

JANUARY 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

December was a very exciting month for our sixth grade! In Math, the students having been living in a world of decimals! During this time, they completed their "What Are Decimals" project in which they shared the real-life importance of using decimals. In Social Studies, our students have been studying the geography and culture of Southwest Asia. The students participated in a variety of learning and technological activities during this unit. Some students this month were introduced to creating their maps on the computer, while others completed tests and internet activities. As an extension to this unit, in Language Arts, some students also began to take a difficult look at the life the Taliban created for those living in Afghanistan using the novel, The Breadwinner. This unit has provided the students with the chance to use new and different reading strategies as well as taking time to critically evaluate situations tied to the novel. Students also presented their commemorative stamps, biography book report projects designed to honor a famous person in history. In Science, the sixth graders entered "Inside Our Earth" and began examining, through various skill labs, the causes and effects of volcanoes and earthquakes. We also launched our "Shake, Rattle, and Roll" projects, in which students design models of structures, then put them through the test of several earthquakes. After break, our students will then revise these models in preparation for our "Great Earthquake Machine" final in class simulation. In closing, the sixth grade team would like to congratulate our winners of the 6th grade Geography Bee: Ben Shipman, Rachel Ward and Matt Legere, and wish them luck as they prepare for the WMS school-wide Geography Bee!

Seventh Grade News

ILS- Students created a theme map using the paint program. They included a key, compass rose, scale of miles, capital city w/ coordinates and fifteen different water and land forms that were related to their theme. Before vacation they sent out letters to a business of their choice asking for information. Hopefully they will get replies sent back to the school in c/o Miss Corbin.

The 7th grade Social Studies classes have been going through preliminary rounds of the Geography Bee the last few days before the holidays. As soon as we return, there will be an elimination round for the high scorers to determine our three contestants for the upcoming school-wide Geography Bee. In class, we will be studying the Romans next, so get out the togas!

Seventh grade Science classes have been reviewing the metric system. When we return after vacation, we will continue our exploration of cells and integrate learning of nutrition and how it impacts students' lives.

Students researched and started presentations about Spain's exciting culture, especially the influence of the many people who conquered the country over thousands of years. Evidence of this influence can be seen everywhere: in the art, music, and folk dances enjoyed in the different regions. The festivals, called fiestas, and languages spoken around the country also reflect these influences. This has been a wonderful learning experience.

The 7th grade Language Arts classes will continue a unit on commas and quotations. Students will identify comma and quotation rules using their outside reading book. The classes will also write a narrative piece depicting a conversation between friends. This activity will provide the students with practical application of the comma and quotation rules.

Eighth Grade News

It's been a busy month for the 8th grade, as students have had the chance to play engineer, advertising executive, business mogul, and more. All in a day's work...

The Science classes have been working feverishly on their bridge project, where they are required to use their engineering savvy (and their understanding of the concepts of forces, motion, and energy) to create the sturdiest bridge they can out of toothpicks. They must work within a budget and limited supplies, and stand by with fingers crossed as their work undergoes the ultimate test: weight. At least one bridge endured a hefty twelve pounds. Not bad for a bunch of toothpicks. This is a fun and interactive lead-in to physics, which will take center stage in the second half of the year.

The advertising unit is coming to a close in the Language Arts classes, following a week of presentations. Working as a team, students formed their own mini-ad agencies, developing full-fledged campaigns for their own unique products. In the process, they learned the strategies and persuasive techniques used to influence consumers to buy a product and gained a greater understanding that in the media, things are not always as they appear.

Math classes just wrapped up the stock market project, and a few students appear well on their way to earning their first cool million. One group from Ms. Adamowicz's class came in second in a regional competition, and as a reward will be treated later in the year to lunch and a tour of the Boston Globe.

In Social Studies, students concentrated on events leading to the Civil War and the Civil War itself. Mr. John Hayward, a member of New Hampshire 5th Civil War historical re-enactment battalion, in full dress Civil War uniform gave a presentation of a soldier's life. In January, we will be studying reconstruction, the settlement of the West, and big business (Imperialism.)

Salem High School Parent Nights

Salem High School is hosting several informational evenings for parents of current 8th graders.

January 18th 7:00 PM Current 8th Grade Parent Night for Special Education Students. **January 24th and 25th** Current 8th grade Parent Nights. Check the Salem High School website for other information, available as a link through windhamsd.org.

