

# February 2010

KORI ALICE BECHT  
*Principal*

DAN MOULIS  
*Assistant Principal*



**Windham Middle School**  
112A Lowell Road  
Windham, NH 03087  
(603) 893-2636  
Fax: (603) 870-9007  
[www.windhamsd.org](http://www.windhamsd.org)

SCHOOL NURSE & SAFETY PHONE  
893-2636

SCHOOL COUNSELORS  
893-2636



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](http://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 2—M2M Executives Meeting 7 AM**

**February 6—Ski Trip to Mt Snow**

**February 8—Awards Night 6:30 PM**

**February 10—Laser Tag 2:45-5:30 PM**

**February 12—School Dance 7-9 PM**

**February 22-February 26—Winter Vacation**

**March 3—Earth Shuttle 7:30 PM**

**March 5—Mid Term Reports**

**March 5—School Dance 7-9 PM**

**March 9—No School—Teacher Workshop**

## 6TH GRADE NEWS

In social studies our students completed their study of China, Japan and the Koreas. Now, the sixth graders will continue to use their mapping and charting skills as they study the many countries within Southwest 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.

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 solving equations.

During their chemistry unit, the sixth graders conducted several yummy experiments, involving cookies, gummy bears and even ice cream. Now in science, our students will be shaken up a bit with their study of plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes.

## 7TH GRADE NEWS

By the end of February, all of the seventh grade reading classes will have completed a book trailer on a free-reading book, a fun alternative to a traditional book report. We enjoy having Mrs. Greenleaf's help with this project, as she is able to offer her expertise with Windows Movie Maker.

Also in reading, we are moving on to non-fiction this month. Students will learn about text structures and text features, which will help with their reading comprehension across the curriculum.

In language arts, students will be writing persuasive essays. In their final drafts, we will be looking for sentence variety and correct use of commas, which we reviewed in January.

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 during February and early March, and our annual Medieval Banquet is scheduled for Friday, March 12th. Details will be sent out as we get closer to the date.

Science students are finishing a unit on the structure and function of cells by building a 3-D cell model. We will continue our exploration in the next unit with cell processes and energy.

Math classes are finishing a geometry unit including volume and surface area. Next they will do an algebra unit, Variables and Patterns, working with graphs, tables and equations. The seventh grade Pre-algebra class is finishing the algebra unit and moving on to ratio, proportions and percents and how each is used for problem solving. The seventh grade Algebra class is completing the unit on inequalities, including inequalities with absolute value and inequalities with two variables. They will move on to systems of equations and inequalities using graphing and solving systems of equations to find solutions.

Spanish students practiced their oral skills in the computer lab, using the microphones to record and listen to their pronunciation.

## **EIGHTH GRADE NEWS**

Research is in the air for the eighth grade language arts classes. Students have been exploring various controversial topics in preparation for persuasive essays, speeches and debates. In addition to research, students have been reading "The Diary of Anne Frank" exploring the effects of WWII with an emphasis on the Holocaust.

Students have been very busy in math. The Pre-algebra classes are completing their linear relationships unit and will begin a unit on solving equations. Algebra students just completed a mini solving equation unit and are reviewing linear relationships. They will be exploring standard form and solve systems of linear equations.

Social studies classes are beginning the Progressive Era and are learning about equality. Students will learn about the struggle for equality focusing on African Americana and women, as well as, labor rights. The students will be discussing the social, political, and emotional impact of World War I while reviewing the unsolved issues of The Great War. Beginning in February, the eighth graders will also be playing the Stock Market Game in social studies.

ILS students will be constructing their our houses. Students will use a program called "Building Homes of your Own" which will take them through the planning stages of buying and designing a home for resale purposes. It is an exciting program that provides students the opportunity to make important decisions about home design.

Through the month, the students and teachers will be in full force preparing for their annual trip to Washington, D.C. in May. Roommate selection, chaperones, and raffles will be decided this month. Just a reminder the last day to cancel the trip is March 19th. Please make sure you have sent your payments to Capital Tours. Thank you to all of you that purchased raffle tickets for our fundraiser. Winners will be chosen each morning during the month of February...Good Luck!

## **LASER TAG AT LASERCRAZE**

On **February 10th**, PTA and Middle School are sponsoring a trip to LaserCraze in North 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 2:45-5:30. 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 or online under Forms. Forms and payment need to be turned in by February 8th.

## **MEDIA CENTER**

Prior to NWEA testing, Mrs. McCorkle's class worked in the Media Center for a week on their persuasive papers. Ms. Roy and Mrs. Morrow's classes will be visiting over the next few weeks for the same project. Mrs. St. Onge's classes have been working on their digital book trailers. All digital book trailers will be available to watch from any WSD computer through Destiny, the Media Center OPAC. They are quite impressive. They are located within the Explore! section of the book description.

## **BAND AND CHORUS NEWS**

All 7th and 8th grade band and chorus students, along with the Jazz Band and Select Chorus, will be receiving Great East Festival forms by February 1st. Forms need to be handed into either Mr. Szopa or Mrs. Cuneo no later than February 10th. Payment of at least \$21 (or full payment \$42 if you choose) will be due with the form. Questions? Please call 893-2636 ext. 55124.

## **GUIDANCE NEWS**

### **NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK**

February is a very busy month for the Guidance Department. National School Counseling Week is being celebrated February 1-5<sup>th</sup>. 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**

#### **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. 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 a part of the Windham Middle School yearbook. The yearbook will represent all three grades. We have representatives from 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade to include the Bournedale experience, Browne Center, Washington, DC, as well as 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 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Last day to order is April 22nd. All books are in color again this year.

### **POWERFUL MESSAGE**

Last year we had John Halligan here to speak about his son and the effects 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. [www.ryanpatrickhalligan.org](http://www.ryanpatrickhalligan.org)

### **WMS FAMILY NIGHT AT THE FISHERCATS!!**

On Thursday, May 13, a section has been reserved for any student who would like to attend the Fishercats game against the Portland SeaDogs (Red Sox Affiliate). The Select Chorus will be singing the National Anthem and there will be fireworks after the game. A drawing will be held for one of our students to throw in a first pitch of the game. Tickets are \$7.00 - notices will be sent home by the first week of February. Checks should be made out to Windham Middle School. For more information, contact Mrs. Cuneo at 893-2636 ext. 55124.