

OCTOBER 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, you can link to all of the Windham

6th Grade News

The sixth grade is very busy with preparations for Camp Bournedale. They had their Arena Scheduling on Sept. 29th and all students now have their schedules completed. Cabin Choices took place on Sept. 30th. The students will have one more meeting on October 12th to prepare them for attending Camp Bournedale. For those parents who still have further questions regarding Camp Bournedale, there will be an informational meeting on October 6th at 6:00pm in the Windham Middle School cafeteria prior to Open House. If you have not handed in all of your Bournedale paperwork or final payments, please do so as soon as possible or contact Mrs. O'Shaughnessy. We are looking forward to a wonderful trip!!

Currently, students in sixth grade are studying Russia and surrounding countries in Social Studies and working on the economics and geography of these countries. In Math classes, students have been working on Order of Operations while using the palm pilots. In the near future, students will be working on graphing and will use the portable computer lab to graph results of surveys created in class. In Science class, students have been very enthusiastic about creating biomes of different ecosystems. Soon they will be studying the Metric System and Chemistry.

Band News

After listening to so many fantastic auditions for the Windham Middle School Jazz Band, Mr. Cassidy would like to thank everyone for auditioning. All students did a remarkable job and, in turn, are all winners! The Jazz Band will be performing throughout the school year at concerts, school events, and music festivals.

Art News

It has been a great start to the year with 6th grade painting colors wheels, tints and shades, and contour line. 7th grade has learned what value refers to when drawing a self-portrait, and the 8th grade is studying Eyes! The artwork all around has been awesome!

Digital Photography Club met for the first time and had the unique experience to go on a digital scavenger hunt! Pictures from the Club will be available next month on the Windham School District web sight. The Next Meeting will be on Thursday, October 13th until 3:30.

EARTH SHUTTLE

Our next meeting is November 2, 2005 at 7:30PM in the cafe. Students need to listen for announcements about the October fundraiser. We are still looking for volunteers to help out with our fundraisers. If you are able to help, please contact Mrs. Fava or Miss Corbin. The fundraisers are a great opportunity for the students to earn part of the money for their trip. It is not too late to sign up to be a part of next year's trip. Please see Mrs. Fava or Miss Corbin for information if you are interested.

Seventh Grade News

Seventh grade science classes are finishing a unit on the characteristics and needs of living things. Students are assuming the role of head zoo keeper and completing posters on an animal to be used as part of a visitor education program for the zoo.

After a brief review of the alphabet, colors and numbers, Spanish students are working on listening skills, as people introduce themselves and tell names, ages and where they are from. They will also be writing short paragraphs introducing themselves to a pen pal.

In math and Pre-Algebra, the students have completed the unit on basic geometric forms. We are working on order of operations and will continue on to algebraic expressions and open sentences. The students have completed their first portfolio entry; they will be maintaining a math portfolio this year as we encourage them to write across the curriculum.

In Social Studies, we are beginning our study of the ancient world. The Babylonians, Egyptians, Assyrians, and Persians are some of the different groups of people that we are learning about. In about two weeks, we will be starting our amazing Greek Unit, where students will be doing individual research on certain Greek topics like the Olympics and Greek theater!

The 7th grade Reading classes have been learning to utilize the 6 Strategies for Reading. Ultimately, the more students apply these strategies while reading, the more they will comprehend. The 7th grade Language Arts classes just finished a unit on sentences and their various structures. As we progress, each student will write essays with these sentence types in mind creating a more sophisticated writing style.

7th grade ILS students have been writing an autobiography and will create a book as their finished product. They have been using the palm pilots to word process and to take pictures. We will be using the laptops and computer lab to create a PowerPoint presentation next.

Eighth Grade News:

The 8th grade homerooms had a very successful coin war for the Katrina relief effort and raised about \$600.00.

On October 19th the eighth grade class will be going to Salem Village, in Salem, MA as part of the Salem Witch Trials unit. During our visit we will see the Salem Witch Museum, the Pirate Museum, Terror on the Wharf, (a haunted house, optional for the reluctant visitor) and a performance of "Cry Innocent", a modern day witch trial. Students will be required to write a paper after their return.

