

JUNE NEWSLETTER

STEPHEN PLOCHARCZYK
Principal

KORI ALICE BECHT
Assistant Principal



Windham Middle School

112 Lowell Road
Windham, NH 03087
(603) 893-2636
Fax: (603) 870-9007

SCHOOL NURSE & SAFETY PHONE
893-0434

SCHOOL COUNSELORS
893-2636



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

June 1—Eighth Grade Dance 7-10 PM
June 4—Spring Sports Recognition Night 6:30 PM
June 5—Field Day Grade 6
June 6—Field Day Grade 7
June 6—PTA Academic Recognition Night 7 PM
June 7—Field Day Grade 8
June 8—Career Day Grade 8
June 11—Trip to Hampton Beach Grade 8
June 14—8th Grade Graduation 6:30 PM
June 15—Rain Date-Graduation 6:30 PM

Windham Middle School Goodbyes We Will Miss You

Mr. P

Mr. Plocharczyk is the only principal we've had at Windham Middle School. What will we do without his presence, personality and puns? Who will say to a student, "That orange looks appealing"? By the end of the school year, most students actually understand his puns (or at least pretend to)! Who will create and answer both social studies and music trivia questions for us? How did Herman's Hermits get their name? What is the derivation of the word sheriff? Certainly, our staff and students will miss the constant support and compassion we are so privileged to receive on a daily basis. Our very best for many, many years of deserved retirement.

Mrs. K

Windham Middle School and the 8th grade team in particular will greatly miss Mrs. Kryzynski, who will also retire in June. Not only a terrific Reading/Language Arts teacher, but also Head Teacher, Team Leader and Class Advisor – Mrs. K has done it all and been a dynamic influence on our school. We all wish her the best!

Mrs. Irwin

Reading Coordinator extraordinaire and travel guru to staff, Mrs. Irwin will now have time to read all the books that have been on her list over the years, and travel to unique destinations. Students and staff will miss her and wish her the best in her retirement years.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Thanks to the students for another great year in Science. Currently students are working on perfecting their Rube Goldberg inventions with many trials and retrials. We will finish off the year calculating the speed of sound.

Students in pre-algebra have finished the year with an exploration of linear equations and slope. Algebra students will complete their quadratics unit and finish the year exploring new ways to represent data such as box and whisker plots. Its been a great year! Have a super summer and good luck in high school! Mr. Chaput and Mrs. Doughty

Social studies students just finished analyzing Billy Joel's song, "We Didn't Start the Fire", which mentions many historical events that happened between 1949 and 1989. Students created wonderful posters describing the significance of the events Joel mentions. Also, we would like to thank the students for a wonderful year and wish them the best of luck in the future!

Eighth Grade End of the Year News

We have started on our final countdown of activities.

- This Friday we are looking forward to the Graduation Dance, a very special occasion for 8th graders. The dance starts at 7:00 and ends at 10:00. There will be drinks and finger food available.
- Classes end June 6th
- Field day is on June 7th.
- Career Day June 8th.
- Hampton Beach the 11th (rain date the 12th).
- Mandatory graduation practice on the 12th and 13th. It is important that everyone attend school for the full day of rehearsal.
- Dress rehearsal the 14th. If students do well, they will be released early. Permission for early dismissal will go home with the Hampton Beach permission slips.
- GRADUATION! Students need to report to the gym at 6:00. Graduation will start promptly at 6:30. (Rain date- Friday at 6:30)

Scholar Leaders

Congratulations to Andie Missert and Kevin Conboy, this year's Windham Middle School's Scholar Leaders. Andie and Kevin have earned this award by distinguishing themselves with an excellent attitude towards learning, providing service to classmates and school, taking a positive role model for peers and taking responsibility for their own behavior and learning. An Awards Banquet will be held on June 7th at the Center of New Hampshire in Manchester.

Band and Chorus News

Congratulations to all of the bands and choruses who participated in this year's Great East Music Festival. Windham Middle School again swept gold on all levels! We are so proud of you!

SIXTH GRADE NEWS

Students in Grade 6 finished up this year's International Unit with the Cultural Expo Fair taking place on May 14, 2007. Nearly 100 parents showed up to take in the exhibits and many displays of cultural activities students had worked on for almost two weeks. Thank you to all the volunteers who continue to support this unit.

Step Up Day has come and gone. Our current Grade 6 students were given their homeroom assignments for next year. They met their "new" teachers and spent a little time in a Grade 7 classroom. Soon-to-be sixth grade students, wide-eyed and ready-to-go, arrived from Center School welcomed by Mrs. Becht and members of the Grade 6 teaching team. After a short tour of Middle School, students spent some time with their "new" homeroom teachers. Just before they left to return to Center School, our "new" 6 students had the opportunity to meet with their mentors from the school's mentor/mentee program, M2M. Students were given a pencil and a bookmark with the five reminders on how to live a more effective life, based on Rachel's Challenge.

We hope that all sixth graders and their families have an enjoyable and safe summer vacation!! Best of luck in Grade Seven!!

