

# NOVEMBER 2010

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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

Please continue to check the school calendar for changes:

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

- Nov 1: Fall Sports Recognition Night, 6:30 PM
- Nov 2: Voting Day-No School
- Nov 3: Earth Shuttle Meeting in café, 7:30 PM
- Nov 5: End of First Quarter
- Nov 11: Veteran's Day—No School
- Nov 12: School Dance 7-9 PM
- Week of Nov 15—Book Fair
- Nov 15: Parent Conferences 3—5 PM
- Nov 16: Parents Conferences 3—9 PM
- Nov 17: School Picture Retakes 8 AM
- Nov 25 & 26: Thanksgiving Break
- Dec 3: Winter Wonderland Dance 7—9 PM
- Dec 10: 2nd quarter progress reports
- Dec 14: Band Concert 7 PM
- Dec 15: Chorus Concert 7 PM

In I.L.S. students have been introduced to the Stock Market Game. During this project students will be buying and selling securities in a simulated environment using actual data from the N.Y.S.E. and NASDAQ. They are competing against middle schools and high schools around the state.

World Language: French - 8th graders will learn to describe themselves and their personality. They will also learn to describe their friends, their room, and everyday items. Lessons will include reading, writing, listening, and speaking to practice this new vocabulary.

Social Studies will be beginning our unit on the Civil War. The students will learn about the sectional differences that were present at the Constitutional Convention that eventually tear the Union apart.

Our geometry students are learning about inductive reasoning, conjectures, and mathematical logic in preparation for writing mathematical proofs. Pre-algebra students are wrapping up

probability; they are working with integers next in order to prepare for linear relationships. ( $y = mx + b$ ) Students in Algebra are solving multi-step equations and writing and solving difficult word problems. Students in Intro to Algebra have started an investigation of linear relationships using the Connected Mathematics book "Moving Straight Ahead".

Be sure to check MOODLE often, as many of the activities and homework given can all be found on this website.



### Eighth Grade News

In Science students are continuing to work in chemistry by classifying chemical equations, balancing chemical equations, conservation of matter, writing and explaining chemical reactions in the form of equations. There will be a mixture lab next week, where students will separate a mixture of a salt solution and sand.

In Language Arts students have been studying the Salem Witch Trials and learning about different points of view. We will be visiting Salem, Massachusetts to learn about this period of time on Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.

## Seventh Grade News

At the beginning of the month, students will be finishing up their mythology research papers in language arts. The next writing project students will engage in will be narrative writing. In reading, students will be moving on to our first whole class novel of the year: *Tangerine*.

The seventh grade math classes will extend proportional reasoning to similar figures and use scale factors to stretch and shrink figures. They will then work with order of operations and evaluating algebraic expressions. They will work with square numbers and square roots and then investigate scientific notation. The seventh grade Pre-Algebra classes will complete the unit on integers and work on solving equations. They will begin with one step equations and work up to multi-step equations with variables on both sides. They will also develop methods for creating open sentences from word problems. The seventh grade Algebra class will expand their knowledge of linear equations by investigating slope and rate of change. They will explore linear equations in graph, table and equation form.

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 are now comparing the city-states of Athens and Sparta. We will then become involved in a major project on the many contributions we now enjoy from the Golden Age of Greece, the Classical Period. 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 Classical Greece has been to our own modern culture.

Seventh grade science students are finishing a unit on classification and microscopes. We will be starting a unit on viruses and bacteria and learning how these infectious disease can affect our lives.



### Book Fair

The fall book fair will take place the week of November 15. It will be open during lunch periods, located on the stage in the café. It will also be open during parent conferences Nov. 15th in the café

and 16th in the gym.

## Art Club

**Art Club** will be starting up on Monday November 1, 2010. Students can pick up a permission slip in the front foyer of the school, or students can go to the Art Moodle site and download the permission slip. It is due by October 29<sup>th</sup> to either Miss Ells or Mrs. Mercier.

This is an opportunity for students to create using the more crafty side of art.

We will meet every other Monday (subject to change) until 3:30pm.

Parents must provide a ride home for their child.

Always check the WMS School calendar for changes.



## Sports News

Tryouts for Winter Sports will be held Mon. Nov. 1st, Wed. Nov. 3rd and Thurs. Nov. 4th. Basketball tryouts are at Windham Middle School. Girls will tryout from 2:30-4:00 and the boys from 4:00-5:30. The boys will need to go home on the bus and then come back at 4:00 for tryouts. Cheerleaders will be trying out at Windham Center School. The girls will be bused down to Center and parents should pick them up there at 5:00p.m.

