

JANUARY 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 and updates:

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

January 10—Ski Trip
January 12— Spelling Bee 7 PM
January 13—Early Release –11:15 Dismissal
January 14—Earth Shuttle Meeting 7:30 PM
January 19—No School—Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 21—8th Grade Parent Information
Windham High School Scheduling 7 PM
January 21—Bowling Club 3-4 PM
January 22—Snow Date -8th Grade Parent Information
Windham High School Scheduling 7 PM
January 23—End of Marking Period
January 23—School Dance 7-9 PM
January 30—Report Cards Issued
January 30—Ski Trip
February 3—M2M Executives 7 AM
February 4—M2M Connection with Grade 6
February 5—Sports Awards Night 6 PM
February 6—Ski Trip

7TH GRADE NEWS

In Social Studies, we are studying the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire through January. After that, it will be Medieval time!!! Watch out for news on the upcoming Medieval Day.

Math classes are working on Variables and Patterns; they will display data in tables and graphs and discover how changes are recorded in each format. Students will then move from graphs and tables to equations, using variables to represent unknown quantities. This is the beginning of Algebra and students will work with algebraic expressions. The seventh grade PreAlgebra classes are completing the unit on Integers and signed rational numbers; they will combine integers using all four operations as well as mixed operations and evaluate algebraic expressions with integer values. Students will also solve equations algebraically by balancing equations. Seventh grade Algebra students are completing the unit on systems of equations and different methods of finding common solutions for these systems. They will then continue on to systems of inequalities.

In science, students have recently made cell models to illustrate the structure of the different organelles in a cell. We will be continuing our study of cells with their processes and production of energy.

This month in reading, we will be reading short stories revolving around the theme of "Facing Choices." Two of the stories we will read include "The Scholarship Jacket," by Marta Salinas and "The Noble Experiment," by Jackie Robinson. In language arts, we will be focusing on grammar and vocabulary during the first part of the month. Later in the month, we will be reinforcing students' essay writing skills.

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 8th. We would like to congratulate Marisa McCarthy, John McCoy and Nick Worden. A good effort was put forth by all participants in the sixth grade contest held on December 23rd.

Sixth grade mathematics classes are finishing up the first Bits and Pieces book on fractions, decimals, and percents. Students have been working on "Problem of the Week" topics as well and have covered mean, median, mode, and range of data from different types of graphs. Pre-Algebra students will be studying integers in the coming days.

Students in reading classes have been exposed to various memoirs. They will soon be exploring an authors' point of view and perspective with the novel Flipped.

Language Arts students continue to expand their vocabulary with Vocabu-Lit and study of classical roots. In writing, students will be expanding the strength of passages through the power of verbs.

Science students will be finishing their study of chemistry shortly. We then move back into Earth science with our studies of earthquakes and volcanoes. Gordon Corbett gave us a glimpse into this area with his recent visit and talk of historical events like the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius. His many experiments are always a fantastic end to a great presentation!



EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Science students continue to design and construct their toothpick bridges. All science students were introduced to MOODLE and had to upload four laboratory write-ups into their MOODLE accounts and were required to compose reflection answers to technology questions.

Pre-Algebra students are working on solving one and two step equations. Geometry students are working on the properties of angles when transversal lines intersect parallel lines; the theorems and postulates associated with these relationships.

ILS classes just finished learning about the stock market and now are learning about the properties of Hyperstudio. Students will be creating their own music video based on an approved song.

STOCK MARKET GAME NEWS

Congratulations to the following students who placed first in the Middle School division of the Stock Market Game: Joe Lorenz, Kelly Martin, Tom Pare. This group made a **\$5,755** profit in just 10 weeks. Second place was earned by WMS students: Garrett McNeil, John Schreiner, Kaytlin Sinclair, with a **\$3825** profit. Students will be attending an awards ceremony in June.

WINDHAM WONDERLAND DANCE

For the third year in a row, Windham Middle School was able to make a donation of over \$3000 to Windham Helping Hands with proceeds earned from the dance. Our art students created terrific snowflakes for decorations. Many thanks to the PTA volunteers who decorated the café to make it a truly wonderful winter wonderland.

SPANISH NEWS

Students worked in the computer lab creating a Power Point presentation about themselves and their friends. They practiced using Spanish punctuation marks in their writing.

GUIDANCE NEWS

It is never too early to be thinking about college. On January 22, 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 14, Kellie Steward from Windham 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 & Advisory Goals

The theme for January is Personal Responsibility.

There will be a Winter Sports Pep Rally on January 30th!

Stay tuned for the Amazing Hero Artist coming to WMS in February

BOWLING CLUB

Bowling club will be starting Jan. 21st. Permission slips are available at WMS. The bowling goes for 8 weeks. The cost is \$45.00 dollars which includes: two strings of bowling each week, shoe rentals, trophies, and a pizza party at the end. Students can sign up as individuals or as teams of 4 bowlers. Any questions please contact Mr. Cherbonneau

YEARBOOK

Yearbook Club will meet after school on January 22nd in the Computer Lab, and there is a dance sponsored by Yearbook on January 23rd from 7-9pm. Admission is \$6.

2009 yearbooks can still be purchased for \$25.