

NOVEMBER

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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

November 2—End of Marking Period
November 5-7—Basketball Tryouts
November 6—No School—Teacher In-Service
November 7- 8—Conferences
November 12—No School—Veteran's Day
November 13—PTA Presentation: "Predators, Bullying & Social Networks" 6:30 PM
November 16—School Dance 7-9 PM
November 22-23 – No School – Thanksgiving Recess
November 27 – Picture Retake Day

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

Mrs. Fahey and Mrs. Greenleaf recently presented a program for 7th grade parents about adolescent literature. Parents listened to book talks about books that appeal in particular to boys, girls, and to those liking adventure and mythology. Trends in literature were discussed as well as a worldwide book-swapping program. Parents also received a list of websites that provide information on authors, online book talks, book awards, and trailers for book-related movies.

Seventh grade Science students are researching an infectious disease and creating an information brochure as part of our study of viruses and bacteria.

In seventh grade Social Studies, we recently finished our unit covering Prehistory and Early Civilizations. We were very fortunate to be able to culminate this study with a presentation by Dr. John InDelicato, a parent of one of our students and an archaeology professor at Harvard University. He brought dozens of artifacts for our students to enjoy, some dating as far back as 3 million years. Giving students the opportunity to "touch history" in this way is an incredible experience for them, and we are very grateful for the opportunity. Next on the agenda will be ancient Greece. This unit will involve research projects and presentations by groups of students, so stay tuned!

The seventh grade Math classes have completed the unit on probability. Next they will explore statistics and how to organize data. The PreAlgebra classes have also completed their unit on probability; they will move on to variables and patterns of change. The Algebra class has completed the unit on linear equations; they will now work on solving multi-step equations algebraically.

SPANISH NEWS

7th grade students ended the first chapter by creating a poster in Spanish using the singular form of the verbs "to be" and "to have." They wrote some information about themselves and a friend. They used their imaginations to make a creative poster with pictures, yet focused on writing complete sentences in Spanish.

6th grade students ended the quarter working on a class project about themselves. They created posters with basic information such as name, age, hobbies, likes and dislikes.

6TH GRADE NEWS

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The sixth grade class made history, as they celebrated the 20th year for students to attend Camp Bournedale. They 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 People 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 new journals. Each evening the students participated in fun presentations such as Jeopardy, dancing, karaoke, a magic show, and an extraordinary talent show.. We thank all the staff and parents for their support of this program. Extra-special thanks to all the parents who volunteered as chaperones. It was truly a wonderful week!

Math classes are starting a new text entitled, "Bits and Pieces." This book covers the teaching and learning of fractions, decimals and percents.

In Language Arts classes, we are writing our first research paper. Students research their topic in the library and put their information on index cards, create an outline and use a bibliography. This research in the library was done under the guidance of our Media Specialist, Mrs. Greenleaf.

All sixth grade Social Studies classes are studying the largest country in the world, Russia. Both present and past facts about this country are being learned. Students are excited to see that students from our sister city in Russia are visiting Windham Middle School. This is a wonderful experience for our students, to be able to connect learning with real life experiences.

Reading classes are enjoying the reading of Hoot. It is a science connection in order for us to have reading across the curriculum.

Our sixth graders are currently studying biomes in science. All experiments at this time are related to this course of study.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Derryfield will be visiting WMS on **Monday, November 19th** from 12:00-12:30. Any student who is interested in attending this informative meeting, please obtain a permission slip from Mrs. Lichtmann in Guidance.

Language Arts classes are wrapping up a “be-witching” and “horrific” October, with units on the Salem Witch Trials and Gothic Horror and the stories of Edgar Allan Poe. For the Witch Trials unit, which ties in closely to our yearlong overall theme of tolerance, students wrote point-of-view journals. Students took the perspective of one of the figures in history, providing their own takes on this tragic time in our history. After reading several Poe stories, students are now writing their own Poe-like horror stories. Up next: “Flowers for Algernon” and more.

Science students continue learning about the Periodic Table. We have conducted great labs, one involving the students mixing Zinc metal with very diluted hydrochloric acid.

