

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 Schools.

Important Dates

October 2—School Board and Public Forum 7 PM Town Hall
October 4—Washington DC parent meeting 7 PM
October 5 — Midterm Reports
October 5 — Picture Day
October 8—Columbus Day—No School
October 15—M2M Connection—Executives Meet at 7 AM
October 15—High School Transition Forum with Dr Bass 7 PM
October 19—Dance 7-9 PM
October 22-26 Camp Bournedale
October 29—Fall Sports Recognition Night 6 PM
November 2—End of Marking Period
November 7th and 8th—Conferences

6TH GRADE NEWS

Sixth Grade students are anxiously awaiting their trip to Camp Bournedale. We would like to extend our thanks to all organizations that have donated to our Camp Bournedale Scholarship fund. In Science class, they have all filled out their schedules. On Thursday, October 4th, all students will have the opportunity to pick their elective classes for camp. Cabin mate selections were made on Friday, September 28, in homerooms. We will depart for Camp Bournedale on Monday, October 22nd. Please take care of any final payments or paperwork as soon as possible.

Science classes are currently studying ecosystems and food webs. This unit will culminate with a Bottle Biology project in which groups of students will create ecosystems within soda bottles and observe the interactions of the organisms.

Sixth Grade Math classes are off to a great start. All students are working on factors and multiples. Shortly, we will finish our Prime Time unit and move onto Bits and Pieces I which works mainly with relationships between fractions, decimals and percents.

Our Pre-Algebra class is filled with Mathematics enthusiasts. Recently, we finished a review of all fraction operations. We have moved into our first Pre-Algebra unit, Variables and Patterns. It is great to see such an eager group of learners.

In Social Studies, students will be finishing information about geography and the world. Beginning next week, students will be studying Russia. After camp they will study the former Soviet Republics.

Language Arts classes started their new vocabulary series, Classical Roots. In class, students are currently working on parts of speech and sentence structure. Currently, students are working on their Animal Research Paper. Beginning in October, Reading classes will begin the novel HOOT. This novel is a connection to our Science unit on ecology. Students have been introduced to literary elements and reading strategies and will continue to apply and practice these concepts while reading HOOT.

POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL

Passwords for PowerSchool have been distributed. If you were not able to attend our Open House, please come to the office to receive your password.

MIDTERM REPORTS

WMS is an environmentally conscious school. A notice about midterms went home the last week of September, Please sign and return this form by October 3rd. With access to PowerSchool, parents are able to view student grades and may not need a hard copy of the midterm. There still needs to be a parent signature to verify that the grades have been viewed. Midterms go home October 5th.

PICTURE DAY

Picture Day is Friday, October 5th during the morning. Parents should have received, in the mail, custom printed order forms for our new photographer, Hockmeyer Studios. Please make sure your child brings the order form with them to picture day whether you are buying or not. As usual there will be a few extra copies of the order form in the parent information rack located in the foyer.

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

In 7th grade Social Studies, we have just completed our unit on Prehistory and are now learning about the beginning of civilizations. We will briefly study a few of these early cultures before delving into Ancient Greece. During that unit, students will be expected to do in-depth research into a particular area of Ancient Greek culture, such as the Olympics, theater, architecture, government, etc. and share their findings with their peers. It is usually an eye-opening experience for them as they learn how much of our modern culture can be attributed to this magnificent civilization.

Seventh grade science students have just finished a unit on life processes and are starting the virus and bacteria unit. Students will be learning about the structure of viruses and bacteria, how they are different from all other living organisms, and about positive roles that bacteria play in peoples' lives as well as the potential for harm. We will also be talking about how infectious diseases are spread from person to person and how they can be treated or prevented.

PTA NEWS

PTA membership is growing and we encourage all parents and staff to join. Please check out the PTA website www.windhamppta.org for all the latest information. Each school is participating in the Box Tops for Education program. Please visit boxtops4education.com for more information.

YEARBOOK

Show your school spirit and be a part of the Windham Middle School yearbook. The yearbook will represent all three grades. We have representatives from 6th, 7th, and 8th grade to include the Bournedale experience, Browne Center, Washington, DC to dances, sports and various candid photos.