Congratulations to all Fall teams! It was a great Fall. Boys Soccer, Volleyball, Field Hockey all won the Tri-County Championship.



## Guidance News

**M<sub>2</sub>M** — M<sub>2</sub>M is off to a great start. We have a lot of new topics and fresh ideas for M<sub>2</sub>M. The next M<sub>2</sub>M training is November 9<sup>th</sup> and our connection will be on Wednesday November 10<sup>th</sup> -please wear your shirts.

**Guidance** — Guidance offers a variety of programs throughout the school year. Some of the programs that are offered are: Social Skills Training, Grief/Divorce Groups, Peer Assistants, Peer Mediators, Peer Helpers, Resources for tutoring, community involvement etc. We provide classroom presentations on Peer Relationships, Peer Conflict Resolutions, Bullying, Friendships, Drug Prevention and various other middle school appropriate topics.

**Yearbooks 2011** — The cost of the Yearbook will be \$25.00 if ordered before December 31<sup>st</sup>. Yearbooks forms have been sent home. Yearbooks can be ordered on line or by sending in a check for \$25.00 made out by Windham Middle School. Please order early to secure your book. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Lichtmann [jllichtmann@windhamsd.org](mailto:jllichtmann@windhamsd.org) or Mrs. Rawley [krawley@windhamsd.org](mailto:krawley@windhamsd.org)

**Advisory** — We are very pleased to once again have Advisory in your student's daily schedule. Advisory will take place from 10:40-11:00 (Tuesday through Friday) and the entire school will be participating. Every staff member will have a group of students (approx. 12) that they will be meeting with daily to discuss monthly activities. The goal of Advisory is to make meaningful connections between students and staff. November's theme will be One Book One School we will be reading Three Cups of Tea.

**Thanksgiving Food Drive** — Windham Helping Hands will be sponsoring a food drive from November 8-19<sup>th</sup>. 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". The trophy was awarded to Center 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.

## Private High School Tests/Deadlines

Attention 8<sup>th</sup> graders, it is not too early to think about high school. Many private high schools begin the application process as early as October for the following school year. When applying, most schools require the completion of an application, school transcripts, and letters of recommendation in addition to taking an entrance exam. Please give all application information to Mrs. Rogers or Mrs. Wagoner in Guidance along with a personal biography. Be sure to include information about your academic performance, as well as any sports, clubs, service organizations, etc. in which you have been involved during your past 8 years of school. The biography should demonstrate that you are a well-rounded student, as this is what many of the schools look for in their selection process.

All applications, including biographies, recommendation letters, and transcript requests, should be submitted to Guidance. The Guidance Department will then forward the completed application package on to the private high school before the deadline. Please see Mrs. Rogers or Mrs. Wagoner if you have any questions.

### Trinity HS

**Open House:** Oct. 27 from 7-9 PM.

**Admissions Exam:**

October 30, 2010: Admissions Test Date, 8:30-11:30 a.m

November 20, 2010: Make-up Test Date, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

### Central Catholic

**Entrance Exam:**

Saturday, November 13, 2010 and Saturday December 11, 2010

### Bishop Guertin

**Open House:** Wednesday, October 27, 2010 (6-8)

**Entrance Exam:** Saturday, October 30, 2010 (8am)  
Or Saturday, November 13, 2010 (8am)



## **Physical Education News**

As we are wrapping up the first quarter of PE and the fall sports season has come to an end, students/athletes were directed to move their locks to a small locker last week. This will allow for cleaning and winter athletes to take the sports lockers, once the team rosters have been posted. All students who have been issued a lock, must keep it for the entire year – for PE class and sports teams. They are collected at the end of the third and fourth quarters, according to the student's schedule and sports participation. Girls, please be sure you are closing the locker door before closing the lock, or your personal items are not safe. Using it as a handle is not an acceptable use of the locks. See Mrs. Shirley if you have lost your lock or need to be refreshed on the combination. Second quarter students and second quarter Basketball / Cheerleading participants will receive locks on the first day of the quarter, Nov. 8.

