

# NOVEMBER 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](http://www.windhamsd.org), you can link to all of the Windham Schools.

## 6th Grade News

Camp Bournedale 2005 is now in the Windham Middle School history book. Sixth grade had an excellent week and great weather. Students were busy learning about different ecosystems in Coastal Ecology, Pond Biology, Lobster Tale and Marine Lab. They participated in an outdoor museum at Plimoth Plantation. Students were sent back to the 1600's as they meandered through the Pilgrim and Native American villages. Team building strategies were developed while students participated in their Adventure classes. Other fun experiences took place in Rocketry, Ceramics, and Native Cultures. Students did a superior job reflecting on their days at camp in their journals. Each evening the students participated in fun presentations such as line dancing, karaoke, and a magic show. We thank all the staff and parents for their support of this program. Thanks for a wonderful week.

Social Studies classes will be covering North Africa and Southwest Asia. Science classes are currently studying Metrics and Chemistry. Math classes used the portable lab to graph the results of their surveys taken in class. Soon we will move on to decimals and fractions.

## Seventh Grade News

Seventh grade will be holding class elections in the next few weeks. We will be electing a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer following several days of campaigning and speeches.

Students in 7th grade science classes have been learning about viruses and bacteria and how infectious diseases can be spread. Each student is researching a disease and creating a 3-fold brochure detailing important information about the disease.

ILS students are creating a PowerPoint presentation on viruses and bacteria. This will help reinforce the material they are learning in their science classes. They will present their final projects to the class.

In Spanish classes, students have been working on expressing their likes and dislikes. Also, they are finding information about classmates by asking questions such as name, nationality and age; as well as likes and dislikes.

In Social Studies, we are just beginning a major unit on the Amazing Ancient Greeks! Students will be working in teams to do extensive research on such topics as the Olympics, Theater, Mythology, Architecture, Sculpture, Pottery, Scientific and Mathematical Achievements, Literature, and Alexander the Great. They will then plan and make group presentations to teach others in their classes about what they have learned. The main objective of this unit is to allow students the opportunity to learn for themselves the incredible impact these people had on our culture today.

In Pre-Algebra and Math, students have just finished Chapter 1 and are now learning about integers! We will be learning about different sets of numbers, comparing and ordering numbers, and how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide integers!

## Boulder Morty's Rock Climbing

On **November 18th**, PTA and Middle School are sponsoring a terrific trip to Boulder Morty's Indoor Rock Climbing Gym, for an evening of climbing. For a \$20 fee, students will be bussed from Middle School at 4:30 to climb and enjoy a pizza dinner; then return to school at 9:00 pm. Check out Boulder Morty's website (<http://www.bouldermortys.com>) or our school site for more information. Registration ends **November 7th** and only 75 students are able to attend, so be sure to sign up early!

## Eighth Grade News

The 8th grade had a wonderful day in Salem, MA both in the weather department and the attractions which the students visited. We had a fun time on the Salem Common eating lunch and playing football.

**Science:** Students continue learning about the Periodic Table and Chemical Reactions. Science 8 also use the Scientific Method and conducted an awesome experiment using Zinc metal and Hydrochloric Acid.

**Math:** All 8th grade math classes are in week three of the stock market project. With the purchase of a few stocks, students have experienced gaining or losing hundreds of dollars in just one week. To keep up with the market, students should research stocks that are doing well in order to diversify their portfolios.

**ILS:** After finishing an Excel graphing project, students are developing their own stock knowledge by researching 4 companies in the market. They will display their research and expertise in PowerPoint presentations.

**English and Reading:** Classes have finished The Salem Witch Trial Unit and will soon be starting a Unit on Edgar Allan Poe. The culmination of that Unit will be a Gothic Horror Story.

**Spanish:** Students in grade 8 are learning how to describe a typical family. What are the family members like? Some are funny and generous, while others are honest and affectionate. Some family members are tall and athletic, and others are loyal and understanding. What do they look like and what are some of the activities that they like to do together during the week and on week-ends? What role do god parents and grandparents play in the family? Also, students learn how to discuss some of the chores around the house. Some students baby-sit and take care of the house pets, others cut the lawn or clean the kitchen. Students also played a role in a small skit about taking a picnic to the lake where everyone gets caught in a terrible rain storm.

