



Windham Middle School Newsletter

Windham Middle School
112A Lowell Road
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March 2011



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Eighth Grade News

Mrs. Doughty, who is on maternity leave, wishes her students the best of luck for the remainder of their eighth grade year. Welcome to her substitute, Bob Charette.

Science students will be switching gears after February vacation from their unit on Chemistry to various topics in the field of Physics. We will begin by examining various forms of energy and how we apply the concept of energy conversions to our daily lives. We will start with heat energy before moving on to motion and forces. Labs will be conducted on the the graphic representation of the heating curve of water as well as a conduction, convection, and radiation lab.

Social Studies will be working on the Great Depression and then World War II in March. The Swing Dance will be on March 28th and all 8th Grade projects will be on display.



Students in pre-algebra will be wrapping up investigation 4 on linear relationships which will be followed by a quiz. Students will then begin working on solving one- and two-step equations.

Geometry students will have a quiz at the mid-way point of chapter 5 on relationships in triangles and then will be moving forward through the rest of the chapter on triangles.

Coming Events

- March 2 Earth Shuttle meeting WMS café 7:30 PM
- March 3 Curriculum Fair 6-8 PM
- March 4 3rd Quarter progress reports
- March 5 Ski Club trip to Loon
- March 8 WSD Annual Mtg. Session II Voting
- March 9 Health and Wellness Fair WHS 7 PM
- March 11 School Dance 7-9 PM
- March 16 Teacher Workshop Day
- March 18 7th Grade Medieval Day
- March 18 PTA Ping Pong Tournament 6:30-8:30 PM
- March 19 Ski and Ride Club
- March 24 WMS Production of Dear Edwina Jr. at WHS 7 PM
- March 25 WMS Production of Dear Edwina Jr. at WHS 7 PM
- March 26 WMS Production of Dear Edwina Jr. at WHS 2 PM
- April 1 End of quarter 3 marking period
- April 7 11:15 Early Release Day
- April 8 School Dance 7-9 PM



Guidance News

M₂M connection is scheduled for **March 9th**. The M₂M mentor training is on March 8th in the Café during Advisory. The theme this month will be ***Fitness***.

DC Final Payment

A reminder to all students going to Washington, DC, final payments are due March 18.

Yearbooks are still on sale for \$25.00. There will not be any available for purchase after April 22nd, 2011. Don't miss your opportunity to purchase your Yearbook.

The next Yearbook Committee meeting will be held on March 23rd in the Computer Lab at 2:15- 3:00.

Book Beat

Eighth graders are invited to sign up to be on the Book Beat panel. Book Beat is a TV show that is taped at WCTV and shown on Windham Cable TV. Eighth graders have an opportunity to discuss a variety of books and authors. Shows are 30 minutes long and are taped monthly.

Any interested 8th grade student can contact Mrs. Greenleaf or Mrs. Rogers for more information.



Sixth Grade News

The Sixth Grade had a busy February and is looking forward to an exciting March.

Science classes finished an interesting unit on Chemistry in which they conducted several investigations on the properties of matter. They will kick off their new unit on Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes and Volcanoes unit with a talk and presentation by Geologist, Gordon Corbett. After February vacation, they will begin investigating the causes of tectonic plate movement and the effect of this movement on events such as earthquakes and volcanoes.



In Math, students continue to work on fraction operations. At this point, students can change between fractions, decimals, and percents as well as add/subtract/multiply fractions. After their unit test at the beginning of March, they will move onto Shapes & Designs. Remember to celebrate Pi Day on March 14th! Students will be celebrating in their math classes!

In Reading, students are examining figurative language and point of view while reading novels such as *Flipped* and *Esperanza Rising*. In Language Arts, some classes are finishing a study on nouns, while others are finishing a study on verbs. Also, they are continuing work

on their Classical Roots series in which students are learning the meaning of words by identifying and understanding the root of the word.



Social Studies' classes are concluding their unit on North Africa and Southwest Asia (Middle East) and will begin examining the cultures of the people living in East Asia upon returning from vacation.

