

Windham Middle School Newsletter

Windham Middle School
112A Lowell Road
Windham, NH 03087
February 2011



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Eighth Grade News

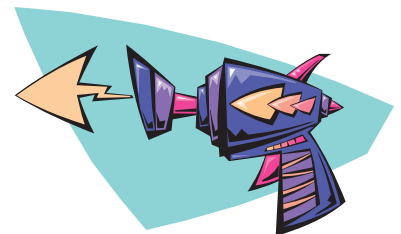
8th Grade Swing Dance - connecting physical activity to the study of the 1940's and WWII means it is time for the morning dance club. For many years, 8th graders have been setting their alarm clocks earlier, to have parents drive them to school, for a 7:00am swing dance lesson. From Jan. 26 until the end of March, lessons will be on Wednesdays and Thursday mornings. We meet in the gym for a 30 minute lesson on the single and triple step swing with a few fancy turns, tricks, and dips to prepare for the dance contest and an evening with the Windham Swing Band. Students must have a partner, though they can attend alone when the partner is not available. The more often students attend, the more they learn. But, it is a casual attendance policy. Those with morning chorus/band commitments attend once a week. If students get the dance fever after friends have shared the fun they have, starting later on is fine. Students can learn at their own pace. The evening with the Windham Swing Band is a night out for students and parents. The WWII poster projects are on display and the students, teachers, and parents can swing the night away. Students compete for the prize and title of Champion Swing Dance Couple and will receive prizes. Other awards include most improved, best interpretation of the music, and others.

The language arts classes have been split between two units: persuasive and utopian v. dystopian societies. Mrs. McCorkle and Mrs. Fournier's classes have students choosing a topic of their choice, researching it, taking notes on notecards, citing their sources, and composing a persuasive essay. Students will then be presenting their information to their class by giving a formal speech. Mrs. Williams and Mr. Doneski's classes are reading dystopian books such as The Giver. These units will all be covered by the end of the year. February is National Poetry Month and will bring the poetry unit.

Continued on page 4...

Coming Events

- Feb 4 School Dance 7-9 PM
- Feb 7 Winter Sports Award Night 6:30 PM
- Feb 10 Laser Craze 2:30 PM
- Feb 11 Schoolwide presentation by Officer Jen Frank on Cyberbullying—more information on page 4
- Feb 11 WSD Deliberative Session WHS 7 PM
- Feb 12 Ski Club Waterville Valley
- Feb 16 Laser Craze snow date
- Feb 15 8th grade students visit WHS
- Feb 16 8th grade parents visit WHS 7 PM
- Feb 17 6th grade immigration field trip 8:30 AM
- Week of Feb 20—vacation
- March 2 Earth Shuttle meeting WMS café 7:30 PM
- March 3 Curriculum Fair 6-8 PM
- March 4 3rd Quarter progress reports
- March 5 Ski Club trip to Loon
- March 8 WSD Annual Mtg. Session II Voting
- March 9 Health and Wellness Fair WHS 7 PM



Guidance News

National School Counseling Week

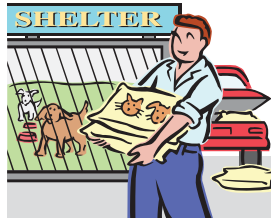
February is a very busy month for the Guidance Department. National School Counseling Week is being celebrated February 7th-11th. Stop by your counselor's office and just say hi. We will have some fun activities to help celebrate the week.

Powerful message:

Last year we had John Halligan here to speak about his son and the affects that bullying had on his son. Many students were truly touched by his story and it was suggested that the link be provided for parents. Please review the link below and read this important message. <http://www.ryanpatrickhalligan.org>> www.ryanpatrickhalligan.org

Advisory

Thank you to all the advisories that came up with great ways to help the community. All parents and staff should be extremely proud of the activities that these students have participated in this past month. We have students/advisories that purchased gifts for families experiencing tough times, blankets for animals at shelters, candy canes for Windham's Helping Hands. The school hosted the Winter Wonderland Dance to benefit Windham Helping Hands. WMS really did "Pay it Forward" We have a great staff, student body and caring community that we should all be proud of.



Yearbook Winter Sale

Show your school spirit and be apart of the Windham Middle School yearbook. The yearbook will represent all three grades. We have representatives from 6th, 7th, and 8th grade to include the Bournedale experience, Browne Center, Washington, DC to dances, sports and various candid photos.

Order forms have gone home. Yearbooks will be \$25.00 each. Buy your books now. We will accept cash or checks made out to Windham Middle School. If you haven't ordered yours today-please do. Second notices have gone home to all 8th graders. Last day to order is April 22nd. All books are in color again this year.

M2M Monthly Theme: Self Esteem

Sixth Grade News

In Social Studies our students completed their study of Mexico. Now, the sixth graders will continue to use their mapping and charting skills as they study the many countries within South-west Asia and North Africa. They will explore this region and history and compare their findings to the culture of the United States.

