

# OCTOBER 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.

## Eighth Grade News, continued

### Important Dates

Please continue to check the school calendar for changes:

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

- Oct 8: Early release day
- Oct 11: Columbus Day—no school
- Oct 13: Study Skills @WHS 6-7 PM—see flyer on last page
- Oct 14: WMS School Council mtg
- Oct 15: School Dance 7-9 PM
- Oct 27: 8th Grade trip to Salem MA
- Oct 25-29: 6th Grade at Camp Bournedale
- 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

Students in Algebra are finishing up Chapter 1, and will begin the solving equations unit. Please continue to use the Glencoe support materials online, they are a great resource for extra help or practice. Students will complete a short review for the NECAP exam during the first week of October. Students in Intro to Algebra are continuing to review important Pre-Algebra concepts such as surface area and volume of three dimensional figures, and will be reviewing for the NECAP exam during the first week of October.

In science, students are working on a Memory Lab using the Scientific Method; have reviewed the metric system and conversions; are graphing using independent and dependent variables; are identifying variables such as controlling and standardizing variables, and are just beginning the first section of Chemistry including chemical and physical reactions.

In Language Arts, students have read numerous short stories, analyzed the elements and structure of fiction, written narratives, memoirs, and essays; and will learn about tolerance through the Salem Witch Trial Unit. Eighth grade students will travel to Salem on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

## Eighth Grade News

Eighth grade classes are in full swing for the first quarter. Pre-algebra students are continuing to learn about theoretical and experimental probabilities; analyze probability situations using tree diagrams and area models as well as review for NECAP. Geometry students were just tested on distances between points and midpoints of line segments; identifying angle relationships; and perimeter, area of geometric shapes using algebra. Students will be learning about geometric surface area and volume next as well as reviewing for NECAP.

Social studies students were just quizzed on the Articles of Confederation and the US Constitution. Students will be learning about George Washington and the first administration. Students will analyze why George Washington was a great leader and will be learning about the development of the first political parties.



## Seventh Grade News

In October, the reading and language arts curriculum will be connected to social studies. In reading, students will be exploring *The Adventures of Ulysses*, an abridged version of *The Odyssey*. In small groups, students will be charged with the task of teaching one of Ulysses' adventures to the class in a creative way. Students will be learning about mythology in language arts, ultimately writing a research paper on a mythological figure.

Seventh grade science students are finishing up a research project on an animal of their choice as part of our Life Processes unit. We are moving on to Classification to learn why scientists organize living things into groups.

Seventh grade math classes are exploring ratios and proportions and will then extend that unit to percents. They will investigate the uses of percents and learn methods for solving problems involving percents. They are using technology for practice and re-enforcement. Seventh grade Pre-algebra classes are starting to work with variables, algebraic expressions and properties and will move into the study of the set of integers, their uses and ways to compute with them. Algebraic expressions and properties will then be applied to integers. Seventh grade algebra will complete methods of solving multi-step equations, writing multi-step equations and solving equations with absolute value.

In 7th grade Social Studies, we are beginning our in-depth study of the ancient Greek culture, starting with a brief study of the Bronze Age Minoans and Mycenaeans. We will then study the Greek city-state, with emphasis on a comparison of Athens and Sparta, as well as the Persian Wars and Peloponnesian War. Following that, students will research different parts of the classical culture of Greece, such as the Olympics, theater, architecture, science, introduction of democracy, etc. During this unit, students will also be studying Greek Mythology and *The Odyssey* in Language Arts and Reading. 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.

## World Language

Spanish: Spanish students are learning vocabulary about families and activities that families do together. They are also studying vocabulary pertaining to foods. The students will be incorporating these concepts into a digital portfolio.

French: The French students are continuing to review material before going on to new information. They soon will complete the review of vocabulary regarding time, seasons and weather expressions. In a culmination of the review, the students will be presenting topics of grammar to their classmates. A group of 2 to 3 students will plan and prepare a 10-15 minute lesson to the rest of the class. This "lesson" will check the students' understanding of various grammatical concepts.

## Yearbook Club

Yearbook Club is looking for more members/ photographers! Help make the 2011 yearbook be the best ever! We need lots of photos of school activities. To join Yearbook Club pick up a permission slip in the foyer racks or see Mrs. Rawley to submit your photos to the yearbook! First meeting will be October 20th after school.

## Sports News

Don't forget Fall Sports Recognition Night will be held on Monday Nov. 1st. It will be held in the WMS gym starting at 6:30p.m. Great opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of all our fall athletes. Also, basketball and cheerleading tryouts start Monday Nov. 1st. Girls tryouts will be held from 2:30-4:00 and the boys will tryout from 4:00-5:30. All tryouts will be in the WMS gym. Cheerleading tryouts will be held from 3:00-5:00 in the Center School Cafe. Athletes will be bused down to Center School and you should pick them up there. Check the Athletics page on the school website for more information and schedules.

## Sixth Grade News

The first month of school has flown by for our sixth grade. Getting adjusted to lockers, rotating schedules, and multiple teachers in different locations can be tricky. Everyone is settling nicely into a routine. We all enjoyed the 6th grade only dance on September 24th. A special thanks to our M2M mentors, teacher chaperones and PTA volunteers for their help beforehand too!

All students have been hard at work in the content areas. Science classes are completing their study of ecosystems. Students may have used Explore Learning Gizmos for the first time. Learning through these interactive lessons is exciting for all and we look forward to providing these activities throughout the school year.

Social Studies classes are working on their study of Canada. There are many chances for students to review material and practice for quizzes and test online through each teacher's Moodle site.

Math classes are working hard to complete their Prime Time Unit of Factors and Multiples. This will conclude before camp and we will head into Bits and Pieces 1 upon our return.

Language Arts and Reading Classes have worked on plot diagrams through several short stories. Students are submitting weekly reading logs with questions about their independent reading based on topics that support classroom work. Animal research has just begun to give students an introduction to the writing of research papers.

As a whole, we are preparing for our trip to Camp Bournedale on October 25th through the 29th. Students will be making request for cabin mates this week and learning more about the course offerings at camp. We will begin pre-camp journal activities the week of October 17th in classes. Students will have a good chance to preview requirements during that time as well.



Pelham and Windham parents are invited to attend an informational workshop on

# STUDY SKILLS

OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2010 FROM 6-7PM

Windham High School



*"Students who organize their time well and have good test-taking skills achieve higher grades and perform at higher levels on standardized tests. Those with effective study habits plan and control their learning, think and inquire about the subjects they are learning, and reflect and self-evaluate their learning" (Cancio, West & Youth, 2004).*



**Presented by Lauren Ricci, M.S.**  
*Nationally Certified School Psychologist*



This workshop will review the emotional and cognitive components underlying study skills, as well as introduce specific study skills, to help you help your child

## Topics will include:

- \* Homework completion
- \* Motivation
- \* Executive functioning
- \* Emotional factors in studying/achievement
- \* Resources available to students and parents
- \* Specific study techniques for academic areas
- \* What to do when your child is struggling
- \* How you can help your child study and improve their academic performance

*This workshop is designed for parents of middle and high school students, however all parents are welcome.*

**PLEASE RSVP TO LAUREN RICCI**

Email: [lricci@windhamsd.org](mailto:lricci@windhamsd.org) or by phone at 537-2400, x7224