

# SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

STEPHEN PLOCHARCZYK  
*Principal*

KORI ALICE BECHT  
*Assistant Principal*



## Windham Middle School

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

SCHOOL NURSE & SAFETY PHONE  
893-0434

SCHOOL COUNSELORS  
893-2636



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

September 4—No School—Labor Day  
September 11—Magazine Drive Kick Off  
September 12—Eighth Grade Washington Meeting 7:00 PM  
September 13—Earth Shuttle Meeting 7:30 PM  
September 14—Grade 6 Math Informational Meeting 7 PM  
September 15—Dance 7-9 PM  
September 18—M<sub>2</sub>M Connection –Executive Meeting 7:00 AM  
September 20—Camp Bournedale Information Meeting 6:00 PM  
September 20—Open House 7—9 PM  
September 22—Early Release 11:15 AM  
October 4 — Picture Day  
October 6 — No School—Teacher Workshop

## SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

The seventh grade team would like to welcome all our new students and parents. We look forward to working with all of you to create the best educational experience for our students. Passwords for PowerSchool will be distributed at our Open House on September 20 and we encourage parents to monitor their child's grades through the parent portal. If you have any questions, concerns or comments about your child's progress or behavior please give us a call at school. Your children have brought home numerous forms this week and we appreciate your cooperation in returning them in a timely manner.

Seventh grade science classes will be walking the nature trail the week of September 4th and using technology (handhelds) to photograph interesting specimens they observe on the trail. The students will then write a descriptive paragraph about their photographs.

## POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL

Passwords for PowerSchool will be distributed September 20th during Open House.

## 6TH GRADE NEWS

Welcome to Windham Middle School, Grade 6 students !!! So much lies ahead for you this year. Exciting units, new teachers, field trips, and of course our yearly excursion to Camp Bournedale. We also welcome two new teachers: Mrs. O'Neil and Mr. Kingsley. Both teachers have worked at Middle School in different capacities and we are excited to have them join the 6th grade staff.

Grade 6 has a new Math program, Connected Math, and we will sponsor an informational evening for parents September 14th at 7PM. Also, there will be a Camp Bournedale informational meeting for parents @ 6 PM in the WMS cafeteria on September 20th. Open House is the same night, beginning @ 7PM.

## Earth Shuttle News

There will be an informational and registration meeting for the 7th and 8th grade Earth Shuttle program on Wednesday, September 13th in the cafe at 7:30 PM. Please join us to sign up or just learn more about the program.

## M<sub>2</sub>M Summer Training

What dedicated Mentors we have! Over 60 students gave up a day over summer vacation to learn what it takes to be a mentor. Students participated in team building activities and learned about classroom management, how to be good listeners, and develop skills to help others. Students used a "web" to show how they have received support in the past and how they can show support to their "mentees".

Our first M2M monthly meeting will be on September 18<sup>th</sup> and the Theme will be Making Connections. The Executive Committee will meet at 7:00 AM on the 18th.

## **Eighth Grade News**

Welcome back everyone. It is hard to believe summer is over, but we look forward to an exciting eighth grade year. We welcome two new staff members: Ms. Graham, teaching Social Studies, and Mr. Chaput, teaching Math and ILS.

To begin the year in 8th grade mathematics, each student will create a hexahedron. This hexahedron will present an opportunity for each student to introduce him/herself, get to know his/her classmates, and focus on some great mathematics! After that, Pre-Algebra students will dive into a unit on variables and patterns, while Algebra students will test their visual strengths by connecting algebraic expressions to pictures.

Be sure to note Washington DC and Earth Shuttle meetings, as we prepare for spring field trips. Also, don't forget the first dance, September 15, which is sponsored by 8th grade.

## **Enrichment News**

Welcome back to a new school year. I am especially looking forward to meeting all the new 6th graders, and new students to our school. Using the Palm Zire 71s, laptops, and other technologies, I am excited to begin curriculum related projects. Eighth graders will soon begin the Boston Globe sponsored Stock Market Game, so any advice from parents and friends will be helpful in the near future.

## **Media Center**

Students who visit the Media Center with their Language Arts class are being shown how to use the upgraded online library card catalog. The new program is called Destiny. It can be accessed from school or home simply by going to

<http://destiny.windhamsd.org>

Users can search for books at any or all of the schools in town. New features include Titlepeek, which gives the students access to a database of information about books in the collection, and a program that will show students the lexile levels of most of the books. These additions will help students make appropriate reading choices.

## **World Languages**

The World Language team welcomes its new 6th graders to Windham Middle School and welcomes back its 7th and 8th graders. All of us look forward to a wonderful year as we explore and develop new skills, and broaden the understanding of other cultures in a new language.

## **Art News**

Welcome back everyone! I hope you have a great first few days of school! Don't forget to look online @ [www.teacherweb.com](http://www.teacherweb.com) to see all of your teachers' information, and read about the homework you forgot to write down!

Upcoming events: An after school program for those who may be interested in learning how to knit is in the planning stages. Keep your eyes and ears open for information and sign-ups.

Mrs. Mercier ;-)



## **SELECT CHORUS AUDITIONS SEPTEMBER 13, 14 & 15**

All students who are interested in auditioning for Select Chorus must pick up a letter of permission in room 124 or download one from Mrs. Cuneo's webpage. Permission forms must be returned before signing up for an audition time slot. Audition requirements and can also be found on Mrs. Cuneo's teacherweb page.

## **JAZZ BAND AUDITIONS SEPTEMBER 11, 12, & 13**

Please see Mr. Cassedy to get a permission to audition slip before signing up for your audition time. All students are encouraged to audition. Pianists and guitarists are also greatly needed!

## **Physical Education News**

We are continuing the revised schedule that provides students with PE class everyday, for two quarters. It has allowed the PE staff to meet with students for more class periods than the old schedule allowed. This is exciting, as we were able to extend some units and add new ones. The only drawback is that each student has two quarters during which they do not have physical activity built into their daily schedule.

With this in mind, we ask the parents to support their children's need for activity on a regular basis. If your child does not desire to be on a team, there are so many other activities that are healthy and beneficial. We try to incorporate individual and recreational activities into our program. Won't you be sure to encourage activity at home, also?

Last year, we brought back orienteering. This involves walking in the woods and around the facility, using a map and/or compass to follow directions. If you have a GPS system, you can get involved in Geocaching. It is a lot of fun to go to various places with your GPS and find things that have been left behind by others and leave a trinket of your own for the next person. There are many web sites on the internet to guide you through this wonderful outdoor activity for people of all ages and abilities. ([www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com))

Karate is new to our program. We had two days of Karate in Middle School and the students at Center School did as well. Now, we can review and add more skills. If this becomes something that your child enjoys, look into having your child take regular lessons. It is great for their health, emotional well being and improves focus and attention to their lives.

Tennis Club is a great way to get out on the court and find out if you like tennis. We play Ping Pong and Badminton in PE classes. They have similarities as they are net and racquet sports. However, without courts, we cannot offer tennis in class. So, get out on Wednesdays in the Fall and Spring and serve it up with your friends. See the daily bulletin for details.