

WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL
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Winchester, MA 01890 – 2853
Telephone 781-721-7020

PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ APRIL, 2013

Visit our website at www.whspfa.org

FROM THE OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL TOM GWIN

End of the Year: What a difference a year makes. At this time last year the temperatures were in the sixties and seventies and the last day of school for students was June 12. As I'm writing this, we have more snow in the forecast and the last day is June 26. I am not anticipating any more snow days. With the March 19th snow day in the books, the end of the year schedule looks like this.

Thursday, June 20: G and F block final exams
Friday, June 21: D and E block final exams
Monday, June 24: C and B block final exams
Tuesday, June 25: A block exams and make-up exams
Wednesday, June 26: Early release: mini-schedule for students
Thursday, June 27: Last day for faculty

Important Information for Seniors and Parents: There are some important dates coming up for seniors and their parents. Please get these in your calendars:

Wednesday, April 3, 8:40 am Senior Class Meeting: I will talk to seniors about the end of the year events and expectations.

Wednesday, April 24, 7:30 pm, auditorium: Senior Parents/Guardians Meeting: Ditto for parents and Guardians

Friday, May 17, 7:15 am, cafeteria: Senior Breakfast and yearbook pick up. Last regular school day for Seniors.

May 20-24: Senior Exams

Wednesday, May 29, Danversport Yacht Club, 6-11:30 pm: Senior Prom

Thursday, May 30, 6:30 pm: Senior Luau

Friday, May 31, 10:30 am, gym: Graduation Rehearsal

Friday, May 31, 12 pm, side courtyard: Senior Luncheon

Sunday, June 2, 2 pm, gym: Graduation

April's Principal Drop-in. With the change in the day for the PFA, the April Drop-in will be Tuesday April 2 from 5:30- 7pm.

PFA NEWS

From the Co-Presidents

Jody Collins Skinner and Audrey Loria

We would like to invite all parents and guardians to our April PFA meeting on Tuesday, April 2 at 7:30pm. (Note that this is a date change—the meeting was originally scheduled for Wednesday, April 3rd.) Brian Carroll, Athletic Department Director, will be our guest speaker. The focus of the meeting will be the athletic budget, the user fee and fundraising by teams and booster clubs.

We know that many of you have questions about this topic, so we hope to see many of you at the meeting. In order to help further the discussion, we have asked the school department to provide the parents with information regarding the budget. You may follow these links to the documents that we have received to date.

www.whspfa.org/clientimages/39852/athletic_department_report_2013/AthleticDepartmentBudgetTemplateFY14.pdf

www.whspfa.org/clientimages/39852/athletic_department_report_2013/AthleticDepartmentRecordsRequest.pdf

www.whspfa.org/clientimages/39852/athletic_department_report_2013/athleticsdepartmentreport.pdf

Please review and bring questions you have to the meeting along with a printed copy of the documents for reference. You may also submit questions you have, anonymous or signed, and we will give them to Mr. Carroll ahead of time. You can send them to: WHSPFA@gmail.com

Please join us on the 2nd !

CLASS NEWS

CLASS OF 2013 NEWS

Click here http://whspfa.org/clientimages/39852/miscellaneous1213/Class_of_2013_Activities.pdf for a listing of Senior activities.

CLASS OF 2014 NEWS

JUNIOR CLASS DANCE

Friday April 5th 7:30 - 9:30 at LINCOLN School

Dance contracts and tickets will be sold next week during lunches. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, April 2, 3 and 4. Tickets are \$25.00

Remember, everything we do as a class is a fundraiser! Parents, please encourage your student to attend. We have made the dance less formal and are incorporating a NEON theme.

Third Quarter is over...Come Celebrate with your friends. More details to follow next week. Any questions, please email 2014whs@gmail.com

SCHOOL NEWS

MUSIC NEWS

April Concerts

Monday, April 1, WHS Choral Concert Rehearsal (all) from 6-8:30 pm. WHS auditorium

Wednesday, April 3, WHS Choral Concert (all) at 7:30pm. WHS Auditorium

Tuesday, April 9th, Spring String Fling (Grades 3-12) at 7:15 pm- WHS Auditorium

Saturday, April 27th, Choral Event: Madrigal Fest and the Spring A Cappella Fest combined
WHS Auditorium at 7:30 pm.

