

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

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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.

6th Grade News

Science: All sixth graders enjoyed a visit by Gordon Corbett on January 17th. He shared some interesting volcano experiments and gave us a detailed history of volcanic activity around the world including the events of Mount Vesuvius in 79AD.

As a conclusion to our Earthquake and Volcano Science Unit, students completed the Shake, Rattle, and Roll project by building a structure that could withstand earthquake forces. Everyone enjoyed the testing of their various, creative structures on the "great shake machine". We are happy to report there were few "catastrophic" failures and we can all be thankful to be living in an area with little earthquake activity.

Next, we will be moving into the world of geology studying rocks and minerals over the next few weeks.

Language Arts: Currently in Reading, many students are finishing the reading and analysis of the Breadwinner. All sixth grade students can look forward to the upcoming unit on Immigration. Some students are choosing book report books based on this theme.

Math: January finds us surrounded by fractions, decimals, and percents in the mathematics classes. Students are challenging themselves with extensions of past concepts and new problems daily. Students are encouraged to check out some great websites for math facts practice, math games, and practice of new concepts. Mrs. Hone, our Math Success Coordinator, has some great links on her teacher web.

Social Studies: The East Asia Unit is under way in the sixth grade Social Studies classes. Students continue to compare and contrast the cultures of the United States with China, Japan, and the Koreas.

Seventh Grade News

ILS

Students have recently completed a newsletter using Microsoft Publisher. They are currently working on an Iconic story in Microsoft Word. Next students will be doing some animation in HyperStudio

Math

Math classes have completed the unit on rational numbers in both decimal and fraction form. Next they will be working with ratios, proportions and percents. Practical uses of percents will be explored and proportions will be used for problem solving.

Pre-Algebra classes completed the unit on solving single step equations and inequalities. Students worked on solving problems algebraically using variables. Next they will work on number theory and different subsets within the set of whole numbers. Multiplying and dividing monomials will complete the unit.

Spanish classes have been learning about sequence of events: first, later, after. Students have discussed when they have their favorite class, or when they go to school, eat lunch, do homework, or participate in favorite activities.

Seventh grade science classes are into our second unit on cells. The students are learning about the processes of photosynthesis and respiration and how they are related. We will also explore the cell cycle and the relationship between cancer and the cell cycle as well as discuss several methods of treatment for cancer and cancer prevention. This is such an important topic as it touches the lives of so many of our students. Miss Corbin and Mrs. Fava would like to extend an invitation to parents with expertise about the human body systems to come to school and share "real world" experiences and knowledge with students. In the past we have had parents join us with information on infectious diseases, cell biology, etc. It's great when students can hear about the connections between what they learn in school and how that can be applied in a career.

The Medieval Unit is finally here! Beginning on February 6, social studies classes will be learning about different parts of Medieval life. After 2 weeks of doing research and making presentations, the Unit will culminate with the Medieval Banquet. This is scheduled for Thursday, February 23. More details will be coming home with your child on February 6th. The reading and language arts classes will be following up with related topics as well, such as comparing and contrasting life in Medieval times to life now. We are very excited for this unit!

Important Dates in FEBRUARY

February 2 - Early Release 11:15 AM
February 3—School Dance 7-9 PM
February 6 –Winter Sports Recognition Night 6 PM
February 13—Spelling Bee 7:00 PM
February 17—Midterm Reports
School Dance 7-9 PM
February 23—Medieval Banquet Grade 7
February 27—March 3—Vacation

Eighth Grade News

It's hard to believe it is the end of January!

News about Salem:

The Salem counselors visited eighth graders on the 19th of January to go over class selections for freshman year. The final blue selection sheets are due to homeroom teachers on Wednesday, February 8th. Be on time so you will have a good chance of getting the electives you want! On January 27th students participated in a presentation to find out more about the ROTC program at Salem High.

