

# SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

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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.

### **Important Dates**

- September 3 —M<sub>2</sub>M Connection**
- September 8—Magazine Drive Kick Off**
- September 9—NWEA Testing Begins**
- September 10—Washington DC Informational Meeting 6:30 PM**
- September 11—Earth Shuttle Informational Meeting 7:30 PM**
- September 12—School Dance 7-9 PM**
- September 18—Camp Bournedale Informational Meeting 6:00 PM**
- September 18—Open House 7—9 PM**
- October 3 — Picture Day**
- October 3 — Midterm Reports**

### **POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL**

Passwords for PowerSchool will be distributed September 18th during Open House.

### **6TH GRADE NEWS**

New classes, new teachers, a new schedule, along with many new opportunities await Grade 6 students as their journey through their years at Windham Middle School has just begun. For Grade 6 students at Windham Middle School, the beginning of the school year is as exciting as it is challenging. Boys and girls in the sixth grade are learning the ins and outs of being in a new school building. The excitement of having their own lockers brings the challenge of remembering the procedure to open their assigned locks. Smiling faces are found in the hallways as students make their way to classes without having to be walked in lines from one place to another. Even though challenge of an earlier start time can be difficult at times, the upside is that dismissal is at 2:15 pm. Grade 6 students have much to look forward to during the current year, especially with our trip to Camp Bournedale just around the corner at the end of October.

### **WORLD LANGUAGE**

Welcome French and Spanish students to another year of learning a new language. Learning a new language is exciting and fun. We hope you will take full advantage of all of this year's learning activities, projects and opportunities to use your newly learned language skills not only in the classroom but also in your everyday life outside the classroom.

### **EARTH SHUTTLE**

There will be an informational/registration meeting for the 2009 Earth Shuttle trip on Thursday, September 11th, at 7:30PM in the cafe. This is an exciting experiential learning trip offered to 7th and 8th grade students. The trip is May 4th-8th, 2009. Please join us to learn more about the trip.

### **SEVENTH GRADE NEWS**

The seventh grade team welcomes three new teachers: Mrs. St.Onge and Miss Crawford, both teaching reading and language arts, and Mr. Buckley, teaching math and social studies.

In reading, students will be working on the unit, "What Hue Are You?" They will be reading short stories, vignettes, and poems exploring different aspects of identity. After exploring and analyzing the literature together, students will be completing rough draft short writing pieces focused on their own identities. The culminating activity of the unit will be to take one of their narratives to final draft form in language arts class. Students will be reading an individual novel during this time. They

will be expected to complete weekly reading logs and will write a book report at the end of September based on their individual novel.

Language arts class is off to a great start. Seventh graders have a couple of new programs to get used to this year. The Classical Roots vocabulary program will be introduced this month, along with a new writing program called Write Source. We are looking forward to an exciting, productive year!

Science students walked the Irene Blenis trail to photograph two living specimens. Using Palm Zire 71 handhelds, students took photographs and beamed them to printers. They will write an essay describing, comparing and contrasting the specimens.

Social Studies is getting underway nicely. Students are learning about all the many facets of Social Studies, such as Archaeology and Psychology, in addition to Geography and History. We will soon be taking a very brief trip through some of the earliest civilizations to prepare us for a major unit on Ancient Greece. This will be a detailed study of all parts of that culture: Athenian democracy; contributions in art, architecture, theater, and literature; important battles; the early Olympics; and others. We hope to help students discover the impact that the ancient Greeks still have on our lives today.

The first unit in math is probability. A hand-out for parents describing the unit goals and important concepts should be coming home soon. We look forward to another great school year.



## **EIGHTH GRADE NEWS**

It is hard to believe summer is over, but we look forward to an exciting eighth grade year. We welcome Miss Roy to our team, teaching reading and Language arts

Mrs. McKenna and Mr. Hayward would like to welcome everyone back to school! We are looking forward to a great year of American history. Our study will begin with a brief review of the American Revolution and Declaration of Independence before we move onto discussing the formation of our government. We will also be looking at citizenship and the rights of citizens. We would like to ask families to please save newspapers or news magazines for an upcoming project on the Bill of Rights. We wish everyone a great 8<sup>th</sup> grade year!