New Choral Event

We have some exciting news from the WHS Music Department! This year we have decided to combine the Madrigal Fest and the Spring A Cappella Fest into one big concert event featuring many singing groups from near and far. This exciting choral event will take place at 7:30 pm on Saturday, April 27th in the WHS Auditorium. Please join us for an amazing night of music on Saturday, April 27th. Prices for admission are as follows: Adults \$15, Students/Seniors \$8, and Families \$40 (which includes two adults and supervised children). See you there!

“In the Mood” Band Dance

Are you “In the Mood” for a night of dancing to the music of the Winchester School Bands? All are invited to bring friends and family to the **semi-formal benefit dance** for the Winchester School Bands on **Saturday, May 11th at 8 pm** in Winchester Town Hall, 71 Mt. Vernon Street. The WHS Concert Band, McCall Jazz Band, and WHS Jazz Band will provide the dance music. Elegant desserts will be available throughout the evening. Advance Ticket Sales are \$20 each for adults, \$10 each for senior citizens and students and will be available at BookEnds in Winchester Center after April 1st. To purchase tickets or reserve a table for 4, or for 8 people in advance, please contact Shawn Macannuco at 781-729-3865 or smacannuco@comcast.net. Tickets will also be available at the door: \$25 each for adults, \$15 each for senior citizens and students.

CONNECT AND COMMIT

The Connect & Commit club is open to all students. You can get involved at any time. You can sign up for the opportunities listed below at the meetings or in the Connect and Commit office, which is in the library of the high school. If you have questions about Connect and Commit, visit Kristen Ritchie Drollette, Program Director, in the Connect and Commit Office or contact Kristen via email connectandcommit@gmail.com or phone 781-721-7020 x1999.

SERVICE TRIP TO PERU 2014

Connect & Commit is once again sponsoring a service and adventure trip abroad through the World Challenge student travel company. This time, we will be traveling to Peru for 2 weeks in the summer of 2014!

In choosing to join a World Challenge <http://www.worldchallengeexpeditions.com/parents/schools/program> expedition, students don't just sign up for a trip, they build a once-in-a-life-time journey with their teammates. In Peru the team will discover the Andes Mountains as they trek and enjoy spectacular scenery of picturesque valleys framed by soaring snow-capped peaks in the distance. They will also roll up their sleeves for some serious DIY in a local Peruvian village, and will make a genuine contribution to the needs of the local community. They will also spend time visiting the wonder that is Machu Picchu. While on expedition, students will rotate through various leadership roles and manage many of the day-to-day logistics of their own adventure.

Please come to a World Challenge meeting on Thursday April 4th, in the WHS Cafeteria at 7pm to learn more about this exciting opportunity for your student. Both parents and students should attend the meeting. For more information about the meeting, please email Kristen Ritchie Drollette at connectandcommit@gmail.com Faculty chaperones for the trip are Kristen Ritchie Drollette, John Fleming and Gina Alberti.

The Guide

A Monthly Newsletter from the WHS Guidance Department

April, 2013

Course Selection for 2013-2014

Guidance Counselors met with students individually during the last two weeks of March to review course selections for the 2013-2014 school year. At the conclusion of each meeting, students were given a print out of their potential courses for the upcoming school year. Please review the printout to confirm that your student has selected the appropriate classes.

Appeals regarding class level recommendations are due directly to individual Department Directors by **Tuesday, April 2nd**.

Current sophomores & juniors who wish to use an Outside Activity to fulfill one year of the state required Physical Education requirement must submit the Outside Activity Form by **Tuesday, April 2nd**.

Making the Final Decision on College

For juniors, the college search is just beginning. However, for the Class of 2013, the question of where to attend college and how to make the final

choice of which school to attend may yet remain unanswered. Here are some tips for seniors (and their parents) who may be trying to decide between two or more colleges:

- Review your original criteria to see why you originally chose to apply to each college. See if those criteria have changed over the course of your senior year.
- Consider how far from home you actually want to be. What seemed to be a good distance in September may seem too far away, now that going away to college is looming ever closer.
- Compare offers of financial aid to determine which college is more affordable and whether the family's finances have changed during the year. This might have to be the deciding factor.
- If you truly cannot decide between colleges, revisit them, attend freshman survey courses in your field of interest, eat all of your meals in the dining hall, and hang out in the student union to see if you would feel at home there.
- If you are interested in sports, meet with the coach of your sport and talk to players.

In the end, if all other factors seem comparable, seniors need to trust their instincts. Students and parents need to know that there is no one “perfect college”. Every college will have advantages and drawbacks. It is important to make that final decision and then make the most of a wonderful opportunity!

