

SEPTEMBER 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, you can link to all of the Windham Schools.

Important Dates

September 3—No School—Labor Day
September 10—Magazine Drive Kick Off
September 12—Earth Shuttle Meeting 7:30 PM
September 13—M₂M Connection –Executive Meeting 7:00 AM
September 14—School Dance 7-9 PM
September 19—Camp Bournedale Informational Meeting 6:00 PM
September 19—Open House 7—9 PM
September 21—Early Release 11:15 AM
September 28—6th Grade Only Dance 7-9 PM
October 5 — Picture Day
October 5 — Midterm Reports

WINDHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL WELCOMES....

Mrs. Becht, former student, teacher and assistant principal, joins us as our new principal. Mr. Moulis, a New Hampshire native returning from Connecticut, is our new assistant principal. We also welcome several new staff members. Mrs. Morrow, a WMS 8th grade teacher for several years, returns from Maryland to the 7th grade team as a social studies teacher. Mrs. Hanlon joins us as the 8th grade Special Education teacher, Mrs. Hope is our new Reading Specialist and Mrs. Ginnetti is our new 6th grade Special Education teacher. Also, for the first time, we have two art teachers and welcome Miss Ells to the new position.

POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL

Passwords for PowerSchool will be distributed September 19th 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.

Remember there will be a Camp Bournedale informational meeting for parents at 6 PM in the WMS cafeteria on September 19th. Open House is the same night, beginning at 7PM. We are also sponsoring a 6th grade only dance on September 28th from 7-9 PM.

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 19th 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.

All seventh grade students will be using the Connected Math 2 program this year. Ms Beaver and Mrs. Merchant are excited and eager to start the investigations with their students. Students will be expected to maintain an organized notebook for each topic; an outline for the notebook is available on their teacherwebs.

Students are encouraged to ask questions and seek extra help whenever they need it.

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

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Welcome back everyone. It is hard to believe summer is over, but we look forward to an exciting eighth grade year.

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! We are starting a new curriculum this year called Connected Mathematics 2 (CMP2). This curriculum began in grade 6 last year and we are very excited to be using it in both seventh and eighth grades this year. If you have questions or concerns about the concepts of the units, we will discuss the curriculum at Open House. After the hexahedron, the Pre-Algebra students will dive into a CMP 2 unit called "What Do You Expect?" on probability, while Algebra students will begin a unit entitled "Moving Straight Ahead" which studies linear relationships.

Social Studies classes will begin their study of America with its birth in 1776. The students will also be learning about citizenship and rights. Please start saving newspapers for a project on the Bill of Rights in the news.

Don't forget the first dance, September 14, which is sponsored by 8th grade.



EARTH SHUTTLE NEWS

There will be an informational and registration meeting for the 7th and 8th grade Earth Shuttle program on Wednesday, September 12th in the cafe at 7:30 PM. Please join us to sign up or just learn more about the program.

M2M SUMMER TRAINING

M2M is off to a great start. We held our annual summer training in August and had over 70 students trained and they are excited to start the new school year. We have a lot of new topics and fresh ideas for the Mentoring Program. The theme of this year's mentoring program is Acceptance. We will be tying Rachel's Challenge into all our trainings this year. We are continuing to challenge each and every one of our students and staff to embrace Rachel's challenges: Eliminate Prejudice, Dare to Dream, Choose your influences, Use Kind Words, and Start a Chain Reaction. We are very excited about introducing those challenges to our 6th graders.

If any parent is interested in helping out with the M2M program this year please contact Julie Lichtmann, M2M Advisor.

The next M2M training is **September 13th** and our theme will be Making Connections. Please note the updated meeting notices and check out M2M news on our website (a link from Guidance.)

GUIDANCE

We were very excited to welcome over 20 new students this year. We held a new student orientation over the summer and received very positive feedback from the parents and students.

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

Looking ahead: NECAP Testing will begin on Wednesday, October 10th.

YEARBOOK

Anyone interested in joining the Yearbook committee should get a permission slip in the foyer. Meetings will be held once a month from 2:15-3:00. The first meeting will be on Thursday, September 13th.

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 handhelds, 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.

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.

SELECT CHORUS AUDITIONS

SEPTEMBER 10, 11 AND 12.

Anyone who is interested in auditioning for Select Chorus this year should see Mrs. Cuneo in room 124 to sign up and to pick up a letter of permission. Permission forms must be handed in at the time of your audition. Those without parent permission will not be allowed to audition. Come prepared to sing any song of your choice without accompaniment. Basic sight reading will be a part of the audition as well. Students who were in Select Chorus last year **MUST** audition again as placement is not guaranteed from year to year. Questions? - Contact Mrs. Cuneo in room 124.

WINDHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

Welcome back to another exciting year! The band program has undergone many great changes this year including a brand new tiled floor! We will also be having a band parent informational meeting during the WMS Open House on Sept. 19, 2007 from 8:30-9:00pm to discuss a few changes in the program and to answer any questions. This meeting is for all band parents grades six through eight. Jazz band auditions will take place on Monday, September 10 and will run through Wednesday, September 12 after school. You must fill out a permission to audition sheet before signing up for an audition time. More information on this will be discussed in band!

We're looking forward to a fantastic year of making wonderful music! I wish you all the best for a great school year!