

May 2008

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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>

- May 5—May 9 Washington DC Trip
- May 5—May 9 Earth Shuttle Trip
- May 12—Camp Bournedale Information Night
For Current 5th Grade Parents 7 PM
- May 14—8th Grade Graduation Pictures
- May 15—Sports Team Pictures
- May 16 —School Dance 7-9 PM
- May 16—Early Release Day 11:15 Dismissal
- May 18—8th Grade PTA Essay Contest Ends
- May 23—Midterm Reports
- May 23—Great East Music Festival
- May 26—Memorial Day—No School
- June 4— Step Up Day

MEDIA CENTER NEWS

If you've ever ordered a book from Amazon.com or Barnesandnoble.com you may have noticed that readers have the ability to post reviews of books for other potential readers to see. This interactive aspect of websites is becoming common, and is part of what is now referred to as Web 2.0. For their recent book report, WMS seventh graders have joined the ranks of online reviewers. They have written reviews of books they have read, and these reviews are being posted in Destiny, the WMS online card catalog. It was a challenge for many students, as Destiny only allows them 1,000 characters per review. Students had to be concise while covering required review elements. Not only did the students write reviews, they had to give their book a rating between one and five stars. If you would like to read the reviews, it is easy to find them. Go to Destiny at <http://destiny.windhamsd.org> Click on Windham Middle School. Click on the Catalog Tab. Click on the Visual Tab. Click on WMS Book Reviews. There you will find a listing of all of the books with reviews. Try reading a few; they are very persuasive and insightful.

6TH GRADE NEWS

In Language Arts, our students have been actively involved in the writing process through various types of essays, such as immigration and descriptive. Our sixth graders have been further strengthening their writing skills and reading comprehension strategies through the exciting literature units of Where the Red Fern Grows and Flipped!

In Social Studies, our students have been intently focused on the geography and culture of Canada. Special congratulations to Mrs. O'Neil's current events team who won the third quarter Superbowl!

The second phase of the Bits and Pieces Unit, "Using Fraction Operations" has just been completed in Math. Next, our sixth graders will enter the final book of the series "Bit and Pieces 3, Computing with Decimals and Percents." During this unit, the students will be enhancing their understanding and skills surrounding fractions, decimals and percents.

In Pre - Algebra students finished their "Integers and Properties of Addition & Multiplication" Unit. The students will now apply the rules of integers while simplifying algebraic expressions, solving one and two step equations and finally in determining inequalities.

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 projects!

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

MUSIC NEWS

The following students have been chosen to represent Windham Middle School at the South Central Middle School Festival on May 10 at West Runningbrook Middle School. Brian Short, Natalya Tausanovitch, Adam DiPersio, Adam Benabid, Patrick Fitzgerald, Ashley Adamson, Maria Bessette, Kate Felson, Jake Simard, Stephen Brikiatis, Kevin Dolan, Simon Steensen-Bech, Danielle Gill and Jessica MacKimm

They will join more than 200 other band and chorus members to perform concerts on that evening. The chorus concert is at 5:00 and the band concert will be at 5:45. Come support your peers at this concert.

7TH GRADE NEWS

Our Medieval Day at Midwin Castle this year was one of the best ever! King Bairstow and Queen Shirley kept the banquet lively with almost constant entertainment. Thanks to Mrs. Cuneo, Mr. Cassedy, and Queen Shirley herself, our musical presentations in song, instrumentals, and dance were outstanding. The artwork provided by Mrs. Mercier and Ms. Ells was most appreciated, and the PTA provided the food for all the guests of Midwin Castle (with generous contributions from the Waterhouse Country Store, Shaw's, and the many parents who sent in goodies). However, the greatest praise should go to the students themselves, who got into the spirit of the occasion with great enthusiasm. The efforts they put into learning Medieval songs, dances, riddles, etc. made the day really special; and the gymnastics was the best we've ever had at the event! The many exceptional models and posters that students had created added to the festive environment, as well. The banquet was followed by a jousting tournament, sponsored by Queen Shirley, which pitted the manors against each other to see which home room (excuse me, which manor!) would carry the day. It was a chance to let off steam and have a lot of fun as Medieval Day came to a close and Midwin Castle pulled up its drawbridge for another year. Again, thanks to everyone, especially the PTA for all the help and hard work!

We are now studying the Renaissance and Reformation in Europe, as well as the Age of Exploration. We plan to cover the revolutions in Europe and in America before the year comes to a close.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Science students finished up their Rube Goldberg inventions and did an outstanding job! Now lectures and labs will be conducted on sound and light.

We're coming down to the finish in Language Arts. After returning from Washington, Mr. Kirste's classes will begin the Career Exploration Unit, while Mrs. McCorkle will engage her students in a Cooperative Teaching Unit. Both are grateful for the assistance of Media Generalist Mrs. Greenleaf, who spent some time in April visiting both classrooms and engaging the students in some fun and interesting activities in celebration of Poetry Month.

FRENCH NEWS

Grade 8 students are wrapping up their unit on vocabulary for free time activities and the use of past tense. From there they move on to everyone's favorite unit - food!

Grade 7 students continue their work with adjectives and their ability to describe the people and things around them.

Students in both grade levels added a bit of fun and French culture to the class with some French crepes. Délicieuses!

SPANISH NEWS

7th grade Spanish students are working in ar verb conjugation and the verb to be (ser and estar). They will be working in the computer lab creating verb charts and sentences with pictures using ser and estar.

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.

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 Thursday, May 15th.

Spring Sports Pictures

All spring sport pictures will be taken Thursday, May 15th starting at 1:30. Picture forms will be handed out the week of May 5th. 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 16th 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.

Windham Helping Hands Fundraiser

Join us on May 12th from 4-8pm at Fuddruckers in Methuen. Fuddruckers will donate 10% of all sales that evening to Windham Helping Hands. There will be free raffles throughout the event. Fuddruckers is located at Village Mall, 436 Broadway Rte 28, Methuen, MA.

PTA NEWS

The Windham PTA is offering an **Essay Contest** to all graduating 8th grade students from Windham Middle School. Students will be asked to write and submit a 300-word essay on the topic, **"Community: How could you impact your community through your services, ideas, efforts, and actions?"**

The winner will be presented with an award in the amount of \$150 at the PTA's Academic Recognition Night. **Entries must be submitted to**

essay.contest@windhampta.org by May 18, Please submit all entries as an email attachment (.txt, .doc or .pdf format).