Students in pre-algebra have started a new unit called Variables and Patterns. Please look for the family letter for help on the math concepts in this unit. Students will be creating and interpreting graphs, predicting patterns, and writing equations. Also, we will be integrating some technology into the unit, such as the CBR motion detector and graphing calculators.

Students in Algebra have completed their linear relationships unit and have started a small unit on solving equations. We will be solving one step, two step, variables on both sides, and equations involving rational numbers and integers. Examples to follow will come from classroom notes and worksheets, so please encourage your children to take good notes during class.

FRENCH NEWS

Eighth graders did a wonderful job with Mrs. Williams and their PowerPoint presentations on a French province. The class is nearing the end of their review work (with some new additions, of course) and will soon be moving ahead with more advanced material.

Students in 7th grade are working in the Friends and Family unit, studying numbers, familiar phrases for age, pointing out family members and friends, making introductions, and continuing to learn more about French culture.

Sixth grade students from Quarter 1 are off to other electives we wrap up our first session of French. I have enjoyed working with this group and hope to see them in French classes again next year. Welcome to the new students who are arriving for Quarter 2. Bienvenue!

PTA NEWS

While the membership drive ended October 31st, last minute members are always welcome. Please check the PTA website <http://www.windhampta.org> for all the latest information. There will be a PTA Community Education Presentation at 6:30pm on November 13th at Middle School: "Predators, Bullying & Social Networks" by Peter LaMonica of BeNetSafe.

M2M

M2M training will be held on Nov. 7th. This month's theme is “Making good choices/Bullying.” All Executive Committee members will meet in the Café at 7:00 A.M. All M2M executives and mentors will meet in the Café from 9:15-9:45 A.M. Connections will then be made in the 6th grade homerooms from 9:45-10:15 A.M. Mentors, please remember to keep making those connections with your mentees! Please note the time change due to full Chorus rehearsal.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Student Council and Windham Helping Hands will be sponsoring a food drive from November 13-16th. Last year was the first year we held a friendly competition with Golden Brook and Center Schools. Each year the food is weighed and tallied and WMS was the first to win the “Turkey Trophy”. Please help us help others by sending in canned goods, stuffing, rice, soup etc. for the Thanksgiving food drive.

YEARBOOKS (2008)

Yearbooks are still on sale for \$25.00. Yearbooks make great gifts. Checks can be made out to Windham Middle School or you can order online at Jostens or use the WMS link to Jostens. Yearbooks will be published and delivered in October of 2008 to ensure all the end of the year activities are included in the book.

Any students interested in taking pictures for the Yearbook and being apart of the committee please see Mrs. Lichtmann or Mrs. Rawley.

Yearbook Cover Contest

Be creative and enter a drawing for the 2008 yearbook cover. Your drawing must be no larger than 8 ½ x 11 inches and in black and white. All drawings must be submitted to Mrs. Lichtmann or Mrs. Rawley by November 14th, so gather up your creativity and school spirit and get drawing!!

BASKETBALL TRYOUTS SCHEDULE

Monday Nov. 5th Girls: 2:30-4:00, and the boys 4:00-5:30 at WMS. **Boys trying out must go home on the bus and come back to WMS.**

Tuesday Nov. 6th Girls: 2:30-4:00, and the boys 4:00-5:30 WMS There is no school that day. All trying out must come to school at the appropriate time for tryouts.

Wednesday Nov. 7th Girls: 2:30-4:00, and the boys 4:00-5:30 at WMS. **Boys trying out must go home on the bus and then come back to WMS**

Anyone wishing to tryout must complete a permission slip. They are available at school.

CHEERLEADING TRYOUTS

Wed. Nov. 7th, Thurs. Nov. 8th, Fri. Nov. 9th. All tryouts will be held at Windham Center School from 3:00-5:00. Any girls wishing to try out will be bused from the Middle School to Center School. Parents then can pick them up at Center School.

Anyone wishing to tryout must complete a permission slip. They are available at school.