Scholarships

Scholarship opportunities are posted on Naviance. Please allow at least 10 days to process transcripts for scholarships

**REMINDER:
Winchester Scholarship Foundation
Applications are due May 15th**

In April, Seniors will receive notice for transcript money due. Seniors will not be able to pick up their cap & gowns in May until all fees are paid

Comparing Financial Aid Packages

Colleges typically arrive at financial aid packages by subtracting the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) listed on the Student Aid Report (SAR) from the total cost of attendance to determine the student’s financial need. The award letter notifies students of the total amount and type(s) of aid the school is offering. To compare offers, visit www.EducationPlanner.org to use their *Award Analyzer* tool. This tool helps compare award packages from different schools.

Class of 2014

College Admissions Testing

Most four-year colleges (and some two-year colleges) require applicants to submit results of at least one admissions test. It is extremely important for students to check each college’s specific testing requirements to be certain to take the right test for each college.

The SAT Reasoning Test

The SAT Reasoning Test is 3 hours and 45 minutes. It costs **\$49.00** and consists of the following three sections: Critical Reading, Math, and Writing.

Students with approved accommodations from Collegeboard need to include their SSD# when they register for tests. Please see your counselor if you are unsure.

SAT Subject Tests

Subject Tests are one-hour, multiple-choice tests that measure your mastery of specific subjects and your ability to apply that knowledge. Students should check colleges that they are interested in to find out what specific requirements they have for Subject Tests. Counselors recommend Freshmen and Sophomore students who are taking Honors Biology or Chemistry consider taking a Subject Test in June.

SAT/ACT Registration

SAT: sat.org/register

<u>Test Dates</u>		<u>Reg</u>	<u>Late</u>
May 4 th	Apr 5 th	Apr 19 th	
Jun 1 st		May 2 nd	May 17 th

ACT: actstudent.org

<u>Test Dates</u>		<u>Reg</u>	<u>Late</u>
Jun 8 th		May 3 rd	May 17 th

Upcoming College Fairs

NACAC College Fair
April 29th – May 1st
Boston Convention Center
Boston, MA
For directions & times visit:
<http://www.nacacnet.org>

North Reading HS College Fair
May 1st
6:30-8pm
North Reading HS, North Reading, MA



Winchester Youth Center

458R Main Street Winchester MA 01890

781-721-0906

www.wynec.com

winchesteryouthcenter@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/pages/Winchester-Youth-Center

The WYC offers a wide range of leadership, service-learning, and good-decision-making activities for WHS students. We encourage all WHS students to check out our website and stop by the WYC anytime to find out how to get more involved in all the cool things that we have going on!

SUPPORT THE WYC PEER LEADERS'

APRIL VACATION HABITAT FOR HUMANITY TRIP

During April vacation 26 WYC Peer Leaders will be participating in our 8th annual Habitat for Humanity trip. We will be traveling to Franklin, West Virginia to complete a week-long service-learning experience building homes for families in need. We are currently working toward fundraising 100% of the expenses for our trip including a \$4800 donation to Habitat for Humanity. Please contact us if you would like to make a donation toward this amazing service-learning experience.

Proceeds from all of the following fundraising efforts will benefit our trip:

Raffle tickets

Buy your \$20 tickets for the chance to win:

* iPad mini *

* 1-night stay @ Marriott Residence Inn on Boston Harbor *

* 4-pack Red Sox tickets *

* Live performance by The Dirt Dogs *

* Spring Clean-up by Taft Landscaping *

* Gift Certificates and more *

Drawing: April 8th

Contact the WYC for more information

RELAY FOR LIFE OF WINCHESTER

Saturday, June 22nd-Sunday, June 23rd

Skillings Field

Form your teams, start your fundraising, and join us for the 2nd annual Relay For Life of Winchester! Register now at www.relayforlife.org/winchesterma Relay For Life is the signature fundraising event of the **American Cancer Society**. It unites communities across the globe to celebrate people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones, and fight back against this disease. Last year we had 300 participants and raised \$60,000. This year our goal is to raise \$75,000. Please join us for this amazing community event and help us create a world with less cancer and more birthdays! Please contact winchesterrelay@gmail.com for more information.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ENKA FAIR--Bring Out Your Books! Let the weeding begin!!

