

**WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL**  
**80 Skillings Road**  
**Winchester, Ma 01890 – 2853**  
**Telephone 781-721-7020**

**PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ APRIL 2008**

For up to date info visit our website at [www.whspfa.org](http://www.whspfa.org)

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**From the Office of Principal Tom Gwin**

One of the WHS school improvement goals for the 2007-08 school year is to improve the climate in the school community. A positive school climate is essential for an optimum learning environment. Given that WHS is becoming more diverse, and given that we sometimes have issues around respect for differences, the Winchester School Improvement Council is proposing a program designed to be part of a long term plan to provide leadership skills for a significant number of students, and staff. Life skills around respect, acceptance, compassion, communication and problem solving will be developed. Active engagement and understanding (not just tolerance) across differences will be actively promoted in the classroom and in all school related settings. It will be a pro-active approach, rather than a reactive response to crisis, that will enhance the health and well being of our community.

The School Improvement Council has focused their efforts in terms of strengthening student leadership and character development in the student body. To this end the council has met with Tabitha May-Tolub, a youth development consultant (TMT Consulting) who has experience working at other middle and high schools. She provides leadership training for high schools with the goal of:

- Building community among students from different ages and groups
- Building connections between students and adult staff members.
- Reinforcing the mission and vision of the school
- Allowing students to have a voice related to decisions about school policies and climate.

This May, TMT Consulting will provide leadership and character development training for about 60 students. The program, Climate Control Challenge, is designed for 60 students and will take place on Friday, May 2. The 60 students, representing a diverse cross section of students at WHS, will be identified by faculty and administration. Students move through a three part process to open them up to the problems and possibilities that exist in the school. The group takes the first steps in creating a school environment where all students feel safe and connected to the school.

Long term, using a variety of venues and programs, WHS will address school climate issues, giving students intensive training on selected topics and helping them learn how to take their knowledge to the greater community. They will move through a process that will open their eyes, hearts and minds to the problems and possibilities that exist within their school. This shared experience will allow them to take the first steps in creating a school environment where all students feel safe, cared for and celebrated. This energy and attitude will continue to increase, creating a snowball effect of change in the school.

**Seniors/ Senior Parents Meeting    Wednesday, April 30, 7:30 pm**

A very important meeting for seniors and their parents will be held in the WHS auditorium on Wednesday, April 30 at 7:30 pm. At the meeting we will review the procedures for graduation, the prom, and other senior events. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

**Head Injury Program    Thursday, April 3, 7 pm    WHS Auditorium**

Athletic Director Tom Murray has arranged a head injury program for student-athletes and their parents. Dr. Robert Cantu, one of the top neurosurgeons in the country, has agreed to speak at Winchester High School regarding head injuries. Dr. Cantu is an Adjunct Staff Member at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Service Chief of Neurosurgery and Director of Sports Medicine at Emerson Hospital in Concord, Massachusetts. He completed his neurosurgery training at Massachusetts General Hospital. He is currently the medical director of the National Center for Catastrophic Sports Injury Research, located in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, an ongoing registry instituted in 1982 for data collection and analysis of spine and head injuries. Dr. Cantu's clinical interests include his work in head and spine surgery as well as treatment, diagnosis and return to play criteria for concussion. Dr. Cantu is well known for his work in the area of sports related concussions and has been a consultant to many college and professional teams over the years.

Over the last few years, many of our student athletes have suffered concussions or head injuries. Working with Dr. Cantu, with the support of the Winchester Sports Foundation, the WHS Athletic Department has developed a plan to test every "at risk student/athlete" to secure information that will help us determine if it is safe for the student to return to play after a head injury. Dr. Cantu will discuss head injuries and the new program. We urge all student-athletes and their parents to attend this important program on April 3 at 7:00 pm in the High School Auditorium.

**MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS**

With the warm weather approaching we are reminding students of proper dress code. Students must wear shoes at all times. The torso must be covered; strapless tops are not allowed and under garments must not be visible. All clothing and hats with any insignia referring to alcohol, drugs and/or tobacco, racial and/or ethnic slurs, violence, homophobia, profanity, gender bias or any other inappropriate comments are not allowed to be worn.

The hoods attached to sweatshirts and sweaters should not be worn in school.

Inappropriate dress may result in a student being asked to change clothing, cover up, as well as parental contact. A teacher may send a student to the office, to meet with an Administrator if they feel the student's personal appearance is inappropriate.

**MESSAGE FROM SRO PERENICK**

Students are reminded that they should not park in the visitors' parking spaces that are located in the front driveway of the school. Students must park in student assigned areas **only**. If there are no spaces available in the students lots, students may park on Skillings Road past the railroad overpass. Students who do not park in the designated areas, and/or who do not use good judgment in operating their vehicles, will be denied the privilege of parking on school property. Violators of the parking regulations will be ticketed and/or towed. Students who do not use seat belts may lose their parking privileges at WHS and students who receive two parking violations will lose their right to park on campus.

**From the PFA President, Carol Cashion**

Last night I attended the Junior Class dinner in the WHS cafeteria with my son and the rest of my family. The night before that, I spent the evening in the auditorium at the WHS Orchestra and Sinfonietta concert. At the beginning of the week, when I saw these two events on the cluttered family calendar, I confess that I kind of sighed, wishing that the spring rush of events hadn't arrived so soon and that we could all just have a quiet dinner together. But as we all know, showing up really matters, so off I went.

