

MARCH NEWSLETTER

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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

- March 8—Jack Agati Presentation 7PM**
- March 12—M2M Executives Meet 7:00 AM**
- March 13—No School -Election Day--Teacher Workshop**
- March 16—School Play 7 PM**
- March 17—School Play 2 PM and 7 PM**
- March 21—Medieval Banquet—Grade 7**
- March 26—Swing Dance—Grade 8 7 PM**
- March 29—Curriculum Fair 6-8 PM**
- March 30—End of Marking Period**
- March 30—School Dance 7-9 PM**

JACK AGATI PRESENTATION

Windham Middle School Council cordially invites you to a presentation by Jack Agati on Thursday, March 8th at 7:00 PM in the Windham Middle School cafeteria. A former teacher, counselor, Director of Special Education, and parent, Mr. Agati will speak on parenting and responsibility. Parents from all Windham schools are encouraged to attend, as this will be an entertaining and informative evening. Also, there will be a short informational presentation on the new high school directly following Mr. Agati's talk.

SIXTH GRADE NEWS

In Language Arts, our students have been proudly and actively involved in the writing process through immigration papers and descriptive essays. Our sixth graders have been further strengthening their writing skills and reading comprehension strategies through the exciting literature units of Dragonwings and Flipped!

In Social Studies, our students have been intently focused on the geography and culture of the Southeast Asian countries of China, Japan and the Koreas. A special congratulations to Mr. Kingsley's current events team who won the second quarter superbowl!

The geometry unit, "Shapes and Designs" has just been completed in Math and next our sixth graders will enter the second part of "Bit and Pieces." During this unit, the students will be enhancing their understanding and skills surrounding fractions, decimals and percents.

The sixth graders have been shaken up a bit with their study of earthquakes and volcanoes in Science classes! They've participated in some really exciting labs and will have completed the "Shake, Rattle and Roll" project!

Congratulations to all the students who received Outstanding Student Awards for the second quarter. To all our sixth graders, continue your good efforts and keep up the good work!

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

In seventh grade Social Studies, we are now finishing our study of the Roman Republic and Roman Empire. In March, we will be studying the Middle Ages in Social Studies and Language Arts. Group research projects on the feudal society, castles, religion, etc. will be followed by our very special Medieval Day at Midwin Castle on Wednesday, March 21st. As always, our Music, Art, and Physical Education teachers will be helping with the festivities; and the Windham PTA will be helping with our abundant feast, which will be followed by a "jousting tournament" in the gymnasium. This is a highlight of the seventh grade year, and we are looking forward to another exciting trip into the past.

Seventh grade Spanish students created posters describing their friends and themselves. They used subject pronouns, adjectives (showing agreement) and singular and plural form of the verb ser (to be).

The seventh grade math classes have recently completed or are about to complete the unit on rational numbers. They have reviewed all the operations and then used order of operations to compute multi step problems and also used rational numbers in algebraic expressions and open sentences. This month they will explore pyramids and prisms and use both surface area and volumes of these solid figures. Students will continue to develop problem solving techniques for various word problems and will be asked to prove whether a given answer is reasonable.

The Pre-Algebra classes are working with signed rational numbers. They are using these in algebraic expressions and open sentences. Students will continue with multiplication and division and use all 4 operations together. Students have worked with sequences and will use scientific notation for problem solving. This month they will explore parallel lines and their special angles. The next unit will be ratios and proportions and how they can be used in problem solving.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Monday, March 26th, as part of the World War II Unit the Swing Dance will take place in the cafeteria. The dance is open to 8th graders and their families only. Bring your parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. A letter will be going home in March with more detail.

Students in Pre-Algebra will be comparing data sets and learning how to graph data in the graphing calculator. They will use the calculators to find averages and learn how to create box-and-whisker plots and histograms.

Students in Algebra just completed an in depth look at linear equations. Now they will investigate systems of linear equations by using real world data and the graphing calculators. They will also learn multiple ways to solve for a solution to linear equations.

Science students are starting a flight unit and then we will move on to simple machines, which includes building trebuchets out of oaktag and Rube Goldberg inventions.

ENRICHMENT NEWS

Sixth grade Science students continue to create and present independent projects. In Mr. Gage's classes, Jon Heinzl, Matt Browne and Andrew Sun created PowerPoints, Jeopardy games and review questions on volcanoes, tsunamis and other chapter facts. Presentations were terrific and extremely informative. Projects and more hands-on experiments will continue in March.

FRENCH NEWS

Sixth graders have finished colors, and now they are working on a variety of exciting activities to learn speaking and writing numbers to 60.

Seventh graders continue their work with verbs, question words and formations. Increasingly students can carry on conversations in French.

