

June 2008

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Windham Middle School

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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>

**June 2– Spring Sports Award Recognition Night
6-7:30pm**

June 4 – Earth Shuttle Parent Info. Night 6-7pm

**June 4 – Parent Step-Up Night for incoming 6th
graders 7-8 pm**

June 6– 6th Grade Field Day

June 6– 8th Grade Graduation Dance 7–10pm

June 9– 7th Grade Field Day

June 9 – PTA Academic Recognition Evening 7:00pm

June 10 – 8th Grade Field Day

**June 12 – 8th Grade Hampton Beach Field Trip
4:00 Return to School**

**June 17 – 8th Grade Graduation 6:30pm
(Rain date 6/18)**

June 19 – Last Day of School for 6th and 7th grade

6TH GRADE NEWS

During their last term of this school year, the sixth grade students have been very busy academically. In Math, our students have wrapped up Bits and Pieces III and will move on to 2-Dimensional and 3-Dimensional Geometry and then have a brief introduction to Integers before the end of the year. Pre-Algebra students will finish up their unit on 3-Dimensional Geometry and end the year working on activities dealing with probability.

Social Studies classes are completing their unit of study on Mexico and Central America, our neighbor to the South.

In Reading, our sixth graders have had a varied experience this term. Some are reading the novel, Esperanza Rising, connecting to their social studies unit of Mexico. Others are enjoying Where the Red Fern Grows, Flipped, The Rats of Nimh or selected science fiction novels. Many will end the year with exposure to poetry. Finally, as Rules was named the Great Stone Face Winner for 2008, our sixth grade students were able to see how their personal vote fared against those of the rest of the state.

In our Language Arts classes, the upstairs teams are completing their Immigration Research papers, while, the downstairs teams are continuing to work on vocabulary and spelling enhancement.

Our Science classes are all finishing their unit on Weathering, Erosion and Deposition, the forces that change and shape Earth's surface. They will take part in a culminating activity by creating a 3-Dimensional representation of the landforms they have studied in this unit. We will wrap up our year by studying Earth's resources.

Step-Up Day is Wednesday, June 4th. Our current Grade 6 students will be given their homeroom assignments for next year, meet their "new" teachers and spend a little time in a Grade 7 classroom. Soon-to-be sixth grade students will tour the Middle School, spend some time with their new homeroom teachers, and meet with their M2M mentors.

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

THANK YOU PTA

Windham Middle School staff and students would like to thank our PTA volunteers for another spectacular year. Our Teachers Room looks fabulous, thanks to a total renovation. All the breakfasts, lunches and dinners were delicious. Thank you to all volunteers who helped with unit activities, classroom assistance, tutoring, baking, serving—anything we asked of you. Enjoy the summer!!

FOND FAREWELLS

Windham Middle School staff and students would like to send our best wishes to some very special staff members who will be retiring in June. Mrs. Fahey, 7th grade Reading teacher, and Mrs. Plaza, our Media Center assistant, will retire from their positions. Mrs. Hone, our French teacher will retire from her position; but, fortunately for us, she will return part time as our Literacy Success teacher. Good Luck to all!

HIGH SCHOOL ARTICLE

BY: KELLY MARTIN & SHELBY PECKHAM

On May 22, 2008 Mrs. Becht (principal), Mrs. Williams, Kelly Martin, and Shelby Peckham visited the future Windham High School. The sight was amazing, and once we got out of the car, we stood in awe. Its development has flourished, and its outer beauty finally seemed to show. Our experience was really fun, since we got to meet Mr. Davis. He's the construction site manager, and he is really passionate about this project.

High School, a brilliant time in any student's life, is where we will be for 4 years. Our upcoming high school is very accommodating and comfortable, allowing us to actually enjoy school. To keep up with the daily demand of being fit, we can work out in the fitness room, lifting weights and cushioning our feet on the spongy rubber floor. In order to have large amounts of space for sports equipment, lockers rooms for home teams, visiting teams, and even coaches are being constructed. The 13, 800 sq. ft. gymnasium can hold 600 cheering fans, rooting for the Jaguars. The floor can hold 400 players. Once games are over, visitors can walk through a main hallway of trophy cases, showing off our achievements. Besides the fact that our gym is going to be amazing, the art program will blow you away. There are going to be two art rooms, as Mr. Davis said, one "dirty" and one "clean". The dirty art room will offer pottery and painting. The clean art room will offer drawing and other art projects. Our high school is going to be remarkable and really original, perfect for the upcoming students.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

In June, Social Studies classes will be finishing up by discussing the Middle East and the situations that have occurred there over the past twenty years. There will be a final exam given to the students on Monday, June 9th. The exam will cover all the material from the year. We have enjoyed our year and we wish the students and their families a wonderful summer and good luck in high school!