If I arrived out of a feeling of obligation, what I felt instead after these events, and it wasn't the first time, was a sense of appreciation for the special qualities of this high school community. At the Equinox Concert, Dr. McCann showcased original pieces written by WHS students Jinjian Chen and Stephen Lauterwasser, performed beautifully by their peers. The evening closed with a fun and stirring performance of "Rhapsody in Blue," with junior Jessica Haggett at the piano. What I enjoyed as much as the quality of the performance was the atmosphere: relaxed, appreciative and supportive, both on stage and in the audience. It was more than worth rushing dinner for! Then the next night, I was *served* dinner by a line-up of juniors in cowboy hats who talked and laughed with parents as they came through the line. Around the tables in the cafeteria, parents talked, students hawked raffle tickets, younger brothers and sisters made multiple trips to the dessert table, and then the Octets showed up to sing. The evening was such a pleasure, even in a busy week, because, again, there was a comfortable and supportive sense of community among parents, among students and, most strikingly, *between* parents and students. I think the students truly enjoyed hanging out with us for the evening, or at least they were kind and well-mannered enough to make us feel they did! Either way, something to be proud of, and, I'd suggest, something rare, worth noting and valuing.  
Happy Spring!

**Please join us for our next meeting, which will take place on Wednesday, April 2 at 7:30pm in the WHS Library.**

**PFA: NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2008-2009 BOARD**

As we leave winter behind us, it is time to start the nomination process to fill the 2008-2009 PFA Board. The PFA Board is run entirely by parent volunteers. It is a great way to find out what is going on at WHS and to become involved. Are you interested in being on the board next year? There are jobs of all sizes. All board positions are listed on the PFA website ([www.whspfa.org](http://www.whspfa.org) under PFA 2007-2008 Board)

**Please contact Karen Erikson (781-729-7249 [karenerikson@comcast.net](mailto:karenerikson@comcast.net)) to express your interest in a board position or to nominate someone else. Thank you.**

**WHS PFA Direct Appeal**

As the third term of the 2007-08 school year comes to an end, the PFA is delighted to report that the Direct Appeal campaign continues to go very well. In recent weeks, the campaign received new donations from 41 families, bringing the total number of participating families to 433 or about 47% of all WHS families. Thanks to the generous contributions of those families, the PFA has been able to provide a large number of grants to the high school this year benefiting students and teachers across various academic departments, the school library, and many extracurricular, enrichment, and support programs.

At the April meeting of the PFA, we will be reviewing recommendations regarding how best to use new Direct Appeal funds to further support students and teachers during this school year. Therefore, if your family has not yet made a contribution, now would be a good time to do so. Although a contribution of any amount is truly appreciated, we ask that each family consider making a one-time donation for this school year of \$75.00 or more.

For your convenience, the PFA now offers two methods of making a contribution to the Direct Appeal:

- **Check** - As always, you can mail a check with the coupon provided below.
- **PayPal** - Now, you can also make a quick and easy online transaction through a PayPal account that the PFA has set up for the Direct Appeal. If you wish to make your contribution through the new PayPal account, please begin by logging in to the home page of the WHS PFA website at <http://whspfa.org>. On the right side of the home page, you will find the Direct Appeal heading. Under the heading, please click on "more" to view the whole Direct Appeal section. In the paragraph labeled "PayPal", you will find a few simple steps for making an online contribution to the Direct Appeal.

For additional information, please contact Laura Henry at [djlshenry@comcast.net](mailto:djlshenry@comcast.net) or 781-729-9719.

Name of WHS Student(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grade(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount of Contribution \$75 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$125 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Checks made payable to WHS PFA may be sent directly to Laura Henry, 86 Lawson Road, Winchester, MA 01890.

CLASS NEWS

## SPRING FLING 2008 WEEKEND CASH GIVEAWAY!

**ATTENTION: WHS Students, Parents & Guardians:**  
**Time is running out! We have a limited number of tickets left!**  
**Order Soon!!!**

**IT'S RAINING CASH!!!** The Class of 2010 will be selling raffle tickets the month of March for their **SPRING FLING WEEKEND GIVEAWAY!** All you have to do is buy a ticket or two. The cost per ticket is \$5.00.

**HERE'S HOW IT WORKS!** During the month of April one ticket will be drawn every Saturday and Sunday and the lucky winner will win **\$100.00 CASH!** A winning ticket will go back in the draw so you have 8 chances to win.

**The drawing dates are: April 5 & 6, April 12 & 13, April 19 & 20, April 26 & 27.**  
All winners will be notified by phone.

If you would like to purchase a raffle ticket(s) all you have to do is print this letter and fill out the reservation form below. Upon receipt of your reservation form and money we will fill the ticket(s) out for you and deliver your ticket stub(s). All checks should be made payable to: **WHS Class of 2010**. You can conveniently send in your form and money with your son/daughter and they can turn it in to Karen Branley at the main office.

If you would like to purchase tickets in bulk to sell at your workplace you can e-mail Matt Marotta at [marotta.r@comcast.net](mailto:marotta.r@comcast.net).

