

WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL
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PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ JANUARY 2008

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

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From the Office of Principal Tom Gwin

I hope each and everyone one of you are enjoying the holiday season. Based on the December storms, it would appear to be a stormy winter. We were lucky that the December 13th storm took place on an early release day and students were dismissed before the snow flew. The teachers were not so lucky and many had extended trips home. The faculty record for the day was a seven hour trip to Natick.

In addition to the stormy weather, December and January bring the town budget season. School district administrators presented their initial budget requests in December to the School Committee. In the past, initial budget requests were presented at District Administrative Council meetings, and then reduced before going to the School Committee. Superintendent McAlduff took a different approach by having the original requests presented directly to the school committee. This way the school committee would know what staffing, equipment, and supplies the schools actually needed.

The high school has requested 2.5 FTEs in additional staffing to lower class size, increase the athletic director position from a part-time to a fulltime position, add staffing to the Wellness Department to ensure we meet the state physical education requirement, and add a Chinese component to the Foreign Language Department. I have also requested money to pay appropriate stipends to club advisors and increase the equipment, supplies, and instructional materials budget by 21%. In FY2003, the school's per pupil expenditure based on equipment, supplies, and instructional materials was \$354 per student. In the current fiscal year, the per pupil expenditure is \$260 per student. The decrease has been due to the tight budget woes of the last few years. The 21% increase would bring the per pupil expenditure to \$340 per student, more in line to where we were 6 years ago.

The next step will be for the administrative team to reduce the budget request in the effort to move the school district's budget increase closer to the Town Manager's projected increase (at the moment, 5.5%). Stay tuned for more updates on this all important issue.

Back to the holidays- I am immensely enjoying myself as the principal of Winchester High. The students and staff are wonderful. The parents are incredibly supportive and generous. I cannot imagine working in a finer community. Have a great holiday and an excellent New Year!

Principal Drop-in: This month's drop-in will take place on Wednesday, January 9, from 5:30 to 7 pm, before the monthly PFA meeting.

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Open Ends for Seniors: If a Senior in "Good Standing" is scheduled as unassigned/open ends for either first or last block, he/she may come to school at the close of first block or leave school at the beginning of last block. **Privileges do NOT include Academic Blocks surrounding the lunch period.** The privilege of having Open Ends will be removed if the student violates these rules or other school rules.

ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND THEIR ASSIGNED ACADEMIC BLOCKS.

From PFA President Carol Cashion

December was a busy month at WHS, and the PFA was pleased to see some of the projects and programs your contributions helped fund get underway. Connect and Commit held its "Desserts for Doctors" fundraiser to benefit Doctors Without Borders, and the PFA hosted a holiday breakfast for our faculty and support staff. All four classes, Freshman to Senior, have been hard at work either raising money or enjoying being together for dances, lunches, and other events. The new school store is getting ready to open in the hallway outside the cafeteria, engaging students from across the school population in running a small business. Happily this burst of activity is followed by our winter holiday break, giving everyone, students, faculty and parents, a chance to slow down the pace, enjoy family, and store up the energy we will all need to accelerate back into the fast lane of high school life in the New Year.

The first PFA meeting of 2008 will take place on Wednesday, January 9th at 7pm in the WHS Library. Please note that this is a **change in the usual date and time** for our monthly meetings. We will begin promptly at 7:00 with a presentation by Tom Murray, our Athletic Director. If there are issues or questions you would like to have Mr. Murray address, please send a note via email to Annmarie Galli, our Programs Chair, at anngalli@comcast.net. The business portion of the meeting will start at 7:30. If you come for the presentation, please do stay for the rest of the meeting. You may be surprised at what you will learn about what the PFA does, and can do, and you may see a way you would like to help.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season, and a happy and healthy new year!

Carol Cashion and the PFA Board

WHS PFA - DIRECT APPEAL

As the 2007-08 Direct Appeal continues into January, the PFA Board would like to thank the 371 WHS families who have contributed to the Appeal as of mid-December and ask those families who have not yet contributed to please consider doing so now. The funds will be used to continue to cover the cost of many important programs and supplies for WHS students and teachers during the second half of the school year.