Science 8 will finish the year with lessons on Energy, Power, and Sound. Students will then conduct experiments on Pendulum Energy and the Speed of Sound.

FRENCH NEWS

Students in Grade 8 will close out the year with everyone's favorite unit - food! Students have learned a large number of vocabulary words and have been busy writing some tasty recipes in French. Perhaps we will be able to sample some of those in the last few weeks of school. Best wishes to all these hard-working students as they head into summer and then their time as high school students.

Seventh grade students are working on a new unit that deals with community and home. Lessons focus on vocabulary for buildings in the community and rooms in the home. Students will also be learning phrases for going places and doing a variety of activities. Seventh graders have certainly come a long way this year, progressing from the French alphabet and small numbers, to reading, writing, and understanding information on a wide variety of topics. Well done!

Have a great summer everyone!

SPANISH NEWS

Seventh grade Spanish students took a virtual tour of Mexico. Each student researched a city, landmark, holiday or famous person. Then, using Microsoft Office Publisher, students word processed postcards with the researched information to share with the class. It was both an informative and enjoyable project!

BAND AND CHORUS NEWS

Congratulations to the 7th and 8th Grade Bands and Choruses along with the Select Chorus and Jazz Ensemble for doing an outstanding job at the Great East Festival this year. Windham Middle School again swept gold with the 7th and 8th Grade Bands each receiving a Platinum Rating - highest marks in the festival and a first in Windham Middle School history! All the band and chorus students have worked so hard this year and they should be applauded for their consistent effort and excellent performances!

GUIDANCE NEWS

STEP UP DAY/NIGHT

Step Up Day will be Wednesday June 4th. This is an opportunity for the 5th graders to meet with their 6th grade teachers, Middle School staff and take a tour of the Middle School. Step Up Night will be June 4th at 7pm. This is an opportunity for parents to meet the 6th grade teachers, attend an informational session about Middle School and your child and take a tour of the school. Please feel free to contact Lizz Jodoin/Julie Lichtmann at 893-2636 if you have any questions.

PE NEWS

WMS field days are scheduled for Friday June 6 – sixth grade, Monday June 9 – 7th grade, and Tuesday June 10 – 8th grade. These will be all day events for the students to play a variety of games, and lifetime activities and celebrate another completed year of school.

Some activities will be repeated for each grade, some will be different. Highlights include- Hip Hop, Swing, and Line Dancing; a Water Relay station, Floor Hockey, Four Square, Badminton, lots of field games, Karate, and Tie Dying t-shirts (and other cotton items).

Students will sign up for five activities of their choosing. They will be advised to check the schedule before sign ups and talk with friends about activities for which they wish to be together. It is the students' responsibility to sign up for events they enjoy and work out the timing to be with friends who share the same interests. There are limited numbers of students for each activity and each one hour time slot, but the very popular activities will be offered more than once.

The following responsibilities are that of the students:

1. Wear clothes that adhere to the dress code and are appropriate for the weather
2. Wear sneakers, tied snugly, for safety and full participation (no flip flops, sandals, Tevas, etc.)
3. Put on sun screen (we do have some, for those who are in need, but not for all 575 students!)
4. If students sign up for Tie Dying, they are to bring in their own items to dye. 100% white cotton only – check with Mrs. Mercier about unique items.
5. Water and cups will be available (monitored by PTA). Please do not bring water bottles (unless medically needed,) as they are usually forgotten at a station and left for trash. Bottles that are store bought are also mistaken for one's own and may belong to another – this is not sanitary. Please use trash cans provided, after a break, as new cups will be available for the next break.
6. Students need to be caught up on work assigned and all work should be turned in by field day, unless other arrangements are made with your teachers.

Seventh Grade News

Science

Students are finishing with study of the cardiovascular system. Discussions have included the important connections between nutrition and cardiovascular health. We've used technology with internet activities to access up to date information and enhance learning.

ILS

Students continue to work on their autobiography. They are also working on a virtual vacation by using \$7,000 to create a trip of a lifetime.

SS

Social studies classes are finishing the Age of Exploration and talking about the English colonies and the French and British Revolutions. We will be finishing the year by investigating the causes of the American Revolution.

Reading

We are working on a class novel, Tangerine. This is a cumulative unit reviewing the topics we've been working on all year, including plot elements, reading strategies, and figurative language.

LA

The language arts classes enjoyed creating and playing the board games created by students using every piece of their 7th grade language arts knowledge. Now, we are wrapping up our final lessons regarding prepositional phrases as the end of the school year approaches.

Math

Math students have completed their study of ratio, proportion and percents. They have used proportion as a problem solving tool for percent word problems. Pre-Algebra has been working on setting up and solving word problems algebraically. Algebra has completed the unit on factoring and solving quadratics through factoring.