

WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL
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PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ DECEMBER 2007

For up to date info visit our website at www.whspfa.org

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From the Office of Principal Tom Gwin

Through the last twenty-years of the 20th century, the teaching force in Massachusetts primarily consisted of a “veteran” faculty with little turnover. The times, however, are dramatically changing. The demographics of the teaching force in Massachusetts have completely turned around in the last few years. With the aging teaching force finally retiring and a tremendous increase in student enrollment, districts have hired new teachers in droves. The statewide trend is mirrored in the faculty at Winchester High School. Right now we have a very large number of teachers in their 20s and early 30s at WHS, and we have a total of 35 teachers (of a total of 96) who are not on “Professional Status”, meaning they are in their first three years teaching at a school. The total number of new adults this year at WHS (including teachers, instructors, aides, counselors, support staff, etc.) totals 28. This change in the teaching guard has created a totally different dynamic in the school. There are far fewer “veteran” teachers in the building, putting tremendous pressure on the administrative staff to bring people up to speed quickly, and provide good mentoring for their development. It is also quite exciting, bringing new energy, enthusiasm, perspectives, and technical skill to the school. The newer teachers have grown up with computers and have proven quite adept at integrating technology into instruction.

While the new faculty demographic dynamic is invigorating, it also brings concerns. Nationally, the retention rates of teachers are at an all time low. For numerous reasons, new teachers are leaving the profession after just a few years. Research indicates most new staff leave teaching due to dissatisfaction with the job or a desire for a different kind of career. While we do not see teacher retention as an issue yet at WHS, it is something the WHS administrative staff is thinking about. In addition, I worry about the loss of some of our very best teachers due to retirement. We have and will continue to do our very best to bring the highest quality teachers to Winchester High.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season!

From PFA President Carol Cashion

If you attended the November PFA meeting, I think you saw an excellent demonstration of how our faculty, administration and parent body can work together for the benefit of our children. First example: we heard an excellent presentation by Math Director Tom Haver on how WHS students are performing on standardized math assessments: MCAS, SAT and AP exams. The results were impressive: not only do we have more students performing at top levels, but the percentage of students overall who are demonstrating high levels of math achievement is also increasing, as is enrollment in AP math courses for seniors. In other words, the results show that this rising tide is lifting all boats, and that kind of continued improvement is the department’s goal. This is just the sort of information that we, as parents, are hungry for, and understanding what the math program’s aims are, and how the department is trying to reach them, helps us help our children.

The second example on display was the presentation and approval of no less than thirty-two grant proposals. Students and teachers will receive financial support for projects, initiatives, and urgent needs through the PFA Grants Program, which is funded by your generous donations to our Direct Appeal. We distributed a total of \$18,351 for everything from a “Raku Barbecue” that took place last week to new software for the music lab, an SOS/SADD workshop, and a winter’s supply of hot cocoa for students visiting the WHS library (ask your student about the importance of this last item – it’s huge!).

We have had excellent attendance to date at our meetings, which is really heartening. It was also wonderful to see the faces of quite a few fathers at our November meeting, and I hope that will become more common. We truly invite and encourage the participation of all of you in the work we are doing. It matters. Hope to see you in December!

The next PFA Meeting will be Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 pm.

WHS PFA - Direct Appeal Update

As of mid-November, 329 families, representing approximately 35% of all WHS families, have contributed to the PFA’s 2007-08 Direct Appeal. Thanks to those families, the PFA has begun the process of providing grants to WHS teachers and administrators to cover the cost of many important programs and supplies not covered by the high school budget. At the November PFA meeting, parents in attendance reviewed and approved recommendations for 31 grants benefiting WHS students across various academic departments, the school library, and several extracurricular, enrichment, and support programs.

Although the Direct Appeal is off to a great start, many more contributions are needed to meet the PFA’s fundraising goal for 2007-08. If you have not yet made your contribution, please consider doing so now so that the PFA can continue to provide grants as well as sponsor special events throughout the school year. Although a contribution of any amount is very much appreciated, the PFA asks that each family consider making a one-time donation for this school year of \$75.00 or more, which includes PFA dues.

