

# MARCH 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](http://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>

March 5—Nashoba Valley Tubing 2:30-7 PM

March 7—School Dance 7-9 PM

March 8th—Ski Trip to Bretton Woods

March 11—No School—Teacher Workshop

March 12—M2M Connection—Execs 7 AM

March 12—Earth Shuttle Meeting 7:30 PM

March 13—Yearbook Committee 2:15

March 13—Drama Club “Radio Daze” 7 PM

March 14—Drama Club “Radio Daze” 7 PM

March 15—Drama Club “Radio Daze” 4 PM

Week of March 17th—Spring Sports Try-outs

March 26—Curriculum Fair 6-8 PM

March 28—Medieval Banquet

March 28—8th grade Transition Dance—Salem High School 7 PM

### 6TH GRADE NEWS

In Language Arts, our students have been proudly and actively involved in the writing process through various long terms papers such as immigration 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 Southwest Asia and North Africa. Special congratulations to Miss Guelli’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 2.” 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 be completing a “Shake, Rattle and Roll” project!

### 7TH GRADE NEWS

In 7th grade Social Studies, we are looking forward to starting the Medieval Unit once we return from February vacation. The Medieval Banquet will be held this year on Friday, March 28th. Students and parents will be receiving details soon about this exciting part of our curriculum.

Seventh grade reading students experienced a new way of sharing book reviews. Modeled on the concept of Speed Dating, classes shared Rapid Reviews with one another. Each student developed a three minute review of their current book report book. Each review shared the main characters, the major conflict in the book, action from the beginning, middle and end of the story, and a rating for the book. During three of the block periods, the Rapid Reviews were given in the cafeteria where there was enough room to set up long rows of tables so students from Mr. Bairstow’s class and Mrs. Fahey’s class could present to each other. Students sat across from one another, and at the signal had three minutes to share their review. Time was called, and then partners shared. After both reviews were shared, students had time to write comments about the book they heard about. Finally, each person asked the other reviewer a question about his or her book. When this was done, the students along one side moved one seat to the right, giving everyone a new partner, and a new book to learn about. This was continued over the course of the ninety-minute block.

### FRENCH NEWS

Grade 8 students are working with some new conjugations of verbs as well as giving commands. They are also using more questions and dialogue about shopping.

7th Grade students are also working with verbs and are beginning to “create” language and their own sentences rather than simply learning familiar expressions. In addition, they have learned the negative form as well as a variety of interrogative expressions.

In March, students in both grades will have a comprehensive exam covering all the work they have done so far this year.

### CURRICULUM FAIR

Please join us on Wednesday, March 26th from 6 – 8 P.M. for the Windham Middle School Curriculum Fair. This will be a wonderful opportunity to see student projects, presentations, and musical entertainment reflecting the curriculum for all subjects and all grade levels at our school. Also, of course, is our wonderful restaurant, Le Café Rosa, with delicious samples of French and Spanish food.

## **EIGHTH GRADE NEWS**

A busy spring continues in Language Arts. Mr. Kirste's classes will be taking Adolescent Health with Mrs. McCorkle and Mrs. Rawley, while Mrs. McCorkle's classes will spend March with Mr. Kirste on the Career Exploration Unit.

### **"RADIO DAZE"**

A cast of twenty-seven talented middle school students will take the stage for three performances this March as they present "Radio Daze," a World War II-era comedy by Shirley McNichols. Performances will be held in the Windham Middle School Café on Thursday, March 13th, Friday, March 14th and Saturday, March 15th. Evening performances are scheduled for 7:00PM on Thursday and Friday, with a 4:00PM matinee performance on Saturday afternoon. Admission is free, but donations will be gladly accepted at the door.

### **SNOW TUBING AT NASHOBA VALLEY MARCH 5TH**

The snow tubing event at Nashoba Valley Ski Area has been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 5th. Anyone who signed up for the original date and cannot make it, please see Mrs. Williams for a refund. There should be a few spots for students who can make this new date; so get your registration, health form and \$10 in as soon as possible!!

### **WINDHAM HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS CLUB**

In order to provide more information about the new Windham High School, Mrs. Morrow and Mrs. Williams hope to start a new club. From questions students have written about the high school and with permission from administration, project manager Glenn Davis has agreed to a weekly site visit to the high school. Two or three students would make this visit, take photographs and ask questions. Different students will visit each week. Answers to questions and weekly photos would appear in a newspaper or video presentation. Students interested in this club will have an introductory meeting on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 – 3. During this time, we will discuss questions they have about the high school and determine the logistics of the site visits. Our goal is to find an hour during the school day which would be convenient for Mr. Davis and least disruptive to the academic schedule of the student.

### **MUSIC NEWS**

Congratulations to seventh grader Andrew Sun who performed at the New Hampshire State Solo and Ensemble Music Festival on Saturday, February 16, 2008. Andrew received an "A" Rating at the festival for his performance of Beethoven's Sonata Pathétique - a grade level six piece (college preparatory/advanced level). He was commended as a fantastic musician by the adjudicator. Again, congratulations Andrew on a job well done!

## **MEDIA CENTER NEWS**

Wonder what books 7<sup>th</sup> graders at WMS are recommending to their peers? Recently each 7<sup>th</sup> grader offered suggestions about which book they thought other 7<sup>th</sup> graders would enjoy reading. The results of these suggestions are compiled within the WMS Media Center OPAC where anyone can take a peek. To find out what they recommended go to <http://destiny.windhamsd.org> then click on *Windham Middle School*, click on the *Catalog* tab, click on the *Visual* tab, then click on *7<sup>th</sup> Grade Favorites*. Their choices cover many genres, and the book recommended most often was *Twilight* by Stephanie Meyer.

### **GUIDANCE NEWS**

**M<sub>2</sub>M** is scheduled for **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 8<sup>th</sup> 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, that final payments are due March 21st.

### **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.

### **TRANSITION DANCE-8<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

There will be a dance on March 28<sup>th</sup> for all 8<sup>th</sup> grade Windham & Woodbury Middle School students. The dance will be held at Salem High School from 7-9.

### **YEARBOOKS**

Yearbooks are still on sale for \$30.00. There will not be any available for purchase after April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Don't miss your opportunity to purchase your Yearbook.

The next Yearbook Committee meeting will be held on March 13<sup>th</sup> in the Media Center at 2:15.