

DECEMBER 2010

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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

Please continue to check the school calendar for changes:

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

- Nov 25 & 26: Thanksgiving Break
- Dec 3: Winter Wonderland Dance 7—9 PM
- Dec 9: PowerSchool training for WMS parents 7-8 PM
- Dec 10: 2nd quarter progress reports
- Dec 13: WMS Moodle training for parents 7-8 PM
- Dec 14: Band Concert 7 PM
- Dec 15: Chorus Concert 7 PM
- Dec 16: Concert snow date
- Dec 24—Jan 2: Winter break
- Jan 5: Earth Shuttle meeting 7:30 PM
- Jan 6: Geography Bee 7:00 PM
- Jan 7: Ski Club to Gunstock 2:30 PM
- Jan 12: Geography Bee snow date

and Mrs. Langlois for being wonderful Math volunteers this month. They helped us with the math feast activities. Students will keep on trucking with fractions this month!

In Language Arts, students have been busily working on their first of two research papers of the year; the animal research paper. This requires making note cards, outlines, creating a thesis statement, as well as a rough draft and final product. These papers are starting to come together quite nicely. Students have also completed the first unit of our Classical Roots vocabulary program. Working on correcting grammatical errors and parts of speech will continue throughout the school year.

Sixth grade Reading students have read a variety of stories in the Literature series. Throughout quarter one, the focus has been on learning different reading strategies and the elements of fiction. This will continue to be reinforced all year. During the second quarter, students will begin reading a class novel.

The science department has recently completed their big ecology unit. For the month of December, students will be studying the metric systems and learning the metric units for length, mass, and volume. There will be several lab activities to go along with this unit.

The sixth grade teachers and staff would like to wish all of our students and their families a wonderful holiday season.

Sixth Grade News

The sixth grade has had a very busy start to the school year. With Camp Bournedale, school dances, and many other fall activities behind us now, we are now starting to settle into quarter two. Parent teacher conferences were a great success. We felt very fortunate to have met with so many of our sixth grade parents in November.

In Social Studies this month, the sixth graders are studying their neighbors to the south; Mexico and Central America. Students have a brand new map of Mexico that they recently completed. Students will soon be discussing Spanish explorers in this region.

A big thank you to Mrs. O'Connor, Mrs. Lord,



Seventh Grade News

In the beginning of the month, we will be finishing up *Tangerine* in reading. For a culminating activity, students will write The Tangerine Times, a newsletter encompassing various aspects of the book. In language arts, students will write a final draft essay, analyzing one aspect of the novel. The rest of the month will be spent on Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*. We will study the time period, and then students will read the story together in a Readers' Theater format. In addition, we will read excerpts from the original story to explore Dickens' rich figurative language. The culminating activity will be a mini-project that will be due right before Christmas break.

The seventh grade math classes will finish the unit with square numbers and square roots and connect and compare these values with whole numbers. They will review perimeter, circumference and area and expand this to irregular figures. They will create their own creatures using different shapes. Next they will begin the unit on integers and signed numbers. The Pre-algebra classes will expand their knowledge of integers to signed rational numbers. They will explore the relationship between fractions and decimals and solve open sentences algebraically by balancing the equation. The Algebra class will continue to investigate linear relationships and write linear equations in both standard and slope-intercept form. They will work with direct variation and proportional relationships.

Seventh grade science students are using Microsoft Publisher to create an informational brochure on an infectious disease as part of our Viruses and Bacteria unit.

Students in 7th grade Social Studies are almost finished with their presentations about ancient Greece. In December, we will complete the study of this great culture with a look at the philosophers of that time, the Persian and Peloponnesian Wars, and Alexander the Great. Students are becoming more and more aware of the many contributions made by this ancient civilization to those that followed, including our own. Next on the time line is the Ancient Romans. We will be studying the Roman Republic as we come to the end of 2010.

Winter Concerts

WMS BAND AND CHORUS CONCERTS: The music department will be presenting their annual winter concerts on December 14th and 15th at 7:00pm in the Windham High School Auditorium. The grade level Bands, Jazz Band and Drumline will perform on Tuesday the 14th and the grade level Choruses, Select Chorus and String Ensemble will perform on Wednesday the 15th. Come and support these student musicians!