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 dlijshenry@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. Thank you!**

FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP

The W.H.S. Guidance Department is holding a Financial Aid Workshop for parents of seniors on Thursday, December 6, 2007, at 7:00 P.M. in the cafeteria. Laura Ortiz, Associate Director of Financial Aid at Tufts University, and an educational loan representative from Citizens Bank will present the program. Ms. Ortiz will provide step-by-step instructions on completing the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA), the form required to apply for all types of financial aid. She will also present information on the *Profile* form required by many private institutions, in addition to the FAFSA. The bank representative will explain the various educational loan programs. A representative from the Winchester Scholarship Foundation will present information on how to apply for scholarships from the WSF, and WSF applications will be available. Students are welcome to attend this informative workshop with their parents.

CLASS NEWS

Class of 2008

The senior class has been extremely busy this year! The senior semi-formal dance will be held on December 7, 2007 at 7:30 pm at the Town Hall. DJ Zati will be providing the music and tickets will go on sale the week of December 3rd. To go along with the senior class's Holiday Community Service "Got Soap?" Drive, it is requested that all students attending the semi bring a donation of a hygiene product to enter the dance.

Important Announcement: After much deliberation, the senior class officers and parent/faculty advisors have decided to host this year's senior prom on the top of the Prudential Center at the Skywalk Observatory. 'The Top of the Hub' will be providing the dinner. Per usual, students attending prom will "walk the promenade" at McCall Middle School on Wednesday, June 4th and then file into charter buses headed for the Prudential Center. More specifics are to be announced.

The senior class is holding another holiday community service drive in early December. In the past, the Class of 2008 has worked with the Medford Family Life Education Center and donated everything from socks, to hats, to hygiene products. This year the senior class has chosen to collect hygiene products again for their "Got Soap?" drive (products such as NEW and UNUSED soap, loofahs, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hairbrushes, shampoo, etc.) for the Medford Family Life Education Center. The drive will start the first week of December and the donated hygiene products should be placed in a bin in the WHS library. Thank you, The Class of 2008 Officers, Advisors & Cabinet

The WHS Freshmen Class of 2011 is off to a fabulous start. The Class of 2011 has established goals for their four years at WHS: to promote class unity and spirit, and establish funds for their senior year activities and to select a charity they will support and identify with through four years at WHS. The Freshmen Class is busy establishing a calendar of activities for the remaining school year.

FRESHMEN T-SHIRT: The Freshmen Class designed a unique class t-shirt. It has been very popular. There are a few t-shirts remaining, sizes medium and small. Contact gillj@comcast.net

WHS OPEN HOUSE NIGHT: Freshmen worked together to sell their 2011 T-Shirts, Bottles of Water with a Class of 2011 Label and delicious Baked Goods graciously donated by freshmen parents. Remaining "2011 Water" was sold at a Freshmen Football Game at Manchester Field while supporting the team. It was a very hot afternoon and the water was appreciated. Remaining water bottles were given to the team as they exited the field following their victory.

FRESHMEN PARENT COFFEE On November 2, 2007, a freshmen parent coffee was held from 7AM to 10AM to connect Freshmen Parents.

FRESHMEN CLASS LUNCH: The Freshmen Class lunch will be held on Thursday, December 13 at 11:15 in the WHS Cafeteria. This is a WHS Early Release Day. Freshmen will have the opportunity to get together after school and enjoy a Joe's Main

Street Pizza lunch with their fellow freshmen classmates.

Freshmen can purchase a ticket in advance for \$3 for a slice of Joe's pizza AND a drink, or \$5 the day of the lunch. There will also be a raffle of Sagem gear and Joe's Pizza T-Shirts. Additionally, bake sale items will be sold for \$1. Baked good donations and soda/water are needed. Please e-mail James Gill at gillj74@comcast.net **FREE DESSERT IF YOU WEAR YOUR FRESHMEN SHIRT !!!!!**

FRESHMEN SEMI-FORMAL will be held on February 8th at the Winchester Town Hall. Details to follow.

FRESHMEN PARENT SOCIAL Freshmen Parent Reps are making plans to run a dinner/silent auction the evening of the Freshmen Semi-Formal. Donations for auction items are greatly appreciated. Contact agmuir@verizon.net tracytroiano@aol.com or prates14@verizon.net

Please encourage your son or daughter to attend the Freshmen class meetings when they are announced at school. We need lots of help planning these activities, selling tickets, making posters, etc.

