



Windham Middle School Newsletter

Windham Middle School
112A Lowell Road
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April 2011



Daniel Moulis, Principal
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Principals' Corner



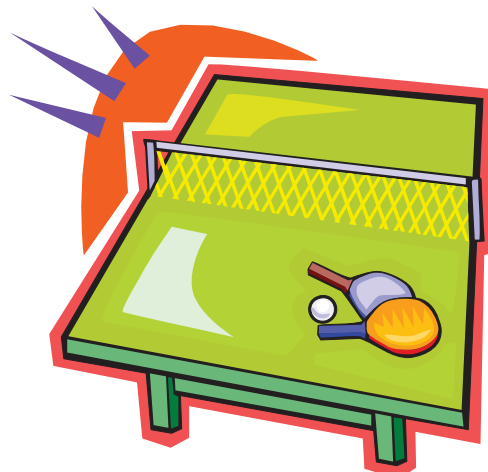
Dear Windham Middle School Community,
We would like to congratulate our drama club for three wonderful performances of *Dear Edwina, Jr.* and send a special thank you to Ms. Sarah Elliot for directing. It was a great show.

As we welcome in spring there are a few important notes and dates to mention. Please note that third quarter ends Friday, April 1st and report cards will be going home on April 8th. As the weather gets warmer, please be mindful of the dress code policy highlighted in the student handbook. Lastly, we would like to thank the PTA for sponsoring a Ping Pong night; it was a fun and successful evening. We hope to do more of these events in the future.

We greatly appreciate parents' feedback and suggestions. Thank you for your response to the parent survey regarding the Eighth Grade Graduation. We appreciate your thoughts and suggestions regarding the future for our students here at Windham Middle School.


Have a wonderful Spring Break! Enjoy some time with family and friends.

Sincerely,
Dan Moulis and
Brenda Morrow



Coming Events

- March 30 Mandatory Parent Meeting for Washington DC trip 7 PM**
- April 1 End of quarter 3 marking period**
- April 8 School Dance 7-9 PM**
- April 11 Report cards go home**
- April 11–15 WMS Book Fair**
- April 13 Parent Conferences 3–5 PM**
- April 13 Earth Shuttle Meeting 6:30 PM**
- April 14 Parent Conferences 3–9 PM**
- April 20 Spring Chorus Concert 7 PM**
- April 21 Spring Band Concert 7 PM**
- April 25–29 Spring Break**
- May 2–6 Earth Shuttle Trip**
- May 2–6 Washington DC Trip Grade 8**



Guidance News

The theme in Advisory for March was **Fitness**. Our advisories have been busy learning creative ways to stay fit and eat healthy.

April is transition month for our mentors. We will be starting our recruitment for next years' mentors. Please obtain an application from one of the M2M Advisors. All completed applications are due by April 22nd.

M₂M Dance

M2M will host the monthly dance on Friday, April 8th from 7–9 PM.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Any parent interested in meeting with their child's Guidance Counselor during Parent/Teacher conferences please sign up with PTC Wizard.

Yearbooks

April will be the last month to order Yearbooks. Please see Mrs. Lichtmann or Mrs. Rawley to order your 2011 Yearbook. Yearbooks will be available for sale during the conferences. All orders should be in by April 22nd. Checks can be made out to Windham Middle School for \$25.00. There are still a lot of 8th grade students who have not purchased their yearbooks yet. We will have a limited supply available for purchase the night of yearbook signing.

The weather is starting to get better and what a great time to offer alternatives for watching TV. Watching too much TV can have negative effects on your child's learning. Instead of turning on the TV why don't you suggest one of the following?

Ride a bike — Read a magazine — Build a model car — Draw a picture — Walk the dog — Listen to music — Play some music — Help cook dinner — Write a letter to a friend — Enjoy the outdoors!

Sixth Grade News

6th grade math: Our exploration of shapes and polygons began with an impeccably timed Pi Day (March 14) Celebration. Students discovered the meaning of Pi by measuring the circumference and diameter of circular treats such as cookies, cakes, and... PIES! (Pictured: Harry L. measuring his treats).



(Pictured L-R Sydney M., Celine H., Klaudia K., Holly M., and Alyssa U.) Thank you to our parent volunteers for helping create a fun and educational day for our students! We will continue to study regular and irregular polygons, rotation, symmetry, area and perimeter this quarter.



They were encouraged to decorate t-shirts in spirit of the celebration—the students were very creative!

Seventh Grade News

Seventh grade science students are studying genetics. We are in the first of two chapters and are learning about how traits are passed down from parents to offspring. We will also learn about different conditions that are hereditary and how they are passed down. This is a favorite unit for many students because they can relate what we are learning to their own lives and families.