Thanking you in advance for your support,

Matt Marotta, David Oleksak, Nina Krane & Mike Kalfopoulous, 2010 Class Officers

-----CUT-ALONG-LINE-----

**10th GRADE RAFFLE TICKET(S) RESERVATION FORM, PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!!**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF TICKETS \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED

## FRESHMEN (CLASS of 2011)

"AMAZING!" is the only possible word to describe the Freshmen Class. Once again, the Class of 2011 worked together to run an extremely successful event! The first annual St. Patrick's Day Bake Sale was fun, a class-wide effort, and a means for all WHS Students, Faculty and Parents to connect and network. Parents and guardians outdid themselves donating many, many, many delicious custom, mouth-watering baked goods. The Bake Sale table was a beehive of activity from the "Top O' the Mornin' " till the end of the school day. The bake sale was also financially successful raising \$430, a percentage of which is donated to "Pennies for Patients", which raises money for cancer research for childhood lymphoma and leukemia.

Freshmen will run a "Pennies for Patients" Cancer Drive during all lunches, March 24 - 28.

Stay tuned for other FRESHMEN CLASS EVENTS!

## MESSAGE FROM THE JUNIOR CLASS

Thank you so much to all of the junior class families for making our class dinner and silent auction a huge success! We had 330 people in attendance and everyone seemed to have a great time. It was great to see parents and kids alike getting a chance to socialize with the other parents and kids of the class of '09. We would especially like to thank all of the families who made donations for the auction, raffle, and dinner. All of the money that we raised will go to fund the major events of senior year. We would also like to remind everyone that the junior semi-formal is on Friday, April 11. Thanks!

## SENIOR CLASS OF 2008 NEWS

The Senior Parents' Meeting to explain the end of the year activities will be held on Wednesday, April 30th at 7:30pm in the WHS Auditorium.

The Senior Class would like to thank all the seniors and their families who attended, brought beverages and desserts, entertained, bought raffle tickets, helped set-up and clean-up at the Senior Class Dinner. The event was a huge success and it was great getting everyone together.

## WINCHESTER SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Application forms for scholarships from the Winchester Scholarship Foundation (WSF) will be available in the Guidance Department office on Tuesday, March 25. These are need-based scholarships in the \$1000 to \$6000 range. The forms will also be available online on the PFA website: Please go to [www.whspfa.org](http://www.whspfa.org) and click on "Guidance News" on the left hand side. Applications for graduating high school seniors are due on May 15, 2008 and for returning college students on June 30, 2008. If you have questions, please email [wsf0809@gmail.com](mailto:wsf0809@gmail.com).



## A Monthly Newsletter from the WHS Guidance Department

April 2008

**Making the Final Decision on College:** For juniors, the college search is just beginning. However, for this year's Class of 2008, 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!

NACAC College Fair at Bayside Expo Center, Boston

April 8: 9:00 am-12; 6:00 -9:00 pm

April 9: 9:00 – 12:00 noon

See your guidance counselor for a list of colleges represented, or go to: [www.nacacnet.org](http://www.nacacnet.org)

## American Legion Student Trooper

### Training Summer Program

The American Legion, in cooperation with the Massachusetts State Police, sponsors the Student Trooper Program. The program consisting of a one-week, live-in class at The Massachusetts State Police Recruit Training Academy in New Braintree, MA, is intended to provide male and female high school students, 15–17 years old, the opportunity to consider law enforcement as a potential career choice. Two classes are scheduled: July 14 -18, 2008; and July 28 – August 1, 2008. Each class will be an extensive law enforcement career-training program patterned after the State Police Recruit Training. The program is not intended to be a summer camp and is not designed for troubled teenagers. Discipline is strict with vigorous physical training, reveille at 5:30 a.m. and “lights out” at 10:00 p.m. Students attend classes each day on topics such as motor vehicle law and investigative techniques. Applications may be obtained from any American Legion or high school and must be authorized by an American Legion Post. Deadline for applications is June 1, 2008. Classes are limited to 80. Sponsorship fee is \$225.00 and will be refunded if the applicant is not accepted. For further information, contact: Mr. Bill McCarthy, 781-316-3166 or email: [wmccarthy@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:wmccarthy@town.arlington.ma.us).

### Arlington High School Spring College Fair

Arlington High School will be holding a Spring College Fair on Monday, April 7, 2008, from 7:00–8:30 PM. Admissions representatives from more than 100 colleges from all over the country will be in attendance. The college fair will be held in Arlington High School’s Toz (Red) Gym. The fair is open to the public and parents and students from Winchester are invited to attend. For further information, go to: [www.arlington.k12.ma.us](http://www.arlington.k12.ma.us).

### College Board Proposed Test Dates for 2008 – 2009

The College Board has proposed the following dates for their SAT and PSAT testing program for the next academic year:

#### Test Dates Test

*Oct. 4, 2008	SAT & Subject Tests
Nov. 1	SAT & Subject Tests
Dec. 6	SAT & Subject Tests
Jan. 24, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests
March 14	SAT only
*May 2	SAT & Subject Tests
*June 6	SAT & Subject Tests

\*NOTE: Asterisks \* designate dates on which WHS is a test center for the SAT’s.

The Language Tests with Listening are offered in November only.