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

Science classes are learning about the circulatory system and how it works closely with the respiratory system to transport oxygen, nutrients, and waste products through the body. This study includes the parts of the heart, different blood vessels, and cardiovascular health.

Spanish students wrote a description of a typical week's activities and talked about where they and others go during free time. They also worked with verbs ser-estar (to be), gustar (to like), ir (to go) and present tense of ar verbs.

In Social Studies, we have just covered the Renaissance and Reformation and hope to have enough time to briefly visit the Age of Exploration and Colonization of the New World. It has been hectic, but we have managed to cover quite a lot of the past this year, from Prehistory to the 1600's. I hope your students have found the trip interesting! We have enjoyed sharing it with them.

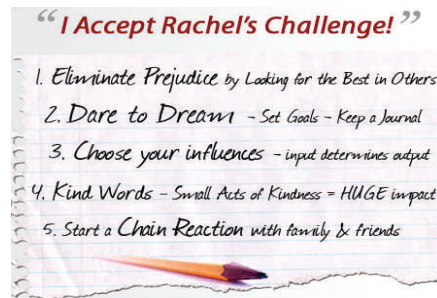
For the first time this year, we had a small after-school group exploring the use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software. We began with very little expertise but a good deal of interest. It was "trial and error" all the way, but we did finally manage last week to complete a small project that allows us to participate in a program called Community Atlas, sponsored by the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI). Their goal with this program is to help schools in integrating GPS/GIS into their curriculum. If all goes well, we hope to be rewarded for our efforts with free permanent privileges for the use of ArcView at Windham Middle School. ArcView is one of the most up-to-date and powerful GIS programs on the market today, used by government and business agencies all over the globe. We hope our efforts pay off and that future WMS students will enjoy the use of this software, since these skills will be necessary for numerous professions in the future.

Seventh grade pre-algebra classes have completed the unit on ratios, proportions and percents and used them for problem solving. They have calculated taxes, discounts and simple interest. They will finish the year with investigating circles and then volume and surface area of solids. The last week they will work with linear equations.

Math classes have completed the unit on ratios, proportions and percents and used them for problem solving. They will finish the year with statistics, investigating different types of graphs, line plots and stem and leaf plots.

Rachel's Challenge

The Rachel's Challenge presentations on May 15th were exceptional. Sixth, seventh and eighth graders listened to Nicole Nowlan, herself a victim of the Columbine tragedy, encourage them to participate in a challenge to change the way they view others. Students were able to sign a Rachel's Challenge banner, pledging to put into action acts of kindness and compassion. Leadership training for approximately 40 students provided more ideas and ways to continue the challenge. An evening presentation for parents and family was attended by close to 100 people, who also left inspired to look at the world differently and to reinforce positive decision-making.



GUIDANCE NEWS

All M₂M mentors met their new mentees at Step Up Day. Each incoming 6th grader received a pencil and Rachel's challenge book mark. Mentors should mark their calendars for the summer training on August 23rd. A reminder letter will be going out in July.

Reminder: The Sports recognition night is Monday, June 4th at 6:30. Track and Field is on first so be there promptly at 6:30.

Book Beat

The novel *INKHEART* by Cornelia Funke will be the last scheduled program to be taped by our Windham Middle School Cable Book Club. The students have done a fine job of reading books, then taking turns having lively and spirited discussions about them. Each month their round table dialogues were taped at the station and aired on the local cable channel. Hopefully their enthusiasm has inspired other members of our community to become even more involved in the fun, the adventure, of regular reading for life!

Mrs. Fahey and Mrs. Greenleaf wish to congratulate and thank the members of this year's Book Beat! Great job, kids!

PowerSchool Update

Parents please note that PowerSchool access will only be available until June 30th. Passwords will not work after that date. New passwords will be available at our Open House on September 19th.

Stock Market Game Winners

Congratulations to 8th graders Stephen Chau and Nate Spanos who placed second in the Fall Stock Market Game. They chose stocks which earned them almost \$10,000 profit in a 10 week period. They attended an award ceremony May 29th at the Crowne Plaza in Nashua, with math teacher Mrs. Doughty and enrichment teacher Mrs. Williams. Stephen and Nate were asked to speak at the ceremony and eloquently and humorously presented their stock market strategies and discussed lessons learned.

Media Center News

As the year begins to wind down, it is a great time for you and your child to look through those book shelves and under the bed at home for any library materials that may not have been returned. The last day students may check books out is May 31, and all materials are due back on June 1, unless the student is using the book for a class project. Notices will be going home soon to let students and parents know what has yet to be returned. Eighth graders who want to go on the Hampton Beach trip must have all materials returned/paid for.

Don't forget to check the WSD website for the recommended summer reading list. We certainly encourage students to read over the summer to keep their skill level.

Thank You PTA

WMS staff and students wish to thank PTA for countless hours of volunteering! We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated group to assist in classrooms, cook and serve luncheons, dinners and desserts and always be on hand to help. Conference dinners in the fall and spring are unbelievably delicious. Teacher Appreciation Week was an exceptional one for us with breakfast one day, lunch another, and a very special gift of a Kuerig Coffee Maker for our teachers room. Thank you to all!