

MAY 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

- May 3—Internet Safety Night 7 PM
- May 10—Eighth Grade Pictures
- May 11—Midterm Reports
- May 11—Early Release Day
- May 11—School Dance 7-9 PM
- May 14—Sixth Grade International Expo 9:30-10:30 AM
- May 14—Camp Bournedale Information Night 7 PM
- May 15—Rachel's Challenge Presentation for Parents 7PM
- May 22—8th Grade Visit to Salem HS (AM only)
- May 25—Great East Music Festival
- May 28—Memorial Day-No School
- May 30—Step Up Day
- May 31—Earth Shuttle Informational Meeting 7:30 PM
- June 1—Eighth Grade Dance 7-10 PM

SIXTH GRADE NEWS

Grade six had a very exciting month, as we took a break from our traditional academic schedule to venture into unknown lands with our enriching study, the International Unit. It was a perfect opportunity to put into action and celebrate all of the skills we have learned this year! Culminating this unit is our long awaited and ever popular International Expo and Banquet!

Our sixth graders also enriched their study of immigration through a field trip to Lowell's historic Boott Mills. There they discovered the "Power of Production" as they explored the hydroelectric power of the great mills and built and tested their own canal systems.

Renewed and inspired by these experiences, the sixth grade is now motivated to complete the fourth term with added energy, effort and success!

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

In science, 7th grade students are beginning learning about the human body. We start with how the body is organized and the components of wellness. From there we will examine four body systems individually

Spanish students practiced their writing and oral skills. First they created conversations and then, using the microphones in the computer lab, they recorded their voices.

The seventh grade math classes have completed their investigation of solids including prisms, pyramids and cylinders. They have explored the difference between volume and surface area and the function of each. The next unit will investigate ratios, proportions and percents and use those for problem solving.

The pre-algebra classes have completed a unit on statistics. They have created and interpreted frequency tables, stem and leaf plots, circle graphs and box and whisker plots. They have investigated mode, median, mean, quartiles and outliers as well as how data can be manipulated to create an impression that is inaccurate. Next they will investigate ratios, proportions and percents and use them for problem solving.

Social studies classes are finishing studying the Byzantine Empire and the beginnings of Islam, and will begin studying the Renaissance and Reformation after vacation.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

In pre-algebra we just tested on ways of displaying data and statistics with the use of scatterplots, box-and-whisker plots, and relative frequency histograms. We are now working with integers and solving equations with them as well.

Students in algebra just finished their "Let's Make a Deal!" project where pairs of students informed the public about the better deal for services we use everyday such as cell phones or internet. Currently, we are graphing and solving linear inequalities and systems of linear inequalities. We are also using inequalities to model real world situations.

Science students will be learning about the different types of energies. Then students will construct Rube Goldberg inventions.

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to take this opportunity to address the Windham Community regarding my experiences as the interim Assistant Principal at the Windham Middle School and Windham Center School. Please understand that I am doing so without anything to gain or lose but I feel compelled to share the following with you.

To begin, my overall experiences were great. The Windham Community is most fortunate to have such a great school system made up of dedicated administrators, educators and support staff. They all work together, complement their endeavors and assure for an outstanding educational experience for the children within your community.

In regards to the students, you are to be complimented for all your hard work and efforts. To the parents, kudos to you for your support to the educational system. I thank you all, staff, students and parents for the opportunity to have served you and wish you continued success in the future.

Lastly, I leave you with the following: Students, remember to follow two basic rules – try your best and behave yourselves. Parents, continue to be involved in your child's education and support the system as best you can. Finally staff, remember "a school is a building with four walls with tomorrow inside".

Thanks for everything!

Dennis R. Goyette
Former Principal
1976-2003

Rachel's Challenge

Windham Middle School Council is proud to sponsor this motivating program on May 15th for all students during the school day; as well as an evening event for parents at 7 PM. Please make an effort to attend. A small sample of the information from the program includes the following:

“Rachel’s Challenge is a national campaign designed to help school administrators, parents and students create safer and more productive places to learn and achieve. The goal is to motivate and equip students to embrace new values of kindness and compassion so that no child is left behind because of fear and violence in their school. The program is based on an essay entitled ‘My Ethics, My Codes of Life’ written by Rachel Joy Scott, one of the students killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. In it she issued a challenge to her generation. ‘I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same.’”