Important Dates

**October 6 — Camp Bournedale Meeting 6:00
Open House 7:00
Midterm Reports**

October 7 —No School—Teacher Workshop

October 10—No School—Columbus Day

October 14—Dance 7-9

**October 17-21 —6th Grade Trip to Camp
Bournedale**

October 19—Eighth Grade Trip to Salem

October 24-28—Red Ribbon Week

November 2—Earth Shuttle Meeting 7:30

Enrichment News

I had the opportunity to proctor the NWEA testing and am pleased with the wealth of information provided from this assessment. Students were conscientious and tried their best. I have been in the sixth grade math classes introducing myself and the handheld Zire 71s. Students understand that order of operations is extremely important when using a calculator! Soon, eighth graders will begin the Boston Globe Stock Market Game, an online project involving buying and selling stock. Keep your eyes on the market, looking for some tips for students.

PE News

How FIT am I? This is a question that Middle School Physical Education students will be able to answer, with information to back it up, by the end of the school year. We have jumped on board with many schools, across the country and New Hampshire, with fitness evaluation. One of the goals of the Middle School physical education program is to teach students about fitness and health that should be addressed for a lifetime. Not only do we look at things we can see, such as weight, but students will learn about caring for the things we cannot see. Components of fitness and health such as the risk to musculo-skeletal health and cardiovascular health will be evaluated.

The assessment tool that we are using is FITNESSGRAM designed through scientific research by the Cooper Institute of Dallas, Texas. It assesses cardiovascular fitness, core strength, flexibility, and height/weight to calculate Body Mass Index. For more information, check out www.cooperinst.org.

We look forward to being able to efficiently assess all students and enter their data into a computer program to create feedback for students and parents. This process will take a school year or so to do in an efficient manner. Until then, we will be discussing the meaning of the students' results in class. Students can compare their own data with the healthy range for people of their gender and age and determine if they have a weakness in any areas and then we can plan how to improve this aspect of their health. We discourage comparing to others and do not have this process as part of the class grading system. It is a teaching tool and its purpose is for personal development and goal setting.

Guidance News

Ignite

Ignite training will be held on October 13th this month. All Executive Ignite members meet in the Media Center 7:00am. All Ignite members will meet in the Café 8:30-9:30. Ignite Connections will be in the 6th grade homerooms from 9:30-10:00

Stepping Stones –A Bereavement Program for Children and Teens will meet October 3-November 28th from 6:00-7:30 in Manchester. Please call WMS Guidance for more information.

Peer Assistant Program

The Peer Assistant Program is off to another great start. The sixth graders are in the process of being trained and the 7th & 8th grade PAs are visiting Golden Brook and Center Schools.

Red Ribbon Week

October 24th-28th

Red Ribbon week involves over 100,000 schools and organizations throughout the U.S. The goal for RRW is to teach students to stay away from drugs and make healthy life choices. This is celebrated District wide. We have a lot of fun and exciting activities planned.

Monday (October 24) Walk away from drugs (PE classes will incorporate this theme into their classes)-Pedometers will be awarded for various contests

Tuesday-Team Up against Drugs-Wear your favorite team shirt

Wednesday-Wear Red Day

Thursday-Put a lid on Drugs-Wear your favorite baseball hat

Friday-Assembly Day to wrap up the week

Transition into 6th, 7th, & 8th grades has gone quite smoothly. If your child is having a tough time with friends, schedules, classes or any other Middle School issue please let us know. If you are not sure where to turn for information-start with your Guidance Office. We are here to help.

Badminton Tournament

The Windham School District employees are sponsoring a badminton tournament as a benefit for student and teacher cancer victims on October 28th. All proceeds will be donated to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Format: Double Elimination badminton tournament. Participants: Doubles Contest at least one team member must be a WSD employee. Any gender is ok. Partners can work in different school buildings or SAU office. All compete together. Entry Fee For Participants/Spectators: A donation of any chosen amount. Donations from other sources (colleagues, neighbors, etc...) will be appreciated. Cash and checks accepted. Make checks payable to: Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Sign Up: Center School Employees e-mail Erin Shirley (eshirley@windhamsd.org), Golden Brook Employees e-mail Andrew Bairsow (abairstow@windhamsd.org), Middle School e-mail either. Include: 2 teammates' names, the earliest time you will be available to play (between 3:00-3:40)...Contact us if you need to schedule a practice time.