

DECEMBER

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

December 7	—	Midterm Reports
December 7	—	Winter Wonderland Dance 7– 9 PM
December 10	—	M2M Executive Meeting 7 AM
December 10	—	Band Concert 7 PM
December 11	—	Chorus Concert 7 PM
December 22 -January 1	—	Winter Vacation
JANUARY 8	—	NO SCHOOL-PRIMARY ELECTIONS
January 9	—	Early Release—11:30 Dismissal

WINDHAM WONDERLAND DANCE

The Windham Wonderland Dance is back again for the second year! Students from Middle School can get dressed up and come spend an awesome night with their friends. The dance is from 7:00-9:00 on Friday, December 7th. Admission is \$10 and all profits from the dance will go to Windham Helping Hands. Boys should wear a collared shirt with or without a tie and girls should wear school-appropriate dresses. We encourage all of the students to attend this dance to have a great time and support the Windham Helping Hands!

Raffles have been donated by each grade level and tickets will be sold during lunches and at the dance. Prizes include: Chunky's gift baskets, Movie Scene gift baskets and American Express gift cards. Tickets will be 50 cents each or 3 for \$1. Thank you to everyone who is making this dance possible.

6TH GRADE NEWS

Students in grade six were able to participate in their first Super Bowl competition. During the Super Bowl, 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. Gage's homeroom. Each quarter, after the Super Bowl, 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 because there are so many outstanding students. Good job to all who were selected this quarter. Keep up the good work! We look forward to another good month. We hope everyone has a good holiday season.

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

The 7th grade math classes are completing the unit on statistics; they will be doing a project to determine characteristics of a "typical" seventh grader. They will be investigating variables and patterns of change next.

The Prealgebra classes are completing the unit on variables and change and working with a graphing calculator to clearly see the pattern of change. Next they will be studying similar polygons. The Algebra classes are completing the unit on setting up and solving word problems algebraically. They will move onto non-linear equations, inequalities and inverse variation.

In Seventh Grade Social Studies, students are wrapping up a major project on Classical Greek History, which goes along with their study of Greek Mythology in Language Arts. After several days of individual research and several more working together in groups, students are currently making group presentations about a number of topics, such as: the ancient Olympics; Greek Theater; Greek Art, Architecture, and Pottery; Greek History and Literature; Greek Science and Math; and Alexander the Great. Once we have completed this project, we will be journeying on to Rome!

MEDIA NEWS

Thank you to all of the staff, students and parents who supported the fall book fair. It is great to see students take the time to purchase new reading material. Thank you to Robin Cino and Diane DiPersio for coordinating the volunteers and running the book fair!

During the month of November all classes at WMS read the book *The Revealers* by Doug Wilhelm. This book deals with three seventh-grade outcasts who are tired of being picked on. They join forces and begin to create a new atmosphere at their school through an innovative experiment. After many interesting classroom discussions about the book and the ideas it puts forth, students and staff alike enjoyed a visit from the author on November 28 and 29th. The evening of the 28th an interesting discussion took place with Doug Wilhelm and a small group of parents about bullying, then students had a chance to meet Doug during grade-level assemblies and lunch on the 29th.

TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

On Tuesday, November 27th, Mr. Shirley and Mrs. Williams were presenters at the Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference in Nashua. The presentation, "Direct from Our Classroom to Yours: The Power of PDAS," included assistance from some tech savvy 8th graders. Many thanks to those assistants: Brooke Beneze, Tyler Caron, Adam DiPersio, Colby Putnam, Alex Riddle and Sarah Vivinetto.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

December is Media Month in Language Arts! We'll be looking in-depth at advertising and media and the way they influence the decisions we make -- how it shapes our beliefs, how we spend our money and why things are not always as they appear. In the process, students will work in groups to develop a comprehensive marketing campaign for a fictional product.

Science 8 students are learning about the differences between Acids and Bases. The two weeks before winter break students will be designing and constructing model bridges out of toothpick and glue .

MUSIC NEWS

Come to the Windham Middle School Band and Chorus Concerts On Monday, December 10th at 7:00pm the Band will perform. We will be showcasing the talents of the sixth, seventh, and eighth Grade Bands, Honors Band, WMS Drum Line, and WMS Jazz Ensemble. The Chorus Concert is Tuesday, December 11th at 7 pm. Enjoy sixth, seventh, eighth Grade Chorus performances, as well as Select Chorus. All students have worked extremely hard this term to put on exciting and enjoyable concerts! We hope to see you there!

FRENCH NEWS

Grade 6 students have had fun learning how to greet friends, family, and adults in more formal situations. They have also studied colors and are now working on numbers so that they will also be able to tell time.

Seventh grade students are working around a new unit that involves food and beverages found in a typical French cafe. They will also be learning about French money, how to order food, and how to ask for the bill!

Eighth graders are working on a unit that focuses on the community. They have already learned vocabulary for many places in neighborhoods, towns, and cities. They are now working on new verbs for coming and going to these places, as well as giving directions, and ways to discuss travel using various modes of transportation.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Student Council is sponsoring a Toy Drive from Monday, December 3 through Thursday, December 13. All donations will be going to local organizations to fill wish lists and then the rest passed on to a wider group. Students are asked to think of others at this time of year and to really try to bring in a gift that would be appropriate for a child their age. Many donations are made for the babies, toddlers and young children but we would like middle age children to get their wishes granted too. All donations will be accepted with thanks.

After the holidays Student Council will be sponsoring a clothing drive for a shelter in Nashua. They are in desperate need of men's and children's clothing; used clothing in good condition will be very welcome. So as you make space for all those new clothes please consider donating those too-small jackets, pants, boots, shoes, sweaters, hats, shirts, etc. to someone who is in need.

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. If interested please let us know.

Reminder: All Parents have access to their own child's grades and assignments. Passwords were given out the night of Open House.

M₂M

M₂M training will be held on December 10th. 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. "Paper Dollars" will be displayed on bulletin boards throughout the school showing all the good deeds done by WMS. In the true meaning of the season, 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).

All Executives meet in the Media Center at 7:00 am. All M₂M members will meet in the Media Center from 9:00-9:30. M₂M Connections will be in the 6th grade homerooms from 9:30-10:00.

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 the Guidance Department. We will then forward the application packets on to the private high schools before the deadlines.

Yearbook Information

Yearbooks are still on sale. The price increase takes place on January 1st. Yearbooks make great gifts. Another option to purchase a yearbook is to go to the Windham Middle School website and click on Yearbook Ordering Link.

Bully Box

The Media Center now has a Bully Box. This box is for any student who wishes to anonymously leave a note about being or witnessing bullying. We are hoping this box provides teachers with information concerning students who don't feel comfortable telling an adult about a bullying situation. In addition to this Bully Box we are holding an anti-bullying day on December 12th. All students should **stand up against bullying** and wear white and blue representing peace and promoting a bully free environment.

Food Drive Update

Congratulations to Golden Brook School for winning this year's Turkey Trophy. WMS collected over 1143 pounds of food for local families. Only 94lbs separated 1st and 2nd place. Between all three schools over 3,000 lbs were collected. 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.

Ski Club

Look for the first ski club trip coming in January. Sign-ups for Ski Club are December 10th in Mrs. Jodoin's Room.