Although a contribution of any amount is truly appreciated, the PFA asks 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://www.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 or 781-729-9719.

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

Please mail your check made payable to **WHS PFA to Laura Henry, 86 Lawson Road, Winchester, MA 01890. Thank you!**

CLASS NEWS

The Senior Class of 2008 has accomplished a lot in the past four months of school. Their "Got Soap" holiday hygiene product drive was very successful again this year. The Medford Family Life Education Center was delighted to receive so many donations again. The Class of '08 would like to thank everyone who helped and donated hygiene products to their community service project.

The senior class's semiformal "SnoBall" dance was held at the Town Hall on December 7th. Close to 180 tickets were sold, which was very successful. The class would like to thank all the parents, chaperones, the Substance Abuse Coalition, and of course, DJ Zati for helping them create such an enjoyable event.

Save the date! March 13th, 2008 is the date of the senior class's annual class dinner. The dinner is a huge fundraiser for the class's senior week activities. The theme of the dinner is TBA but all those that would like to help out or donate items to the auction/raffle please contact Peter Stein @ pdsteiners@hotmail.com. Hope to see you all there!

Message from the Junior Class

Welcome back! We hope your holidays went very well. So far this winter, the junior class has completed several projects. We would like to thank everyone for making our November Wilson Farms pie fundraiser a success for the third year in a row. We sold over 300 pies! We are also very grateful for anyone who donated baked goods for selling during intermission of the Curtain + Cue play. We were able to sell food and drinks at each of the three productions, and all of the money will go to the junior class.

We have a handful of very important events still planned for the rest of the school year. The junior semiformal will take place on Friday April 11, a few months from now. We are also planning on holding a junior class dinner on Tuesday March 18. During our class dinner, we will hold a silent auction as a fundraiser for the class. We would be very appreciative of anyone who would like to donate something to be auctioned during the dinner. We look to plan other events in addition to these, so keep your eyes open for more news from the junior class.

The Class of 2011 held its first annual Freshmen Lunch on Thursday, December 13, 2007. It was an early release day and a perfect time for 150 freshmen to relax and enjoy food, friendship and WHS Spirit. Freshmen "elves" served a slice of Joe's pizza, a drink and dessert to happy, hungry fellow freshmen. There was also a fun raffle of items such as a "Sachem" Elmo, Sachem flip-flops and hat, a large inflatable snowman, large candy canes, and a very sought-after red and black pillow rock guitar among many other items. Freshmen camaraderie and WHS Spirit was clearly evident at this VERY successful Class of 2011 Event. Many, many thanks to all the wonderful freshmen, parents and the student advisors who helped to make the First Annual Freshmen Class Lunch a great and memorable event. What an awesome class!

The Freshmen Semi-Formal is February 8, 2008. A Freshmen Parent Social will be held the same evening. If you are interested in helping out at these events, please e-mail agmuir@verizon.net or tracytroiano@aol.com

The Guide



A Monthly Newsletter from the WHS Guidance Department January 2008

Junior Parent Night Scheduled for January 22

The Guidance Department's Early College Planning Night for parents of juniors has been scheduled for Tuesday evening, January 22, 2008, at 7:00 P.M. (Snow date: Wednesday, January 23.) The program will be held in the auditorium and will feature speakers David Hautanen, Director of Admissions and Recruitment, Northeastern University, and Walker Coppedge, Associate Director of Enrollment, Tufts University. The admissions professionals will describe the admissions process from the colleges' perspective. Guidance Director Alice Schellhorn will discuss how to get started on the college selection process, with an emphasis on how to begin the college search, what to look for when visiting colleges, and a suggested schedule for college admissions testing. The Early College Planning Night is the first in a series of workshops designed to equip parents with as much information as possible about the college process.

