

May 2009

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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 4 - May 8 Washington DC Trip
May 4—May 8 Earth Shuttle Trip
May 13—8th Grade Graduation Pictures
May 15—School Dance 7-9 PM
May 22—Early Release Day 11:15 Dismissal
May 22—Midterm Reports
May 22—Great East Music Festival
May 25—Memorial Day—No School
June 3— Step Up Day
June 3—Step-Up Night for Parents of 5th Grade Students 7 PM
June 5—8th Grade Graduation Dance 7-10 PM

MEDIA CENTER

In April, the Media Center celebrated National Library Week with a game of Book Bingo. Each homeroom was given a Bingo Card with different book titles in each of the bingo boxes. On the morning Announcements, books were called out until a homeroom had 5 across, down or diagonally. Book titles included Schooled by Gordon Korman, Inkheart by Cornelia Caroline Funke or Downsider by Neal Shusterman. The winners were Mr. Kingsley's and Mrs. Pierpont's Homerooms, and they were given a coupon for ice cream during lunch. The Media Center also posted the book covers of our staff's favorite childhood books. The staff and students had fun trying to figure out what book went with what teachers. The bulletin board was titled "What we read while we were growing up!" The Media Center has been pretty busy with NWEA testing this month, but we did bring a book cart around to studies, so that students could return a book or check out a new one. We are looking forward to May and the opportunity to have the students back in the library to find a good read.

6TH GRADE NEWS

In Language Arts, our students have been actively involved in the writing process through various types of essays. Sixth grade students will continue to work on their immigration papers this month. 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 Dragonwings. Team Lincoln will begin to read Dragonwings and Team Liberty will begin to read Where the Red Fern Grows.

In Social Studies, our students will begin their unit of Mexico and Central America. Quarter three Superbowl took place on Friday, April 24th with Mr. Shirley's and Mr. Kingsley's classes competing against each other. Congratulations to Mr. Kingsley's fourth period class for winning the Superbowl!

In Math, students are continuing their work on the Bits and Pieces II Unit, and they will be moving into decimal operations. During this unit, the students will be enhancing their understanding and skills surrounding fractions, decimals and percents.

In Pre - Algebra, students are finishing up their comparing and scaling unit on ratios, proportions, and percents. Students will be moving into Three Dimensional Geometry for their next unit of study.

The sixth graders have been shaken up a bit with their study of earthquakes and volcanoes which they have completed last month. They've participated in some really exciting labs and projects! Currently, students are studying rocks and minerals in all Science classes. Students have been able to practice identifying different minerals just as geologists do!

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

Sixth graders will be going on a field trip to the Lowell Boott Cotton Mills the week of May 4th. Students need a bag lunch and no glass bottles are allowed.

FITNESS CHALLENGE

Windham Middle School students are participating in a study with Virgin Health Miles to determine the feasibility of bringing their fitness program into the school setting. The program began on March 25th and will continue for 10 weeks. The first two week challenge was completed April 21st. The top steppers were: Justine Levesque, 1st with 258,044 steps, Kellin Bail, 2nd with 192,681 steps, and Sara Zannoni, 3rd with 167,046 steps. The winning homeroom was Mrs. Fava's grade 7 class with 1,362,223 steps. Congratulations to all the winners! Thanks to Virgin Health Miles and Windham Pilates and Wellness Center for giving our students the opportunity to improve our fitness!

7TH GRADE NEWS

Students will start the month by finishing up their poetry unit in Reading. Then they're on to The Outsiders, their final whole class novel of the year. In Language Arts, students will be finishing up a review of the parts of speech, and then they will utilize what they've learned - applying vivid verbs, adjectives, and adverbs - to their descriptive writing.

In Social Studies, we are currently studying the Renaissance and Reformation in western Europe, which will also lead to a quick overview of the Age of Exploration. As part of this unit, students are now doing a Power Point project about an individual artist, scientist, or writer from the Renaissance. Afterwards, we will briefly review the American Revolution and its connections with other revolutions in Europe, such as the French Revolution. We will end the year with study of the United States Constitution to prepare students for the 8th grade curriculum on United States History in the 19th and 20th centuries.

In seventh grade Algebra, students have completed the unit on factoring quadratics and will now work on the Pythagorean Theorem and irrational numbers. The seventh grade Pre-algebra classes have completed the unit on ratios, proportions and percents and will now work on Volume and Surface Area of prisms and cylinders. The seventh grade Math classes have completed the unit on Integers and will now work on ratios, proportions and percents and how to use proportions for problem solving.

Seventh grade Science is finishing the Healthy Body Systems unit and will begin our study of the Human Body after vacation.

SPANISH NEWS

Seventh grade students practiced both oral and writing skills. First, they interviewed several classmates on topics such as favorite school subjects, free-time activities, families, and birthdays. Then, students wrote a report about one of their classmates.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Science students will finish up a unit on work, power, and simple machines. We will then have our students pair up and create a Rube Goldberg invention. The inventions will incorporate designing, planning, constructing, re-designing, and demonstrating.

The 8th grade is very excited about our trip to Washington, D.C. for the week of May 4th to May 8th. Students will be getting a hands-on look at so many of the topics we have studied in Social Studies this year. When the students return from the trip, we will be continuing our study of US History by examining the decision to drop the atomic bombs at the end of World War II. We will then move into the Cold War Era. The Social Studies department wishes all Windham families an enjoyable and safe April vacation!

WMS S.M.I.L.E.S. community service group is planning on participating in United Way day and maybe making a visit to a Veteran's hospital.

GUIDANCE NEWS

Step Up Day/Night

Step Up Day will be Wednesday June 3rd. 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 3rd 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 Thursday, May 14th.

Spring Sports Pictures

All spring sport pictures will be taken Monday, May 11th 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 for all three grades. The dance will be on Friday May 15th from 7-9.

PTA NEWS

The Windham PTA is sponsoring its 3rd annual **Essay Contest** to all graduating 8th grade students. Interested students are asked to write and submit a 300-word essay on the topic, "**Choose a Famous Person from History You Would Like to Meet and Why**". 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 June 1**, Please submit all entries as an email attachment (.txt, .doc or .pdf format).

MUSIC NEWS

GREAT EAST FESTIVAL! The 7th & 8th grade choruses and bands along with the jazz band and select chorus will be traveling to North Andover to perform at the Great East Festival on May 22nd. They will play and sing in front of adjudicators for scores that will earn them either silver, gold or platinum honors. Best of luck to all the groups!

MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC FESTIVAL: The following students have been chosen to participate in this years' South Central Music Festival on Sat., May 16th.

BAND - Steven Brandt, Joey Federico, Andrew Lewis, Tim Raymond, Marie Pillidge, and Patrick Fitzgerald

CHORUS - Julia Steele, Katie Felson, Patrick Stap, Jessica MacKimm, Meagan Eccleston, Kate Farrell, Morgan Scott and Justin Roth

The festival will be held at Manchester's School of Music on Elm Street. Concerts begin with Orchestra at 5:00, Chorus at 5:45 and Band at 6:30. The public is invited so come and support these fine musicians.