



SAU 28

Windham Middle School

Windham Middle School

Daniel Moulis, Principal
Brenda Morrow, Assistant Principal

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October 2011

Principals' Corner

Welcome back to another school year! We hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. Brenda and I have been working hard to prepare for the 2011-12 school year. The summer months in our school building are too quiet without the buzz of middle school students swarming the halls. We are happy to welcome them back.

Our school focus this year is literacy. Our teachers are incorporating reading strategies across all discipline areas. We are all teachers of literacy who will be focusing on reading comprehension, extracting information from all types of text and instilling a love for knowledge. The Reading/Language Arts teachers are incorporating the "Reading Zone," created by Nancie Atwell, a program that develops and encourages students to read books of interest and emphasizes the love, as well as, the importance of reading. Students and teachers will be actively involved in book talks and conferences. We encourage parents to have conversations with their child(ren) about what they are reading and to encourage the application of reading strategies.

With the turning of the leaves, the testing season is upon us with NECAP testing beginning on October 4th. Over the course of September, we have provided our students with test taking strategies and as a school, we strive to improve our students NECAP test scores every year. Please emphasize with your student(s) the importance of putting forth their best effort on these tests.

As always we appreciate your support of Windham Middle School and we wish everyone a wonderful school year.

Dan Moulis, Principal
Brenda Morrow, Assistant Principal

Important Dates

Please continue to check the school calendar for changes:

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

- 9/30 Progress Reports go home
- 10/3 7th Grade Camp Lincoln Field Trip
- 10/4 to 10/14 NECAP Testing
- 10/5 7th Grade Camp Lincoln Field Trip
- 10/7 Early Release Day
- 10/10 No School — Columbus Day
- 10/11 7th Grade Camp Lincoln Field Trip
- 10/14 School Dance 7-9
- 10/17 Cyberbullying Assembly
- 10/24 8th Grade Salem, MA Field Trip
- 10/24 to 10/28 Camp Bournedale Gr. 6
- 11/2 Family Reading Night 6:30 to 7:30
- 11/4 End of Q1 Marking Period
- 11/4 School Dance 7-9
- 11/17 Dance Troupe (Internet Safety)

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We're on the web:
<http://www.windhamsd.org>

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Guidance News

M₂M

M₂M is off to a great start. We held our training during Advisory and had over 80 students trained and they are excited to start the new school year. We have a lot of new topics and fresh ideas for M₂M. The first M₂M connection will be September 28th.

The next M₂M training is on October 18th and our connection will be on Thursday, October 19th- please wear your shirts.

New Student Orientation

We were very excited to welcome over 15 new

students this year. We held a new student orientation over the summer and received very positive feedback from the parents and students.

Guidance

Guidance offers a variety of programs throughout the school year. Some of the programs that are offered are: Social Skills Training, Grief/Divorce Groups, Peer Assistants, Peer Mediators, Peer Helpers, Resources for tutoring, community involvement etc. We provide classroom presentations on Peer Relationships, Peer Conflict Resolutions, Bullying, Friend-

ships, Drug Prevention and various other middle school appropriate topics.

Advisory

We are very pleased to once again have Advisory on your student's schedule. Advisory will take place from 10:40-11:00 Tues-Friday and the entire school will be participating. Students will be in homerooms for Advisory this year. There will be two staff members in each Advisory. The goal of Advisory is to make meaningful connections between students and staff.



"We were very excited to welcome over 15 new students this year." reported the Guidance Department.

Sixth Grade News

The sixth graders are settling into middle school mode. Schedules, lockers and getting from A to B are becoming easier each day!

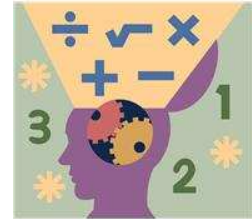
Science classes are learning about ecology and anticipating the various ecosystems found at Camp Bournedale.

Grade 6 students in Social Studies classes have just finished up reviewing information about the United States and the five themes of Geography and will now be embarking on a quest for knowledge about our neighbor to the north...CANADA. Students also have begun their investigation into current events, selecting an article from a newspaper or magazine or a news event from TV, radio, or the Internet. They extract the "who, when, where, what, and why" factors from the chosen article and compose a paragraph detailing the event in their own words as part of the emphasis for Literacy across the curriculum. (Continued on next page)



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Sixth Grade (Continued) In 6th grade math we are wrapping up the factoring unit! Students are breezing through number theory, learning some of the most fundamental aspects of mathematics. We will continue to practice finding factors, multiples, and prime/composite numbers and learning about their applications in higher math. Soon we will move into fraction operations and see what "real-life" situations we can apply them to. In 6th grade Pre-Algebra we are wrapping up the probability unit and eagerly moving into statistics and data analysis.



Seventh Grade News

Seventh grade math has completed the unit on Probability. We will extend the concept of equivalent fractions to proportions as we work on ratios, proportions and percents. Students will use proportions to solve word problems involving percents. Seventh grade Pre-Algebra has completed their unit on Probability. Next, students will use proper-

ties to simplify algebraic expressions; students will both create and simplify algebraic expressions. Students will perform all operations with Integers including applying order of operations and evaluating algebraic expressions. Algebra students have concluded review of Pre-Algebra and will work on applying algebra to ratio, proportion and percent problems and

solving equations with more than 1 variable.

