

# NOVEMBER

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## Windham Middle School

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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.

### Important Dates

**November 4—No School—Teacher In-Service**  
**November 5—M2M Executive Meeting 7 AM**  
**November 5—Earth Shuttle Meeting 7:30 PM**  
**November 5-7—Basketball Tryouts**  
**November 5-7—Cheerleading Tryouts**  
**November 7—End of Marking Period**  
**November 6—WHS information Night for Parents 7 PM**  
**November 11—No School—Veteran's Day**  
**November 14—School Dance 7-9 PM**  
**November 19- 20—Conferences**  
**November 27-28 – No School – Thanksgiving Recess**  
**December 4—Picture Retakes**  
**December 5—Winter Wonderland Dance 7-9 PM**

### 6TH GRADE NEWS

The sixth grade class returned from Camp Bournedale on Halloween after a very busy and fun-filled week of outdoor learning and discovery. The students boarded a lobster boat and hauled traps on Lobster Tales, built and launched rockets in Rocketry, dissected a shark in Marine Lab, and visited with characters from the 17<sup>th</sup> century at Plimouth Plantation. In addition, the students practiced communication skills and team work in Adventure class, learned about Native People in Native American Culture, explored their crafty side in Ceramics, and took a trip to the Cape Cod Canal. In the evenings, the students reflected upon their experiences as they worked on their journals. Camp Bournedale is not all about work, however, as all the students quickly discovered as they participated in line dancing, karaoke, a magic show, and a talent show. Whew!! We had a great week!

Coming back to school and resuming traditional classes on November 3rd, the students will finish writing their personal narratives in Language Arts class, and continue reading either *Flush* or *Hoot* in Reading class. In Social Studies, the students have finished their study of Russia and will be beginning a unit on the former Soviet Republics as they expand their understanding of the world around them. Some Science classes have finished their Bottle Biology unit and others will begin this hands-on activity this month. The classes that have completed this unit will be moving into a study of metrics. Math classes are starting a new text entitled, "Bits and Pieces." This book covers the teaching and learning of fractions, decimals and percents.

### SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

In Reading, we will be diving into the young adult novel, Tangerine. Besides exploring important story elements and literary devices, we will delve into some personal themes that students can relate to, such as identity, bullying, and fairness.

In Language Arts, we will be finishing up mythology, and writing a research paper on an assigned god/goddess. Students will hone their researching and writing skills during this unit.

In coordination with Reading and Language Arts, the Social Studies Department is covering the history of ancient Greece. We have completed our

study of the Minoans and Mycenaeans and have compared the city-states of Athens and Sparta, in preparation for our major project on this ancient culture. Students will be researching various topics in groups and teaching each other about what they have learned in order to discover just how influential ancient Greece has been to our own modern culture .

In Science, seventh graders are investigating viruses and bacteria. They are researching an infectious disease of their choice and creating a three-fold brochure utilizing Microsoft Publisher software.

### SPANISH NEWS

Students used the verbs to need (*necesitar*) and to have (*tener*) to talk about what they they need for the school year. They learned that schools in Spain and Latin American require their students to wear uniforms and that, often, the students must purchase them. Schools do not have lockers, teachers change classrooms, while students stay in the same room for their classes all day. In class, students also practiced a Halloween song in Spanish.

## **EIGHTH GRADE NEWS**

Science 8 will conduct an experiment with Sodium Bicarbonate and Acetic Acid. We will determine if the Law of Conservation of Matter will be violated during this chemical reaction. Students will receive more lectures on the trends of the Periodic Table.

In Social Studies we have just wrapped up our study of the War of 1812 and are continuing our exploration of US history by looking into the Industrial Revolution and the Era of Jackson. As a reminder: if a student is doing a Historical Fiction book report during quarter two (students must complete 3 for the year), his/her book must be approved by Mr. Hayward or Mrs. McKenna by Friday, November 14th.

Language Arts eighth graders researched the Salem Witch Trials and wrote journals from the point of view of a prominent figure during that time period. As the culminating activity, the class went on a field trip to Salem, Mass. where they witnessed a mock trial of Bridget Bishop and visited the Salem Witch and Pirate Museums as well. Some students also wrote constructed literature responses (Mrs. Morrow & Ms. Roy) while others wrote fairy tales (Mrs. McCorkle). The next unit will be the Gothic Horror/Poe unit. What is your favorite Edgar Allan Poe work?

Sign up for the DC raffle ticket public sales participation is underway. If your child wishes to participate and has not signed up yet, please contact Jan Sansoucie at sansouciej@aol.com.

## **EARTH SHUTTLE**

It's not too late to sign up for the 2009 spring program to Florida. Earth Shuttle is an educational program for students interested in learning outside the classroom. We leave the Monday after April vacation and students will miss one week of school. There is a final report that each student writes, based on notes taken during the workshops. This report counts as a test grade in many subjects. Any questions, please email Mrs. Fava (mfava@windhamsd.org) or Miss Corbin (lcorbin@windhamsd.org)

## **PTA NEWS**

New members are always welcome. Please check the PTA website <http://www.windhampta.org> for all the latest information. Currently, Windham Wear is available for you to order. Please have all orders in by November 5th. Delivery date is November 25th.

## **M2M**

M2M training will be held on **Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>** during Advisory. This month's theme is "Making good choices/Bullying." All Executive Committee members will meet in the Café at 7:00 A.M the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup>. All M2M executives and mentors will meet in the Café during Advisory on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Connections will then be made on **Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>** in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade homerooms. Mentors, please remember to keep making those connections with your mentees and wear your blue shirts!

## **ONE BOOK ONE SCHOOL**

Over the month of November, Windham Middle School will again be participating in a One Book One School activity. Each day during Advisory, all students will be listening to the book *Payback* by James Heneghan, followed by a discussion of the day's reading. *Payback* follows the ordeal of Charley Callaghan, an 8th grade student in a new school, who is happy he has been replaced by another boy as the target of the school bullies. However, he does not step in when the new boy Benny is bullied, and when Benny is tragically hurt, he must deal with his guilt.

Monday, December 1, WMS will sponsor a panel discussion about bullying with *Payback* author James Heneghan and the guidance counselors from Golden Brook School, Windham Center School, and Windham Middle School. This will take place in the Windham Middle School Media Center, beginning at 7:00 P.M.

## **THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE**

Student Council and Windham Helping Hands will be sponsoring a food drive from November 10-21<sup>st</sup>. 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". The trophy was awarded to Golden Brook School last Year. Let's work together to bring home the trophy and help others by sending in canned goods, stuffing, rice, soup etc. for the Thanksgiving food drive.

## **YEARBOOKS (2009)**

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 on line at Jostens or use the WMS link to Jostens. Yearbooks will be published and delivered in October of 2009 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 a part of the committee please see Mrs. Lichtmann or Mrs. Rawley.

## **ADVISORY SCARECROW CONTEST**

Thank you to Officer Flynn and Windham High School Principal Rich Manley for judging our Scarecrow contest. Congratulations to Mrs. George's and Mrs. Rawley's Advisory for taking 1st place in the Scarecrow Challenge. Their rendition of Napoleon Dynamite was awesome! Their Advisory consists of: Austin Messina, Jim Gustafson, Olivia Estes, Rachel Lanouette, Carl Morlock, Matt Terrio, Brynn Roche, Kristen Doucette, Zach Zins, Matt Noel, Cassie Salafia, Sara Zannoni, and Daniel Bleeker. Great job!! Enjoy your pizza party.