CONNECT & COMMIT, COMMUNITY SERVICE-LEARNING

The club's **Desserts for Doctors** is now on **Thursday, December 13** from 7:00 – 8:30 pm (early release). Students have been learning about the organization's work in Darfur and other countries and they're looking for people who can help make the event a success by donating one homemade dessert to share and another to auction, or by just attending and bidding on your favorite treats. Please contact student Julia Howard if you can donate desserts at jw.howard1@verizon.net and see below for more details.

The **tutor orientation for the WHS- Muraco/Lynch Afterschool Tutoring Program** is **Wednesday, Nov. 28** from 2:30 - 3:30 in the WHS Library. Please participate in this program if possible because these elementary students need your help and encouragement! Tutor Tuesdays at Muraco Elementary or Wednesdays at Lynch from 2:30 - 3:30 pm, from the week of December 4 through the week of April 14.

Congratulations to the more than 90 students who have served their community so far this school year through the Connect & Commit office at food banks, shelters, community events, outdoor service projects, the Giving Thanks Blood Drive and in many other ways.

The Halloween fundraiser, organized by Julia McElhinney, raised \$150 for the Boys & Girls Club of Dorchester. Students gave to a good cause while they voted with their dollars for whether Assistant Principal Chapman, Mr. Skinder or Mr. Kurhajetz would don an outrageous ostrich costume (Mr. Chapman) on Halloween, while runners up dressed as a Roman god (Mr. Skinder) and pirate (Mr. Kurhajetz).

Thanks to all the volunteers who came out despite the rain for the WHS Fall Service Day and who made a significant difference in areas surrounding the high school, including adults Anne Sharpe, Ruth Ann deRedon, Officer Perenick, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Marchand, and custodian Mike diNanno. Thanks also to Kate Ebbott for taking on coordinating community service, and to Anne Emmerich, Sheila Puffer, Lynn Battinelli, Elinor Bastarache and Jennifer Jeffrey for helping to make the November service opportunities possible.

The two students running the C&C cartridge recycling project ask that you bring all your used laserjet and inkjet cartridges to the drop box across from the main office, in order to help the student club raise money and reduce waste.

In service-learning news, the school store opened on November 15. It's a service-learning project of Jackie Lionetta, an Economics independent study student, and the project received funding from the Service-Learning Mini-Grant program. Students in the Achieve special education program are also involved in running the store. The store is selling healthy snacks, green products, school spirit goods and other items, and the proceeds will go towards making the school greener.

The Journeys to the East event was wonderful, and students from the Dandelion School Project and the Pathways to China program conveyed the value of those experiences as well as the differences between the two programs in a way that was personal, poignant and entertaining.

Connect & Commit had the spotlight recently during WinCAM's "Evening of Civic Conversation", along with other civic and charitable groups in Winchester. Check out this program for a snapshot of some of the great local groups that you can be involved with.

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 the following:

- **Saturday, Dec. 1 – "Gift it Up" Boston's Annual Alternative Gift Fair**
- **Sunday, December 9 – MA Coalition for the Homeless Gift Wrapping**
- **Thursday, December 13 – Desserts for Doctors**
- **Saturday, December 15 – MA Coalition for the Homeless Gift Wrapping**
- **Sunday, December 16 – Minuteman Senior Services**

See details in the current list of service opportunities 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 781-721-7020 x1999

Connect & Commit Service Opportunities - December 2007, Events

Now through Friday, December 14 – Toy, book, and art supply drive

The Interfaith Youth Leadership Program and ADL are hosting a toy, book, and art supply drive; these donations will be given as holiday gifts to the patients of the Franciscan Children's Hospital. Drop-off boxes will be located throughout the high school. All toys, books, and art supplies must be unwrapped, and the toys must be new. For more information, contact IFYLP member and WHS student Alexandra Bolles at anorianb333@gmail.com or ADL employee Jillian at jbergman@adl.org.

Saturday, Dec. 1 – "Gift it Up" Boston's Annual Alternative Gift Fair – 10:30–1:30pm or 1:30–4:30pm

Help this Alternative Holiday Fair, sponsored by the nonprofit Conscious Consuming, be a success by handing out flyers outside the fair and greeting "shoppers". Learn about a diverse collection of organizations with established track records of helping people and the environment that you can provide critical support for while honoring friends and relatives with donations to causes that fit their values. Open 12–4. River of Life Church in Jamaica Plain. C&C permission slip required by Wednesday, November 21.

