Grade Officers:

President -	Colby Putnam
Vice-President -	Sarah Vivenetto
Secretary -	Bryan Ducey
Treasurer -	Hannah Peters

Reading classes will be starting a unit based on The Odyssey. The Adventures of Ulysses, translated by Bernard Evslin, gives students several exciting adventure tales which really bring to life the great Greek heroes and myths of ancient times. The reading coordinates what is being learned in their social studies classes about this time in Western civilization including history, culture and beliefs.

Spanish students celebrated El Día de Los Muertos, the Day Of The Dead. Every year on November 1st (All Saints Day) and November 2nd (All Souls Day) something unique takes place in many areas of Mexico City. Mexicans, recognize this time as El Día de los Muertos, an opportunity to remember those who have passed away. The celebration combines the solemnity of prayer and the joy of food, music and dancing. It also serves an invitation to those souls who have left the living world to return for a short while. The students watched a movie about the celebration and worked on a crossword puzzle. Following Mexican tradition, the celebration ended with some chocolate.

Math classes are working on Number Theory. Students will use factors, multiples, primes and composite numbers and investigate how these are the same and how they are different. They will extend this to problem solving. The students are also investigating different types of pyramids and prisms.

Pre-Algebra students are solving equations and inequalities algebraically. They will create open sentences from word problems and then solve them. They are also working with formulas and investigating the relationship between perimeter and area. Continuing with Geometry students will discover the special pairs of angles on parallel lines.



8TH GRADE NEWS

In Mr. Kirste's Language Arts classes, students have been working in groups on a cooperative teaching unit. Each group has been assigned a grammar concept to research, and after working out a complete lesson plan, they are presenting their information to the class, complete with original lectures, worksheets, activities and even the occasional pop quiz. In addition to reviewing grammar concepts, the students are gaining valuable experience with working cooperatively with fellow students while developing an appreciation for the effort and planning that goes into teaching.

Soon eighth grade Language Arts classes will be reading non-fiction and fictional stories about the Civil War to afford students some prior knowledge for the unit in social studies. We will be starting our 3 week Advertising Unit on Dec. 4th. There will be a major presentation at the end of the unit from each advertising "agency".

During December in Math classes, the Stock Market Project will come to a close. At the moment, we have teams near the top three because of their smart investments. These next two weeks will determine whether a Windham team comes out on top in the region! Students will create line graphs in Microsoft Excel of their individual stocks prices over the course of the 9-week project and also summarize what they learned about investing in the stock market. Once again, this project has been a wonderful connection between mathematics in the classroom and the real world.

After finishing up a unit on Acids and Bases in Science, students will do a unit on bridges. Students will design and build bridges out of toothpicks

WINTER WONDERLAND DANCE

For the first time at WMS, there will be a Windham Winter Wonderland Dance! It will take place on **December 8th** from **7:00-9:00**. The 6th grade will be sponsoring this dance, but the 8th grade officers (Andie Missert, Mike Melino, and Swaitha Maripuri) have decided to make it an event to help out those in need during the holiday season. A portion of the proceeds from the \$9.00 admission will be donated to Windham Helping Hands. Students are asked to please dress nicely! Girls may wear dresses if they would like (no strapless allowed). Boys could wear a collared shirt or a shirt and tie. We encourage all students to attend this dance, for it will be a great time and is supporting a good cause!

Raffle tickets will be sold during lunches December 4th-8th. We are raffling off six awesome prize baskets that will have gift cards, candy, etc. in them. Tickets are \$0.75 each or two for \$1.00. These will also be sold for one hour at the dance and the winners will be announced later in the evening on the 8th.

We would absolutely like to thank Mr. Plocharczyk for allowing this dance to happen and supporting it along the way. We owe another big thank you to the student council for helping sell raffle tickets and drinks and to Mrs. Kryzynski for supporting us with our idea. The 6th grade team has also been remarkable in letting us help with their dance in order to support a wonderful cause! We hope to see everyone there!

Article by Andie Missert, 8th Grade President

BAND AND CHORUS NEWS

The music department will be performing their annual winter concerts on Tuesday, December 12 (band) and Wednesday, December 13 (chorus). Note that the days have been switched from the original schedule shown in the handbook and school webpage. Both concerts begin at 7:00pm in the gymnasium! Please come and support our musicians!

GUIDANCE NEWS

M₂M

M2M training will be held on December 13. The theme this month focuses on honesty. Our goal in promoting honesty is to demonstrate that honest people have stronger, better relationships with others. All Executives meet in the Media Center at 7:00 am. All M₂M members will meet in the Café 8:30-9:30. M₂M Connections will be in the 6th grade homerooms from 9:30-10:00.

On December 14, we will be holding a Bake Sale in the gym during the basketball game, which begins at 3:30. Mentees and mentors are invited to attend and enjoy the game together.

Mark your calendars! M₂M Mentors will be holding a Mentor Study Group on January 9th from 2:15-3:15.

Private High Schools

Attention 8th graders applying to private high schools - application deadlines are approaching. Listed below are some of those dates, but be sure to check with the school to which you are applying for any changes.

Central Catholic – December 9, 2006

Bishop Guertin – January 5, 2007

Trinity High School – November 30, 2006

Brooks School – January 15, 2007

Phillips Exeter Academy – January 16, 2007

Remember that all application materials should be submitted to the Guidance Department. We will then forward the application packets on to the private high schools before the deadlines.

Mix It Up Day

Thank you to everyone for your awesome participation in Mix It Up Day. You took part in a national event that included more than four million students in 10,000 schools! We hope that you took the opportunity to get to know someone new.

Yearbook Information

Our next Yearbook Club meeting will be held on December 7th from 2:15-3:15 in the Media Center.

Yearbooks will be on sale at lunch in the Café on December 13, and 14th. Another option to purchase a yearbook is to go to the Windham Middle School website and click on the Yearbook Link.

Turkey Trophy Winners!!

Congratulations to WMS for winning the first Turkey Trophy. WMS collected over 1100 pounds of food for local families. Food collection was up in all three schools so everyone wins. Thank you to the generous families of Windham for your donations and heart felt wishes for an abundant holiday season.

FRENCH

Gr. 6 - A new group of students have begun French in the new quarter and are off to a wonderful start! They have already done the alphabet, some study of the geography of France, greetings, colors, and now numbers.

Gr. 7 - Students have begun two of the favorite early lessons of the book - food and beverages! Students have learned how to express hunger and thirst, how to order, and how to ask others what they'd like. Soon students will be creating a cafe menu - in French of course!

Gr. 8 - Following an in-depth review, students are moving into new material. The current unit of lessons focuses on buildings in a community, and going places and doing things with friends and family.