PSAT/NMSQT Test Date--Sat., Oct. 18, 2008

### 2008 STEM Discovery Program at Wentworth Institute of Technology

The STEM Discovery Program is a 3-week program at Wentworth Institute of Technology offering a course of study in the science and engineering fields to Boston-area high

school juniors and seniors. Through a combination of class work, laboratory experiments, and exposure to working professionals, students will have an opportunity to explore their interests in a variety of scientific and technical fields. Course material will include:

- Bioinformatics
- Biomedical Engineering
- Civil Engineering Technology
- Electrical Engineering Technology
- Mechanical Engineering Technology

Classes will be held Monday through Friday from 9:15 a.m.-3:40 p.m. at Wentworth Institute of Technology, 550 Huntington Ave., Boston. Two sessions are planned. Cost of attendance is \$1,000 which includes the cost of all classroom, study and laboratory materials, and lunch each day. For more information, go to: [www.wit.edu/em/summer](http://www.wit.edu/em/summer).

### Summer Study Programs at Tufts

Tufts University, Medford, MA is offering four academic study options in their Summer Study Program. The options—Writing; Ethics and Global Citizenship; Health Science Honors Program; and the College for Juniors Program—allow highly-motivated high school juniors and seniors to challenge themselves by taking Tufts University courses for college credit or personal growth. In addition to the four programs mentioned above, Tufts Summit offers high school students with at least two years of French a program in the French Alps which will allow them to sharpen their language skills and deepen their understanding of French culture. Students will stay with selected families, enabling them to cultivate new friendships, experience daily life and practice their French. For more information about any of the Tufts Summer Study Programs, students may pick up a brochure in the Guidance Office or call 617-627-3454. The websites to visit are: [ase.tufts.edu/frenchalps](http://ase.tufts.edu/frenchalps), and/or [ase.tufts.edu/summer](http://ase.tufts.edu/summer).

### Gap Year Opportunities Fair

More than twenty agencies that offer gap year programs will be exhibitors at a Gap Year Opportunities Fair to be held on Sunday, April 6, 2008 from 1:00-4:00 p.m., at Noble & Greenough School’s Arts Center Lobby, 10 Campus Drive, Dedham, MA 02026. The fair is open to high school students and their families and is free of charge. A *Gap Year* is defined as “...a post-secondary opportunity for self-exploration and personal growth, leading to clearer direction and motivation for college studies. A gap year may include travel, cultural immersion, directed study, service, internship opportunities or other experiences.” The Gap Year Opportunities Fair is sponsored by Dynamy and GlobalQuest. For further information, email Greg Cappello at [gcappello@dynamy.org](mailto:gcappello@dynamy.org).

### 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, see *Award Analyzer* on [www.EducationPlanner.org](http://www.EducationPlanner.org). This tool helps students compare award packages from different schools.

## Winchester Public Schools Department of Music, WHS Music Notes ♪ April, 2008

### Spring Music Festival!

Spring is coming and so is our Music Festival! We have something fun in store for everyone. Come celebrate music with us at any one of these special performances.

**WHS Band & Orchestra Tour:** On Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, the WHS Band and Orchestra will tour the elementary schools during the school-day. They plan to perform for the children, tell them about the instruments and will give an interesting presentation.

**Elementary Choral Concert:** Thurs, Apr 10, 7:00 pm  
*District-wide Elementary Choral Concert* at Winchester High School Auditorium. Performers in this concert include: 5<sup>th</sup> grade choruses from each elementary school, Winchester Boys Chorus & Winchester Girls Chorus, with special appearances by the Octets and Chamber Singers of WHS. The performance will culminate in the performance of a combined number with the elementary children singing with the high school singers.

**WHS & McCall 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choral Concert with McCall Select Choruses:** Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm. At WHS Auditorium. This performance will feature McCall Select Boys and Girls Choruses, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus, WHS choruses: Concert Chorus, Treble Chorus, Sachem Chorus and the Octets and Chamber Singers. They will perform a grand finale together, an African piece they have been working on.

**Elementary Instrumental Music Fair:** Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30 p.m. WHS in the cafeteria. Several McCall and WHS students will be demonstrating their instruments and working at the Elementary Instrumental Music Fair. All 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> - & 4<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents are invited to come to the Music Fair and learn more about the instruments, to meet the instrumental teachers, and enroll in elementary instrumental lessons. *Fun! Face Painting! Balloon Making! Meet the instruments! Popcorn! Raffle: 1 year free lessons!*

**You're invited! Spring A Cappella Fest!** Sat., April 12th, 7:30 pm [Spring A Cappella Fest](#) at Winchester Town Hall, hosted by WHS Octets & featuring WHS Chamber Singers, and guest collegiate ensembles: Trinity Pipes (Keil Coit, Octets alum) and the Colbyettes (with Keil's sister, Caitlin Coit, Octets alum). Tickets may be purchased in advance at Book Ends or at the door on the evening of the performance: \$15 for adults, \$8 for senior adults and children, or a family ticket for \$30.

**District-Wide Orchestra Concert:** Mon, April 14th, 7:00 pm [District-wide Orchestra Concert](#) at WHS Auditorium. Students who will be performing include Elementary students studying violin, viola, cello, and bass; McCall 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestras; and WHS Sinfonietta and Orchestra.

**District-Wide Band Concert:** Tuesday April 15th, 7:30 pm [District-wide Band Concert](#) at WHS Auditorium. Students who will be performing include Elementary students studying brass, percussion and woodwinds; McCall 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands; and WHS Concert Band and Jazz Band. The Elementary band has a special surprise performance planned, with important guests; this promises to be loads of fun!

