

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.

Important Dates

February 2— 8th Grade Gold Sheets due for Salem HS
February 7 —M2M Executives 7AM
February 7—Tri-County Basketball Tournament
February 8—Early Release Day 11:15 AM
February 9—Volleyball Permission Slips Due
Nashoba Valley Tubing Permission Slips Due
February 13—Volleyball Begins
February 15—Tubing at Nashoba Valley 2:45-7:30 PM
February 16—Dance 7-9 PM
February 21—Midterm Reports
February 26-March 4 — Vacation
March 8—Jack Agati Presentation—7 PM

Middle School Council Presents Jack Agati

Jack Agati, noted speaker, will be at Middle School on March 8th at 7:00 to discuss parenting and responsibility. This presentation is for parents with students in all grades. Save the date!!

Sixth Grade News

Upcoming in Science will be the shake-rattle-and roll project. In Social Studies, we are wrapping up our unit on China and will be starting our North Africa and Southwest Asia unit. The downstairs Language Arts and Reading teachers (including Mrs. Hone) are reading Dragonwings by Laurence Yep which describes San Francisco at the turn of the century. Also downstairs, the Language Arts

students are working on their immigration papers. The research papers are specific to an ethnic background of the students. The upstairs team is currently reading Flipped.

Several students in science are working on independent projects with science teachers and Mrs. Williams. Three students presented a terrific project on convection: Kate Farrell, Mallory Loomis and Jessica MacKimm. Their project included a PowerPoint presentation, a Jeopardy game and three experiments. Great job girls!!

Geography Bee

Congratulations to Laura Barstow, this year's Windham Middle School Geography Bee winner. The second place winner is Nina Misra. Laura is a sixth grader, who will represent the school at the state finals in Keene.

Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Billy Wang, winner of the Spelling Bee. Second place was earned by Daniel Rubery and third place was earned by Tannishtha Pramanick.

Seventh Grade News

Students in 7th grade Social Studies have just completed their unit on the ancient Greeks and their contributions to later cultures. Next on the time line is ancient Rome. We will be studying both the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire before jumping into the Middle Ages and our legendary Midwin Castle Medieval Banquet. We are planning this huge event for sometime in mid-March..

Seventh grade science classes have started to learn about cell processes and energy. We are exploring the relationship between photosynthesis and cellular respiration. This unit also includes learning about the relationship between cancer and the cell cycle.

Spanish students completed presentations (poster or Power Point) about Spain, the third largest country in Europe. Spain's exciting culture has been influenced by the many peoples who conquered the country over thousands of years. Evidence of their cultures can be seen everywhere - in the landscape; in the art, food, music and folk dances (fiestas) and in the languages spoken around the country.

Eighth Grade News

Pre-Algebra students are getting comfortable using the Pythagorean Theorem and will solve different problems during the month of February. They will solve for the missing side of any right triangle or use the Pythagorean Theorem to find the distance from home plate to second base. After applying the Pythagorean theorem to solve problems, students will review integers and solve equations using positive and negative numbers.

Algebra students are in the middle of our linear equations unit. During this unit, students will explore all there is to know about lines, and use the graphing calculators to help. So far, students have learned about the slope intercept form of a line, parallel lines, drawing lines using different methods, and can use their understanding to predict how a line will look before it is graphed!

Science students just finished a chapter on motion, speed, and acceleration. Students completed labs on constant speed, acceleration, and velocity. We will continue our study of Physics covering topics about Newton's Laws of Motion along with gravity and momentum.

Language Arts classes will be working on a variety of projects in the coming weeks. Coming off the research and debate unit, students will tackle a Career Unit, which allows them to investigate potential careers and learn about planning and budgeting for a life after school; the Health Unit; the Holocaust Unit, which includes several compelling performances presented by visiting artists and "The Diary of Anne Frank"; and more.

French

It's a new quarter and a new group of students! Sixth graders have already reviewed the pronunciation of the French letters of the alphabet, some basic phonics with accent marks, and both formal and informal greetings. This year students are also responsible for writing their new language.

Seventh grade students have learned subject pronouns, the forms of the verb "to be", negation, a basic form for questions, and phrases for a variety of locations. Students are quickly learning the grammar that helps them create their own ideas and sentences in French.

Eighth graders have been studying some new verbs - some of them irregular or with stem changes - and demonstrative and interrogative adjectives to go along with the clothing vocabulary they learned recently. They sound like French shoppers!

Healthy New Year's Resolution from the Health Office

Get More Rest! Studies have shown that getting enough sleep will improve your mood, boost your immune system, keep your brain sharp, and keep your skin healthy and looking great! Can't Sleep? Follow these tips taken from the web resource www.sleepforkids.org. to make sure you and your family get enough sleep.

Make sure your bedroom is cool, dark and quiet.

Get some exercise during the day to help your body get ready for sleep.

Avoid big meals before bedtime.