Seventh grade science students are off to a great start in life science! We have followed the scientific method in a few labs and activities and students are working hard on their first project, an informational poster of an animal to help visitors to a zoo learn about the animal.

“Seventh Grade students are off to a great start in life science!”

Eighth Grade News

Just as a reminder to parents, there is a meeting at the middle school on Thursday, October 6th for Washington, D.C. In academic news, students in Social Studies have wrapped up units on the enlightenment and lead up to the Revolutionary War

and will be heading into the Revolutionary War beginning in October. In ILS the students are finishing their Virtual Vacation project and we plan to start the typing tutorial soon. Geometry students are wrapping up Chapter 1 Tools for Ge-

ometry, and testing on Friday and then launching Chapter 2 Reasoning and Proof. Science students are wrapping up the scientific method and the tools for writing good lab reports and getting ready to launch a chemistry unit. (Continued on next



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"Don't forget to check Moodle!"

Eighth Grade (continued) Pre-algebra students are working on experimental and theoretical probability. Student in Algebra have completed an introduction to expressions, equations and functions. They will be concentrating on solving various equations to find the value of the variable in Chapter 2. Please make sure to download the online Algebra book using the Glencoe Support Materials link in MOODLE and the teacher provided redemption code.

Art Department News

Where has September gone? The past few weeks have been full of projects and experiences. All grades continue to develop their skills and confidence as we experiment with a variety of media. Our classroom projects include using paints, pastels, pen and ink, printmaking, collage, and clay. During the course of this year, we would like our students to use their talents to participate in one or two community projects. Doing things like this gives them the chance to do something for someone else, gain an understanding of applied art, and develop our skills at the same time. At this time we are still toying with a few different ideas, and they will be introduced at a later time. As a general rule of thumb we are always open to contributions to the art room such as: magazines, containers, etc. You can drop them off at the main office. If you have any questions please refer to Mrs. Mercier's or Mrs. Crimmin's Moodle sites. As always, feel free to email or call.



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Media Center News

The Media Center has been a busy place since the first day of school! Students are coming in every day to find new books to make sure that they always have a book available for the Reading Zone. Over 1,000 books have been checked out so far! There have been more than 50 students who have already checked out 5 books or

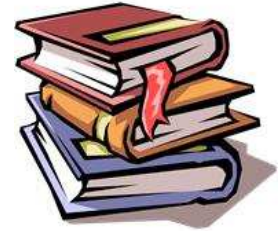
more. Keep up the amazing reading!

Students are adding book reviews to poster paper in the library. This is an excellent way to help their schoolmates find a new book to read. Check it out the next time you're in the library!

Take a look at the Library Media Center Moodle Page for instructions on

how to search the Destiny Library Catalog for library books from home. Students are able to put books on hold, and pick them up the next day!

Parents, feel free to join your children in the "zone." Grab a good book and sit down to read while your children are reading... Fun for the whole family!



"Over 1,000 books were checked out of the Media Center in the month of September! Keep up the great reading!"

Music Department News

SELECT CHORUS: Congratulations to the 28 students who have been chosen to participate in Select Chorus this year. We have begun our morning rehearsals and look forward to a great year.

JAZZ BAND: Congratulations to all who auditioned. The list of those chosen for the ensemble is posted outside the band room.

HONORS BAND: Auditions are taking place during regular band class this week. The list for this group will be posted outside the band room when all students have had the chance to audition.

Please contact either Mrs. Cuneo (chorus-55222) or Miss Noyes (band-55346) for any questions regarding the performing ensembles this year.



**EARTH SHUTTLE
SPRING 2012
EDUCATIONAL TRIP**

The Windham Middle School Earth Shuttle Program invites 7th and 8th grade students each year to participate in an educational trip to Florida.

Students who are interested in this experiential learning beyond the classroom have to meet academic and behavioral criteria.

Earth Shuttle

It's not too late to sign up for Earth Shuttle!

Earth Shuttle is an educational program for students interested in learning outside the classroom. Students take notes in all educational programs to use in writing a report when they return.

This year's itinerary includes:

- **Sea World:** "Saving Our Seas" an up close and personal behind the scenes look at animals being rehabilitated so they can be released back into their natural habitat.
- **Fort DeSoto State Park** -Participate in a dissection and kayak around mangroves in search of exotic plants and animals. Snorkeling, dip netting and beach study.
- **MOSI- Museum of Science and Industry:** Participate in a simulated space mission in the Challenger Learning Center. Create a comet using common household materials.
- **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.

Discovery Cove - "Dolphin & Coral Reef Experience"

Students may register for the 2012 trip by picking up a registration form from Mrs. Pierpont or Miss Corbin. You may also register online at www.worldstrides.org using the trip ID# 69011. Cost of this year's trip: Student \$2,282.00 Adult \$2,396.00



NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



OPEN HOUSE

@

THE WINDHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 8TH, 2011

12 noon to 4:00 Pm



List of some of the Events and Demonstrations

Jr. Firefighters Challenge – (ages 6-10)

S.O.U – Bear cat Unit

NH E 9-1-1

Liberty Mutual Insurance – Safety Informational Table

Fire Extinguisher Training – Live Fire Demonstrations

NH Division of Forestry and Lands – Information and Truck Display

Southeastern NH Regional Hazmat Communications Unit

Tours of the Fire Station and Apparatus

Annual Chili Cook off

Hot dogs, soda, snacks sold by the Windham Fire Association

Balloons, Informational pamphlets, smoke detector information and much more!