

# 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](http://www.windhamsd.org), you can link to all of the Windham Schools.

### Important Dates

- October 3 — Midterm Reports
- October 3 — Picture Day
- October 3—Sixth Grade Only Dance 7-9 PM
- October 4—PTA Sports Swap—Center School
- October 7 —M2M Executives Meet at 7 AM
- October 7—8th Grade Parents WHS Meet and Greet 9:30 AM
- October 8—M2M Connection
- October 9—7th Grade Parents WHS Meet and Greet 9:30 AM
- October 10—Early Release Day—11:15 Dismissal
- October 13—Columbus Day—No School
- October 17—School Dance 7-9 PM
- October 23—Fall Sports Recognition Night 6:30 PM
- October 25—Windham High School Open House 9-12
- October 27-31- Camp Bournedale
- October 27-31—Red Ribbon Week

### 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 Math class, they review their schedules. On Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, all students will have the opportunity to pick their elective classes for camp. Cabin mate selections were made on Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, in homerooms. We will depart for Camp Bournedale on Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. 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. They will finish their unit on Russia by learning about the former Soviet Republics.

Language Arts classes have been introduced to their vocabulary programs, Classical Roots & Vocabulary-Lit. In class, students are currently working on parts of speech and sentence structure through MUGS. Currently, students are working on their first paper relating to the trait of Ideas.

Beginning in October, Reading classes will begin the novels HOOT or FLUSH. These novels provide connections 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 their novels.

### SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

In the beginning of the month, we will be finishing up work with the unit "What Hue are You?" in reading. In Language Arts, students will practice their narrative writing skills; they will take their rough draft narratives and revise them to final draft quality in a writing workshop.

For the remainder of the month, we will be reading "The Adventures of Ulysses." First, we will read one adventure together and then the students will work in small groups to read, analyze, and teach one of the other adventures to the class. This will coincide nicely with language arts where students will be honing their research skills and writing a research paper on a Greek myth.

In 7th grade Social Studies, we have just completed an extremely quick tour through some of the earliest civilizations of Mesopotamia and the eastern Mediterranean. Now we are ready for an in-depth study of the ancient Greek culture. Each student will research a particular area of that culture, such as the Olympics, theater, architecture, science, and then the groups will 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. We will also be treated by the PTA to a wonderful presentation by a master storyteller, Jeff Benoit, as he single-handedly brings Greek mythology to life.

The seventh grade math classes have been working on probability and the difference between experimental and theoretical probabilities. They have used tree diagrams to find possible outcomes and used probability to make predictions. The Pre-Algebra classes have also been working on probability and have found possible outcomes using tree diagrams and area models. They have expressed probabilities as fractions and percents. The Algebra class is working on linear equations and how to recognize them in tables, graphs and equations.

Seventh grade science classes have just finished a unit on Life Processes. We are starting a unit on classification which will include information about why scientists classify organisms and students will use dichotomous keys to classify a group of organisms.

### SPANISH NEWS

Students worked with partners on short conversations, introducing themselves and asking for some basic information like names, ages, where they are from and likes and dislikes.

### WINDHAM HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

There will be an Open House at the new Windham High School on October 25th from 9-12. Please take this opportunity to see the progress of our high school and meet the the principal and deans.

## **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE NEWS**

The eighth grade language arts department would like to introduce a new teacher, Ms. Roy, to our team. Ms. Roy joins us from Oregon. We are excited to have her with us. Welcome!! We would also like to thank all of the students who participated in the Summer Reading Program. Your projects were interesting and fun to read.

The eighth grade language arts classes have been in full swing. Our students have been reading, discussing, and analyzing the literary elements contained in short stories. The students did a wonderful job writing phase autobiographies and are currently working on responding to a piece of literature in a comprehensive essay. Next month our students will be studying the Salem Witch Trials and taking a field trip to Salem, MA. Our focus will be on tolerance and point of view. Keep reading! We look forward to reading the students entries each week

Science 8 continues to investigate the organization of the Periodic Table of Elements. Students conducted experiments on physical and chemical changes, furthermore a chemical reaction will be observed with zinc metal.

Students in Algebra are currently learning about linear relationships. They will be using the graphing calculators during class to help their understanding of the different properties of lines and linear equations. Please review the Family Letter for important concepts and skills in this unit and check out the Connected Math website <http://www.phschool.com/cmp2/> for helpful hints for parents and students.

Students in PreAlgebra are currently wrapping up our investigation of probability. Students created tree diagrams and area models to show the theoretical probabilities for more than one action. They also conducted experiments to compare their own experimental probability to the theoretical probability of the situation. Students will have a quick review of integers, order of operations, and absolute value in the upcoming weeks.

Geometry students are wrapping up a unit on points, lines, and planes and applying algebra to solve geometric problems related to these concepts. Next unit, we will be connecting mathematical reasoning and proofs.