## Important Dates in NOVEMBER

- November 2—Sports Recognition Night 6:00**  
**Earth Shuttle Meeting 7:30**
- November 3—Basketball Tryouts Begin**
- November 4—End of Marking Period**  
**Dance—7-9**
- November 7-10 – Cheerleading/Spirit Team**  
**Tryouts**
- November 11—No School—Veteran’s Day**
- November 16—17—Parent Conferences**
- November 18—Boulder Morty’s 4:30—9**
- November 22 – Picture Retake (morning)**
- November 24-25—Thanksgiving Recess**
- November 29 – Homework Club Begins**

### French News

**Gr. 8** – Eighth grade students are nearing the end of an extensive review with their study of adjectives.

**Gr. 7** – Seventh graders are wrapping up their study of numbers – even big ones! They are also mastering a number of phrases used in day to day conversation.

**Gr. 6** – Now that they have returned from Bournedale, students will finish their work on days of the week and months of the year. Each student created a French calendar for the month in which they have their birthday. Next – Seasons and weather!

### Earth Shuttle News

Our next meeting will be on November 2, 2005 in the cafe at 7:30 PM. Please make sure your family is represented as important information will be discussed. The forms for the next fund raiser will be available and students will sign up for how many candy carriers they want for the candy fund raiser. Profits for the Yankee Candle fund raiser may be given out at the meeting.

### Badminton Tournament

Teachers from all three schools participated in a great tournament, raising approximately \$300 for the Dana Farber Cancer Center. Mr. Shirley and Mr. Gage were the winners, with the “Determination Award” won by Mrs.

Rawley and Mrs. Lichtmann. A great time was had by all and everyone is looking forward to another faculty event.

### Guidance: Internet Safety

Attention: Students and Parents: You probably spend a lot of time online researching school assignments, checking sports scores and movie times, keeping up on the latest fashions, downloading music and of course E-mailing and Chatting with friends. The Internet is a great tool for you to use, but what about the dangers of the Internet?

Does the Internet really allow people to remain anonymous? Little bits of harmless information that is given out can lead to more serious situations if the information falls in the wrong hands. Our students are trusting and often times mention mascot names or familiar local sites which can narrow down searches for people who seek our children out. Please .Please. Please. Know what your child is doing on the Internet, Ask questions! This past week the 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes have had Internet Safety classes and presentations on Cyber-bullying. Students were taught online safety tips that include telling a trusted adult if anything on the internet makes them feel uncomfortable, ask their parents or guardians before sharing any personal information online, and NEVER meet anyone in person that they have met on line.

We have been hearing in the News a lot lately about Websites that are available online that students can log into and create a profile and talk with or about their classmates. Please talk with your children and make sure they are not posting personal information or their pictures on the internet. Netsmartz is an Internet safety program that is being taught throughout the district.

### Enrichment News

From the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math news, it is clear that students are actively engaged in the Stock Market Game. They will be working one day a week on this project and should be starting to diversify their portfolio by purchasing several types of stocks. Hopefully, the Market will be good to them until the game ends December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Two seventh grade students completed an awesome replica of King Tut’s tomb which will be on display in the Media Center. Complete with a lighted interior, this display is alive with interesting facts about King Tut.

Sixth graders were missed during their week at Camp Bournedale and will soon start a math project dealing with decimals in the real world. They can keep their eyes open for decimals on receipts, in the newspaper, on packages - wherever they might be found.

### Cheerleading News!!!!

We are gearing up for a spirit-filled basketball season! Cheerleading tryouts for the 2005-2006 season will be held beginning Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup> and running through Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Tryouts will be held from 3 pm – 4:30 pm in the Middle School cafeteria. Appropriate dress is required, therefore no skirts, tank tops or non-athletic sneakers will be allowed. GOOD LUCK! See you then!

### Decorative Painting

Mrs. Plaza will be offering Decorative Painting once again this year. A Beginners Class will meet on Tuesdays starting November 15<sup>th</sup>. An Advanced Class will meet on Wednesdays starting November 16<sup>th</sup>. All classes are in the Media Center. The project will be a winter welcome sign painted on a wood stave.