

DECEMBER 2009

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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

December 1	—M2M Executive Meeting 7 AM
December 4	—Winter Wonderland Dance 7– 9 PM
December 11	—Midterms
December 15	—Winter Chorus Concert 7 PM
December 16	—Winter Band Concert 7 PM
December 24	—January 3—Winter Vacation
January 6	—Earth Shuttle Meeting 7:30 PM
January 9	—Ski Trip To Waterville Valley

WINDHAM WONDERLAND DANCE

The Windham Wonderland Dance is returning for the fourth year! Students from Middle School can get dressed up and spend an awesome night with their friends. The dance is from 7:00-9:00 on Friday, December 4th. Admission is \$10 and all profits from the dance will go to local charities. Boys should wear a collared shirt with or without a tie and girls should wear school-appropriate dresses. We encourage all students to attend this dance to have a great time and show your support!

6TH GRADE NEWS

Students in grade six are going to be participating 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 Super Bowl championship.

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 luck to all the students and keep up the good work! We look forward to another good month. We hope everyone has a good holiday season.

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

After finishing Tangerine, we will be moving on to Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. We will read the abridged version together in a Readers' Theater format supplemented with excerpts from the original to explore the rich figurative language in this classic tale. Vocabulary and essay writing in language arts will center around this story, as well.

Students in 7th grade social studies have now finished their presentations about ancient Greece and will soon be completing that unit. By now, they are aware of the many contributions made by that culture to those that followed, including our own. Next on the time line is the Ancient Romans. We will be studying both the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire as we bring 2009 to an end.

Spanish students created e-mails to a pen pal on the computer, using Spanish characters such as a tilde over n, accent marks over vowels and upside-down question marks and exclamation points. They are used to help pronounce the words correctly.

Seventh grade math has completed the unit on evaluating algebraic expressions, exponents and square roots. They are now working on Integers learning how negative numbers are used in the real world and learning to compute with integers using all 4 operations, mixed operations and algebraic expressions with integers. PreAlgebra has completed the unit on Integers (including signed rational numbers). They are now solving open sentences algebraically and learning to create an open sentence from a word problem. This will lead into the unit on variables and patterns. Seventh grade Algebra is working on linear relationships using both the standard form and the slope-intercept form for a line. They will investigate the relationships between parallel and perpendicular lines and study scatter plots and "best fit" lines.

In science, students are learning about viruses and bacteria, so appropriate for this time of year. Each student is researching an infectious disease caused by either a virus or bacterium and creating a brochure using Microsoft Publisher.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

As we enter the second quarter, the eighth grade teachers are encouraging all students to make good use of their agenda to keep track of upcoming assignments. Teachers are also asking students to keep their notebooks and lockers organized.

Students in PreAlgebra are investigating graphs, the coordinate plane, and linear relationships. They are also using Gizmos on a more regular basis to help them understand and apply current concepts.

Students in Algebra are completing their analysis of linear relationships with an understanding of every component of the slope intercept form of a line. They will be using graphing calculators to compare and classify groups of lines, and learn how to find slope using formal calculations.

Science students are continuing the unit on atomic structure and the periodic table of elements. Students are researching various elements and will put their "element trading cards" on display at an element fair in early December. Our next units will focus on the chemistry of acids and bases as well as a small unit on the properties of water.

In language arts, students are exploring science fiction and the concept of a utopian society. Students have recently created character sketches identifying specific character traits. In literature, we are focusing on mood, tone, and theme.

In social studies, students are completing their Dred Scott Debate that will kick off the unit on the Civil War. We will be working on the Civil war during the month of December.

ILS students are working on two projects. The first is the Windham Middle School newsletter and the second is creating a TV show or a spin-off. We have also begun working on the Stock Market Game. In this game, Windham Middle School students compete against other New Hampshire middle school and high school students.

During Advisory, students have had the opportunity to hear the story Egghead, a novel that deals with the issues of bullying, shifting friendships, and making good choices.

SINGER/SONGWRITER LUCIE THERRIEN COMES TO WMS

French-Canadian singer and songwriter Lucie Therrien performed for the French students on Monday, November 9, 2009. She sang authentic songs from Canada as well as songs originally from France. She blended some cultural storytelling into her performance making for a unique, educational, and entertaining experience for the students, teachers, and guests in attendance.

MUSIC NEWS

The WMS Winter Band and Chorus concerts will be on Tuesday, December 15th (Chorus), and Wednesday, December 16, (Band.) Both concerts begin promptly at 7:00pm in the Windham Middle School gymnasium. Please come see a fantastic performance put on by the very talented students here at Windham Middle School. They have all worked exceedingly hard and we are very proud of them!

SPORTS NEWS

Come watch the boys and girls basketball in action. Here is the December Home schedule. Check out [www.windhamsd.org/ Athletics](http://www.windhamsd.org/Athletics) for more details.

Dec. 3rd A-1 Teams vs. Londonderry 3:30 and 5:00
Dec. 10th Class I Teams vs Hood 3:30 and 5:00
Dec. 14th A-1 Teams vs. Timberlane 3:30 and 5:00
Dec. 17th A-1 Teams vs. Woodbury 3:30 and 5:00



PTA

It's not too late to join PTA. Membership forms are available at:

http://www.windhampta.org/forms_documents.htm

Middle School staff would like to thank all the PTA volunteers for the fabulous dinner during Conferences. What a treat to be able to sit down and enjoy a delicious meal!

GUIDANCE NEWS

M₂M

M₂M training will be held on December 1st this month and the formal connection will be on Wednesday Dec. 2nd. All Executives will meet for our early morning training at 7am on the 1st. Please remember to wear your shirts on Wed. the 2nd. 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).

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 the Yearbook Link. Checks can be made out to WMS for \$25.00. All books will be in color this year.

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 and /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 please 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