

May 2010

KORI ALICE BECHT
Principal

DAN MOULIS
Assistant Principal

SCHOOL NURSE & SAFETY PHONE
893-2636

Windham Middle School

112A Lowell Road
Windham, NH 03087
(603) 893-2636
Fax: (603) 870-9007

SCHOOL COUNSELORS
893-2636



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.

6TH GRADE NEWS

Important Dates

Please continue to check the school calendar for changes:

<http://www.localendar.com/public/WindhamMS>

- May 3— May 7—Washington DC Trip
- May 3—May 7—Earth Shuttle Trip
- May 12—8th Grade Graduation Pictures
- May 14—Midterm Reports
- May 14—School Dance 7-9 PM
- May 20—Box City Presentation 7-8 PM
- May 28—Early Release Day 11:15 Dismissal
- May 28—Great East Music Festival
- May 31—Memorial Day—No School
- June 9— Step Up Day
- June 9—Step-Up Night for Parents of 5th Grade Students 6 PM
- June 4—8th Grade Graduation Dance 7-10 PM

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. In reading, students will use various forms of literature to explore theme.

In social studies, our students will begin their unit of Mexico and Central America. Quarter three Superbowl took place on Friday, April 16th with Mr. Shirley's and Mr. Hayward's classes competing against each other. Congratulations to Mr. Hayward's period six class for winning the Superbowl!

In math, students are finishing up on computation of fractions. The next unit of study in all math classes will be decimals. Pre-algebra students are completing their unit on ratio, proportions, and percents.

In science classes, students have recently completed their unit on rocks and minerals. Students were able to complete several exciting labs and Science Gizmos to reinforce their learning. The next unit that students will be completing in May is Erosion, Weathering, and Deposition. We will be finishing up the year with a study of renewable and non-renewable resources as well as pollution.

The sixth grade field trip to the Lowell Boot Cotton Mills this month really connects to the current science unit. At the Mills, students will be able to experience pollution spreading into the water table, with a hands-on lab. They will also be able to witness the use of water as a natural resource. Students on team Liberty will be attending the field trip on Monday May 10th while students on team Lincoln will be visiting the Mills on Thursday May 13th. A bagged lunch will be needed that day and no glass bottles will be allowed.

SCRABBLE CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to Bradley Robbins and Evan McCarthy for winning the National School SCRABBLE Championship in Orlando, Florida. They are seventh grade students at WMS and were invited to New York City to challenge the hosts of *Good Morning America*. Of course, Bradley and Evan won! Also, they will be flown to California to challenge Jimmy Kimmel. We are proud of Bradley and Evan for their efforts and success!

LOCKS OF LOVE/PANTENE DONATION

Thank you to Jillian DiPersio who organized a group of students to donate hair to either Locks of Love or Pantene Beautiful Lengths. She spoke to all advisories and took time to coordinate this effort. Also, thank you to Soleil Salon staff who donated their time and facilities to cut students' hair. What a great idea to involve students in a cause that provides real hair for patients with alopecia or facing cancer treatments!

7TH GRADE NEWS

Seventh grade science students are starting a journey through some of the human organ systems. We will begin with the digestive system and move through the respiratory, musculoskeletal, and cardiovascular systems.

Reading and language arts students will be focusing on the genre of poetry. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of poems written by authors of different time periods, backgrounds, and cultures. Students will also be writing their own poetry allowing for personal expression. To end this unit, we will be having a poetry slam May 14 in celebration of all the hard work students have put into writing their own poetry. Through creative media, students who volunteer will present their poems in a casual setting in front of their peers. It will be a great opportunity for students who wish to share their poems in a unique way. We will also continue with the parts of speech in writing and vocabulary through the classical roots

Spanish students created conversations using new vocabulary and presented to the class. They used all kind of props and some students memorized their whole conversation. Many of the presentations were videotaped. It was a great project!

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 and the colonization of the Americas. 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 studying the United States Constitution to prepare students for the 8th grade curriculum on United States History in the 19th and 20th centuries.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Students have just completed a unit on Storytelling in reading and language arts. They learned about the history of storytelling and oral tradition by reading a variety of myths, legends, folk tales, and fables. Students had the opportunity to re-interpret one of the stories or come up with their own folklore tale by completing the end of unit project. They will present their projects in class. So far, the video dramatizations are incredible. A unit on poetry will begin after vacation. Students will be starting their poetry unit after Washington, D.C. They will be exploring the various forms and techniques for writing poetry.

Students in algebra are continuing their investigation of polynomials, and will be factoring and graphing quadratic equations upon their return from Washington DC. Students in pre-algebra are investigating the Pythagorean Theorem and irrational numbers. Geometry students just finished up trigonometric ratios and functions and are moving on to circles

In social studies we will be continuing our unit on the Cold War, focusing on Vietnam and Korea.

ILS classes will be finishing a Career Unit and doing final presentations.

Science just finished studying Newton's three laws of motion and now will be moving into batteries, circuits and preparing for NECAP.

GUIDANCE NEWS

STEP UP DAY/NIGHT

Step Up Day will be held district wide on Wednesday June 9th. This is an opportunity for all students to meet their new teachers and tour their new schools. Step Up Night for parents of the new 6th graders will be held on June 9th at 7pm in the WMS Cafe. This is an opportunity for parents to meet the 6th grade teachers, attend an informational session about Middle school 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 shortly after 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 20th.

SPRING SPORTS PICTURES

All spring sport pictures will be taken Tuesday, May 18th starting at 1:35. Picture forms will be mailed out the first week of May. 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 14th from 7-9.

DRESS CODE

Spring is here as well as the nice weather. Please take a moment to review the dress code.

PTA

Thank you to all our wonderful PTA volunteers who provided a terrific dinner for us during conferences. The soups and salads were amazing, and the deserts were delightful. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers.

WALKING CHALLENGE FINAL RESULTS

Windham Middle School teachers and staff completed their Walk Across America Challenge right before spring vacation. Sixty-two teachers competed on five different teams to see how far they could walk over the 12 week challenge. At the conclusion of the challenge the Yellow Team was the victor, logging almost 11 million steps and 4065 miles in 12 weeks. The top individual performer was Mrs. Ripley of the Black Team with almost 2 million steps and 594 miles. The winners will receive cash prizes as part of the Wellness Grant awarded to the Middle School. Congratulations to all the participants who improved physical activity through this program.