**GIRLS, CHECK THE LOST AND FOUND CORNER FOR YOUR ITEMS. ALL UNCLAIMED ITEMS WILL BE BAGGED AND SHIPPED TO CHARITY AT THE END OF THE QUARTER.**

## Minding manners via text

**Q** My son receives dozens of profane texts each day from a friend. I want to take the texting away, but my husband disagrees. How can I stop these rude texts?

**A** It can be tempting to take away the technology children use when parents notice irresponsible behavior. Today, however, parents can use these situations as opportunities to teach and reinforce critical skills kids will need as they become more tech savvy and independent.

Taking the texting option away from your son would be punishing him for something his friend is doing. Before you jump to conclusions, try these simple steps to stop nasty texts and give your son lessons in handling these sticky tech issues.

**Make sure you understand the situation.** Before you react to your child's foul-mouthed friend, consider the context. Were kids quoting a song or movie? Is there an inside joke going on? Did your child begin the swear-fest first? Ask your child to be honest about the nature of the texts. "I want to understand how these texts became so frequent and profane."

**Encourage your child to talk to his friend.** Practicing responsible tech behavior is one skill this generation of kids will need to learn. Ask your child to talk to his friend about the rude texts and explain that parents are concerned. You may be surprised to discover that the friend will actually stop—possibly out of embarrassment or fear of being found out by his own parent. "Tell Jimmy that he needs to stop sending texts with swears in them. Let him know you don't want either of you to get into trouble or lose text privileges."

**Speak up yourself.** If your son's friend is over for a visit or with you during a carpool, take the opportunity to let him know you've seen inappropriate language in texts. Avoid acting angry or threatening. Simply express your disapproval of the language and ask him to stop. "I've seen some of the texts you've sent Junior and noticed they contained some profane words. I don't approve of that kind of language and I'd appreciate it if you'd stop sending those."

**Talk parent to parent.** If your son continues to get profane or disturbing messages from this friend on email, social networks or instant messaging, consider calling the parents. Most parents will be grateful for some insights into their child's tech transgressions if they do not feel attacked or insulted. Reinforce the fact that you are calling to report the behavior, not to criticize the child or parent. Begin with a general statement and elaborate from there. "I just wanted to let you know about some text messages exchanged between our boys. Many of them contained bad language and I thought you would want to know."

**Block the number.** If your son continues to receive profane texts from his friend, consider blocking the number. Call your cell service provider

to find out how to block it and talk to your child about how his friend might react to the blocked calls. Reactions can range from anger to embarrassment to bullying, and kids should be prepared to address these reactions.

**Understand parental controls.** Many cell plans allow a variety of parental controls, including copies of text messages or a limited phone book. Contact your cell service provider to see what is available and how this can help.

## Video chats narrows the gap

**Q** My child wants to video chat with her cousins, but they both live in different states. Is there a program available for this?

**A** Video chat is a great way for families to connect online and share some personal, face-to-face time across the miles. Skype and iChat are popular programs that allow one-on-one video exchanges. And now other options let families and friends gather together online and share some face time.

**Toldbox.** This web-based program lets you video chat with up to 20 people and import your contacts from sources like Yahoo, Facebook or email. You can promote your call on Facebook, Twitter and other social networks. And you can text chat during the call, share video and photos. The best part? It's free!

**Tinychat.** This browser-based chat system allows you to create your own video chat room with up to 12 audio/video chat participants. It's free, simple and also lets you connect your friends and family through your Facebook, Twitter or a MySpace account. Don't have one of those? No worries. Simply create your own chat nickname and get friends to join.

**Oovoo.** Oovoo uses a free download for Windows or Mac to create your video chat. Two chatters are free, but if you want to include more cousins and grandparents, you'll have to pay. The rates for three participants is \$9.95 a month and costs go up for more participants. Don't think you'll chat as a group each month? You can also pay just 10 cents per minute for each person you want to add per video call with Oovoo credits.

**Parents should set chats up.** There are lots of video chat rooms and programs online that are not appropriate for kids. Parents should organize any video chats and lay down a few rules on the outset. Let kids know that respectful behavior is required. Require all video chats to be done in a main area of the home and monitor all chats when children under 10 years old are participating.



**Sharon Miller Cindrich** is the mother of two, a columnist and the author of *E-Parenting: Keeping Up With Your Tech-Savvy Kids*. Learn more at [www.sharonmillerandrich.com](http://www.sharonmillerandrich.com) or send your questions to [Sharon@sharoncindrich.com](mailto:Sharon@sharoncindrich.com).