**All State Music Festival & Concert!** Congratulations to the following WHS students had successful auditions for All State and will be participating in the Festival and Concert: Maria Arshanskiy-clarinet, Kayla Feldman-flute, and Carol

Fraser-cello, will all be performing in the All State Orchestra. Keren Avnery, Mariah Colby, Christina Galante, Alexander Greaves, and Alexandra Rinn will perform with the All State Chorus. The All State Festival takes place at the Boston Park Plaza on March 27-28 and the dress rehearsal and performance take place at Symphony Hall on March 29<sup>th</sup>. It will be an excellent performance and we are so proud to have such an exemplary group of students from the WHS Music Department involved in All State this year.

**WHS Chorus to MICCA!** MICCA, or Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association, will sponsor a choral festival in April and the WHS Choral Ensembles are scheduled to take part in the event. High school choral ensembles from all over the state will converge over a three-day period. Our ensembles are scheduled for the festival on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Concert Chorus, Treble Chorus and Sachem Chorus will each have turns performing for a panel of three adjudicators, who will give them positive feedback and suggestions for improvement. After their performance, they will have an opportunity for one of the judges to work with them for a few minutes. We are looking for parent volunteers to chaperone and ride on the bus. Please let us know if you can help. It will be a positive and interesting educational experience for everyone.

#### Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> MICCA Choral Festival Schedule

Morning Schedule:	<b>Sachem Chorus</b>	
7:00	Warm-Up & rehearsal at WHS	
7:30	Bus Departs (on time) from WHS	Destination: Coakley M.S., Norwood
8:15	Registration	
8:40-9:40	<i>Sachem Chorus</i> performance	
10:00-12:00	Watch other choirs perform in Coakley auditorium; bring \$\$ for snacks & lunch in their cafeteria.	
12:00-1:00	Awards Ceremony	
1:00 p.m.	Bus Departs from Coakley M.S.	Return to WHS
Afternoon Schedule:	<b>Treble Chorus &amp; Concert Chorus</b>	
1:30	Bus Departs (on time) from WHS	Destination: Coakley M.S., Norwood
2:15	Registration & watch other choirs perform, when not performing	
3:00-4:00	<i>Concert Chorus</i> performance	
4:00-5:00	<i>Treble Chorus</i> performance	
5:00-6:00	Awards Ceremony	
6:00 p.m.	Bus Departs from Coakley M.S.	Return to WHS

Sabrina Quintana, K-12 Director of Music,  
[squintana@winchester.k12.ma.us](mailto:squintana@winchester.k12.ma.us)

## Connect & Commit, Community Service-Learning - Happy Spring!

We have a request to have Connect & Commit consider becoming involved in tutoring children in a low-income housing development in Waltham, to keep the program going in May and June after the Bentley students that staff the project have finished. It's called the Chesterbrook Learning Center, and Winchester parent is involved in the center. Please contact me if you are a student interested in tutoring after school twice a week or if you are an adult who could help provide transportation (20 min. drive, on the Lexington line).

Massachusetts Power Shift - Attend the *largest* climate change event in Massachusetts history! April 11-14 @ Boston University and the State House. The event will include: guest speakers, workshops, entertainment, green jobs, community strategizing, lobbying and has over 1,000 students from college and high schools registered to attend. To register & find out more: [www.masspowershift.org](http://www.masspowershift.org). Want to help plan the event? Contact WHS student Katie MacDonald at [katiemac68@gmail.com](mailto:katiemac68@gmail.com) for more info.

Save the date for the 4th annual Winchester Youth Service Day on Saturday, May 10. WHS and McCall students meet in the front courtyard of WHS, disperse to sites around town to complete service projects, then return to WHS for a pizza party. Organized by Connect & Commit and the Winchester Youth Center. 10 am – 2 pm (Rain date May 11, 2 - 5 pm). Students need to sign up in advance at Connect & Commit or the Youth Center after April vacation. Parent volunteers are needed to help supervise sites, provide transportation and set up the pizza—please contact me if you can help.

Coming up: C&C leader elections on April 15! A presentation from Roots & Shoots on April 1! See details below.

There are multiple opportunities to provide tutoring or homework help to McCall and elementary school students once or twice per week after school—please contact me if you can help. Also, two wonderful in-school opportunities to help a WHS peer are listed in the ongoing opportunities below.

### Summer Opportunities

Be on the lookout for the Connect & Commit list of Summer Opportunities, distributed in April.

One opportunity is this: the Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS) is looking for four tech savvy volunteers to work one-on-one with youth in their Dorchester based youth program to "take apart and rebuild" computers. The four Dorchester youth will be able to take a computer home. The commitment is for only 2 days, one week apart, in August (maybe two Fridays). The first day you will erase hard drives, install basic software and develop "computer components" hand-outs for the kids. The second day is the mentoring day, taking apart and rebuilding the computer one-on-one and installing software. Techy parents are also welcome. Transportation to/from Winchester will be provided. [www.maps-inc.org](http://www.maps-inc.org). Please sign up in Connect & Commit by April 29.