Guidance Morning Program for Sophomore Parents on PSAT

A morning workshop will be held on January 15, 2008 at 8:00 AM, for parents of sophomores. The program-- "What does your PSAT score mean?" will be presented by Sherry Brass, Director of Pre-College Programs, Boston Area, Kaplan Test Prep & Admissions. It will be held in the cafeteria. Following this workshop, guidance counselors will review a schedule for further testing in high school. Parents who plan on attending this informal meeting should reserve a space by contacting Guidance Director Alice Schellhorn via email at: aschellhorn@winchester.k12.ma.us.

Scholarships for Class of 2007, Listed in Naviance

Scholarships restricted to the Class of 2008 will no longer be listed in the guidance newsletter. Instead, seniors and their parents will be able to use their *Naviance* account to find out about scholarship opportunities that have been received by the Guidance Department. *Family Connections from Naviance* is the Web-based service designed especially for students and parents that can assist in making decisions about colleges. The service was introduced to this year's seniors in January 2007, and will be introduced to the Class of 2009 in the near future. Parents who would like to preview *Naviance* may do so by going to:

<http://connection.naviance.com/winchester> and signing in as a Guest, using the password sachem (case sensitive!). Scholarships available to underclassmen will be listed in the newsletter as they are received in the Guidance Office.

Parent to Parent Program on, College Transition

On Monday, January 7, 2008 (Snowdate: January 14) from 7:30 – 9:00 PM, Parent to Parent is offering a program on preparing for and successfully managing the transition to college. Rick Irving, a local child and family therapist, and recent WHS graduates will highlight issues to consider and offer helpful tips. The program will be held in the auditorium.

Phillips Andover Academy, Summer Opportunities Fair

Phillips Academy will hold its 18th annual Summer Opportunities Fair from 12-2 p.m. on Sunday, January 27, 2008 in the Cage, Andover. The fair opens to the public at noon with free admission. Representatives from approximately 75 local, national and

international summer opportunities, as well as interim year programs, will be available to talk with interested students and their families. The fair offers a wide range of programs that focus on interim year, academic enrichment, outdoor adventure, international homestay, travel, internships, community service, camps, arts, sports and more for middle school and high school students. Vendors will have materials on their programs available. The Cage is wheelchair-accessible. For further information and a campus map visit: www.andover.edu/summerops/fair.htm or call the Summer Opportunities Office at 978-749-4480.

Massachusetts College Goal Sunday, January 27, 2008 @ 2:00 PM

College Goal Sunday is a non-profit program that provides free information to families applying for financial assistance for higher education. Financial aid professionals from Massachusetts colleges help families of college-bound students complete the FAFSA, the form required for students to receive even a single dollar of federal, and sometimes institutional, funds at any school. College Goal Sunday will be held at many locations around the state. Locations convenient to the Winchester area include: Malden High School, Somerville High School and Waltham High School. Students and their parents should bring completed 2007 or 2006 Federal tax returns, W2 statements and other 2006 or 2007 income and benefits information, current bank statements, untaxed income (Social Security, Welfare, Veterans Benefits records, etc.), drivers license and alien registration card, if applicable. This information is helpful, but not required. For additional information, or to register for one of the locations, call (877) 4-CGS-MAS or go to: www.masscollegegoalsunday.org.

Joint Admissions Programs at Middlesex Community College

The Joint Admissions Program at Middlesex Community College allows students to earn their Associate Degree at Middlesex in one of the 25 possible Joint Admissions majors. Students who graduate with a 2.5 cumulative grade point average are guaranteed admission to a participating Massachusetts state college, the University of Massachusetts or Suffolk University. (Massachusetts College of Art and Massachusetts Maritime Academy do not participate at this time.) Students who wish to attend Suffolk must sign a participation form prior to earning 30 credits. (This is not required for students who plan to attend a state college or

university.) Participation in the Joint Admissions Program simplifies the transfer process, since there is no need to fill out another application or pay an application fee. This allows a smooth transition into the bachelor's degree program. Students may decide not to participate in Joint Admissions as there are many other transfer options available, but if they fulfill the Joint Admissions requirements, they know there will be a space waiting for them at their choice of a participating state college, UMass campus, or Suffolk University. To learn more about Joint Admissions, call: 1-800-818-3434, or go to www.middlesex.mass.edu.