Order forms have gone home. Yearbooks will be \$25.00 each. The price will increase on January 1, 2008. Buy your books now. We will accept cash or checks made out to Windham Middle School.

Yearbooks make great gifts. Yearbooks can be ordered directly online by going to shop.jostens.com or going directly to Jostens through Windhamsd.org. Contact: Julie Lichtmann or Kathy Rawley for further information.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

It's been a busy start of the year in Language Arts. Students have already produced an autobiographical essay on an important event from the past, written, designed and illustrated an original Fairy Tale incorporating the elements learned in their study of the form, and investigated a variety of myths, legends and folktales from all around the world, each descended from the oral tradition. They are just wrapping up the storytelling unit with a fascinating group project: adapting the story of their own choosing into an original film. It's a great opportunity for the aspiring artisans and filmmakers of tomorrow to demonstrate their talents, while gaining new experiences with the latest technology.

Next up, just in time for Halloween: the Salem Witch Trials, followed by a unit on Gothic Horror and the Stories of Edgar Allan Poe.

Eighth grade Pre-Algebra is in the middle of our probability unit. Students are simulating probability situations that involve 2 actions, such as rolling a number cube and spinning a spinner. In Algebra, students are learning about the relationships among linear equations, tables, and graphs. Students are also using the graphing calculator to create linear graphs. Both classes are also practicing for the upcoming NECAP test in October.

Social Studies classes will soon be traveling with Lewis and Clark to the west coast. We will also be assigning our first DBQ (document based question), which will be on the War of 1812. Students who are doing a book report for quarter one should already have the book approved and must have their report completed by October 26th.

FRENCH NEWS

Grade 6 students have been working on using greetings, colors, and numbers in French and have had fun learning a little about the countries in which French is spoken. Next we'll be learning to tell time.

Grade 7 students have reviewed greetings and numbers, adding some new words along the way to make conversations in their new language more fun and interesting.

Eighth graders are taking a break from some of their review work to begin a new project. Each student is researching a French province and will develop a PowerPoint presentation to share with the class.

SPANISH NEWS

6th grade Spanish classes have been working on the alphabet, colors and numbers 1 to 20. They also are practicing short conversations, greeting each other.

In 7th grade, after a brief review, students are practicing conversations by asking each other questions about age, nationality, likes and dislikes.

ART NEWS

A big hearty *THANK YOU* to ALL of the students who contributed their time and ideas this past year for the murals here at Windham Middle School: **Casey Burnett, Maggie Cochrane, Rebecca Connolly, Amy Donovan, Chris Spitalere, Natalia Tausanovitch**. Also, thank you to three recent WMS graduates of 2007: **Megan Caveney Molly Donahue, and Melanie Forster**.

Without their help the vision would not have been completed. There is still a long way to go to decorate our school but I know the kids have some great ideas and I look forward to working with them.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SELECT CHORUS MEMBERS 2007-2008!!

Jake Simard, Kevin Dolan, Stephen Brikiatis, Maria Bessette, Katie Felson, Kate Farrell, Vincent Rosa, Mike MacDonald, Meagan Eccleston, Jessica MacKimm, Morgan Scott, Rachael Corso, Taylor DeVelis, Nicole Croteau, Kristen Tornquist, Taia Tieland, Bethany Fennessey, Shannon Wakeford and Christina Greco. We are looking forward to a great year!!

FROM OUR GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT—KEEPING ACCEPTANCE AND RACHEL'S CHALLENGE IN MIND

A 92-year-old, petite, well-poised and proud man, who is fully dressed each morning by eight o'clock, with his hair fashionably coifed and shaved perfectly, even though he is legally blind, moved to a nursing home today. His wife of 70 years recently passed away, making the move necessary. After many hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, he smiled sweetly when told his room was ready.

As he maneuvered his walker to the elevator, I provided a visual description of his tiny room, including the eyelet sheets that had been hung on his window.

"I love it," he stated with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old having just been presented with a new puppy.

"Mr. Jones, you haven't seen the room; just wait."

"That doesn't have anything to do with it," he replied.

"Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged ... it's how I arrange my mind. I already decided to love it. "It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice; I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work, or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do.

Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open, I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away. Just for this time in my life.