Between Monday, April 1st and Friday, May 10th, books can be left anytime in the plastic collection shed at the **Carriage House** by the Sanborn House, adjacent to the Ambrose School at 27 High Street in Winchester. Look for signs saying "Book Drop Here". Books should be placed in small, easy to handle boxes. Please wrap boxes in plastic to protect the books from the elements.

En Ka is particularly in need of gently read paperback and hardcover fiction, mysteries, and children's books. DVDs, books on audiotapes and music CDs in good condition are also **much** appreciated. **No VHS tapes! No text books, encyclopedias, magazines or condensed books please.**

REMEMBER--If you wouldn't buy the item in its condition, neither will anyone else! All proceeds from the book sale will support En Ka's annual grants to dozens of Winchester's charitable and civic organizations. Books that remain unsold at the end of the Fair will be donated to More Than Words, in Waltham~ a nonprofit social enterprise that empowers at-risk youth. Contact laurel.lagatta@gmail.com or pmichienzi@gmail.com with questions. See you at the Fair!

Parent to Parent Presents: A Less is More Approach to Raising Respectful, Responsible and Resilient Kids with parenting expert and author Vicki Hoefle

Tuesday, April 30, 2013

7:00 - 7:30 Light Refreshments

7:30 - 9:00pm Presentation with Q & A

McCall Middle School Auditorium

A nationally recognized parenting expert, Vicki combines humor with facts, breaks down old myths that keep parents stuck in useless power struggles with their kids and presents information parents "get" the minute they hear it. A master storyteller who is part comedian, part sage, mostly parent, Vicki shows parents how to strengthen and enhance the parent/child relationship.

Vicki's new book "Duct Tape Parenting" will be available for purchase at the event.

Most appropriate for parents of elementary school aged children and younger, this presentation is free and open to the public. Since the program addresses parenting challenges, we respectfully ask that children do not attend. For more information please visit: www.parenttoparentwinchester.org

ABC BOTTLE DRIVE

The Winchester ABC Program will hold its next Bottle Drive on Saturday, May 4, 2013, from 8 AM to 3 PM in the parking lot behind the Sons of Italy Hall at the entrance to the transfer station. Your returnable bottles and cans help to finance the ABC Program.

As always, volunteers are needed the day of the drive to help sort the bottles and cans. If you have an hour or two and can help, please know that you are welcome. For more information, please call Derek Stone at [781-729-4380](tel:781-729-4380).

NEWS FROM THE WINCHESTER COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL

Open Mic Night at Starbucks – Thursday, April 4, 7:00-9:00 PM

Join us for Open Mic Night at Starbucks, 542 Main Street, Winchester. Hosted by Winchester Community Music School and singer/songwriter Mike Verge. We welcome all ages, all instruments, and all types of music. Free and open to the public. For more information, call [781-721-2950](tel:781-721-2950) or visit www.winchestermusic.org.

Broadway on Highland – Friday, April 5, 7:30-9:00 PM

If you love Broadway, come over to WCMS and sing your favorite Broadway hit or join the crowd during our sing-a-long numbers. All ages and ability levels are welcome! Singers from beginners to seasoned professionals are cordially invited to strut their stuff during this fun evening. Run-throughs with pianist available 6:45-7:30pm. Free and open to the public. For more information, call [781-721-2950](tel:781-721-2950) or visit www.winchestermusic.org.

Faculty Recital Series with Mike Verge – Monday, April 8, 7:30 PM

Join WCMS for an evening of acoustic rock with singer/songwriter Mike Verge. A “Meet the Artist” reception will follow. Free and open to the public. For more information, call [781-721-2950](tel:781-721-2950) or visit www.winchestermusic.org.

Fat Tuesday Blues Jam – Tuesday, April 9, 7:30-9:00 PM

Join our Underground Faculty Band with host Tim Gartland for a Blues Jam session at WCMS. All instruments & vocalists are welcome! Amps, pianos, drums, and PA system provided. \$7 for participants; audience free. For more information, call [781-721-2950](tel:781-721-2950) or visit www.winchestermusic.org.

Intro to Drum Set Workshop – Thursday, April 18, 12:00-4:00 PM

During school vacation week! For ages 11 and older. Our one-day Intro to Drum Set workshop at WCMS is perfect for those wanting to try their hand behind the kit but have no prior experience with the drums. With only 3 students per workshop, you'll be guaranteed plenty of hands-on time at the kit in this fun, low pressure introductory course. \$99 for a 4-hour workshop. For more information, call [781-721-2950](tel:781-721-2950) or visit www.winchestermusic.org.