Tufts University Adventures in Veterinary Medicine Summer Program

Applications for admission to the Summer 2008 Adventures in Veterinary Medicine (AVM) program are now being accepted. Two-week sessions for high school students are offered in July and August. The program, currently entering its 18th year, includes lectures, demonstrations, panel discussions, admissions advice, case studies and rotations through various clinics at Tufts University's Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, North Grafton, Massachusetts, located about 40 minutes west of Boston. AVM offers a unique, close-up exploration of the realities and opportunities of a career in veterinary medicine. Interested students may learn more about the program at the program's website www.tufts.edu/vet/AVM. Applications may be submitted online or printed out and mailed in. For questions, call 508-839-7962.

College Board Survey Says College Costs Still Rising

According to the College Board, the cost of college rose for 2006, but the rate of growth was lower over the past five years. At public four-year colleges, in-state tuition and fees average \$6,185, a 6.6% increase over 2005. Average total charges (tuition, room and board, and fees) are \$13,589, a 5.9% increase over last year. At private four-year colleges, tuition and fees average \$23,712, a 6.3% increase. Average total charges are \$32,307, 5.9% higher than in 2006-07. The College Board released these and other higher education pricing and statistics in its annual "Trends in College Pricing 2007". For a complete copy of this report see:

www.collegeboard.org.

Best Wishes for 2008!

CONNECT & COMMIT, COMMUNITY SERVICE-LEARNING

The club's **Desserts for Doctors** has been rescheduled due to weather for **Thursday, January 10** from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Please attend or volunteer at this dessert event and auction to raise funds for Doctors Without Borders, an independent medical humanitarian organization that delivers emergency aid to over 70 countries. We need adults and students to sign up to donate two of the same dessert (one to share and one to auction) and to help at the event with ticket sales, setup, serving or cleanup. Students are also needed to continue to sell tickets at lunches. Attendees sample desserts and bid on their favorites-- or on a cooking lesson with Susan Schwartz—and enjoy piano, cello and other music by students. Volunteer admission is \$3 and regular \$5 tickets are on sale at WHS in advance and at the door. Please contact Julia Howard at jw.howard1@verizon.net if you can donate desserts and contact me for other things.

"And it's the scariest type of service there is!" – A C&C club leader, on the blood drive's high student turnout

Connect & Commit's "Giving Thanks" Blood Drive in November was a great success, with 50 students, parents, Winchester Public Schools staff and community members showing up for appointments. 39 units of blood were donated (the others temporarily deferred), with students making up more than half of the donors. After watching a moving video during a club meeting about one woman's medical emergency requiring 200 units of life-saving blood, students acted on their new understanding of the need for donated blood by taking on effective outreach in the hallways and in classes at school, resulting in almost 30 students showing up for appointments. Way to go! Thank you to all who donated and who helped support the effort.

Students and staff have another opportunity to hear about students' experiences in China with the Dandelion School service-learning project and the Pathways to China program during the "WHS Goes to China" special program on Thursday, December 20 during B block (9:15 am) in the auditorium. Teachers sign up their classes to attend.

Students Emily deRedon and Sam Holland made a presentation with me at the Winchester Substance Abuse Coalition (WSAC) meeting in December, speaking articulately to the Superintendent, School Committee Chair, parents, and other town and school members about aspects of the Connect & Commit program. They made an impression with their insights and personal experiences: the value of the C&C club and student participation in organized service, the growing culture of service within WHS, and the impact of service-learning, including the Dandelion School Project that Connect & Commit assists with.

Students interested in volunteering with younger children continue to be needed at Vinson Owen to provide after school help to children using the SuccessMaker software, and a student interested in teaching is needed to spend time at home with a cheerful kindergartner with significant physical and communication challenges (more on both below).