The Stock Market Game will begin soon. Students in ILS classes will be working on various activities including company research, graphs and charts. Math classes will be given the opportunity to work independently in groups of 3 or 4 to compete in the game.

In Social Studies we have just wrapped up our study of the Constitution and the formation of our government. We will now be moving into the first government and comparing the government of George Washington to the government we have today. In an effort to help students connect to history and help them see how it is truly a collection of people's stories, they have been assigned historical fiction/biographical book reports. The formal assignment went home and can be found on Mrs. McKenna's website under "downloads."

## **CONGRATULATIONS SELECT CHORUS!**

The following students were chosen to sing with the Select chorus this year: Jessica MacKimm, Maria Bessette, Katie Felson, Kate Farrell, Rachael Corso, Julia Steele, Megan Boucher, Meagan Eccleston, Morgan Scott, Madison Enos, Haley Enos, Nicole Croteau, Liz Donovan, Naseem Sardashti, Beth Fennessy, Christina Greco, Julia Enos, Kristen Tornquist, Taia Tieland, Shannon Wakeford, Meagan O'Connor, Morgan Apkarian, Robyn Clark, Jake Ozoonian, Jen Scherer, Graham Smith and Marissa Yost.

The Select chorus performs at the concerts in December and April as well as at the Windham Town tree lighting as the Christmas tree is being lit. We will also be singing the national anthem at one of the basketball games this year. We look forward to a great year!

## **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 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade to include the Bournedale experience, Browne Center, Washington, DC to dances, sports and various candid photos. All Yearbooks will be in **full color** this year. Please order early. All Yearbooks will be delivered in September of **2009**.

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

## **GOLD CIRCLE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

On Sept. 22nd PTA representative Kathy Loomis and Assistant Principal Dan Moulis attended the Gold Circle Achievement Awards ceremony at the Radisson in Manchester. It highlighted businesses that participated in schools across the state. At the middle school three businesses were highlighted for their work last year; Cyr Lumber, Morin Plumbing and Heating and the Exchange Club. It was a great evening in which Governor Lynch spoke about the connection between educational institutions and businesses. The evening concluded with a presentation on "Mathemagics" by Dr. Arthur Benjamin. The presentation demonstrates the importance of mental math. Overall it was a great evening!

## **NECAP TESTING**

Windham Middle School will conduct NECAP Testing on October 15, 16th, & 17. Please make sure all students have a good night sleep before testing. We will be serving breakfast for all students the morning of October 15th. Make-up will be October 20th and 21st.

## **MIDTERM REPORTS**

WMS is an environmentally conscious school. A notice about midterms went home the last week of September. Signed forms should be returned to school. 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 3rd.

## **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.

## **DRAMA CLUB**

There is a mandatory informational meeting on Monday, October 20, 2008 at 6:45pm for parents of students involved in this year's musical production, "Once on this Island." It's important that you are there as we will be discussing the show, volunteer help, schedules, and expectations of the students. It's going to be a fantastic show this year and everyone should be very excited!

## GUIDANCE NEWS

### M2M

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

### PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOLS

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. 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:**                      TBA  
**Admissions Exam:**                      TBA

**Central Catholic**    **Open House:** Sunday, October 19, 2008 (1-4)  
**Entrance Exam:** Saturday, November, 15, 2008  
December, 13, 2008

**Bishop Guertin**    **Open House:** Sunday, October 19, 2008 (1-3) or  
Wednesday, October 29, 2008 (6-8)  
**Entrance Exam:** Saturday, November 1, 2008 (8am) or  
Saturday, November 15, 2008

### RED RIBBON WEEK

October 27<sup>th</sup>- 31<sup>st</sup>

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:

**Monday-**                      **Wear Red Day**  
**Tuesday-**                    **Sock it to drugs –wear crazy socks**  
**Wednesday-**                **Put a Lid on Drugs™-wear your favorite hat**  
**Thursday-**                    **Lei off Drugs (Hawaiian clothing)**  
**Friday-**                        **Team Up Against Drugs (Sports shirt)**

### TRANSITION IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Moving into a new grade is always an exciting time and the transitions into 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

### WINDHAM HIGH SCHOOL MEET AND GREET 7TH AND 8TH GRADE PARENTS

Please join us at an informal "coffee" at Windham Middle School to learn more about the many courses, programs, and opportunities that Windham High School will offer each Windham student. We look forward to sharing high school information with you, as well as hearing your questions and learning of your ideas.

**The schedule for our coffee meetings is as follows:**

**Parents of students in grade eight: October 7, 2008  
from 9:30 am-10:30am**

**Parents of students in grade seven: October 9, 2008  
from 9:30am-10:30am**

**Both sessions will be held in the Windham Middle School Cafeteria. We look forward to meeting as many parents as possible!**

### SAFETY PHONE

Please remember to call in your child's absence or tardiness to the SAFETY PHONE by 8am on the day of absence. The number to call is  
**893-0434**