Seventh grade math will complete the unit on variables and patterns, extending algebraic expressions into open sentences and finding patterns in graphs, tables and equations. They will then explore volume and surface area of three dimensional figures. Pre-algebra will work on percents and solve problems using the percent proportion. Next they will work on solving equations with variables on both sides. Algebra will complete the unit on polynomials, performing all operations and looking for special products that will lead into factoring of polynomials.

This month is going to be tons of fun in language arts and reading! After students finish up their literature circle projects and compare/contrast essays, we will embark on our poetry unit. We will do a myriad of poetry reading and writing activities together, all of which are designed to make poetry easily accessible and enjoyable to every student. With the help of Mrs. Greenleaf, our culminating activity will be a Poetry Slam on May 10th where all of the reading/l.a. classes will join together to celebrate and share.



Medieval Day

Our annual Medieval Day was held on March 18th and was the best ever! The cafeteria was transformed into the Great Hall of Midwin Castle, where we held a traditional Medieval feast in honor of our visiting royalty, King Buckley and Queen Shirley. The banquet was attended by the lords and ladies of all the surrounding manors (home rooms) and other nobility and clergy, as well as some honored peasants.

The festivities began with the lords and ladies of the manors performing a special dance to welcome the king and queen, accompanied by our excellent musicians. This was followed by the processional in which all those in attendance could show their respect to their monarch. During the banquet, there was much wonderful entertainment for everyone's enjoyment: singing, dancing, juggling, tumbling, swordplay, and riddles, as well as a chess tournament and board games for those so inclined. There were a few instances in which the royal guards had to escort someone to the dungeon, but order was maintained. After the banquet, everyone was delighted to learn that a jousting tournament was part of the day's entertainment, a proper ending to a wonderful day.

The seventh grade team would like to thank all those who made this wonderful learning experience possible. The PTA, Windham Deli, and Abbey Food Service Group provided all the food; and the PTA volunteers worked before and during the banquet to make it a success. All songs, dances, riddles, games, etc. were authentic for the period. Mrs. Shirley trained students for all the dances; Mrs. Cuneo and Mr. Szopa worked with all our musicians; and all 7th grade advisories met as home rooms for 2 weeks prior to the banquet in order to prepare special shields, skits, poems, etc. as part of the day's entertainment. We are very grateful to our 7th grade assistant, Mrs. Furse, who worked long and tirelessly at organizing the event. We are also very appreciative to the Golden Brook teachers who brought their students up to view the opening ceremonies.

Eighth Grade News

8th grade Pre-Algebra is continuing to work on solving equations and translating algebraic phrases into equations to solve accordingly. Patterns will be the next unit of study.

In **geometry** we are wrapping up the quadrilaterals unit and preparing for the unit on proportions and similarity.

In **Science** we finished the thermal energy unit and we have moved into the study of motion.

In **Social Studies** the 8th grade would like to thank the PTA and the Windham Community Swing Band for a successful Swing Dance which was held on March 28th.

This month in social studies the students will begin a unit on the Cold War.

In **ILS** students will be starting a typing program soon.

As part of the annual WMS Curriculum Fair, the **World Language Department** sponsored their Café Rosa. The 8th grade students worked hard serving a variety of authentic Spanish and French foods to the many guests who graced the eight tables of the café. Students provided the entertainment. The WMS Jazz Band, Select Chorus, singers, a rock band and even a solo presentation of Alouette were some of the musical numbers that were presented. It was a memorable evening!



Art Club News

The art club has been hammering away making small tiles out of big ones for a 12' mosaic that will be in the WMS cafeteria. They started by hand glazing over 200 tiles. Now they are hammering and clipping the tiles into smaller pieces to create the mosaic.



Stay tuned for updated pictures after our March 28th meeting!



Physical Education Girls Locker Room follow up:

As we continue to manage our increased population in a small facility, the removal of a few shower partitions has opened up the locker room for a more workable environment. Administration is planning for new shelving units to store books and materials that students carry to and from classes that are before or after their PE class. This will also provide for book bags and other belongings, that do not fit in lockers, during after-school programs. Creating a clear walkway and changing areas will assist students to manage their personal belongings and to use the lockers for important items that should be secured with a lock.

We thank parents for reviewing, with their children, the importance of being organized in the locker rooms and using their locks to secure the lockers with their important items. When the new shelving is installed, it will be a much improved situation.

Thank you to parents and students, for your patience and cooperation.

Erin Shirley - Physical Education Teacher