The Other Three R's – Serving our planet, Serving us all

Reduce	Reuse	Recycle
Want to preserve more of nature and provide a healthier future for the next generation? Reducing the amount of excess resources you consume is the surest way to accomplish that. Simple actions make a big difference: Driving less , watching your thermostat or just skipping a single beef meal a week are easy ways to begin (www.newdream.org/consumer).	If you've gotten a new cell phone for the holidays, hold on to your old one and donate it to the club's Cell Phone Drive for Darfur, an effort that began last spring and will be continued in the new year. Stay tuned for more information.	Hold on to your returnable bottles and cans for the Winchester ABC Bottle Drive on Saturday, January 5, and sign up to volunteer for it if you can (see more below).

Thanks to all the parent volunteers who made the December service projects possible, including Caren Connelly, Anne Sharpe, Kate Ebbott and Janice Weiner...and thanks to all those who baked for Desserts for Doctors before learning about its postponement.

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:

- **Thursday, January 10 – Desserts for Doctors**
- **Saturday, January 12 - Lowell Wish Project**
- **Monday, January 21 (holiday) – MLK Jr. Day BOOYAH! Project**
- **Saturday, January 26 - Drumlin Farm**

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 - January 2008

Events

Saturday, January 5th – ABC Bottle Drive Son's of Italy Parking Lot, Transfer Station 8:00am-3:00pm

Winchester ABC is a chapter of A Better Chance, Inc., a national nonprofit organization founded in 1963 to provide academically talented male and female scholars of color with expanded educational and career opportunities. 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.

Thursday, January 10 – Desserts for Doctors – 7 – 8:30 pm, WHS Cafeteria

Attend or volunteer at this dessert event and auction to raise funds for Doctors Without Borders, a medical humanitarian organization that delivers emergency aid to over 70 countries. We need adults and students to sign up to donate two of the same dessert (one to share and one to auction) and to help at the event with setup, serving or cleanup. Attendees sample desserts and bid on their favorites-- or on a cooking lesson with Susan Schwartz—and enjoy piano, cello and other music by students. Volunteer admission is \$3 and regular \$5 tickets are on sale at Bookends and at WHS in advance and at the door. Please contact Julia Howard at jw.howard1@verizon.net if you can donate desserts.

Saturday, January 12th – Lowell Wish Project 10am-12pm (9:30-12:30 with travel) Lowell, MA

The Lowell Wish Project coordinates the delivery of goods low- income families in the Greater Lowell and Lawrence area through case workers that know them best, working alongside government, faith-based and private non-profit organizations. Help the Lowell Wish Project sort and organize incoming goods, including clothing and household items. *Sign up by Tuesday, January 8th, permission slip required.*

Monday, January 21st – BOOYAH! (Boston Young Active Hands) Service Project through Boston Cares

TBD - Last year students took part in a great project at the Roxbury Prep Charter School with a couple hundred youth and adults from all around Boston, and we expect something similar this year...save the date! *Sign up by Tuesday, January 15th, permission slip required.*

Saturday, January 26th – Drumlin Farm, Lincoln MA 9:45am-11:15am (9:00am-12:00noon with travel)

Drumlin Farm is a Mass Audubon working farm and wildlife sanctuary. The animals at the farm include sheep, goats, mules, chickens, cows, pigs and a pony. Help the livestock manager do his chores, including feeding the animals and mucking the stables. *Sign up by Tuesday, January 22nd, permission slip required.*

Ongoing Opportunities

Volunteer with a Kindergartner with Special Needs

Devote a little time each week to playing with a cheerful kindergarten student with physical and communication challenges in his home near WHS after school or in the evening. A rewarding experience for students interested in teaching or child development.

Vinson Owen Volunteer – Morning or After School

Provide assistance and encouragement to elementary school students as they use an educational computer program for extra help during one or more of the following times: Monday 2:40 -3:10 pm, Tuesday morning, 8:00 -8:30am, or Wednesday, 2:40-3:10 pm. From January 7 through May; please commit to at least 8 sessions.

