

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.

Important Dates

January 5—Eighth Grade Dance at Salem High 7 PM
January 8—M₂M—Executives 7 AM
January 8—Geography Bee 7 PM
January 9—8th Grade Health Information Night for Parents 7PM
January 10 - Early Release Day 11:15 AM
January 11—Snow date for 8th Grade Health Information Night 7 PM
January 15— Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—NO SCHOOL
January 17—8th Grade Special Education Parent Information Night— Salem HS 7 PM
January 19—End of Marking Period
January 19—School Dance 7-9 PM
January 23—8th Grade Parent Information Night Salem HS 7 PM
January 24—Snow date Parent Information Night Salem HS 7 PM
January 24 —Bowling Club Begins
January 26—Report Cards Issued
February 8—Early Release Day 11:15 AM

Sixth Grade News

December saw us participating as a sixth grade community in two separate reading events: Read for 2007 and "Break a World Record with Charlotte's Web". On Friday, December 8, 2007 the entire sixth grade brought their favorite book to the café to take part in the Read for 2007, Read for Life. Teachers and students alike enjoyed 2007 seconds (33 minutes and 45 seconds) of reading in Scholastic's 8th annual celebration to renew all of our commitments to reading. In addition, on Wednesday, December 13, 2007, the entire Windham Middle School took a break at exactly 12 noon to simultaneously read a passage from Charlotte's Web in an attempt to break a reading world record for the largest number of people reading the same passage at the same time. Thank you for all who supported us in these two events which displayed our dedication to reading.

In the Grade 6 Geography Bee; three finalists were determined and will compete in the WMS Bee to be held on January 8th. We would like to congratulate Laura Barstow, Kelly Martin, and Ryan Wagoner for their success and wish them luck in their next competition. In Social Studies, students are completing their unit on Russia. In January, students are beginning their study of a unit on the Far East which includes the countries of North Korea, South Korea, Japan, and China.

Enrichment

Congratulations to the Stock Market Game winners, who placed second in the region. Members include: Stephen Chau and Nate Spanos. They will be honored at a special luncheon in the spring, sponsored by the Boston Globe.

Seventh Grade News

The students and teachers from the seventh grade would like to thank the PTA for providing an assembly called "Chariots of the Sun." On December 6th, the exceptional program built on students' Greek mythology knowledge and brought a few stories to life.

Spanish students talked about what school supplies they want and need for a school year. They practiced their writing skills describing in a brief paragraph what they and their classmates have in their bedrooms.

Seventh grade Science students have just finished building their 3-D cell models as part of our cell unit. They were fantastic and a lot of fun to do according to the students. We will learn about nutrition and how what we eat affects our health and our lives when we return from vacation.

Eighth Grade News

Students in Pre-algebra will be investigating the Pythagorean Theorem to start off the new year.

Up until now, students have been finding area of complex shapes and exploring square roots in preparation for understanding this important mathematical concept.

Students in Algebra have been interpreting graphs and writing creative stories to represent interesting graphs. They used a motion detector called the CBR to "walk" specific graphs. This technology creates a graph on the graphing calculator which shows both the student's graph and the graph they were supposed to match. They then compared the graphs, and wrote about their results.

The Language Arts classes just wrapped up a fascinating advertising unit, where they learned to recognize the variety of techniques used to influence consumers through various media messages. Next they worked in groups, forming their own advertising agencies and creating a full-fledged marketing campaign, complete with product designs, slogans, billboards, and magazine, radio and television ads. Finally, they presented their campaigns in a large group setting. In the coming months, students will participate in research, career and health units as we look forward to an early spring.

Science students are finishing up their toothpick bridges and we will attempt to "break" the bridges after the holiday break. Then we will move into the Physics part of the curriculum.

ILS is working on a menu from a country of the student's choice and then students will bring in a dish along with a recipe which is native to their country.

Music News

On December 12 & 13, the Windham Middle School music department performed their winter concerts. Thank you to all those who participated. They were both wonderful examples of the talent we have at the school. There were many parent notes and comments about both groups and we appreciate all the support. We also want to thank the 7th grade team who, once again, volunteered their time as chaperones at both concerts. Other chaperones included Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Rawley and Mrs. Maal. We couldn't do it without the extra staff support and we thank you!! Concert tapes are available for \$10.00! If you would like to purchase a VHS tape of both the band and chorus concerts there is still time! We will be taking orders for the next couple of weeks. 80% of each order will be donated to support the music department at WMS. If interested, please see either Mr. Cassedy or Mrs. Cuneo for an order form.

Great East Festival notices will be going home with members of the 7th and 8th grade bands and choruses as well as with jazz band & select chorus members. This trip will take place in May, however the initial payment will be due in February and an accurate count is necessary. Please ask your child if he/she does not bring home the notice by the end of the month. Thank you!

Hey Baby, Let the Good Times Roll!