Students in the eighth grade have been learning second and third conjugation verbs as well as imperative forms.

Don't forget the Curriculum Fair on March 29th here at Windham Middle School. Be sure to stop in at Cafe Rosa in the cafeteria!

MUSIC NEWS

The Music Department would like to congratulate the following students who have been chosen to participate in the South Central Middle School Music Festival on May 5, 2007 at David R. Cawley Middle School in Hooksett.

BAND: Andreas Roalsvig, Stephen Chau, Melanie Forster, Valerie Bauer, Brian Short and Chris DiPersio.

CHORUS: Anna Cino, Stephanie Chapman, Ashley Nagel, Kelsey Chase, Amanda Tornquist, Andrea Missert, Jake Simard, Stephen Brikiatis, Adam DiPersio and Nate Spanos.

DRAMA CLUB

The Windham Middle School Drama Club will be presenting this year's play - a musical - this month in the Middle School Cafe. Stephen Murray's "Musical! The Bard is Back!" is the story of a group of high school students and their ill-fated attempt to stage a musical version of Shakespeare's "Romeo & Juliet." It seems the theatre is haunted by a 20 year-old curse, and all the good luck charms in the world can't ward off disaster once the sets start collapsing, lights come crashing from the ceiling, and the leading lady loses her voice.

Directed by Mr. Kirste and produced by Mrs. Smith, a cast of 23 talented students act, sing and dance their way into your hearts. Performances will be held on Friday, March 16th at 7PM and Saturday, March 17th at 2PM & 7PM.

Admission is free, but donations are gladly accepted.

THANK YOU TO OUR PTA

WMS sends a special thank you to the PTA for sponsoring a terrific trip to Nashoba Valley Ski Area for an evening of tubing. Also, a huge thank you to Mrs. Cannone and Mrs. Vivineto, who coordinated the planning of the event. Seventy-seven students, staff and parents braved the very cold weather to enjoy tubing on 17 trails, dinner at the snack bar, and socializing with friends. Staff and parents joining the fun included: Mrs. Fava, Mrs. Merchant, Mrs. Logan, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Cannone, Mrs. Wolfe, Mrs. Reicher and Mr. McNeil. We look forward to going again next year.

GUIDANCE NEWS

M₂M is March 12th. The Executives will meet at 7:00am in the Café and the training will take place from 9:00-9:30. The theme this month will be Respect.

The 8th grade Health classes will be having a guest speaker from Bridges. Bridges is a domestic and sexual violence support group that speaks to teens about building healthy relationships, teen dating violence, and sexual harassment.

DC Final Payment

A reminder to all students going to Washington, DC, final payments are due March 19th.

Private High Schools

Congratulations to all our students who applied to various high schools and were accepted. Windham will have a strong showing at Central Catholic and Bishop Guertin this year.

Guidance Presentations

The 6th & 7th grade students are in the process of receiving guidance presentations discussing such topics as cyber-bullying and respecting each other. In the 8th grade, presentations include topics such as social issues relating to the health unit.

EIGHTH GRADE SWING DANCE

Students are preparing for the March 26th SWING DANCE with the WINDHAM COMMUNITY SWING BAND and Michael and Debbie Ulbrich of the Krystal Ballroom of Salem. The Ulbrichs will be offering a 30 minute lesson before the band plays, from 6:30-7:00pm. If students are unable to attend the morning group, or wish to get "warmed up" – arrive for the lesson. Parents and Staff are welcome for the lesson, too. The morning group, of about 56 students, are progressing well. I know their teachers and classmates will be impressed with their skills and style. Don't be intimidated, you can pick up on the steps and join right in. Do not miss this great night out and get "in the swing"! See you there! – Mrs. Shirley

DANCING FOR ALL STUDENTS

All students are invited to learn about Swing dance and other styles of ballroom or couple dances. Just like *Dancing with the Stars* – grab a partner and head on down to the Krystal Ballroom for lessons in March. All WMS students are invited to sign up with the Krystal Ballroom for March 10, 17, 24, 31 – all four lessons for only \$32.00.

6th and 7th graders will have their lesson from 12:00 noon – 12:40pm.

8th grade lesson will be 12:45-1:25pm.

See Mrs. Shirley after vacation for details and check the Windham Independent.

Curriculum Fair

Please join us Thursday, March 29th from 6-8 PM for the 10th Annual Curriculum Fair. This is a wonderful opportunity to see projects, displays, demonstrations and entertainment reflecting the curriculum for all subjects and all grade levels at our school. As usual, a special feature is our wonderful restaurant, Le Café Rosa, with delicious samples of French and Spanish dishes.