

JANUARY 2008

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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>

January 8—No School-Primary Elections
January 9—M2M—Executives 7 AM
January 9—Early Release—11:15 Dismissal
January 10—Geography Bee 7 PM
January 14—Winter Sports Team Pictures
January 14—SHS Meeting for Parents of 8th Graders
January 16—Earth Shuttle Meeting 7:30 PM
January 18—End of Marking Period
January 18—School Dance 7-9 PM
January 19—Ski Trip to Okemo
January 21—No School—Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 22—Winter Sports Recognition Night 6 PM
January 23—Bowling Club 3-4 PM
January 25—Report Cards
February 6—Spelling Bee 7:00 PM
February 7—Early Release –11:15 Dismissal

WINDHAM WONDERLAND DANCE

There are so many to thank for the great success of the dance. WMS presented a check for over \$3500 to Windham Helping Hands. The 7th and 8th grade class officers donated time to sell raffle tickets, parent volunteers helped decorate, staff members chaperoned, and students participated by attending the dance. Special thanks to the following PTA volunteers: Mrs. Vivinetto, who took time to shop for decorations, Mrs. Crichton, Mrs. Miedico, and Mrs. Masone, who spent most of Friday afternoon decorating the cafe. It truly was a community event.

6TH GRADE NEWS

In the Grade 6 Geography Bee, three finalists were determined and will compete in the WMS Bee to be held on January 10th. We would like to congratulate Stephen Brandt, Tom O'Neill, and Tucker Lippold. Emily Harris was also selected as our alternate. A good effort was put forth by all participants.

Sixth grade mathematics classes are finishing up the first Bits and Pieces book on fractions, decimals, and percents. We are now moving into the world of geometry with Shapes and Designs investigations.

In reading, the upstairs classes have been exploring point of view and perspective with the novel Flipped while the downstairs classes have been reading Dragonwings, a historical fiction novel. Immigration Research papers are currently being completed by the downstairs Language Arts classes. Descriptive Essays are the current focus of the upstairs Language Arts classes.

Science students will be finishing their study of chemistry shortly. We will be going back into Earth

Science with our studies of Earthquakes and Volcanoes. Look forward to some Shake, Rattle, and Roll in this unit.

Sixth graders voted in primary elections on Monday, January 7th. The results were as follows: Mitt Romney, Republican candidate, with 19% and Barack Obama, Democratic candidate, with 30% of the votes.

SPANISH NEWS

7th grade students will be practicing their oral and writing skills in the computer lab. They will create charts and use microphones to record sentences with the verbs tener (to have), querer (to want), necesitar (to need) and gustar (to like).

6th grade students used numbers 1 to 59 for spelling and math problems. They also practiced telling time in Spanish and learned to express times for various activities.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Students in Pre-Algebra are becoming comfortable with variables and writing equations. They will be investigating relationships among different patterns and learning how to use graphing calculators to solve problems in early January.

Students in Algebra are investigating nonlinear relationships in pattern and graph form. They will be focusing on inverse equations in upcoming sections of their books.

Science classes will finalize the toothpick bridge project by hanging weights from the bridges to determine a winner! Students will then be lectured on motion and forces as we introduce Physics. We will conduct labs on speed and acceleration of marbles. Science 8 will use the scientific method to determine the out-of-bounds line for a basketball court.

Language Arts classes are gearing up for a busy January, as students begin work on a persuasive research paper. Students will select from a number of complex social issues, which they will research extensively from a variety of print and electronic resources in the Media Center. From there, they will develop an MLA-formatted persuasive research paper, complete with outline, parenthetical citations, and works cited page.

Physical Education News – 6th grade Nutrition Unit –

Rachel Ray and Emeril watch out! The Windham sixth grade chefs are on the loose. In its third year, the Snack Cracker Iron Chef project is an exciting and fun way to learn about the nutritional value of some of our favorite foods. It's time to begin reading the food labels and make choices, for healthy foods and healthy habits, as often as possible.

Students, in small groups, design a snack that involves a cracker and can be assembled for presentation and judging in a short amount of time. Making sure that it is visually appealing, tasty, and healthy are the characteristics the judges are looking for, as they assign points for each category. Teachers, administration, community members, parents, and folks in the food service industry have served as judges over the years. Most recently, school board chair and owner of AJ Letizio Foods, Mr. Al Letizio was in to judge the culinary master pieces. They passed his expectations with flying colors.

When discussing the snacks, after the project is complete, students are able to rate their ideas for nutritional values and whether or not their parents would allow them to create these snacks at home. For a school project, many are caught up in the appeal of whip cream, chocolate and sweet garnishes. However, they soon come to realize, these items are not commonly found in the refrigerator, and modifications to the ingredients would be required at home. The skills of creating, combining food groups, using fresh foods, and keeping junk food to a minimum are all rolled in to this experience.

We certainly want to continue enjoying cake and ice cream at birthday parties, chocolate at holidays, popcorn with a movie, gravy and pies at Thanksgiving, and all the other tasty foods that make life interesting. However, now our students can snack in moderation and take responsibility for their eating habits as they grow older and more independent.

GUIDANCE NEWS

It is never too early to be thinking about college. On January 10, 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 17, 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.

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 9th, all Executives meet in the Café at 7:00 am. All M₂M members will meet in the Café from 8:45 – 9:15. M₂M Connections will be in the 6th grade homerooms from 9:15-9:45. (Early Release Day)

M2M will be sponsoring the Tri-County Basketball Play-Off Concession Stand on January 30th from 2:15-7:00pm. Mentors are asked to donate baked goods and soda/water and volunteer their time.

CHORUS NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to all chorus members for the great performance last month! I was so proud of all of you. If any student was unable to make the concert, he/she must complete the alternative assignment by the end of quarter 2. Nominations for South Central District Festival have been turned in and those chosen will be notified by the end of February.

BOWLING CLUB

Windham Middle School Bowling Club will be starting on Wednesday, January 23rd. Permission slips and more information are available at school.

SKI CLUB

Looking forward to hitting the slopes at Okemo on January 19th, 2008? Please see Mrs. Jodoin if you are interested in attending. Look for sign ups for the February trip to Bretton Woods.

CLICKETY STICKS

Starting on Monday, January 7th, 2008 "Clickety Sticks" a knit and crochet group will start a weekly meeting. All grades / all levels of experience welcome! Bring your projects in progress or something new to begin with! Meeting will be held in the art room until 3:30pm. If your child is interested, they can pick up a permission slip from Mrs. Mercier or by the office

YEARBOOK

The Yearbook Committee will meet on January 10th from 2:15-3:15 in the Media Center. The Yearbook Committee will sponsor a Windham Middle School dance on January 18th from 7:00-9:00 PM. Admission is \$6.00.

STOCK MARKET GAME NEWS

Congratulations to the following students who placed first in the Middle School division of the Stock Market Game: Kayla Breton, Marcela Trocha, Alex Lisowski, and Tyler Caron. This group made a **\$10,863.12** profit in just 10 weeks. Students will be attending an awards ceremony in May.