And again:

- The Connect & Commit office has copies of TeenLife Boston's 2008 Summer Service and Summer Programs guides available for anyone to review.
- If you buy your own copies of the TeenLife Boston guides, you're also raising funds for Connect & Commit! (10%) You can order them at [www.teenlifeboston.com](http://www.teenlifeboston.com).
- There are many catalogs of summer travel, service and leadership programs, from local to international, in the C&C office. The guidance department has summer program information also.

### In the Classrooms

Spanish Butterflies – Some of Ms. Alvarez's AP Spanish students will pair with Ms. Phelan's second graders at Muraco on a project about Monarch butterflies. The Spanish students will teach them Spanish pertinent to butterflies, migration, numbers and greetings. The second graders create paper butterflies that can be sent in a symbolic migration to students in Mexico, and the Spanish students then make a book as a final product using illustrations and storyline input from the second graders, which can be used in classrooms with older or younger students.

The WHS/English High School Exchange – This successful urban/suburban Exchange was held in March. Ms. Hillstrom does this service-learning project with her grade 9 honors classes as part of her "Investigating Injustice" unit. The combined 90 students spent one day at English High and one day at WHS, during which they took part in powerful community-building exercises, brainstorming and conversations. These centered on: the issues youth in each school face, urban/ suburban relations and stereotypes, race, inequalities between urban and suburban schools, and the possibilities for greater unity and change. Students made deep connections with each other and will be working on action steps in their classrooms for how they can have an affect on some of these issues and bring what they learned through their experience to the wider community.

Thanks to all the parent volunteers who made recent service projects possible, including Dan Strelow, Kate Ebbott and Mr. Unger.

As always, students are welcome at Connect & Commit club meetings every Tuesday from 6:30 – 7:30 pm in the WHS library, as often as their schedule allows, to help plan service projects, meet other students and learn about upcoming opportunities.

Parent help is what makes many of the service activities possible. Parents are encouraged to assist with one or more service events this year, including those on the current list below.

Please contact me to sign up, to receive updates via the Connect & Commit email list, or for information about the service-related resources available to students, parents and teachers online and in the Connect & Commit office (in the WHS library).

Best wishes, Amanda Gordon, Program Director, [agordon@winchester.k12.ma.us](mailto:agordon@winchester.k12.ma.us), 781-721-7020 x1999

## Connect & Commit April 2008 Volunteer Opportunities

### Events

#### **Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> Roots & Shoots at Connect & Commit 6:30 – 7:30 pm**

Come for a presentation from this grassroots environmental organization started by Jane Goodall. Tens of thousands of young people in almost 100 countries make up the Roots & Shoots network that is making positive change happen for communities, animals and the environment.

[www.rootsandshoots.org](http://www.rootsandshoots.org)

#### **Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> Greater Boston Food Bank, 8:45am-12:00 noon,,99 Atkinson Street, Boston (8:00am-12:30pm with travel) (Near South Bay Shopping Center)**

Volunteers will inspect, sort and repack donated grocery products that are then distributed to people in need. Wear closed toed shoes and clothes you can get dirty.

([www.gbfb.org](http://www.gbfb.org))

*Submit signed Boston Cares and C&C permission slips to the Connect and Commit office by Tuesday, April 1st.*

#### **Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> Green Schools Information Session 2:00-4:00pm, Woburn Memorial High School**

Green Schools will be hosting an informative meeting for students interested in working with their organization. Students [and parents] interested in GREEN community service projects, special events, curriculum, and finding out more about our organization should attend this event.

**\*\*PLEASE RSVP VIA E-MAIL OR PHONE BY APRIL 6th.** For more information contact: Robin Organ at (508) 272-9653; e-mail: [info@projectgreenschools.org](mailto:info@projectgreenschools.org); [www.projectgreenschools.org](http://www.projectgreenschools.org); MySpace...type in Robin Organ

#### **Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> Stewardship Project , 2:00-4:00pm Mary Cummings Park, Woburn, (1:30-4:30pm with travel)**

Learn about this 200 acre park on the Burlington-Woburn border while helping the Friends of Mary Cummings Park to ready areas for recreational use, clean up trails and maintain the protection of wildlife. ([www.cummingspark.org](http://www.cummingspark.org))

*Submit signed C&C permission slip to the Connect and Commit office by Tuesday, April 8th.*

#### **Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> Connect & Commit Leader Elections 6:30 – 7:30pm**

Come to this meeting to elect the club's next student leaders, who begin to share responsibilities in April. Hear from candidates who are running for co-president, treasurer or secretary about their involvement in service, their ideas for the club and why they want to hold the position. Sign up to run in the election at the Connect & Commit office.

#### **Tuesday, April 22- Friday, April 25 8:00am-3:30pm City Year for Kids Elementary School Vacation Program**

Locations: Dorchester – Dorchester High; East Boston – Harborside Community Center; Roslindale – Haley Elementary; South Boston – Tynan Elementary  
**Sign Up:** [CYFKboston@cityyear.org](mailto:CYFKboston@cityyear.org); 617-927-2410 (phone); 617-927-2560 (fax);

<http://www.cityyear.org/localcontent.aspx?id=6783>;

City Year for Kids, 287 Columbus Ave, Boston, MA 02116

#### **Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> BOOYAH!: Global Youth Service Day Sign Up:** Andrew Olson, [aolson@bostoncares.org](mailto:aolson@bostoncares.org),

617-422-0910, [www.bostoncares.org](http://www.bostoncares.org)

**Projects:** Charles River Cleanup at the Esplanade

9:00am-12:00noon

Pack Snacks for the Walk for Hunger

9:00am-12:30pm 1:00-4:00pm

#### **Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> Run of the Charles Canoe & Kayak Race 8:00am-4:00pm Herter Park, 1400 Soldier's Field Road, Brighton, MA**

The Run of the Charles is hosted by the Charles River Watershed Association which has been working since 1965 to improve and protect the health and beauty of the river.