Important Dates in JANUARY

January 4 - Earth Shuttle Meeting 7:30 PM
January 4 - Drama Club Auditions Begin
January 9 - Geography Bee 6:30 PM
January 10—Public Hearing—School Board Budget
Town Hall 7PM
January 11 - Early Release Day 11:15 AM
January 13- Ski Club Weekend Trip for 7th and 8th
Grade
January 16— Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
NO SCHOOL
January 17—IGNITE—Executives 7 AM
January 18 -Current 8th Grade Parent Night for
Special Education Students—
Salem High School 7 PM
January 20—End of Marking Period
January 20 - School Dance 7-9 PM
January 24 and 25—Current 8th Grade Parent Night –
Salem High School 7 PM
January 25—Bowling Club Begins
January 27—Report Cards Issued
February 2—Early Release Day 11:15 AM

Enrichment

Congratulations to the Stock Market Game winners, who placed second in the region. Speaking at the School Board Meeting January 3rd, students discussed strategies, stock choices and earnings. Team members include: Nick Gallo, Jeff Masucci, Harris Mufti and Kenny Tingle.

Musical Notes

MUSIC DEPARTMENT CONCERT VIDEOS: The winter band and chorus concerts were a great success! Thank you to all those who made it possible. Videos from the concert are still available for \$10.00. Thank you to Mr. Ted Chase for making them available. \$8.00 of each order will be donated to the WMS music department. Order forms can be picked up from Mr. Cassidy or Mrs. Cuneo. The deadline for all video orders will be January 13th.

French

Gr. 7—Students are wrapping up their lessons on food and beverages and created a cafe menu to show off their work. Next it is on to a review of words and phrases for weather.
Gr. 8—Students are nearing the end of Unit 6 - "In Town". They have been learning new verbs and constructions for talking about activities they do with friends.

REMINDERS

Please check the Parent Portal of Power School to monitor your child's academic progress. It is a great tool for you to use. Also, please monitor your child's internet activities as there are sites that are both attractive and inappropriate for students. For interesting information about middle school students, check out the New England League of Middle School Homelines newsletter; http://www.nelms.org/homelines/homelines_dec_2005.pdf

IGNITE

IGNITE mentors are having a bake sale January 5th at the Basketball game. Mentees and mentors are invited to attend and enjoy the game together. Executives will meet **January 17th at 7 AM**. All Mentors will meet **January 18th** at 8:30. Connections with 6th grade will be on the **18th** from 9:30 to 10. December's connection, with Accepting Differences as a theme, was a great success. Congratulations to Mike Melino, Executive of the Month for December.

Bowling Club

Bowling Club will be beginning on Wed. Jan. 25th and continue for 8 weeks. (no bowling on Feb. 22nd and March 1). It will be every Wed. from 2:30-4:00 PM. Parents would need to pick up their child at Park Place Lanes at 4:00 PM. The total cost is \$40.00 which covers shoes, 2 strings of bowling, trophies and pizza party at end of season. Students can sign up as teams of four, or as an individual and they would be placed on a team. Any interested student can get a permission slip and information from Mr. Cherbonneau.

Art News

Welcome Back to 2006! Can You believe the end of the quarter is only 3 weeks away! This has been a whirlwind quarter with great Out of Class Assignments being passed in! The 6th grade's ILLUSTRATOR assignment was really interesting. The students had fun looking up the books with their work in them. The 7th grade has a HERO project or an UNBIRTHDAY-BOX Out of Class Assignment due this Friday. I can't wait to see these!! Eighth grade had the chance to research an ART CAREER or an ILLUSTRATOR as well. If they chose to research an illustrator, they had to create an alphabet book. They were very enjoyable! Some 8th grade "reality checks" as to the pretty intense college programs out there for career choices! Have a great January!

Physical Education

Snack Chef (similar to Iron Chef) is the culminating event for the sixth grade nutrition unit. After learning about the six nutrients that our body must have, on a daily basis, students incorporate this knowledge into a creative snack food. During discussion about the students' one day diet recall, they will analyze their snacking habits. Identifying strengths and weaknesses will prompt them to develop ideas for the project. For the Snack Chef competition, they will have an informational memo to share with parents, and a permission slip, to communicate the needs of this project. Students will create and prepare a snack on a cracker while incorporating presentation, food group combinations, taste and nutritional value. The date of this culinary competition is Thursday, January 12, 2006. Bon Appetite!!!