Sunday, December 2nd - Jolly Jaunt – 11:30 am Registration

A 5K fun run to benefit Special Olympics Massachusetts and a post-run holiday party. Registration 11:30 – 12:45, race at 1:00, and then a post-run party with free food and prizes. At the North Shore Community College, 1 Ferncroft Road, Danvers. See Ms. Gordon if you want to carpool with other students. For info go to www.jollyjaunt.org and click on Danvers.

Sunday, December 9th – MA Coalition for the Homeless Gift Wrapping - 12-3pm or 3-6pm

Wrap purchases for shoppers at Boston's Faneuil Hall to raise money for the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless. They provide supplies, you just come ready to wrap away during a busy shopping day!

Saturday, December 15th – MA Coalition for the Homeless Gift Wrapping – 12-3pm or 3-6pm

(See above)

Thursday, December 13th – Desserts for Doctors – 7 – 8:30 pm

Come to the Connect & Commit club's dessert event and auction to raise funds for Doctors Without Borders, an independent medical humanitarian organization that delivers emergency aid to over 70 countries. Please help by donating one homemade dessert to share and another to auction, or you can just attend. Either way, bid on your favorites-- or on a cooking lesson with Winchester chef Susan Schwartz—and enjoy piano and cello music by students. \$5 tickets on sale at WHS in advance and at the door. In the WHS cafeteria. Contact Julia Howard if you can donate desserts or for more information: jw.howard1@verizon.net www.doctorswithoutborders.org

Sunday, December 16th – Minuteman Senior Services – 2-5pm

Deliver gifts to and exchange holiday greetings with seniors in the area. Volunteers and chaperones meet at WHS. Confidentiality form, CORI Request, and copy of driver's license for chaperone/drivers needed by Monday, November 19. C&C permission slip required for students by November 30.

Ongoing Opportunities

WHS- Muraco/Lynch Afterschool Tutoring Program

Tuesdays at Muraco or Wednesdays at Lynch, 2:30 - 3:30
Sign up to tutor an elementary school student after school in this popular program. Tutor orientation on November 28 is required. Must commit to tutoring the week of December 3 through week of April 14 (skipping exam weeks and vacation).

Anyone in the need of a coat will have one...

Join Anton's Cleaners in their efforts to collect 60,000 quality winter coats by donating good, wearable kids, adult and baby sized coats to any Anton's Cleaners or Jordan's Furniture store location between October 15, 2007 and January 15, 2008. (Our nearest

Anton's is at 600 Main Street and is open Monday-Friday 7am-7pm and Saturday from 8am-6pm.) Please donate coats that have no rips, tears, missing buttons, broken zippers and/or permanent stains – simply coats that you would give a friend to wear.

Anton's will clean the coat and then make sure it gets to someone who needs it through one of its many distribution partners: Boston University Medical Center's Outreach Van Project, The Lowell Wish Project, The Community Giving Tree, The Salvation Army, MASSCAP's community action agencies, Cradles to Crayons and Southern New Hampshire Services, providing winter coats to those in need in Boston, Merrimac Valley and Southern New Hampshire.

Are you a good listener?

Samariteen's might be the right volunteer opportunity for you. The Samariteen befriending line offers teen callers a chance to make a connection. The most important thing volunteers do is listen. Many of the callers have no one to talk to and no one who really listens to what they say. The Samaritans offers "Listening for Life" orientation, where you'll learn more about their programs, philosophies and practices. You'll also have the opportunity to fill out a volunteer application and meet with a Samaritans' staff person or volunteer. Call them at 617 536-2460 or 508-872-1780 or follow the links at <http://www.samaritansofboston.org/volunteer.html> and they'll send you a volunteer packet with a list of upcoming "Listening for Life" dates. (Teens 15 or older volunteer from offices in either Boston or Framingham from 3-9 daily.)

Be a Carbon Conscious Consumer (c3)!

Take part in the monthly campaigns to make a positive impact on the environment and climate. Take the pledge this month! Go to <http://c3.newdream.org> for information --and pass the word along.