North Suburban YMCA, Birthday Parties, Woburn

The YMCA of Greater Boston is dedicated to improving the health of mind, body, and spirit of individuals and families in our communities. Help out with the ever popular YMCA birthday party! You would be responsible for helping the coordinators set up and break down tables and chairs, blow up balloons, and run games, sports, the bouncy house, and monitor the pool. Birthday parties are weekends only. You need only be 14+ and be friendly, fun, full of energy, and willing to help out. Contact Kasey Ward, 781-935-3270.

Minuteman Senior Services, Friendly Visitor, Winchester

Minuteman Senior Service's mission is to help elders remain in their homes- safe, comfortable and independent- for as long as they are able, and to support their caregivers as they face the challenges presented by the competing needs of family, work and self. Be matched with a homebound senior for 1 hour weekly home visits. Break the isolation of frail seniors. Enjoy discovering common interests and activities. Gain the pleasure of friendship and satisfaction in making a difference to a lonely senior. It doesn't take special skills...just a willingness to listen, offer encouragement, and talk about what you have learned about life. Must have own transportation. Contact: Debbie Barr, (781) 272-7177; <http://www.minutemansenior.org>

Youth for Understanding, Host Family

Youth for Understanding offers the youth exchange programs for students ages 15-19 from around the world to live with a volunteer host family. Help us by hosting a young person for an academic school year or semester. A YFU exchange student becomes a member of your family, participates in family activities, shares in home responsibilities, and provides your family with an international friendship that can last a lifetime! YFU international exchange students, who have studied English, are carefully selected and are chosen for their academic excellence and on the basis of teacher recommendations. Contact: Theresa Nowak (617) 868-3660; <http://www.yfu-usa.org>

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.

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.

SUPPORT THE WINCHESTER YOUTH CENTER'S HABITAT FOR HUMANITY TRIP

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:

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

WYC COFFEE HOUSE

YULE-BALL
Friday, January 18th
8:00-11:00

Dress up as Harry Potter characters and get into the spirit of the season! Featuring live music, delicious homemade desserts, frappes, and coffee drinks, \$5 admission

High school students only, As with all WYC events, students are not allowed to leave and re-enter and no outside drinks allowed

WYC ART GALLERY & RAFFLE

Thursday, February 7th
7:00-9:00pm

Featuring handcrafted jewelry, photography, pottery, and more

All created by the WYC Peer Leaders, Each \$20 ticket is an entry into a drawing to win an iPhone & an Xbox
Contact the WYC for more information

SCHOOL RELATED EVENTS

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.

The Friends of Music will hold their next meeting on **Tuesday, January 8, 2008, at 7:00 pm in the Winchester High School chorus room**. Friends of Music supports the public school music program from pre-K through grade 12. All are welcome to join us.

JANUARY SPECIAL EDUCATION PAC COFFEE, Thursday, January 18th, 9:30-11:30 am - 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 January Coffee will be held on Thursday, January 18th from 9:30-11:30 am, at the home of Suzanne

Masiello, 56 Lorena Road. Questions? Contact 781-729-8829 or Winspedpac@yahoo.com. Also see the PAC website, www.winchesterspedpac.org.

Special Education Transition Orientation for Winchester High School - Do you have a child on an IEP who will be transitioning to Winchester High School next fall? Please attend the annual PAC-sponsored Special Education Transition Orientation program for parents. This is a great opportunity to meet the school principal and special education staff and to get lots of specifics about how special education works at the new school. The program is held during the winter so you'll have of time to think about all the pieces as you plan your own child's transition. There will be plenty of time for questions. Feel free to attend even if you are a year away from transitioning; it's never too soon to start thinking about it. This program is for parents and guardians (not students) and does not replace the traditional transition program for all parents that will be held in the spring.

Winchester High School, Thursday, 1/31/08, 8:00 – 9:00 am, Snow date: Thursday, 2/7/08

Questions? Contact 781-729-3264 or Winspedpac@yahoo.com.

WFEE News: Have you heard the buzz? The WFEE Trivia Bee is almost here! Mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 6th, and gather a team of three people to join our Trivia Masters for a fun night!

