



SAU 28

Windham Middle School

Windham Middle School

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January 2012

Principals' Corner

Happy New Year! As the calendar changes to 2012, the second half of the school year seems to go at rapid pace. We have already started to plan the end of year activities for our students. Many of the events center on celebrating our eighth grade class. Washington DC preparations are being finalized and the class field trip this year will be Cedarland instead of Hampton Beach. The Cedarland class trip will be taking place on May 31st in Haverhill/Bradford, MA. This will be a great experience for our eighth grade students as they celebrate their three years here at the middle school. The class officers are in the process of planning some wonderful activities for this trip. We would like to inform you that the eighth grade Graduation Ceremony will now be a Promotion Ceremony. The Promotion Ceremony will still have many of the key aspects as the Graduation Ceremony but with some slight alterations. Details of this ceremony will be forthcoming as the eighth grade students, parent representatives, staff and administration will be involved in the planning and preparation for this ceremony. The date for the Promotion Ceremony has not been determined yet (we'll see what Mother Nature has in store for us).

There are several important events to highlight during the month of January. Our annual Geography Bee is scheduled to take place on January 11th at 6:30 in the Café and the Spelling Bee is scheduled for January 24th. The second quarter report cards will be going home on January 31st. Winter Sports Awards Night is scheduled for February 6th.

As the snowflakes begin to appear, we welcome winter and hope everyone enjoys the ski and snow season safely.

Warmest regards,
Dan and Brenda



Important Dates

Please continue to check the school calendar for changes:

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

12/26-1/2 School Vacation

- 1/4 Earth Shuttle Meeting
- 1/6 Ski N Ride Club Gunstock
- 1/11 Geography Bee 6:30
- 1/16 Martin Luther King Day—no school
- 1/18 Yearbook Orders Due
- 1/18 College Day for Students
- 1/18 Geography Bee Snow Date
- 1/20 School Dance 7-9
- 1/21 Ski N Ride Club Killington
- 1/24 End of 2nd Quarter
- 1/24 Spelling Bee
- 1/26 Spelling Bee Snow date
- 1/31 Report Cards go home
- 2/3 PTA Rollerskating
- 2/6 Winter Sports Awards Night
- 2/10 School Dance
- 2/11 Ski N Ride Waterville Valley
- 2/17 Ski N Ride Pat's Peak
- 2/20 President's Day/Early Release Day

2/27-3/2 February Vacation

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Guidance News

The December 9th Winter Wonderland Dance was a success. Thank you to all who attended. The proceeds from the dance went to Windham Helping Hands. Thank you to the PTA who decorated the café for the dance and provided drinks for the students.



M₂M & Advisory Goals The theme for January is Personal Responsibility. M2M training will take place on January 17th in the café during Advisory. Our M2M connection will take place on January 18th in 6th grade homerooms during Advisory.

“The NHHEAF Network Organization is NH’s source of knowledge for everything college; providing free college planning assistance and state-of-the-art services to NH’s students and parents!” NHEEAF representatives will be here on January 18th giving a Jeopardy presentation to all of our 8th grade students during their Language Arts classes. Staff will be supporting the presentation by wearing our favorite college gear and encouraging the students to do the same. This has traditionally been a fun day for the students to get them excited about the possibilities of their futures beyond high school!

Holiday Gift too Big to Wrap

How would you wrap a cow? or a goat? or some chickens? Well, those are samples of some of the gifts being donated indirectly by some students of Windham Middle School. Giving livestock not only provides nutrition for families, but also can add extra income and prove to be long-term solutions to the world wide hunger problem.



The class officers of grade 8 at the middle school are currently selling candy canes to help raise money for a very special charity. This year's class officers are: Kelsey Kendzulak- president, Gabi Aleksa - vice president, Grace Donabedian, treasurer, and Natalie Boyd - secretary. Our annual charity drive is through WorldVision this year. It's a special program to supply livestock to needy families to help end world hunger.

Of course, the 2 students who initiated this drive receive our very special appreciation. Emily and Sarah Bowman approached the 4 class officers with the idea of raising at least a \$2,000 gift. They had already raised a lot of this money on their own. Sarah and Emily have been making bracelets along with some of their friends. The bracelets are all handmade and sell for \$3 each. Many students have supported this program. Between the bracelet sales and the candy cane sales, "....we have just about reached our goal" say the Bowman twins with big smiles on their faces. Mr. Carl Boisvert, who is working as 8th grade class advisor at the Windham Middle school said "our school community is so very fortunate to have such fine young citizens, and so many have supported this very special effort."

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Sixth Grade News

We are completing the Biome Group Projects and Reports; students will complete a literacy lesson comparing and contrasting two biomes. Then, we will briefly summarize success, and after the holiday break we will begin the unit on Metric Measurement and Use of Scientific Tools.