Reading classes will be using the novel Flipped, by Wendelin Van Draanen to identify and analyze how the literary element of point of view affects a reader's interpretation and comprehension. Students will also examine how the author's use of figurative language affects the reader's experience.

In Language Arts, students will practice using figurative language to improve the word choice and enhance description in their writing. They will also identify and apply grammar rules for pronouns. Finally, they will continue their study of common Greek and Latin roots.

Students in sixth grade have increased their mathematical skills by practicing converting fractions, decimals and percents through their unit on Bits and Pieces. With the start of term three, they will begin a study of Shapes and Designs. Students in pre-algebra will continue their work with variables and patterns through graphing, creating tables and solv-

ing equations.

During their chemistry unit, the sixth graders will conduct several investigations involving the physical and chemical changes of various substances. Next, in science, our students will be shaken up a bit with their study of plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes.

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the geography and spelling bees. Those who received Outstanding Student Awards for the second quarter should also be proud of their hard work. We believe all of our sixth graders will continue to give their best effort during term three!

Principals' Corner

Dear Windham Middle School Community,

The 2010-2011 school year is flying by. As we come to the end of the second quarter and we are excited to report that our students have been working hard to achieve good grades. We are proud of the growing number of students achieving Honors and High Honors status. Keep up the good work!

Report cards will be sent home on January 28th. Please do not hesitate to contact your student's teacher with any questions or concerns. We, as educators, are continuing working to refine and enrich our curriculum in all subject areas. Our students have completed the Science NWEA exam and we have been monitoring student growth in all disciplines especially in the areas of Math and Reading. We use data from these assessments to inform instruction and to meet the needs of all learners.

As the calendar changes to February, there are a few important dates to note. Our eighth grade students will have the opportunity to visit Windham High School to learn about course offerings and high school culture on Tuesday, February 15th. To follow, there will be a curriculum informational night on Wednesday, February 16th at Windham High School at 7 pm for the parents of 8th grade students planning to attend Windham High School.

On February 10th the PTA and Windham Middle School will be sponsoring Laser Tag in Andover, MA from 2:45-5:30 for middle school students. Lastly, the Bowling Club will begin on Feb. 2nd after school, students are encouraged to sign up. Permission slips for both activities can be found in the main lobby.

We encourage our parents and community to contact us at any point if you have any questions, thoughts or concerns that you would like to share with administration. Please take some time to enjoy your family over the winter break, as the snow is plentiful for a great ski season.

Sincerely,

Dan Moulis and Brenda Morrow

We're on the web:
<http://www.windhamsd.org>

Seventh Grade News

In February, seventh grade reading classes will be moving on to non-fiction. Students will learn to use text features and text structures to facilitate their understanding of non-fiction articles and essays. In addition, students will be reading non-fiction for their next free-reading book. In language arts, we will be continuing with grammar and vocabulary; persuasive writing will be our next writing project in which we will engage. Prepare to be convinced!

Seventh grade science is continuing our study of the structure and function of cells and from here will be investigating the processes of cells including comparing and contrasting photosynthesis and

respiration.

In Social Studies, we have completed our study of the Roman Republic and are now exploring the Roman Empire, the rise of Christianity, and the fall of the empire. Afterwards we will discuss the beginnings and rise of Islam, followed by a more in-depth study of Medieval Europe. Students will be working on a Medieval project in early March, and our annual Medieval Banquet will be later in March. The specific date and other details will be sent out as we get farther along.

Seventh grade math classes will be exploring variables and patterns in tables, graphs and

equations. They will be investigating rate of change and how it appears in all three forms. Then they will use variables to create open sentences and learn to solve algebraic equations. Seventh grade Prealgebra will be studying ratio, proportions and percents. They will solve word problems by setting up and solving equations and then extend that process to solve percent word problems. Seventh grade Algebra will complete solving inequalities and then learn to use systems of equations for problem solving. They will learn different methods of solving equations with two variables.

Congratulations Mr. Hayward!

John Hayward, 6th grade SS teacher at WMS has been nominated for the 2011 National History Teacher of the Year Award. He has been recognized for his teaching excellence, and is encouraged to send in his application to be considered for this incredible honor!

The National History Teacher of the Year Award, sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Preserve America, and HISTORY(tm) (the History Channel), presents \$10,000 to one outstanding American history teacher. The National History Teacher of the Year is chosen from winners in each state, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense Schools/U.S. State Department Schools, and U.S. territories. State winners receive \$1,000 and an archive of books and other resources for their school. The 2011 award will honor teachers of grades K-6. Teachers of grades 7-12 are honored every other year. Qualifying criteria for the 2011 award are:

- A full-time elementary teacher of grades K-6 who teaches social studies where there is a major focus on American history (including state and local history).
- Creativity and imagination in the classroom that address literacy and content beyond state standards.
- Thoughtful assessment of student achievement.