Physical Education News – Dress Code Update –

This year, we have noticed students wearing sneakers with loose, untied laces causing the shoe to be very loose on the foot. Although this style is not new, it is more prevalent in PE and has created an increased concern for safety. This has caused many situations where a student has slipped out of the shoe while running and the shoe has been flung off the foot when kicking. Feet/ankles that are loose in the shoe are at an increased risk for injury. Shoes that come off the foot have caused injury to others.

It is imperative for students to have a pair of athletic footwear with laces that are intact and laced snugly on the feet. Students will be informed of this class rule and expected to do this on their own accord. If they do not, they will receive one warning. If they continue to wear unsafe footwear, they will receive a zero for a daily grade and sit out of the activity.

It is our desire and intent to have students put forth their best effort and participate fully in all types of movement and activity. However, this needs to be done with the most appropriate and safe clothing. The act of changing into activity clothes provides the ability to move freely, to move without effort, keep school clothes clean and fresh, and creates an attitude or focus on being active. The dress code for modest clothing has continued to be an issue as well. Clothing that reveals undergarments and extensive midriff areas is a common concern for both boys and girls. When students are moving and playing, the clothes become even more inappropriate. This is offensive and distracting to faculty and peers. It is best to choose t-shirts, wear shorts and sweatpants on the waistline, and move around in the clothes (at home) to be sure they are always acceptable. Daily monitoring of this situation becomes time consuming and takes away from the precious, short time that we have for activity.

The Physical Education staff would appreciate support from parents through discussion of this issue with your children and being aware of their clothing choices. Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Mrs. Shirley and/or Mr. Cherbonneau.

BAND AND CHORUS NEWS

GOOD LUCK to Anna Cino, Stephanie Chapman, Ashley Nagel, Kelsey Chase, Amanda Tornquist, Andie Missert, Jake Simard, Stephen Brikiatis, Adam DiPersio, Nate Spanos, Andreas Roalsvig, Stephen Chau, Melanie Forster, Valerie Bauer, Brian Short and Chris DiPersio who will be participating in the South Central Middle School Festival on May 5, 2007 at David R. Cawley Middle School in Hooksett. The chorus concert is at 5:00 and the band concert will be at 5:45. Public is welcome.

BEST OF LUCK to the Jazz Band, Select Chorus, 7th & 8th grade chorus and band students who will be participating in the Great East Festival at North Andover Middle School on May 25.

The band will be marching in the Memorial Day Parade on May 28, 2007 here in Windham.

We are so proud of all the work the students have done this year! The concerts were a great success! Thank you to all who helped out and also to those who came to support the music department this spring!

GUIDANCE NEWS

Step Up Day/Night

Step Up Day will be Wednesday May 30th. This is an opportunity for the 5th graders to meet with their 6th grade teachers, Middle School staff and take a tour of the school. Step Up Night will be May 30th 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 at 893-2636 if you have any questions.

8th Grade NECAP Science

The 8th graders will be taking part in the NECAP Science state testing the week they get back from Washington, DC. Please make sure your student is well rested and has a good breakfast the morning of the test. The test is currently scheduled for Tuesday, May 8th.

Spring Sports Pictures

All spring sport pictures will be taken Tuesday, May 8th starting at 1:45. Picture forms will be handed out soon. Any questions, please call Mrs. Lichtmann.

Last Dance

The Yearbook will be sponsoring the last dance of the year (all three grades). The dance will be on Friday May 11th from 7-9. Reminder this is an early release day.

Salem High School Visit

The 8th grade class will be visiting Salem High School on Tuesday, May 22nd. Look for permission slips to go home on the week of May 14th.

M2M Kickball game

The end of the year Mentor/Mentee kickball games will be held on Thursday and Friday May 24th and 25th from 12:45-1:25.

FRENCH NEWS

Eighth graders are almost ready to wrap up their unit on past tense constructions. The last unit of the text is everyone's favorite - FOOD! Students will learn more vocabulary for common foods as well as how to buy food at the local market, and order food in a restaurant. The grammar for the unit will focus on the use of object pronouns.

Students in the seventh grade are working on lots of different kinds of adjectives - those for physical description, personality, and color. In addition to the vocabulary they will focus on changes in form and placement.

A reminder: course selections for World Languages or ILS (in Gr. 7 and 8 only) were due April 9th. If yours is not in, please submit it as soon as possible.