Back by popular demand, our format allows each team to answer 7 questions. The team answering the most questions correctly moves on to the Championship Round. In between rounds we'll include the audience (only those under 18) in a test of trivial knowledge.

Register now by sending the registration form (available at: http://whspfa.org/clientimages/39852/december/2008_trivia_bee_form-1.pdf) with your tax-deductible donation (\$300 entrance fee) payable to WFEE. Friends, neighbors and co-workers are often happy to contribute as team sponsors. Let us know if you don't want to play but are interested in sponsoring a team. Remember, many employers have matching gift programs which can double your contribution.

Don't delay, registration deadline in Wednesday, January 30th! For more information, contact Genny Soper at 781-721-2562 or gsoper@verizon.net

SAVE THE DATE - MARCH 29, 2008 - PARTY FOR THE ARTS - On March 29, 2008, the Winchester Friends of Art will host the annual PARTY FOR THE ARTS at the historic Sanborn House. The evening will celebrate and support the visual arts program in the Winchester Public Schools.

The Winchester Friends of Art is a volunteer, nonprofit organization that has been supporting, promoting and advocating for the K-12 visual arts program in the Winchester Public schools since 1991. If you are interested in the Friends of Art, the Winchester art program, or have questions, please contact us at winchesterfoa@hotmail.com. SUPPORT OUR K-12 ARTISTS - PARTY FOR THE ARTS!

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Boy 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 fundraiser 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. Email your questions to boyscout507trees@gmail.com or call 729-5343 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. The boys thank you for your support!

"Lost Boys of Sudan:" Bol Riiny, January 10, 2008 at 7:30 p.m., Jenks Senior Center, 109 Skillings Road - Bol Riiny, one of Winchester's own Lost Boys, will be speaking in the Pond Room about his life in Sudan and his experiences since he arrived in this country. Bol, a graduate of Winchester High School, is now a senior at Concordia College and has spoken at the United Nations as well as at many local venues near his college. He hopes to return to Southern Sudan some day and build schools, not unlike Greg Mortenson of "Three Cups of Tea" fame. *This program is presented by the Education Committee of the Winchester Senior Association and is supported by a grant from the John and Mary Murphy Educational Foundation.*

Winchester Multicultural Network The second in a series of International Parents meetings with the theme, "Supporting Your Child in Winchester Schools" will be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the McCall library. All are welcome. Please call Liz Sayre at 781-729-9242 or email office@wmcn.org if you have questions.

Celebrating the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Monday, January 21 from 3:00-5:00 p.m., Metcalf Hall, Winchester Unitarian Church Join the Multicultural Network's annual celebration of Dr. King's birthday and enjoy storytelling and music by Valerie Stephens. A native-born Bostonian, Valerie has been performing regionally and nationally for more than 30 years. Valerie's Freedom Stories, based on the courageous actions of Americans during the Abolitionist movement and slavery, was contracted by the Underground Railroad Foundation for performance. The celebration will include a display of art and writing from Winchester students and craft activities planned by retired Winchester teacher Linda Preston. This program is for all ages. *Ms. Stephen's appearance in Winchester is made possible by a grant from the EnKa Society.*

The Winchester Public School Preschool is sponsoring an Open House, Winchester Preschool, Lynch Elementary School, Wednesday, January 23, 2007, 9:30 - 10:30AM and 7:00-8:00 PM.** Snow date: Wednesday, February 6, 2007, same times as above.,**Appointments needed for 9:30-10:30 Open House. For more information, call 781-721-7015

Pakistan: A Glimpse Into Its History and Culture, Thursday, January 24, 2008 at 7 PM, Pond Room, Jenks Center (109 Skillings Road) The Winchester Reads Committee presents Dr. Hassan Abbas, Afshan Kirmani and Seeme Moreira speaking on the history and culture of Pakistan, the second event in conjunction with "Three Cups of Tea," the Winchester Reads selection for 2007-2008. At 7 PM, there will be a display of clothing and artifacts from Pakistan, as well as sweets and tea. The Panel Discussion will begin at 7:30 PM.