

February 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

Please continue to check the school calendar for changes:

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

February 3—M2M Executives Meeting 7 AM

February 5—Awards Night 6 PM

February 11—Laser Tag 2:45-6:30 PM

February 13—School Dance 7-9 PM

February 14—Ski Trip

February 21-March 1—Winter Vacation

March 18—Curriculum Fair 6– 8 PM

7TH GRADE NEWS

In Social Studies, we just completed our study of the Roman Republic and its downfall. We will be covering the Roman Empire, the rise of Christianity, the Byzantine Empire, and the rise of Islam during the next few weeks. By March, we should be working on the Medieval Unit; and we are planning our annual Medieval Banquet for Friday, March 27th. Details will be sent out as we get closer to the date.

In Reading, students will be completing their independent non-fiction books and writing their next book report in the beginning of February. In class, students will be reading and analyzing various pieces of non-fiction. Next up (end of February into March): literature circles! Students will read books in small groups and engage in student-led discussion groups.

In Language Arts, students will engage in a writing workshop, using the writing process to develop a final draft persuasive paper.

Seventh grade science students are beginning the first of two genetics units. We will be learning about Mendel's experiments. Students will be able to identify the factors that control the inheritance of traits in living organisms and how geneticists use symbols to represent these traits.

VOLLEYBALL CLUB

Co-ed Volleyball Club permission slips are in the lobby information rack. The club runs from Feb 10th to March 17th on Tues, Wed & Thurs. and permission slips need to be turned into Mrs. George in the Media Center by Wed. Feb 4th. No prior experience is necessary just join and have fun!

CURRICULUM FAIR

The Middle School Curriculum Fair will be held on Wednesday, March 18th from 6-8 PM. Please note this is a change from the original school calendar. Join us for an evening of quality displays, musical entertainment and the ever popular Café Rosa. More information will be available in the March newsletter.

6TH GRADE NEWS

In Social Studies the students will be working on their next unit of study, Southwest Asia and North Africa. They will explore the region and history of many countries. Reading classes will be working on the skills of perspective and theme using *Flipped* by Wendelin Van Draanen. Language Arts teachers will begin their much anticipated Immigration research paper. Math is completing the unit on Bits and Pieces and will be moving into Shapes and Designs. Pre-Algebra will be working on a unit about Similarities. Science will be studying plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes.

MOODLE

Moodle is free software that can be used to create interactive web sites where teachers and students can communicate and collaborate in educational ways. Teachers will be replacing TeacherWeb with Moodle. Students will be using Moodle to upload projects for portfolios, which will be kept from year to year. Many teachers have already started to use Moodle to upload projects and to encourage collaboration among students. Look for more information about Moodle as the school year progresses.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Science students have started units in Physics which include motion, speed, acceleration. We will conduct labs on marble motion and determine experimentally where to paint out-of-bounds lines for a basketball court. Physics lectures will then include topics on forces, gravity, and Newton's three laws of motion.

Students in Pre-algebra are translating and solving equations. Next they will investigate different patterns and create a pattern from one of their initials.

Students in Algebra are concluding our systems of linear equations unit and beginning our inequalities unit. To tie into both of these units, students will complete a project called "What's the Better Deal?" where they inform the public about better companies to choose from for services in our area.

SPANISH NEWS

Seventh grade Spanish students used microphones to record their voices in the computer lab. After recording, they were able to listen to check the progress of their Spanish pronunciation.

LASER TAG AT LASERCRAZE

PTA and Middle School are sponsoring a trip to LaserCraze in Andover. For \$12.50, students will be transported by bus to LaserCraze, play laser tag, have pizza and soda, then be transported back to school. The field trip will be from 2:45-6:30. Please make checks payable to Windham Middle School and complete a permission slip and health form. All materials are available in the foyer at school and need to be completed by February 9th.

BASKETBALL FREE THROW CONTEST

Boys and Girls Basketball teams raised about \$1,500.00 for Windham Helping Hands through a free throw shooting contest. The winners of all four teams will have a shoot-off at the pep rally at WMS.

SMILES CLUB

WMS S.M.I.L.E.S. club, a volunteer service club organized by 8th graders, will host a Valentine's Day party for the residents of the Windham Terrace on Feb. 11th. 40 gift bags will be assembled and hand delivered by our members. Music and decorations will be provided by us and we will spend about an hour talking, singing, and dancing.

MEDIA CENTER NEWS

Mid-winter NWEA testing is over, and the Media Center will be a busy place for the next two months. Mrs. McCorkle's classes are visiting to do research for their persuasive essays for five days, followed by all sixth grade language arts classes who will be doing a research paper on immigration until February vacation.

GUIDANCE NEWS

National School Counseling Week

February is a very busy month for the Guidance Department. National School Counseling Week is being celebrated February 2-6th. Stop by your counselor's office and just say hi. We will have some fun activities to help celebrate the week.

M2M Monthly Theme: Self Esteem

Reminder: NAEP testing will take place on Thursday, March 5th from 8:00-9:30. Approximately half of the 8th grade students were randomly selected to participate. Parents have already been notified if their child was selected.

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, letters and care packages to our military. We had students serve lunch to help out our lunch staff, host the Winter Wonderland Dance to benefit Windham Helping Hands and host a birthday party that raised money instead of receiving birthday gifts. We also had our WMS basketball teams hold a free throw competition and raise money, book drives, food collection, and many more exciting and thoughtful contributions to our community. 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 a part 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. Last day to order is April 1st. All books are in color this year.