

NOVEMBER 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

November 3—No School—Teacher In-Service
November 4—M2M Executive Meeting 7 AM
November 4—Earth Shuttle Meeting 7:30 PM
November 6—End of Marking Period
November 11—No School—Veterans' Day
November 13—Picture Retakes
November 13—School Dance 7-9 PM
November 18- 19—Conferences
November 27-28 – No School – Thanksgiving Recess
December 4—Winter Wonderland Dance 7-9 PM

6TH GRADE NEWS

Grade 6 has returned from Camp Bournedale. Once again, camp was a huge success for all who did attend. Students, parents, and teachers were all benefactors of the preparation and instruction given by the Camp Bournedale staff. The ultimate goal of creating a bond, a foundation for learning and a sense of community among the students was achieved. Great job Grade 6.

PTA NEWS

New members are always welcome. Please check the PTA website <http://www.windhampta.org> for all the latest information.

EARTH SHUTTLE INFORMATION :

Our educational program to Florida is still accepting registrations. Seventh and eighth grade students may sign up with Mrs. Fava or Miss Corbin at WMS. Our next meeting is November 4th at 7:30PM in the cafe. Please join us if you would like more information.

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

In reading, we will be reading our first whole class novel of the year: Tangerine, by Edward Bloor. Together, we will explore the rich figurative language and literary devices in this novel (including foreshadowing, personification, symbolism, and theme).

In language arts, students will be finishing their mythology research paper. Next, we will explore types of sentences (simple, compound, and complex) and how to utilize this knowledge to analyze and improve our writing.

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. We are now involved in a major project on the many contributions we now enjoy from this incredible culture. Students will be researching various topics individually, then meeting with partners to make presentations to teach the class what they have learned. Our goal is for all students to appreciate just how influential ancient Greece has been to our own modern culture.

Seventh grade science students are starting a unit on viruses and bacteria. As part of this unit students will use Microsoft Publisher to create a three fold brochure on an infectious disease of their choice.

M-ATHLETES

A new club is starting up called M-athletes. This club focuses on students wanting to challenge their math abilities. Contact Mr. Okeeffe if you are interested: okeefftj@yahoo.com

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Pre-algebra students have finished their unit on probability and are completing a quick review of integer operations before moving on to their investigation of linear relationships.

Students in algebra have begun their investigation of linear functions. Throughout the unit, they will be solving equations and building upon their knowledge from last year. Students will be combining work from Chapters 3 and 4 from their 'big book' with work from the CMP2 unit Moving Straight Ahead.

Science students are completing the unit on chemical interactions and reactions. We will be starting our unit on atomic structure and the periodic table of elements.

In language arts, the students are learning about how Edgar Allan Poe's tragic life experiences impacted his writing. We will be reading several of Poe's short stories as well as some of his poems. We will also read other stories with suspense and/or gothic horror elements.

In social studies, students are learning about the Louisiana Purchase, the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and the War of 1812. Students were engaged in learning about the events that led up to the war of 1812 and how the actions of France and England affected the United States. In the coming weeks we will finish our study of United States policy toward Native Americans during the 19th century.

ILS students are finishing up their Salem Witch Trial research and Power Point presentations.

MEDIA CENTER NEWS

November will be a busy month in the Media Center. Sixth graders will be coming in for six days to do a project which involves reading a non-fiction book, finding answers to research questions, creating note cards, creating a bibliography online, creating an outline, and writing a research paper. Seventh grade students from Mrs. Forhart's class will be creating digital book trailers for their current book report books, and all 7th grade science classes will be visiting to obtain information which will be converted into a brochure on a disease/virus.

Don't forget the annual Fall Book Fair which will take place the week of parent conferences. Students have the opportunity to visit the Book Fair during their lunch period, and the fair will be open Wednesday night and Thursday after school.

M2M

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

YEARBOOKS 2010

The cost of the Yearbook will be \$25.00 if ordered before December 31st. Yearbooks forms have been sent home. Yearbooks can be ordered on line or by sending in a check for \$25.00 made out to Windham Middle School. Please order early to secure your book. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Lichtmann or Mrs. Rawley. Also, anyone who would like to contribute pictures of Fall sports for the Yearbook, please see Mrs. Lichtmann or Mrs. Rawley.

ADVISORY

November's theme will be 1 Book 1 School and the focus is on anti - bullying.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Windham Helping Hands will be sponsoring a food drive from November 9-20th. We will once again hold our friendly competition with Golden Brook and Center Schools and the High School this year. Each year the food is weighed and tallied and WMS was the first to win the "Turkey Trophy". 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.