Avoid sodas with caffeine, especially in the afternoon and at night.

Try going to bed at the same time every night, and have a relaxing bedtime routine.

Your body will know it is time to sleep.

Tubing at Nashoba Valley Ski Area

The PTA is excited to offer the students of WMS a chance for an end-of-winter celebration at Nashoba Valley Ski Area in Westford, MA on February 15th, from 2:45 -7:30. The \$18 fee includes transportation (via school bus) and two hours of snow tubing thrills! Make sure to bring money for snacks (\$10 should be plenty) and all your snow gear to school.

Parents must turn in a completed Middle School Permission slip in order for your child to attend. The form is available in the office and on-line at the Middle School Website. Make your check payable to WMS and attach it to the signed permission slip. All forms must be turned in by Friday, February 9th. We need a minimum of 50 students in order to have enough people to go. So, talk to your friends and get your forms in soon! We still need a few chaperones. If you are free that day and would like to help out, call Lisa Vivinetta @ 434-9004.

8th Grade Morning Dance Club

The club is in its fourth year and it is bigger and better than ever! In past years, we were averaging 40-44 students. Now, we regularly have 54 and often top 60 students!!!! What a fabulous turnout for 7:00 am two mornings a week. The other exciting news, for this year, is the regular instruction we will receive from Mrs. Debbie Ulbrich who owns the Krystal Ballroom, in Salem, with her husband. She will be with us every Tuesday and Mrs. Shirley will review the moves with the students each Wednesday. (check out the www.KrystalBallroom.com - they are fabulous)

So far the students know five moves and the basic step. They can turn on the dance floor, to face different directions and the girls can turn in three different ways. So much more to learn! If you haven't come yet, do come join us. You can catch up with a little effort. Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7:00-7:35 am in the gymnasium

7TH AND 8TH GRADE CHORUS AND BAND MEMBERS:

Great East Festival notices have gone home to all members of the 7th and 8th grade performing groups as well as to the Select chorus and Jazz Band members. If you did not receive a copy, you should download one from Mrs. Cuneo's webpage. The first installment is due no later than February 9th.

National School Counseling Week

February is a very busy month for the Guidance Department. National School Counseling Week is being celebrated February 5-9th. Stop by your counselor's office and just say hi. We will have some fun activities to help celebrate the week.

M2M

February's theme is Rumors. Executives will meet on February 7th at 7 AM, while mentors will meet from 8:45-9:30. The connection with the sixth grade will be from 9:30 - 10.

M2M Study Group

Plans are underway for the M2M Mentors to tutor the 6th graders in Math, Science, Social Studies, Reading or Organization. All 6th graders are encouraged to take advantage of this great opportunity. On Tuesday Feb. 6th from 2:15-3:00 the students will meet with their various groups, learn some great skills and share some refreshments. This is a great opportunity for a fresh start to the 3rd quarter and to make a connection with your mentor. Please sign up and obtain a permission slip from your homeroom teachers.

Tri-County Basketball Playoffs

On February 7th WMS will be hosting the Tri-County Basketball playoffs. M2M and Yearbook will be hosting the concession stand. Members of each group have been asked to bring in various food or beverage items for the sale. If you can volunteer to work, please sign up with an M2M or Yearbook Advisor.

Attention 8th Graders:

Any student who has a study during 6th period that would like to volunteer to serve lunch at the senior center once a month, please see Mrs. Lichtmann.

All Gold (SHS) course selection sheets are due into WMS by Friday 2/2/07. If you need any help completing these forms, please see Mrs. Lichtmann.

Helping Hands Thank You

Thank you to all the Windham Middle School Staff for paying \$1.00 every Friday to wear jeans. Windham Helping Hands has been the lucky recipient of over \$200.00.

Yearbook

Yearbooks will be on sale on Tuesday (2/6), Wednesday (2/7), and Thursday (2/8) during lunch. This maybe one of your last chances to buy a Yearbook this year. The cost is \$25.00. Checks should be made out to Windham Middle School. We have extended the on-line selling of Yearbooks for another month. Visit Windham Middle School Home page and click on the Jostens Yearbook link.

A Student's Perspective on AlertNow

The AlertNow system was put into affect twice during the week of January 14th. On the 17th of January, a pipe burst in the ceiling of Golden Brook and the kids were sent to Middle School for the day unless their parents had picked them up. Golden Brook was closed for the rest of the week. On the 18th of January, a major transformer on Lowell Road caught fire and the electric company needed to shut all power off on the street. Parts of Middle School lost power because of the damaged transformer. An AlertNow message was sent and parents received it simultaneously all over town. After this announcement was made, students began to be dismissed left and right. Things became slightly chaotic, with so many parents in the foyer and students being dismissed. The whole situation was run quite well, especially since the PA system was down and the staff had to communicate through walkie-talkies. We are thankful that AlertNow system was installed before this hectic week. For more information about AlertNow, go to www.alertnow.com.