Washington News:

The second \$ 200 deposit is due February 7th. Filling out the roommate assignment sheet will take place in mid February. It is important to fill out the sheet correctly; therefore be thinking about roommates ahead of time. Congratulations to the students who sold raffle calendars to help pay for their trip. The raffle drawing will take place each morning in February, during homeroom time.

General News:

The Class Officers have been very busy selling candy at basketball games, candy canes at lunch during the Christmas season, and Subway subs in December and January. They are planning another sub sale for February. They are also selling carnations on Valentines Day, during the lunches. Great job, Christie, Alison, and Harris! Some of you who subscribe to the Lawrence Eagle Tribune may have seen the article on the front page "Swaying to the Music" last week. Michael and Debbie Ulbrich, who own the Krystal Ballroom in Salem, offered to give a presentation, of 1940's dances, to help prepare students for the upcoming World War II Unit, in March. Michael and his dance partner, Lauren, demonstrated several of the dances. A special thank you to Mrs. Shirley for arranging this presentation.

News about Academics:

ILS:In ILS students were building homes of their own! This computer activity included purchasing land, getting a permit to build, building a comfortable home, and selling the home for a profit (hopefully). Students were challenged with real world situations such as getting a loan from the bank or fixing the septic system. Next students 'will own a company' and create a catalogue to market their products.

Pre-Algebra:After reviewing integers, students are grappling with two big ideas of mathematics, balance and inverse operations. Students will use these big ideas when writing and solving equations.

Algebra:Students explored proportions and percents in depth, and are moving towards graphing and modeling linear equations.

Social Studies:The social studies classes studied Reconstruction after the Civil War, the settlement of the West and the closing of the frontier, the development of big business, immigration, and the imperialist movement.

8th Grade Continued

LA/readingStudents in Mrs. Kryzynski's classes just finished a challenging debate unit. They researched for 2 weeks in the Media Center, compiled note cards, wrote a persuasive research paper, and participated in a 45 minute debate. Great job to all those who worked hard!

Mr. Kirste's classes worked on the Career Unit using the lap tops to explore career options in the Boston area. Each student also created a power point presentation to outline the housing potentials, job opportunities, and transportation choices that fits his/her ideal career.

Mrs. McCorkle's classes read several stories about the Civil War to help students understand the time period from the point of view of literature. They also read The Giver in literature circles and are moving onto the music lyrics/poetry unit for February.

Guidance

Girl's Inc.

Girl's Inc. is coming to speak to the 8th grade girls during their Health Class on 2/16. They will also present in March and April. Girl's Inc. of New Hampshire is a member based organization for girls ages 6-18 and is part of a national non-profit organization that helps girls achieve their personal best. Girl's Inc recognizes the every day opportunities, challenges and choices that face our adolescences each day. They will be presenting a Media Literacy program that encourages girls to think critically about the media and foster their awareness of the power of the media and its effects on our girls.

NHHEAF

The New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF) will be visiting with all 8th grade classrooms on February 23 during their LA/Reading block. They will be playing "Who Wants to be a College Graduate?" Students will be dividing into teams to answer questions relating to college life and the process of preparing for education beyond high school. Topics include: college lingo, PSAT, importance of building a strong high school transcript, time management, homework, job shadowing, extracurricular activities and volunteerism.

Everyone is encouraged to wear a College Sweatshirt/T-shirt on Thursday 2/23 to celebrate the NHHEAF visit. It is never too early to think about college.

Ignite News

February's theme is **Friendship**. Our goal is to help students move beyond first impressions and initial judgments in order to be open to new friendships. What a great month to incorporate Valentines Day with Friendship month.

Ignite connection day will be on Thursday 2/9/06. Executives will meet in the café at 7am, training will be from 8:30-9:30 and connections will take place from 9:30-10:00.