Science students will start off the year with a review of the metric system and graphing. Then students will begin to investigate the world of Chemistry.

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 12, 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 handhelds, laptops, and other technologies, I am excited to begin curriculum related projects. The year starts off with a 7th grade science project with students photographing specimens on the Irene Blenis trail.

## **TENNIS CLUB**

Tennis anyone?? Beginning Sept.9th and continuing until Oct.28th, WMS Tennis Club will meet after school each Tuesday at Griffin Park from 3 - 4:30. Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from the court and need a tennis racket and can of balls. Fill out a permission slip and health form (on rack in foyer) and return it to Tennis Club Advisors, Mrs.Rawley or Mrs. Lichtmann. See you on the courts!

## **YEARBOOKS 2008-09**

We are happy to announce that the new Yearbooks will be in full color! The cost of the new book will be \$25.00 if ordered before December 31<sup>st</sup>. Please watch for Yearbook order forms to come home soon.

## **GUIDANCE NEWS**

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.

## **MM**

M<sub>2</sub>M 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 M<sub>2</sub>M. Mentors will make connections with 6<sup>th</sup> graders on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION**

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.

## **BULLYING PRESENTATION**

John Halligan will be presenting "Ryan's Story" on September 22<sup>nd</sup> to all the Windham Middle School students. The assembly will begin at 8am.

## **ADVISORY**

We are very pleased to announce that WMS has added an Advisory program. Advisory will take place from 10:40-11:00 daily and the entire school will be participating. Every staff member will have a group of approximately 12 students. The Advisory program is centered around the idea of making staff and student connections that promote a positive school climate and culture.

## **SELECT CHORUS AUDITIONS**

### **SEPTEMBER 8-10**

Auditions for Select Chorus will be held Sept. 8-10. Those who wish to try-out must sign up in room 124. Letters of permission and audition requirements can be picked up outside room 124 and room 222. Students who were in the group last year must re-audition this year.

Anyone who has other questions should see Mrs. Cuneo in room 124.

## **WINDHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND**

Welcome back WMS band students! It's going to be a very exciting year!

Following are the dates for some of the upcoming audition days and rehearsal times. If you have any questions, please speak with or e-mail Mr. Cassidy directly.

Jazz Band Auditions: Sept. 8 - Sept. 12

First Jazz Band Rehearsal: Sept. 16, 6:45-7:30am

First Violin Rehearsal: Sept. 15, 2:15-3:15pm

First Honors Band Rehearsal: Sept. 15, 6:45-7:30am

WMS Drama Club: Musical Informational Meetings -  
Sept. 24 and Sept. 25 2:15pm

## **MEDIA CENTER NEWS**

We are happy to introduce our new Media Assistant, Julie George. She is taking over the position that Norma Plaza held for nine years.

We have had a busy start to this school year in the Media Center. All students at WMS have visited the Media Center for a brief orientation and to check out at least one book to be reading over the next few weeks.

This year, students will be able to come to the Media Center between 7:15 and 7:30 AM rather than attend bus recess. There will be a small selection of breakfast items (juice boxes, bagels, etc.) students can purchase if they desire. Students also may bring their lunch to eat in the Media Center. They will need to get a pass from Mrs. Greenleaf or Mrs. George on days they are interested on coming up. There will be times during the year when these extra opportunities to visit the Media Center are not available. NWEA testing, which begins Sept. 9, is one of those times. Students will have a week to try out breakfast or lunch, and then testing will take over for four weeks.

## **PTA**

Windham Middle School staff would like to thank the PTA for a delicious breakfast on Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, our first workshop day. It was a perfect way to start the new year. We encourage all staff and families to join PTA.