

OCTOBER 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

October 4 — Picture Day
October 5 — Midterm Reports
October 6 — No School—Teacher Workshop
October 9 — No School—Columbus Day
October 18—M₂M Executives—7 AM
October 20—School Dance 7-9 PM
October 23-27—Camp Bournedale
October 23-31 - Red Ribbon Week
October 24—Yearbook Reunion Evening 6-7:30 PM
November 3—End of Marking Period
November 8 and 9 — Conferences
November 10—No School—Veteran's Day

SIXTH GRADE NEWS

Sixth Grade students are anxiously awaiting their trip to Camp Bournedale. In Science class, they have all filled out their schedules. On Tuesday, October 3rd, all students will have the opportunity to pick their elective classes for camp. Cabin mate selections will take place in homeroom on Thursday, October 5th. We will depart for Camp Bournedale on Monday, October 23rd. Please take care of any final payments or paperwork as soon as possible.

Science classes are currently studying ecosystems and food webs. This unit will culminate with a Bottle Biology project in which groups of students will create ecosystems within soda bottles and observe the interactions of the organisms.

Sixth Grade Math classes are off to a great start. All students are working on factors and multiples. Shortly, we will finish our Prime Time unit and move onto Bits and Pieces I which works mainly with relationships between fractions, decimals and percents.

Our Pre-Algebra class is filled with Mathematics enthusiasts. All students are currently plugging their way through our Geometry unit. It is great to see such an eager group of learners.

In Social Studies, students will be finishing information about geography and the world. After we return from camp, students will be studying Russia and the former republics.

Language Arts classes started their new vocabulary series, Classical Roots. In class, students are currently working on parts of speech and sentence structure. They will continue to review paragraph structure and then begin extended responses.

Our Reading classes have begun the novel HOOT. This novel is a connection to our Science unit on ecology. Students have been introduced to literary elements and reading strategies and will continue to apply and practice these concepts while reading HOOT.

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

In 7th grade Social Studies, we have just completed our unit on Prehistory and are now learning about the beginning of civilizations. We will briefly study a few of these early cultures before delving into Ancient Greece. During that unit, students will be expected to do in-depth research into a particular area of Ancient Greek culture, such as the Olympics, theater, architecture, government, etc. and share their findings with their peers. It is usually an eye-opening experience for them as they learn how much of our modern culture can be attributed to this magnificent civilization.

French

Grade 6 - Students have worked on the alphabet, greetings and numbers through the 60s. Then it is on to telling time!

Students in Grade 7 have been reviewing some of their work from last year and go into a bit more depth. Early lessons get students speaking by using familiar phrases. Once those are mastered, they will begin working with French grammar that will enable them to create French sentences of their own.

Grade 8 students are quickly moving through review lessons. It is important that students have a firm foundation on which to build their new French skills for the year.

Spanish

Sixth grade students practiced their writing and listening skills with the alphabet, colors, numbers 1 to 20 and some basic vocabulary.

After a brief review from last year, seventh grade students introduced themselves (name, nationality, age, likes and dislikes). They also worked with partners asking questions to gather basic information.

Eighth Grade News



Students in Pre-Algebra classrooms are becoming patterns experts! We are working on all different kinds of patterns so students can predict the pattern for any term number in the sequence. They are currently working on the patterns found in the letters of their names. Next, students will be looking at simplifying algebraic expressions.

Students in Algebra are working with rational numbers and rational algebraic expressions. They are also deriving complex geometric formulas using combinations of familiar area formulas.

The eighth grade LA classes are finishing up the Storytelling Unit which ends with a student video presentation of a folk tale. We will be then be moving on to a unit on the Salem witch trials, a precursor to our annual field trip to Salem Village on October 24th. The October 20th dance is sponsored by the 8th grade to help defray the cost of the buses for the for the field trip. Hope to see you all there !