In 6th grade math we are learning to change between fractions, decimals, and percents. With each problem we brainstorm different ways in which such a number might be applicable to the world (for example, $9/8 = 112.5\%$, someone got the bonus correct on a test!) On Monday, December 19, we had Coach Pellerin from the Manchester Monarchs kick off our Hockey Unit in which students have the opportunity to create scale-model hockey rinks. Mr. Pellerin brought autographed pucks for students who choose to make the model over Winter Vacation (due: 1st week in January). On Friday, December 23, we will have a special surprise for the students to wrap up the unit.



Seventh Grade News

In January, Reading and Language Arts students will get back into the swing of things by meshing with the Social Studies curriculum to study *The Adventures of Ulysses*, an abridged version of *The Odyssey*. We will set the stage by reading the beginning together, and then students will jigsaw some of Ulysses' adventures, working in small groups to present the stories to the class in a creative way. Throughout this unit, we will explore the rich figurative language within this epic adventure. In language arts, we will continue to work with grammar, vocabulary, and essay writing.

In Science, Seventh grade students are just starting our first unit on cells. We

will focus on the structure and function of cells in the first unit and move on to cell processes. This is a favorite unit of many students each year because they enjoy creating the cell model project.

Seventh grade math students will complete the unit on integers, including all operations, evaluating algebraic expressions with integers and solving equations with integers. They will move on to triangles and pairs of angles, including special angles on parallel lines. Seventh grade Pre-algebra students will complete solving one step equations and move on to 2 step and multi-step equations. They will solve problems algebraically, defining variables and setting up and

solving open sentences. They will then work with equations with variables on both sides. Algebra students will complete the unit on linear equations including scatter plots and best fit lines and then work on solving and graphing inequalities, including those with absolute value. Students will advance to solving compound inequalities.

Seventh Grade Spanish students created tempting menus using their knowledge of Spanish foods and daily customs. They are also comparing the habits of Spanish and American eating habits.



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Eighth Grade News

Geometry students are working in Unit 4: Applying special relationships about the interior and exterior angles of triangles; Identifying corresponding parts of congruent triangles and proving triangles congruent; Learning about special properties of isosceles and equilateral triangles.

Students in Algebra have learned about slope intercept form of linear functions. They will concentrate on Standard Form and Point-Slope Form in the new year, as well as writing best-fit lines for scatter plot data using their understanding of linear equations.

Pre-Algebra Students are working in CMP2 Unit on Linear Relationships: Recognizing problem situations in which 2 or more variables have a linear relationship; Constructing tables, graphs, and symbolic equations that express linear relationships; Understanding and applying the connections between linear equations and the patterns in the tables and graphs of those equations: rate of change, slope, and y-intercept.

8th Grade French- Continuing in Unit 4. Students are able to describe their personality and physical characteristics. Students are also able to describe their friends, their possessions,

and to describe everyday objects that they own or use.

In Social Studies we will continue to discuss the balance of power between the states and the Federal Government, the removal of the Native Americans, US foreign affairs, and the power of the people during the Age of Jackson.

In I.L.S. we will be completing the Type for Learning program. We will complete a personal strengths survey for students to be aware of individual strengths and weaknesses. In Language Arts, we have been reading commentary on lighthearted topics such as dodgeball and facebook as well as more serious topics such as Veteran's Day. After examining these pieces for techniques such as emotional appeals, ethical appeals, parallel structure and use of concrete details, students have begun writing their own commentaries. The eighth graders are enjoying voicing their viewpoints on topics such as sports, homework, ipods and the length of the school day. Ask your eighth grader what he or she is writing about!

In addition, we continue our study of language

through Greek and Latin roots. The students are expanding their vocabularies through exploration as well as direct instruction of common roots and affixes. Finally, we are thrilled to continue honoring our commitment to increasing the amount of time we read the books that we love by providing noteworthy chunks of class for silent, undisturbed reading. Our students are quickly becoming critical consumers of literature as we discuss what we love (and don't love) about the books that we read.

Eighth grade science students will be starting a unit on properties of matter. Included in this unit are topics on density, solubility, and pH. The unit will include many lab activities that allow students to test materials using these characteristic properties of matter. The science NWEA tests will also be administered in January. These are computer-based standardized tests that measure year-over-year progress made in specific science concepts as well as scientific processes including a student's ability to analyze data and draw conclusions based on that data.



"Don't forget to check Moodle!"

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Media Center News

As the cold weather sets in, thoughts turn to staying warm with a steaming cup of hot chocolate and a good book. Students continue to take books out of the library at a great pace. The love of reading seems to be taking hold of the Middle School students.

Did you know that you can access our library catalog from home? Go to: <http://windham.libguides.com/WMSLibrary> and check out the Library homepage!

Parents, please encourage your children to return overdue library materials. Books can be checked out for three weeks, and flash drives can be checked out for 5 days. Many students have placed books on hold so that they can check them out as soon as they are returned. It can be a challenge for avid readers to wait for books that are quite overdue. Thanks!

The books in the *Hunger Games* Trilogy top the list of the most frequently

checked out books so far this year. If you haven't read them yet, ask your children to let you borrow their copies. Adults have been enjoying these books as much as the teens for whom they were written.

