

# OCTOBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

KORI ALICE BECHT  
*Principal*

DAN MOULIS  
*Assistant Principal*

SCHOOL NURSE & SAFETY PHONE  
893-0434  
SCHOOL COUNSELORS  
893-2636

## Windham Middle School

112A Lowell Road  
Windham, NH 03087  
(603) 893-2636  
Fax: (603) 870-9007



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 2 — Midterm Reports
- October 3—Sixth Grade Only Dance 7-9 PM
- October 6 –M2M Executives Meet at 7 AM
- October 7—M2M Connection
- October 9—Early Release Day—11:15 Dismissal
- October 12—Columbus Day—No School
- October 14—NECAP Testing Begins
- October 16—School Dance 7-9 PM
- October 17—Earth Shuttle Yard Sale 8-2 Center School
- October 21—Moodle Training for Parents 7 PM
- October 22—Fall Sports Recognition Night 6:30 PM
- October 26-30- Camp Bournedale
- October 26-30—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 7<sup>th</sup>, all students will have the opportunity to pick their elective classes for camp. Cabin mate selections will be made on Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, in homerooms. We will depart for Camp Bournedale on Monday, October 26<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 on Integers. It is great to see such an eager group of learners.

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

Language Arts classes are working on the vocabulary series, Classical Roots. Students are improving their understanding of nouns, pronouns, verbs and sentence structure. Additionally, students are working on their Animal Research Paper.

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

Students will be completing their free-choice book and first book report -a book jacket - in the beginning of the month. Then we are on to "The Adventures of Ulysses." We will do some whole class introductory work, and then students will do projects in small groups which they will present to the class on one of Ulysses' adventures.

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, during which we will research different parts of that culture, such as the Olympics, theater, architecture, science, etc. It is usually an eye-opening experience for students 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.

To practice written skills, 7<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish students wrote a short letter in their journals to a pen pal from Spain.

7th grade science students are finishing a unit on living things and are completing an animal poster focusing on the needs and characteristics of living things.

## EARTH SHUTTLE NEWS

The Earth Shuttle program is sponsoring a multi-family yard sale at Windham Center School on October 17th from 8-2PM. Several participants of the program will be selling their items. The community is invited to donate items to the sale and the proceeds will benefit our scholarship fund. Items may be dropped off at WCS on October 17th.

## PTA

It's not too late to join PTA. Check out the PTA website at [www.windhampta.org](http://www.windhampta.org) for all the latest information. Volunteers are always welcome at WMS and we are so fortunate to have as many volunteers as we do.

## 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.

## NECAP TESTING

Windham Middle School will conduct NECAP Testing on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE NEWS

The Language Arts/Reading department will be studying the Salem Witch Trials with a culminating trip to Salem MA to end the unit. Did you ever wonder why that puzzle always gets you back your original numbers? Ask your child to help you figure it out! Students in Algebra are figuring out the math behind Mathemagic tricks by simplifying algebraic expressions. They've also reviewed important mathematical properties that allow us to calculate the way we do! Students will begin exploring different functions and then focus on linear functions during October. Students in PreAlgebra are continuing their understanding of probability using technology and strategies including tree diagrams and area models. We will explore the Law of Large Numbers and dependent probability, as well as review for the NECAP test which is heading our way mid October. Geometry students are working on angle relationships. Science classes are working on balancing equations, writing science labs using the scientific method, and chemistry. The Social Studies department just finished our unit covering the American Revolution and the Constitution and will be beginning a unit on Washington's first term. ILS is finishing the Virtual Vacation project and will be starting a PowerPoint presentation on the Salem Witch Trial.

## MEDIA CENTER NEWS

Teen Read Week 2009 will be celebrated Oct. 18-24! This year's theme is Read Beyond Reality @ your library, which encourages teens to read something out of this world, just for the fun of it. During the morning announcements that week we will be reading the first line from a popular sci-fi or fantasy book. Students will have an opportunity to guess the title and win a prize. Check out the Media Center bulletin board that week for terrific book suggestion and kids that are caught reading an out of this world book will receive a treat. Teens have so many options for entertainment, so it's important to remind them to spend time reading for pleasure: it's free, fun, and can be done anywhere!

## LOCKS OF LOVE BY JILLIAN DIPERSIO

One day I'd just been thinking, thinking about my grandmother who died of cancer, and about all the other people who have had the disease. Seven. I've known seven people with cancer. Then my thoughts drifted to something more. There are thousands of people, kids even, who have cancer, some even losing their hair. Their confidence level is brought down by milestones just from that, their hair gone, they don't feel well, and their world is a very different place. That's when I began to think about Locks of Love. I can cut my hair, only ten inches or more, and help give one 18-year-old, or younger, confidence. Then, what if more people cut their hair, what if many kids from school did. All of us, together, cutting our hair and giving each other confidence, to give to these cancer and alopecia patients, a disease that has no known cause or cure that makes you lose your hair. My goal is twenty hair donors from our school, not including me. A local hair salon's owner has volunteered to cut hair, whether we'll have hair cut at the school or at the salon is to be determined, but get involved soon and start measuring lengths! The "big cut-off date" will be some time in June, and hair grows about ½ inch per month. There are certain guidelines for cutting, such as no highlighted or colored hair. For more specific details on these guidelines, you can visit [www.locksoflove.org](http://www.locksoflove.org). If you're a middle schooler, this is something you can take part in, and boys too, that is, if you can grow your hair in time. Together we can help dozens of kids regain their confidence. If you are interested and have any questions, you can see either me or Mrs. Williams during the school day. I strongly encourage you to consider this. And who knows, maybe you'll like your hair 10 or 12 inches shorter!

## GUIDANCE NEWS

### M<sub>2</sub>M

M<sub>2</sub>M training will be held on October 6th. This month's theme is "Time Management." All Executive Committee members will meet October 6th in the Café at 7:00 A.M. All M<sub>2</sub>M 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, October 7th during Advisory. Mentors, please remember to wear your M<sub>2</sub>M 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.

<b>Trinity HS-</b>	<b>Open House:</b>	TBA
	<b>Admissions Exam:</b>	TBA

**Central Catholic - Open House:** Sunday, October 18, 2009 (1-4)  
**Entrance Exam:** Saturday, November, 14, 2009  
December, 12, 2009

**Bishop Guertin- Open House:** Sunday, October 18, 2009 (1-3)  
or Wednesday, October 28, 2009 (6-8)  
**Entrance Exam:** Saturday, October 31, 20(8am)  
or Saturday, November 14, 2009 (8am)

## RED RIBBON WEEK

**OCTOBER 23<sup>RD</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:

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