Spend a great day helping 1500 paddlers enjoy this historic river or enter a team of ten in the Canoe Relay Race.

Volunteer tasks include check-in/registration, set-up, boat number spotting, safety, and clean-up. Experienced canoeists/kayakers are also needed to follow racers on the river as "sweep" boats. Please contact Meg Schermerhorn or Sally Berkowitz at (508) 698-6810, [rotc@crwa.org](mailto:rotc@crwa.org), or visit [www.charlesriver.org](http://www.charlesriver.org).

#### **Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> ABC Bottle Drive 8:00am-3:00pm Sons of Italy Parking Lot, Transfer Station**

Help raise money to support the ABC Program, by sorting recyclable bottles and cans. Help is needed whenever you are able to come, but especially toward the end of the day when donations pour in and energy flags.

#### **Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> Emerson Umbrella 11:30am-2:00pm 40 Stow Street, Concord, MA (11 -2:30 with travel)**

**Musketaquid Arts and Environment Program**  
River Ceremony at 10 am, followed by the Earth Day Parade and the Arts and Environment Festival. Volunteers will serve food or run art activities for children at the Arts and Environment Festival.

<http://www.emersonumbrella.org/i05.html>

*Submit signed C&C permission slip to the Connect and Commit office by Tuesday, April 8th.*

#### **Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> Walk for Hunger**

Register online at [www.projectbread.org/volunteer](http://www.projectbread.org/volunteer) and choose your favorite location along the 20-mile Walk route. You can organize your own walking team or volunteer as a: stationary marshal, checkpoint volunteer, Boston Common registration, first aid, finish line, or set up or breakdown. Once you've registered, our Volunteer Coordinator, Kate Vacanti, will contact you within two weeks to discuss your assignment location and shift time.

### Ongoing

#### **Crate and Barrel/ Second Step donation project**

Students needed to help pick up goods from Crate and Barrel that are being donated to Second Step, a Newton based non-profit agency that provides transitional support service to survivors of domestic violence. Drive the items to the store in Newton, then unload and sort the items. At least twice a month on Monday nights. Must have a driver's license and preferably access to a truck or large SUV. Contact WHS student Cam Becker at 781-721-5845.

**Jewish Community Center 1:00-4:00pm**

**333 Nahanton St., Newton (12:15-4:45 with travel)**

**Sundays: April 6<sup>th</sup>, May 4<sup>th</sup>, May 18<sup>th</sup>, June 1, June 8**

10 children with neurological difficulties participate in a swim program, followed by a music therapy program. Volunteers provide one-on-one assistance (i.e. have fun and keep safe) and staff provide all direct care. The facility is Kosher and nut-free. Swim caps are required in the pool; there are some there to use if you don't have your own. Bring a towel and a swim suit.

Contact: *Doreen Cummings* or *Patricia Ludwig*,  
[DCummings@jfcsboston.org](mailto:DCummings@jfcsboston.org), [PLudwig@jfcsboston.org](mailto:PLudwig@jfcsboston.org);  
781-647-5327; [www.jfcsboston.org](http://www.jfcsboston.org)

**In-School Peer Mentoring for Social Skills - Two**

**opportunities:** Spend time with a student in the Achieve program to build skills in social communication through the use of various language games in a group, which includes a special education staff member and other mainstream students. During F or G block, once per cycle for 45 minutes.

Two students are needed during B block on Day 1 to hang out with a student and talk about current events in the school and world. Must make a commitment to consistently

spend part of the block with this group. Decaf coffee and munchies provided!

**Jenks Senior Center Library help**

Two volunteers are needed to help the Jenks Senior Center library to rearrange their books for two hours on couple of afternoons. If interested, please leave a message for Rose Cammarata at the Jenks Center at 781-721- 7136.

The **Winchester Hospital** is looking for volunteers to work in the hospital and the offsites. Whether you prefer an assignment that involves patient contact or not, many opportunities exist: coffee cart, messenger service, clerical work, emergency room, pre-admission testing, clerical, day surgery, x-ray transport, off-site at the Family Medical Center in Wilmington, Oncology center or Breast Care Center in Woburn. Most volunteers come in once per week for a 3-hour shift evenings or weekends. Contact: Paulette Van Der Kloot, Supervisor, High School Student Volunteers, (781) 756-2626. Volunteers will need: Proof of a Tuberculosis (TB) Testing (within the last 12 months) and/or a completed medical form. Cori Background Checks if over age 17.



**Winchester Youth Center**

458R Main Street  
Winchester MA 01890  
781-721-0906  
[www.winyc.org](http://www.winyc.org)

**WINCHESTER YOUTH CENTER (WYC)**

*The Winchester Youth Center (WYC) is committed to fostering leadership skills and a long-term commitment to community service through healthy social and experiential-learning activities for teens.*

**YOUTH SERVICE AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS**

Applications are available in the WHS Guidance Office and at the WYC.