Our amazing students read a grand total of 2859 books during the first quarter. Keep up the great reading!



Keyboarding Practice Time Available

It is becoming increasingly more important for students to master keyboarding skills at a young age. Mrs. Smith is offering before and after-school Keyboarding Practice Times in the Media Center. Morning sessions will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 to 7:30. Afternoon sessions will take place on Mondays and Thursdays from 2:30 to 3:15. Please contact Katy Smith at ksmith@windhamsd.org for details, or to register your child. These sessions are available to all WMS students.



Music News

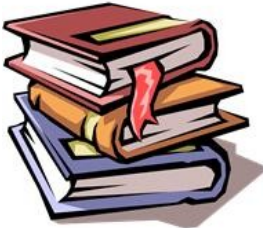
MONARCHS GAME: Select chorus will be singing the national anthem at the Monarchs game on January 15. Anyone can purchase tickets until January 5. Order forms are available now in the front foyer of the middle school and outside room 222. Please see Mrs. Cuneo for more information.

CHORUS STUDENTS: Your moodle assignments will be available online on Wednesday, December 21. Don't forget about them - they will be due Friday, January 6 the week we return from winter vacation.



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Book Beat



Eighth graders continue to be invited to sign up for Book Beat. Book Beat is a TV show that is taped at WCTV and shown on Windham Cable TV. This is a great opportunity for students who enjoy discussing what they have read, and/or for students who would like to be on TV! Shows are 30 minutes long and are taped monthly. Interested eighth grade students should contact Mrs. Smith or Mrs. Rogers for information.

Ski N Ride Club

The details of all trips and related costs are located on the moodle site. Please go to the moodle home page and click on the WMS Extracurriculars, which leads to a link for Ski N Ride. Payments for the February trips will be accepted after vacation, until they are full. Any trip that is full can have a waiting list, in case there are cancellations. Students will be given a hard copy of the trip notice, on the Monday before the trip, during lunches. This same notice is posted on the website, for reference of departure, return home, contact info, chaperone info, etc. Questions and comments can be directed to Mrs. Shirley 893-2636 x 55141



New members to the club are always welcome. Students must turn in the health form, permission slip, personal commitment form and \$10 bus deposit. All trips are independent of each other. Sign up for those you wish to attend.

8th Grade Morning Dance Group

The 8th grade morning dance group will begin on Wednesday January 11. Students will receive credit in their social studies class for participating. This year we are going to have the evening Dance with the Windham Swing Band at the end of the year. Thus, allowing for students to learn multiple dances from the various time periods of our history: the Waltz, Fox Trot, Swing, and possibly others. We will meet twice a week, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:00 - 7:30am in the gym. Students choose their partner and should discuss the commitment of a club like this, that learning and having fun is dependent upon having one's partner being there regularly. If a student needs to take the bus and can be there for 10-15 minutes, that is fine. Participation is not mandatory every day and attendance is not taken. However, the more lessons that you attend, the more you can learn and perfect your skills. See Mrs. Shirley for permission slips and for details or questions. (If students are in Select Chorus or Jazz Band, we can work things out.)

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Yearbook Information



The ordering deadline for the 2012 yearbook is January 18th! Order forms were distributed in homerooms and the yearbook can also be ordered online at <http://jostensyearbooks.com>. The price for the 2012 yearbook is \$20. Checks are made payable to WMS. Any questions please contact yearbook advisors, Mrs. Crimmin or Mrs. Rawley.

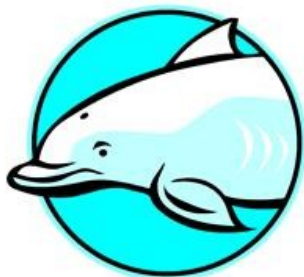
Earth Shuttle

It's not too late to sign up for Earth Shuttle!

- Earth Shuttle is an educational program for students interested in learning outside the classroom. Students take notes in all educational programs to use in writing a report when they return.

This year's itinerary includes:

- **Busch Gardens:** Behind the scenes animal encounters, visit animal rescue and rehabilitation, get up-close encounters with giraffes, zebra, rare white rhinos and their equally awesome black rhino cousins while you learn about endangered and at-risk animals in the wild
- **Fort DeSoto State Park** –Participate in a dissection and kayak around mangroves in search of exotic plants and animals. Snorkeling, dip netting and beach study.
- **MOSI- Museum of Science and Industry:** Participate in a simulated space mission in the Challenger Learning Center. Create a comet using common household materials.
- **American Pro-Diving:** Snorkel w/Manatees; learn about the history and conservation of these endangered animals, explore Rainbow River and its abundant wildlife and search for prehistoric sharks teeth.
- **Discovery Cove** - "Dolphin & Coral Reef Experience"



Students may register for the 2011 trip by picking up a registration form from Mrs. Pierpont or Miss Corbin. You may also register online at www.worldstrides.org using the trip ID# 58197. Cost of this year's trip: Student \$2144.00 Adults \$2251.00