Principals' Corner

We hope everyone had a wonderful winter break. As we peer over the lingering snow banks, let's hope that Punxsutawney Phil was correct and that spring is right around the corner. Before the vacation, we had an informative presentation by Investigator Jennifer Frank from the Plymouth State University Police Department about the dangers of the Internet and cyberbullying. Please take a moment to review with your child precautionary measures while using Facebook, on-line gaming systems, and various media venues.

March is a busy month at the Middle School as we prepare for our Curriculum Fair, spring NWEA testing, and the our Dear Edwina Jr. Drama Club Production. Please join us on March 3rd at 7pm for our annual Curriculum Fair showcasing Café Rosa and grade level projects and assignments. It is sure to be an evening of fun. What may not be fun, but is very important is spring testing. The Spring NWEA testing will begin the week of March 21st. Please remind your students to eat a healthy breakfast, get plenty of rest, and to be on time for school. Dear Edwina Jr. is this year's drama production scheduled for March 24th, 25th, and 26th. We hope to see all of you there!

Happy Spring!

Respectfully,
Dan Moulis and Brenda Morrow



Seventh Grade News

In March, seventh grade reading classes will be participating in one of our favorite units of the year: literature circles! Students will read a book and participate in student-led discussions in small groups; at the end of the unit, they will complete an individual project of their choice as a culminating activity. We have found that the students really enjoy the sense of power and ownership they have while participating in literature circles.

In language arts, we will continue with our study of grammar and vocabulary. In addition, we will be tying our curriculum loosely to social studies and writing a compare/contrast essay on medieval medicine.

In science, seventh grade students are continuing to learn about cell processes and energy. We are comparing and contrasting photosynthesis and cellular respiration with several hands-on and technology-rich activities.

We have just finished our Ancient Rome unit with a study of the fall of the Roman Empire. Once our test on this unit is behind us, we will be moving right into Medieval Europe, a topic that students generally find exciting. Before February break, students will choose an individual or team project to be working on at home over the next month, which will supplement what we will be learning in class about this time period.

Our studies will culminate with our well-known and eagerly awaited Medieval Day celebration on Friday, March 18th. As many probably know, this will include a Medieval banquet with authentic entertainment of the time, followed by a jousting tournament among all the manors (home rooms). Full information about the project and Medieval Day will be sent home with students and posted on Ms. Beaver's and Mr. Buckley's Moodle pages. I'm sure this year's celebration will prove to be as fun a learning experience as it has been in past years.

Advisory News

Mrs. Greenleaf's Advisory has adopted two soldiers serving in Afghanistan through the Adopt-A-Platoon program. They will be sending cards and notes as well as care packages to show their appreciation to the soldiers for serving our country. If anyone would like to contribute with a card, letter, or item to send in the packages, it would be appreciated. Glass, aerosol and pork products may not be sent. Items such as granola bars, toiletries, drink packets, dark colored gloves and hats and old magazines are appreciated. The advisory is in contact with one female and one male soldier. If you would like more information contact Mrs. Greenleaf at dgreenleaf@windhamsd.org



The George/Rawley, Ells/Lamb, Cuneo/Low and Mrs. Shirley's advisories made Valentine's Day cards for the veterans at the Veteran's Affairs Medical Center in Manchester. Mrs. Shirley's dog Tundra delivered them.

Eighth Grade News cont.....

French: Students are finishing a unit where they have learned adjectives so they are able to describe themselves and others. They are also able to talk about things that they have using adjectives. The next unit will be focused on describing a city. They will learn vocabulary concerning various buildings and directions to go from place to place. Students will be learning a future tense.

Language arts students are completing a unit on poetry and should be proficient in the art of writing various types of poetry. After vacation, students will be reading The Diary of Anne Frank in play format, as classes discuss the Holocaust and the importance of tolerance. Judith Black, an outstanding presenter and yearly visitor to WMS, will take on her role as a Holocaust survivor when she speaks to LA classes on March 8th.

ILS classes will be finishing up either the Building Homes of Our Own or the Power Point on World War I Battles.