Ski 'N Ride Club

January trips - Students must have full payment on the day that they sign up for a trip. Please check the Moodle website for dates and check your calendars. If you miss the sign up or find that you are available



after sign ups, check with Mrs. Shirley. It is possible that there is an available spot on the trip or you can be on the waiting list to replace someone who needs to cancel due to illness or other conflict. Also check the daily bulletin for announcements.

Book Fair a Success!

Many thanks to the hard-working Book Fair Co-Chairs Margie Forti and Jo-Ann Houde. This was the most successful fair at WMS in some time. Also many thanks to the parent and student volunteers who spent many hours helping, and to all of the families who supported the fair with their purchases.

December 2010 Guidance News

M₂M

M₂M training will be held on December 8th. 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 Mrs. Wagoner in 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.

local families. Over 8000 pounds of food

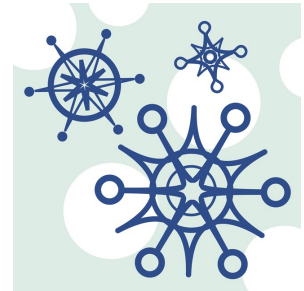
Food Drive Update

Congratulations to Windham Middle School for winning this years Turkey Trophy. We collected over 2600 pounds which is a record amount for local families. Over 8000 pounds of food were collected in the district!

Winter Wonderland Dance

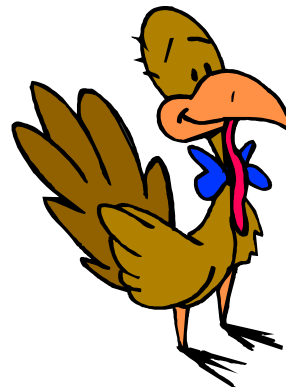
Friday December 3rd from 7pm-9pm in the Windham Middle School Café The dance, sponsored by the Guidance Department, is a dress up affair in the Cafe with refreshments provided. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Come and enjoy!!!

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

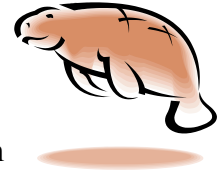


S.M.I.L.E.S. Club

S.M.I.L.E.S. Club visited the 'Kids Cafe' at the Salvation Army in Manchester on Thursday November 18. Approximately 25 students from grade 8 served a lavish Thanksgiving meal to 125 children from ages 7 to 12. The students then helped in the sports and art room activities. The SMILES Club is returning to deliver Christmas toys in December. The SMILES Club is a volunteer service club for eighth graders. There are currently some 50 students in the club. Staff volunteers include Ms. Jen Bullis, Ms. Francine Corbin, Mrs. Kim Sheal, Mrs. Carolyn Notini, and Mr. Carl Boisvert, 8th grade class advisor.



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:

- o **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
 - o **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.
 - o **MOSI- Museum of Science and Industry:** Participate in a simulated space mission in the Challenger Learning Center. Create a comet using common household materials.
 - o **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 Adult \$2251.00

Eighth Grade News

Algebra:

Students in Algebra have begun their investigation of linear functions. We will be studying slope intercept form and Standard Form of a linear function during the month of December.

Intro to Algebra:

Students in Introduction to Algebra are continuing their investigation of linear relationships. Students are now familiar with linear equations, and will be learning all about slope soon.

Pre-Algebra

Students in Pre-Algebra have just finished their integer operation review, as well as order of operations and the Coordinate Plane. They will use these skills when graphing linear relationships in their upcoming unit, Moving Straight Ahead.

Language Arts

Language Arts classes have read short stories based on the Civil War and are participating in literature circles based on Civil War novels. The main skill they are focusing on is compare/contrast for both this unit and the next one: *Flowers for Algernon*.

Social Studies

The 8th grade Social Studies teachers will be beginning our Civil War Unit with a mock trial of the Dred Scott Trial. Each student has been assigned a role in the case and will debate the Constitutional Issues in class. The Civil War Unit will give the students an opportunity to see the causes, issues, and struggles that took place in this time period of history.

ILS

In ILS students will be working on several computer-based projects and continuing the Stock Market Game. In the game students have to select stocks to buy and sell and the system, using actual closing prices, ranks them against other middle schools in the state.