**Completed applications with recommendations are due by 5:00pm Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Our scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors who have made significant contributions to the children and youth of Winchester and other communities. We hope that these scholarships will help motivate the recipients to continue their service to youth through college and beyond.

The recipients of the scholarships will be honored at the Youth Service Awards Ceremony held in the Town Hall Auditorium on the evening of Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

**WINCHESTER YOUTH SERVICE DAY**

Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>

A day to celebrate community service and...

Clean up sports fields

Clean up our parks

Beautify our schools

...be apart of a great cause!

All WHS students are encouraged to participate

Stop by the WYC or Connect & Commit office to register

Everyone who signs-up by May 2<sup>nd</sup> will receive a Youth Service Day t-shirt

We are also searching for adults who are interested in transporting students to the various worksites and volunteering with us for the day, please email [rebeccaslevine@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccaslevine@gmail.com) or [agordon@winchester.k12.ma](mailto:agordon@winchester.k12.ma)

## SCHOOL RELATED EVENTS

### **APRIL SPECIAL EDUCATION PAC COFFEE, Tuesday April 15th 7:00-9:00p.m.**

The PAC holds informal, monthly coffees for parents and guardians of children on IEPs. This is an excellent opportunity to meet other parents and share knowledge, advice and concerns. There's no need to RSVP, just drop in. The April Coffee will be held on Tuesday night, April 15th from 7:00-9:00p.m. at the home of Nicole Salemmé at 254 Main St. Questions? Contact Nicole at 781-729-4745 or [Winspedpac@yahoo.com](mailto:Winspedpac@yahoo.com). Also see the PAC website, [www.winchesterspedpac.org](http://www.winchesterspedpac.org).

### **Parent to Parent Presents: Just for Women: Recapturing Balance, Gaining Perspective in a Frenzied Age**

How do we keep a sharp eye on the road of life when we can barely get supper on the table each night? How can women regain *perspective* at home and at work, and make sure they don't wake up at 50, wondering where the years went? In a world of freedom, mobility and hyper-connectivity, work-life balance can easily dissolve into a muddling struggle to survive - whether you do paid work or not.

In this talk, renowned work-life author Maggie Jackson helps women combat the daily frenzy and find their own pace, frameworks and definitions of success in an exciting but confusing new age. Learn how new developments in "career fluidity" can help women transition smoothly in and out of the workforce, and why "having it all" doesn't have to mean all at once. Discover the secrets to curing 21<sup>st</sup>-century epidemics of overload, and hear why multitasking - the famed "female" skill - actually slows us down. Recapture the art of the boundary and the power of presence to create a strong family life - a lasting legacy in a time of flux. Maggie Jackson helps women harness their talents toward meaningful life goals and regain balance - by the day or by the decade. Hit the pause button and take time to listen: we can conquer, not just cope with, the challenges of our age.

Maggie Jackson is an award-winning journalist, specializing in work-life issues, and has authored: *What's Happening to Home? Balancing Work, Life and Refuge in the Information Age*, and the upcoming: *Distracted: The Erosion of Attention and the Coming of the Dark Age*. Parent to Parent wishes to thank the En Ka Society for its generous support of this program.

**Please join us on Thursday, May 8 at 7:30 PM at Winchester High School.**

[www.parenttoparentwinchester.org](http://www.parenttoparentwinchester.org)

**The Friends of Music** will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, April 29, at 7:00 pm in the Winchester High School chorus room. We will hear reports on the concerts held in April, review expenditures to date and our current policies for approving requests for funding, as well as planning for the rest of the school year. Friends of Music supports the public school music program from pre-K through grade 12. All are welcome to join us.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Would you like to know more about the **Winchester Multicultural Network**? The Network invites anyone interested to an information session on Tuesday evening, April 15 from 7:30-9:00 PM in the Social Studies Open Area at Winchester High School. "This is an opportunity," says Robin Smith, co-chair of the Multicultural Network Board, "for people to explore what the Network does and how they can become involved." For more information on the evening, call Robin Smith at 781 721-2171 or email [office@wmcn.org](mailto:office@wmcn.org).

### **Shop for a Great Cause!**

Are you in search of great treasures at great prices? Come visit the En Ka Yard Sale where you will find household items, sporting equipment, children's toys and many other unique items. The Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, May 3 (rain or shine) at the En Ka Exchange, 1037 Main Street, Winchester, from 9:00-2:00. While at the Exchange, En Ka's consignment Shop, make sure to browse for great bargains on fashions for the whole family. Proceeds to benefit local organizations.

**En Ka Yard Sale Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00-2:00 En Ka Exchange, 1037 Main Street**

### **En Ka Society Seeks Book Donations**

The En Ka Society, Winchester's oldest women's service organization, seeks donations of lightly-used children's and adult books to support the book sale tent at the Society's annual Street Fair, scheduled for May 16 and 17. This year's Fair is titled *Walking' in Sunshine!*

Between April 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup>, books can be left anytime on the wooden collection pallets at the Sanborn House's Carriage 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 fiction, mysteries, and children's books. Videos, DVDs, audiotapes and CDs in good condition are also appreciated. No text books, encyclopedias, magazines or condensed books please. No books can be accepted prior to April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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 a variety of charities. Questions, call Linda Holdstock at 781-721-2471 or Shelia Marian at 781-729-8939.