Donate Your Used Printer Cartridges

Raise funds for the C&C club and reduce waste by dropping off used Laser jet and Inkjet printer cartridges to the collection box in the main hall.

Holiday Shopping Tips

Alternative Gifts International, sending gifts of peace and justice-food, shelter, trees, water, medicines- around the world since 1986. Select an alternative gift from 34 life-sustaining, worldwide projects to honor family and friends.
<http://www.alternativegifts.org/>

Gift It Up, Boston's Alternative Gift Fair, with your purchase of the gifts to such organizations as: Grassroots International, African Health Foundation, All Paws Rescue, Federation of Massachusetts Farmer's Markets, Free Wheelchair Mission, The Healing Exchange Brain Trust, Heifer International, Girl's Leap, Leap Self-Defense Inc., Mass Bike, The Network/La Red, Prison Book Program, Second World, Spare Change News, Summerbridge Cambridge you will receive a handsome gift card and envelope for each gift to fill out and give to your gift recipients. Donate by December 15, 2006 to insure that the cards will be received by December 24th.
<http://giftitup.org/donate.htm>

Minuteman Senior Services. The Giving Tree at the Crafty Yankee in Lexington (1838 Massachusetts Avenue) will be up on November 1. Last year, the Holiday Gift project provided 300+ gifts for seniors' basic household or personal care needs: a new pair of slippers, gift certificates for grocery stores or pharmacy, sheets for a hospital bed, or a portable phone to help those with mobility problems.

WINCHESTER YOUTH CENTER, 458R MAIN STREET, 781-721-0906, 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.

The goals of the WYC are to:

- Provide Winchester teens with their own space that will foster healthy, safe, and enriching alternative activities outside of school hours. This is a place for Winchester teens to engage in substance-free activities and develop healthy social skills.
- Supply valuable work and service-learning opportunities in the community that enhance leadership development through real life experiences.
- Strengthen the relationship between teens and the community and instill a commitment to civic responsibility and community involvement.
- Promote positive and healthy youth development.

SSA: Students Spreading Awareness

December 1st is **World AIDS Day**. Throughout the week leading up to this international event the members of SSA will be spreading awareness about the AIDS epidemic and what we all can do to make a difference. Look for us at the table outside the cafeteria. On Friday, November 30th we'll be handing out AIDS ribbons and asking all members of the WHS community to demonstrate their care and concern about HIV and AIDS.

SERVICE PROJECTS

If you're interested in doing something good for our community, stop by the WYC and find out how you can get involved.

Habitat for Humanity

During February vacation the WYC Peer Leaders will be participating in our third annual Habitat for Humanity trip. This year we will be traveling to Beaumont, Texas to help with their continued rebuilding in response to the damage done by Hurricane Rita. Twenty Peer Leaders will participate in a week-long service-learning project with Habitat for Humanity and help build homes for needy families.

We are currently working toward fundraising 100% of the expenses for our trip including a \$2500 donation to the Jefferson County Habitat affiliate and Habitat for Humanity International. 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:

Join us for a jewelry party!
Sunday, December 2nd at 3:00-6:00pm, 1 Alden Lane
Hosted by Karen Erikson & Naomi DeLairre

Dump Runs!

Let us take care of your trash on Saturday, January 5th
We are currently selling dump run vouchers for \$10
Contact the WYC for more information

Let us do your holiday present wrapping!
Bring your Christmas/Chanukah presents to the WYC any day after school from December 3rd-21st and the Peer Leaders will make sure your gifts are beautifully wrapped and tied with a bow!

Christmas in the City

Once again this Holiday season the WYC Peer Leaders and Little Brothers & Sisters will be collecting and purchasing new gifts for children served by Christmas in the City. On December 16th the Peer Leaders will volunteer at the Christmas in the City event, an all-day holiday celebration at the Bayside Expo Center for over

3,000 homeless individuals in Greater Boston. Over 2,000 children will receive holiday gifts at the event! If you would like to make a contribution toward this amazing event (new gifts only) please contact the WYC.

PB&J Jewels

The WYC's first entrepreneurial endeavor is our jewelry business. The Peer Leaders have created beautiful jewelry made of fresh water pearls, glass beads, turquoise, and more. All of our hand-crafted jewelry is on display in the WYC and can be purchased Monday-Friday from 2:00-6:00 pm. The proceeds from all jewelry sales go to benefit the WYC and our youth development programs.