Auditions for Summer Festival for Pianists – Friday, April 26, 7:30-9 PM and Saturday, April 27, 2-5 PM

Auditions are being scheduled now for summer programs at WCMS. Our 1-week Festival for Pianists is open to students age 9-18. Visit www.winchestermusic.org or call [781-721-2950](tel:781-721-2950) for summer dates and program information.

FRIENDS OF THE WINCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

“Can the Internet Make You Go Outside?” Tuesday, April 9 @ 7:00 pm, Winchester Public Library

Lexington environmental and travel writer Meg Muckenhoupt discusses how technology is changing our view of parks and open space, and how individuals and organizations using the Internet, Smartphone apps and other technology can help more people connect with parks, farms and forests. She will introduce and demonstrate her Smartphone app, “**Green Space: Boston**” in which categories are included for wildlife, rare plants, splash parks, picnic areas, handicap access, etc. The application also includes recommendations and must-see hidden treasures such as the secret, prohibition era tennis court built in the Middlesex Fells that is still available for use today. Users can search for the nearest park or take notes on where they would like to go next. The app also includes information on which service organizations have taken special care of

specific parks. The author will also have her book “**Boston’s Gardens and Green Spaces**” available and will discuss habitat preservation, botanical interest and community needs in her examination of public spaces throughout the greater Boston area.

Both programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Winchester Library and the John & Mary Murphy Educational Foundation. They are free and open to the public. No reservations are required.

SPRING AND SUMMER FUN AT WRIGHT-LOCKE FARM

Wright-Locke Farm announces the 2013 season of Farm Education for elementary students. We will hold morning and afternoon sessions during April vacation week and summer vacation for Kindergarten through Second-Graders and Third through Fifth-Graders. Get to know our chickens and lambs, lend a hand with the farm chores, help prepare our garden, learn about life on a farm and have a lot of fun doing it. Days will be full of crafts, games, tasty farm snacks and of course, wagon rides.

For more information, please go to our website at <http://WLFarm.org> and look under the Education menu for information on how to register. Early registration for Farm Friends runs from February 1-28 and general registration begins on March 1.

Meanwhile, come on over and enjoy our community farm. Visit our chickens, buy our farm-fresh eggs, and wander around and enjoy the serenity of a farm in the winter.

HELP WANTED AT WRIGHT-LOCKE FARM

April Vacation / Summer Education Program Counselor in Training (CIT)

Counselors in Training (CIT) should be students who are entering their freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior year of high school.

The Counselor in Training’s responsibilities are centered on assisting Lead Teachers with education program facilitation. Specific duties include:

- Helping set up and facilitate activities and lessons
- Helping clean up after each program
- Informing Lead Teachers of any issues with program participants

This position is unpaid. Farm education sessions run for eight weeks of summer vacation, Monday to Friday, from June 24 to August 23, but NOT including July 1 - 5. There is also a program during April vacation that runs from April 15 - 19. All programs include a morning and an afternoon session (9am–12 pm AND 1pm–5 pm). We appreciate candidates who can work multiple sessions, but it is NOT necessary.

Please send a letter of interest, one page or less, with mention of any past experience in child education or care to Rebekah at rcarter@wlfarm.org.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY CANCER PREVENTION STUDY

Ever wonder how we learned that smoking causes lung cancer? Or that obesity shortens longevity? This was discovered by the American Cancer Society’s CPS-1 (Cancer Prevention Study) and CPS-2 studies. What was learned has changed our lives.

The residents of Winchester now have an unprecedented opportunity to participate in the historic, next generation American Cancer Society study, Cancer Prevention Study-3 (CPS-3). CPS-3 expands on CPS-1 and 2, examining the impacts of lifestyle, behavioral, environmental and genetic factors in relation to cancer risk and mortality.

Participating is easy, free and completely confidential – no one will ask for a donation. If you are between the ages of 30 and 65 and have never been diagnosed with cancer, you can enroll between 5:30 and 9:30 PM on Saturday, June 22nd at the at the Relay For Life of Winchester taking place at Skillings Field. It takes only about ½ hour at the event, and you will be sent an additional survey to be filled out at home. Short mail follow-ups will occur every few years.

For more information please contact us at CPS3Winchester@gmail.com. Don't miss this chance to honor someone you have lost, who is still fighting, or to learn something that will help future generations avoid this horrible disease.