Windham High School

Students attended a wonderful presentation on the new high school. They were able to see the floor plans, an aerial view and virtual tour of the building, plus ask questions. Special thanks to members of the Integration Committee who assisted: Dr. Cutler, Mrs. Vivinetto, Mrs. Barstow, Mrs. Donovan.

Geography Bee

Congratulations to Amy Couture who won the Geography Bee and will represent WMS this spring in the state finals at Keen State College. John Christianson was the runner-up.

Flu Season - Please Help

Windham Middle School would like your help in keeping students and staff healthy during flu season. Students brought home a flyer on Friday with helpful tips on how to avoid catching the flu. In case you did not receive this info, you can find it posted on our website. Coughs and sneezes spread flu viruses into the air and onto surfaces. You can take measures so you don't spread the virus to others and so others don't spread it to you! Stay healthy this flu season!

Music News

Congratulations to 16 WMS students who will be participating in the South Central Middle School Music Festival on May 6th, 2006 at the Hooksett Middle School. These students were nominated by either Mr. Cassedy or Mrs. Cuneo based on achievements in chorus & band. Information about how nominations and selections are made for this festival can be found on Mrs. Cuneo's webpage. The students chosen this year are:

Band: Valerie Bauer, Melanie Forster, Bruce Cleaveland, Nicholas Gallo, Derek D'Angelo, Andreas Roalsvig and Chris DiPersio. **Chorus:** Alison Vivinetto, Melissa Higgins, Allison Doucette, Amy Nesheim, Bethany Bistany, Inga Dellea-Messner, Jon Christianson, Jake O'Keefe and Greg Scherer.

French News

Bienvenue (Welcome) to the new group of sixth graders who begin their WMS experience with French! We are currently reviewing the alphabet and are beginning a major unit with numbers.

Following the completion of their unit on food, seventh grade students worked with Mrs. Williams on computer to create a "postcard from Paris". Students received names of famous Paris landmarks, did computer research on them, and created a postcard with a message describing that location. Once graded, students will share them with their classmates. Students have also begun a new unit with lessons containing more grammar to enable them to create their own phrases. Unit 4 focuses on verbs that describe a variety of activities.

Eighth grade students have also moved onto a new unit that is a favorite with many - SHOPPING! Students are learning vocabulary for clothing as well as phrases for describing it's style, color, size and cost. Students will choose or draw a picture from which to create a fashion commentary - in French, of course!

8TH GRADE MORNING DANCE GROUP

Currently, 40 students attend a couples dance class at 7:00am on two mornings a week. They are working on swing dancing right now and will also learn the Disco Hustle and other dances that they saw demonstrated on Wed. Jan 25. The owners of the Krystal Ballroom, in Salem, gave a wonderful presentation and demonstration of various types of ballroom dance. We invite any and all students to join the morning dance classes. It is informal. But you need to have a partner. If your partner cannot make a lesson, you may attend with out him/her, on occasion. The group meets with Mrs. Shirley in the gym on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7-7:35 am. Members in Jazz Band and Select Chorus must attend only on the days that those groups do not meet. Students are learning the swing steps for the W W II unit in social studies. In late March, the 8th grade will hold a Swing Dance featuring the Windham Community Band. Students will earn academic credit for attending and dancing. If students have ideas for contemporary music to use while learning the dance steps, please bring the name and artist of a song, that you think is appropriate, to Mrs. Shirley. Or you may bring a CD to have her listen to and decide if it would be suitable. She is always looking for new dance music ideas.

Walk New Hampshire

Walk New Hampshire is a program designed to promote walking for children, 6 to 12 years old in New Hampshire. The goal is to engage children in walking and raise awareness of walking as a part of a healthy lifestyle.

Each child who participates will receive a **log** to record the number of miles they walk. Children who reach their chosen goal will receive an 'I Walked NH' patch and a certificate signed by Governor John Lynch. They will also receive an invitation to a special statewide celebration in June 2006 and be eligible for prizes to be raffled off at the celebration.

Check the website www.walknh.org for more information.