Old age is like a bank account. You withdraw from what you've put in.

So, my advice to you would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories! Thank you for your part in filling my memory bank. I am still depositing." Remember the five simple rules to be happy:

1. Free your heart from hatred.
2. Free your mind from worries.
3. Live simply.
4. Give more.
5. Expect less.

GUIDANCE NEWS

M2M

M2M training will be held on October 15. This month's theme is "Honesty." 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 9:00-9:30 A.M. Connections will then be made in the 6th grade homerooms from 9:30-10:00 A.M. Mentors, please remember to keep making those connections with your mentees!

Private High Schools

Attention 8th 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. Lichtmann 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. Lichtmann if you have any questions.

Trinity HS

Open House: Thursday, October 25, 2007

Admissions Exam: Saturday November 3 & 17th (8:30-11:30)

Central Catholic

Open House: Sunday, October 21, 2007

Entrance Exam: Saturday, November, 17, 2007
December, 8, 2007

Bishop Guertin

Open House: Sunday, October 14, 2007 (1-3) or

Thursday, November 1, 2007 (6-8)

Entrance Exam: Saturday, November 3, 2007 (8am) or
Saturday, November 17, 2007 (8am)

RED RIBBON WEEK

OCTOBER 22ND – 29TH

Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country. The goal for this week is to teach our students to make a personal commitment to stay away from drugs and live healthy lives. Each school in the Windham School District participates in this program, as we believe it is never too early to teach drug prevention. This year we have the following fun activities planned at WMS:

We will be kicking off RRW with an assembly on Friday, October 19th. Beat Bob the one man volleyball team will be here to spread his message that it is okay to stand alone when faced with peer pressure.

Monday, 10/22 – Support Red Ribbon Week by wearing red

Tuesday, 10/24 – Sock It to Drugs by wearing crazy socks

Wednesday, 10/25 – Put a Lid on Drugs by wearing your favorite hat

Thursday, 10/26 – Lei Off Drugs-wear Hawaiian clothing

Friday, 10/27 – Team up against drugs -wear your favorite sports shirt

TRANSITION IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Moving into a new grade is always an exciting time and the transitions into 6th, 7th, and 8th grades have gone very well this year. Here are some suggestions to ensure that your child continues to be prepared for learning and has a successful year:

- To avoid morning madness, encourage your child to do as much preparation the night before with simple routines. For example, he or she can choose school clothes and have homework, lunch options (hot lunch or bag lunch) and backpacks all in one place.
- Organization leads to middle school success. Suggest that your child set aside one pocket of his or her backpack for school supplies, such as pens and pencils.
- Encourage your child to continue to write down daily homework assignments, as well as long-term projects, in his or her Agenda. This will serve two purposes: first, your child will know what homework is expected, and second, he or she will feel accomplished when checking off the completed work.

If your child is having a tough time adjusting to this new school year with friends, classes, or has other middle school concerns, please let the Guidance department know. We want each student at WMS to have a great year and we are here to help.

EARTH SHUTTLE NEWS

Earth Shuttle is still accepting registration forms for this year's trip to Florida.

Trip Dates: Sunday, May 4 - Friday, May 9, 2008

Cost of this year's trip: Student \$1329 Adult \$1395.45

Does NOT include cost of airlines.

Trip Itinerary:

Sun- Travel Day & Sea World Students explore exhibits with their chaperones.

Mon - Discovery Cove - "Dolphin & Coral Reef Experience" Swim and play with dolphins, glide with friendly stingrays and snorkel with thousands of exotic fish.

Tues - Sea World, "Saving Our Seas," behind-the-scenes look at the success of Sea World's efforts to preserve and protect animals such as dolphins, sea turtles and manatees.

Wed - Egmont Key -Barrier Island Adventure, guided nature walk of the island to discuss flora & fauna. Snorkeling and beach study. Museum of Science & Industry (MOSI) Participate in a simulated space mission in the Challenger Learning Center. Also, create a comet in the comet workshop laboratory.

Thurs - American Pro Diving Snorkel w/Manatees; learn about the history and conservation of these endangered animals, explore Rainbow River and its abundant wildlife and search for prehistoric sharks teeth.

Fri - Travel Day