Eighth grade news continued...

Students in pre-algebra are continuing their investigation of linear relationships. Our next unit will be solving equations.

Students in Introduction to Algebra are working on solving many different types of equations including multi-step and variables on both sides. We will continue to simplify expressions and equations using the Distributive Property and translate and solve equations.

Students have finished studying linear equations and are beginning to solve inequalities. They will have a midterm on Chapters 1-5 in early February.

Cyberbullying Presentation February 11



Officer Jen Frank of PSU will cover an introduction to what social networking is, the history of it, how it is being utilized, the liabilities of various social networking sites and your use of them, cyberbullying, social media outlets and your privacy, legal and personal implications of use of this site, cyberstalking, sexting and an opportunity to view the digital footprint left behind by the use of these various Internet sites.

This presentation will be made to WHS students in the morning, and repeated for WMS students in the afternoon.

For more information:

<http://www.wmur.com/family/23559070/detail.html>

<http://www.plymouth.edu/news/pweek/030308psw.pdf>

Physical Education News - Girls Locker Room

This year, we have experienced overcrowding and difficulty with students being organized. The locker room was part of the original building (with a population of 250 students) and we have a large population of girls right now. Because of this situation, I would like to ask parents to discuss with their children, the importance of keeping track of their clothes and belongings.

We did have a shortage of locks, briefly, at the start of the second quarter. However, we have plenty now. Just ask, if you still need one. As a result of this difficulty in managing one's belongings, our lost and found bins are overflowing, the amount of jewelry and other items continues to increase, and students often unintentionally mix their things up with those that belong to peers. Here are a few suggestions that will assist the girls to be organized and have a more positive experience starting and finishing PE class or when getting ready for their after school sports:

- use the lock, consistently, to secure your locker when not in the locker room.
- be sure that clothes and valuables are in the locker, not on the floor or bench, when you are not in the locker room.
- put books (during school) and book bags (after school) in the corners of some of the changing stalls. Keep walkways clear for safety and convenience.
- please do not store items in front of the bathroom stalls and sinks
- be sure to leave phones and iPods (and other valuables) locked up in your hall locker, as per the Handbook, not lying around in the locker room.
- whenever you experience a problem with your locker, can't find your lock, forget your combination, or experience other issues, see Mrs. Shirley right away. Don't wait until the end of the quarter to explain the problem that you have been struggling with as we have many ways to help out any situation.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Mrs. Shirley - WMS Physical Education

Congratulations!!
Geography Bee winner — Isaac Ozer



Congratulations!!
Spelling Bee winner—Maddie Riese

Finally, a New Year's resolution that's easy to keep!



Your kids are already approved for meal benefits at school, but they haven't always been participating. **Why not resolve to take advantage of this great service every day?** When your kids join us for breakfast and lunch, you can rest assured that they're eating nutritious meals – and your family can **put the savings toward meals for the evenings and weekends.** Kids who are approved for meal benefits are **never identified at school in any way** -- all students have an account with us, so very little actual money is exchanged on the lunch line, and **no one knows which kids are paying and which are receiving free or reduced-price meals.** This New Year, resolve to do your kids – **and your family budget** -- a favor. **Encourage your kids to take advantage of their meal benefits at school every day!**

Did you know

Between breakfast and lunch, each day's school meals provide more than half of your child's dietary needs.

Kids who take advantage of our school meals consume more calcium and more servings of fresh fruits and veggies on average than those who pack a meal from home.

Studies show that kids who eat a good breakfast as close as possible to the start of the school day pay better attention in class, behave better, and score higher on standardized tests.

Kids get hungry on their own schedule! If they're not hungry first thing in the morning, that doesn't mean they won't be by the time they get to school. And even if they eat a little something at home, they might need to eat again before

AVAILABLE DAILY MEAL OPTIONS

MENUS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Hoagieville Deli
Garden Fresh Salad Bar
Cabot Yogurt Parfait & String Cheese
Vegetarian Options
OR
Hot Entrée listed

DAILY BREAKFAST OPTIONS

Monday
 Breakfast Combo Bar served on English Muffin

Tuesday
 Sausage & Cheese and Egg & Cheese Muffins

Wednesday
 Healthy Breakfast Pizza

Thursday
 Sausage & Cheese Bagels and Ham & Cheese Bagels

Friday
 Breakfast Buns & Scrambled Eggs

**Cereal w/English Muffin, Yogurt Parfait, Bagels, Muffins, Fruit, Milk and 100% Juice offered EVERYDAY!!

If you have any questions or concerns about our programs or your eligibility for free or reduced-price meals, please contact the school office.

School Meals
We serve education every day™