Morning Dance Club, for 8th Graders, will begin on Wednesday, January 3, 2007 from 7:00am— 7:40 in the gymnasium.

If you cannot get a ride for 7:00, just come in when your bus arrives. Plan to attend with a partner. It is preferred that a couple consists of a boy and a girl, as traditional dance will be taught. If your partner cannot attend one day, you may share with a friend or attend alone and then teach your partner what he/she missed. The dances that we will cover consist of Disco Hustle (medium to fast tempo), the Foxy (slow to medium tempo), the Waltz (slow to medium tempo) and of course – we will focus mostly on SWING DANCE (slow, medium and fast tempos). Any students who attend and do NOT dance will not be allowed to stay. This is for participation only. It is a drop in program – attend whenever you can. We will pick two days to meet regularly so that we can accommodate the jazz band and select chorus students.

The program is designed, primarily, to be part of the 8th grade WWII unit. Because the Big Band sounds were so popular and Swing and Lindy dancing were all the rage, we will try to get a feeling for the 1940's and understand how this important time in our history has affected modern day dance and music. So, don't "Sit Under the Apple Tree" - get on your dancin' shoes, join "Nosey Joe" and take the "Chattanooga Choo Choo" to Philly, then call "Pennsylvania 6-5000" and let's get "In the Mood". If these titles make no sense to you, ask your grandparents to explain! See you on Jan 3rd – Mrs. Shirley

Art News

The art department is looking for donations of magazines, clean yogurt cups, clean butter/ cool whip tubs. You can drop them off anytime of the day. Thank you ahead of time! Mrs. Mercier ;-)

French

Grade 8 students have been learning some new verbs and have been working on possessive forms. Once we return from vacation, they will be moving to Unit 7. Although it will be a little late for the holiday season, the unit focuses on vocabulary for shopping!

Grade 7 is also finishing their unit on food, money and weather. After vacation they move to lessons with more grammar that will allow them to create phrases of their own. We will begin with first conjugation verbs. Students will also be working on a short project that will help them become more familiar with some of the famous sights of Paris.

Students in Grade 6 have finished learning to tell time as well as say and write the days of the week and months of the year. They made a French calendar page of their birthday month. After vacation, students will be learning about weather.

All classes learned a bit about French culture and how the holidays are celebrated.

Guidance News

It is never too early to be thinking about college. On January 11, during their Language Arts classes, all 8th grade students will attend a 30-minute presentation entitled, "Who Wants to be a College Graduate?" Among the discussion topics that will be included are college lingo, financial aid, the PSAT, and the importance of building a strong high school transcript.

On January 18, the guidance counselors from Salem High School will be here to meet with all eighth grade students. Subjects for discussion will be block scheduling, specific course sequences, and electives. Eighth graders will also get the opportunity to ask questions about transitioning to high school. Look for information regarding the selection of classes to follow soon.

Salem High School will be hosting a transition dance for 8th graders of Windham Middle School and Woodbury Middle School as well as the current freshman class at SHS on Friday, January 5th from 7 – 9 PM. The dance will be chaperoned by staff members from 8th and 9th grade as well as a school resource officer and administrators from Windham Middle School, Woodbury Middle School, and Salem High School. The admission fee is \$5.00. In addition to kicking off the high school transition process, the dance proceeds will be donated to the Jimmy Fund. This is an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with some of the people that you will be going to school with next year.

M2M

The theme for January is Internet Safety. Our goal is to continue to promote safe and informed choices when students are using the Internet. On January 8th, all Executives meet in the Café at 7:00 am. All M₂M members will meet in the Café from 8:45 – 9:30. M₂M Connections will be in the 6th grade homerooms from 9:30-10:00.

Yearbook

The Yearbook Committee will sponsor a Windham Middle School dance on January 19th from 7:00 – 9:00 PM. Admission is \$5.00.

Attention Winter Sports Athletes – team pictures will be held on January 23rd.

Bowling

Bowling Club will be starting on January 24th. It will continue every Wednesday for 8 weeks except for vacation. Students are bused to Park Place Lanes and are picked up there at 4:00 p.m. The cost of this activity is \$40.00, which includes two strings of bowling every week, shoe rentals, trophies, and a pizza party at end. Students are invited to make teams of four; however, it is not necessary. Teams will be accommodated for everyone. Hope we get a good turn out. Look for more information and a permission slip coming home after vacation should your child show an interest.

8th Grade Parent Notice

A parent information meeting regarding the 8th grade health program will be held at Middle School on Tuesday, January 9, 2007 at 7 PM. The purpose of the meeting is to provide parents with information and also an opportunity to ask questions about the content of the 8th grade health curriculum. Notices were mailed home to all 8th grade parents before the winter break. If you have any questions about this meeting please contact Mrs. Rawley in the nurse's office by phone or e-mail: krawley@windhamsd.org