News from The School Nurse

A HEALTHY MOUTH IS THE FIRST STEP TO A HEALTHY FUTURE

Children's oral health is a critical part of their overall health. The simple fact is that children can't be healthy without good oral health. Dental diseases, like tooth decay, are caused by a bacterial infection. Kids who suffer from tooth decay and other oral diseases have difficulty eating, sleeping and learning. Nationally, it is estimated that kids miss 51 million hours of school each year due to oral diseases, which may translate into poor educational outcomes and ultimately poor job performance. Kids with poor oral health are more likely to suffer significant pain, experience speech problems, and have difficulty eating, which can result in poor nutrition and a failure to thrive. This affects their ability to become the healthy productive citizens on whom New Hampshire depends. When physicians, nurses, and schools join with the dental community to identify and prevent the problem early on, thousands more babies and children can get off to a healthy start. By providing dental screening and treatment early on, thousands more babies and children will receive dental care. We can either prevent this disease now or pay later in expensive treatments and missed opportunities for children. So let's watch our mouths and use them to speak up for children's oral health. To learn what you can do, visit this website: www.watchyourmouth.org

PTA

Please consider joining the Windham PTA. The class with the most members by October 13th will win a prize and the school with the most staff members will also win a prize. Our PTA is involved in the schools in many areas including volunteering, Ice Cream Socials, Presentations, Family Dances and many other activities. Check out the PTA website: <http://www.windhampta.org/>

Band News

Thank you to all students who participated in the Rail Trail Ribbon-cutting Ceremony. It was a great success and your time and talent were greatly appreciated. 7th and 8th grade band members will be playing during half-time at the Salem High School football game on October 27, 2006. Permission and attendance slips will be going to students!

Art News

It has been a great first quarter so far! The art students are hard at work painting with watercolors and acrylics, and sculpting with paper! We will be working with clay this quarter too! Just a reminder to all that you should NOT wear good clothes to art! Especially when painting. I do have aprons, but not enough for each student. Plan accordingly. If you have been absent, check out Teacherweb.com to see what is coming up so you keep up to date. Also, if you haven't seen the flyers for:

Learning How to Knit With the KNIT-WITS

They're strewn about the school. Pick one up and sign up!
Mrs. Mercier ;-)

Guidance News

M2M

M₂M training will be held on October 18th this month
All Executives meet in the Media Center 7:00am
All M₂M members will meet in the Café 8:30-9:30
M₂M Connections will be in the 6th grade homerooms from 9:30-10:00

Stepping Stones

Visiting Nurse Association is pleased to announce Stepping Stones, a bereavement program for children and teens. This program will meet on Mondays beginning October 23rd through December 11th, from 6:00-7:30PM in Manchester. Trained facilitators will help to encourage healing by helping participants understand and express their feelings of grief. Please call WMS Guidance for more information and a registration form.

Peer Assistant Program

The Peer Assistant Program is off to another great start. The sixth graders are in the process of being trained and the 7th & 8th grade PA's are visiting Golden Brook and Center Schools.

Red Ribbon Week

October 23-31

Red Ribbon week involves over 100,000 schools and organizations throughout the U.S. The goal for RRW is to teach students to stay away from drugs and make healthy life choices. This is celebrated District wide.

Transition into 6th, 7th, & 8th grades has gone quite smoothly. If your child is having a tough time with friends, schedules, classes or any other Middle School issue please let us know. If you are not sure where to turn for information-start with you Guidance Office. We are here to help.

Yearbook Fall Sale

Show your school spirit and be a part of the Windham Middle School yearbook. The yearbook will represent all three grades. We have representatives from 6th, 7th, and 8th grade to include experiences from Camp Bournedale, Browne Center, Washington, DC to dances, sports and various candid photos.

The Yearbook Committee will be selling yearbooks during lunch on 10/11,10/12, & 10/13, 2006. Yearbooks will be \$25.00 each. We will accept cash or checks made out to Windham Middle School.

Yearbooks make great gifts. Yearbooks can be ordered directly online by going to shop.jostens.com. or coming soon link directly to Jostens through Windhamsd.org. Contact: Julie Lichtmann or Kathy Rawley for further information