Lowell Wish Project: Jeans & Sweatshirts Drive

The Peer Leaders and Little Brothers & Sisters are collecting new/lightly-worn jeans and sweatshirts to donate to the Lowell Wish Project. The Lowell Wish Project provides emergency, basic, and seasonal goods to low income families in the Merrimack Valley. Please bring your donations to the WYC any day between

2:00-6:00pm or contact us and we'll pick them up from your home.

Hands Across the Water: Books For South Africa Project

The Peer Leaders and Little Brothers & Sisters assist the Hands Across the Water Project by collecting books at the WYC and going to the collection bin on a weekly basis to help sort and pack the books to be sent to villages in South Africa. Please contact the WYC if you have books that you would like to donate.

Woburn Council of Social Concern food collection

Throughout the month of December the WYC Peer Leaders and Little Brother s& Sisters will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Woburn Council of Social Concern's food pantry. We will also be volunteering at the food pantry on December 19th to help with the distribution of Christmas dinner baskets to local families in need. Please contact the WYC if you have food items that you would like to donate.

SCHOOL RELATED EVENTS

The Winchester High School **Robotics Club will be having a fundraiser auction on December 6th from 6 :00 to 8:00 p.m. at Boston Centerless, Inc. at 11 Presidential Way, in Woburn.** The fundraiser is, "Building Tomorrow's Technology Leaders."

We would like to invite parents and friends to a couple of hours of fun to support the club's activities. We will be serving complimentary finger sandwiches and drink. We are also looking for auction items (Sports or Theatre tickets, weekend getaway, services, etc.). The club is very active with 20-25 students. There is a regional competition in Plymouth, Ma. and a national competition in Miami. In addition, several robotic club students will be mentoring our "future, technology leaders," at the Lynch School's Mindstorm Program this year. The students are planning to build three 15 pound robots and one 120 pound bot, in addition one "autonomous" robot which is on the drawing board. We will be looking forward to seeing you on the 6th. If you cannot make it and would like to donate an auction item or make a donation, please bring your item to the Main Office of the High School, or make a check out to WHS with a memo to the Robotics Club.

Thank you for your support. Jim Goodwin, Advisor

The Friends of Music will hold their next meeting on **Tuesday, November 27, at 7:00 pm** in the Winchester High School chorus room. We will hear reports on the Crate & Barrel fundraiser and A Cappella fest and look at 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. If you have any questions about the above meeting notice, please contact me at 781-721-2364 or at this email address.

Thank you. Melodie Wing, Secretary, Friends of Music

Successful Transitions to College: Parenting Tips for Surviving and Thriving

Parent to Parent is offering parents of high schoolers and first year college students a unique opportunity to learn about navigating a successful transition to college. On **Monday evening, January 7, from 7:30 to 9 p.m.** (snow date January 14), in the Winchester High School Auditorium, Rick Irving will lead a discussion with recent Winchester High School graduates (current college sophomores) about the joys and challenges of this major transition, and what parents need to know. Rick Irving, a local child and family therapist, is Parent to Parent's most popular speaker. In addition to learning from our local youth, parents will also hear from Rick about issues and strategies to consider, and view a wonderful DVD shown at college orientations. Parent to Parent thanks our local Parent Faculty Organizations for their ongoing support. To learn more about this and additional upcoming programs, visit our web site at parenttoparentwinchester.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Scouts of Troop #507 will collect old holiday trees from Winchester residents again this year. On Saturday, January 5, 2008 starting at 7AM, the Scouts will collect trees from those residents who have pre-registered with a \$10 per tree fee, and bring the trees to the Transfer Station. This is fourteenth year that this successful fund raiser has helped Winchester residents dispose of their old trees, while helping the troop raise money for equipment and trips. The deadline for paid pre-registrations is December 31, 2007. Please send your orders with name, address, and telephone number and a check to the order of Troop 507, c/o Beverly Hjorth, 46 Wildwood Street, Winchester, MA or contact boyscout507trees@gmail.com for more information. All trees must be curbside by 7AM on Saturday January 5, 2008. Please make sure that you remove all wiring, ornaments and plastics.