

WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL
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PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ MARCH 2008

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

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From the Office of Principal Tom Gwin

The year continues to fly by as we glide into Spring Training, March Madness, and a very busy month at Winchester High School. March features the course registration process that will kick off during the week of March 3rd. From March 4th through 10th, guidance counselors will visit social studies classes to give out the *2007-08 Student Guide and Course of Studies* and discuss the registration calendar, graduation requirements, new courses, and other important registration-related information. The *2007-08 Student Guide and Course of Studies* will also be available on the WHS website, <http://www.winchester.k12.ma.us/HomePage/WHS.2000/Coordinator.html>, as of March 1st. Faculty will be making course recommendations for students during the week of March 10th. Teachers will make recommendations based on the current course level and student performance during the year. Please consider teacher recommendations very seriously as the staff chooses the courses that will both challenge your children and provide them the best opportunity for academic success. However if the parent/guardian(s) and student disagree with the teacher recommendation, there is an appeal process. Course appeal forms will be available on the high school website, and should be submitted to the appropriate director or coordinator by Friday, March 21st. Parent will be notified of appeal decisions by April 18. There will be a special evening for parents of incoming 8th graders on Monday, March 3 at 7 pm in the WHS auditorium. The evening includes a presentation from the directors and coordinators on ninth grade course options as well as a Parent-to-Parent program featuring current WHS students and parents.

March also brings the first round of MCAS testing for 10th graders. English Language Arts testing will take place on the mornings of March 25-27. WHS no longer has delayed openings during MCAS exams and all students should be in school at 7:45 am. Later in the year, 10th graders will also take the MCAS mathematics, 9th graders will complete a biology MCAS, and 11th graders will take a United States history MCAS.

I hope you are able to attend our musical, , taking place on the nights of Thursday-Saturday, March 6, 7, and 18 at 7:30 pm in the auditorium. Please come and support our young performers.

Finally, the cafeteria Point of Sale (POS) system begins on Monday March 3rd. If students have a POS account, they can purchase food in the cafeteria with their ID cards. Money can be put into POS accounts on Wednesday and Thursday of each week from 7 to 7:40 am. There will be a station in the cafeteria for students and parents to make a deposit into a POS account. Checks should be made out to WHS. In the future, on-line payment will be available. The system will be going live on Monday, March 3 and any money deposited into accounts will not be accessible until this day. If you have questions, please call the Foodservice Office at 781-721-7033.

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Students should conduct themselves in such a manner so as to insure a clean, pleasant atmosphere for both the eating of lunch and the social use of the cafeteria. Each student shall assume responsibility for keeping the cafeteria clean and orderly during their lunch periods. Inappropriate behavior in the cafeteria may result in detention or temporary loss of café privileges.

All students shall assume responsibility for their own trash pick up in and around the school. Food and drink cannot be consumed in the hallways.

From the PFA President, Carol Cashion

If you were beginning to despair that this cold and damp winter would never end, all you had to do was attend last month's PFA meeting to be reassured that spring is indeed just around the corner. We heard about the many activities scheduled by classes and student groups from March right through May. Watch for newsletter updates and those email notices so you can bake, cheer, clap, show up, and participate in support of our energized students, whose spirits seem impervious to the slush/ice/rain/snow of February in New England. A special highlight at our meeting was hearing from several WHS student leaders involved with the Winchester Youth Center who described some of their many initiatives. These students build houses, they tutor, they toss footballs – they even clean up the town. They are an inspiration, and we should be proud of them. We are!

We also heard from School Resource Officer Dan Perenick who updated us on the early February bomb threat at WHS. He described in detail how the school took action and worked with local and regional law enforcement and school safety resources to respond appropriately and ensure the safety of our students and staff. I know that parents came to the meeting with many questions and concerns, and Office Perenick's presentation and explanation were so thorough, and so reassuring, that we left feeling both better informed and more confident about our children's safety. Speaking for myself, I also felt an enormous sense of gratitude that we have such well-trained, responsive and tireless leadership in Dan Perenick. I know many of you feel the same way, and we extend our thanks to Dan, to Tom Gwin, and to the rest of the school staff and the Winchester Police Department for their dedication and their professionalism. Finally, my thanks to our PFA email and web wizard, Andrea Anglin, who made herself available daily, even hourly, to get information out to the parent community in a timely manner.

Please join us for our next meeting, which will take place on **Wednesday, March 5 at 7:30pm in the WHS Library.**

CLASS NEWS

FRESHMAN NEWS

WOW - We set a record with over 260 kids attending a very successful, incident-free Freshman Semi Formal on Friday, February 8, 2008 at the Town Hall. The girls looked beautiful and the boys very handsome as they danced under lights during their first high school dance. The Substance Abuse Coalition said they were very well behaved. We should be proud!

Thanks to all the adults who attended and contributed to the dinner at Lucia's. There were close to 100 people and we raised over \$3,500. Special thanks to Ann Muir for handling the RSVP's and money collection, to Sarah McKeough for running the silent auction and to Marlene Prates and Darlene Nagel for decorating Lucia's. All monies raised go toward graduation activities for our class, the class of 2011! It is so important for the parents to network and connect with each other as our kids spend the next four years together.

Directory update. Due to a change in the form that the main office uses, over 140 freshman were left out of the student directory. Most everyone has responded and will be in the revised directory. Student Directories will be available for \$5.00 after February vacation thru the school store or by contacting Ann Muir (TheMuir@verizon.net) or Tracy Troiano (tracytroiano@aol.com) . Stay tuned for the announcement.

ST PATRICK'S DAY BAKE SALE - The Class of 2011 will be holding a bake sale during both lunches on Monday, March 17th! We will be looking for donations of baked goods and/or bottles of water. Contact James Gill (gillj74@comcast.net) or Kate Wendell (kate.wendell@gmail.com) if you can contribute. More announcements closer to the date.

We have an AWESOME class with some really terrific kids. Thanks to all the parents for your continued support.

Message from the Junior Class - Junior Class Dinner and Silent Auction, March 20, 6-8 PM

The Junior Class Family Dinner is coming up quickly on March 20, 2008, from 6 pm to 8 pm in the WHS cafeteria. Mark your calendars now! The dinner has a country western theme, with food being catered by Bob's in Medford. Barbecue steak tips, chicken, and turkey, as well as sides, salads, and desserts will be served. Family and friends are welcome. This is the big dinner for the class of 2009 and the most important fundraiser of all. We are asking parents for donations of beverage and dessert items so we can keep the ticket cost lower. **All proceeds help to defray the costs of the Class of 09 Senior Prom and Senior Week activities** so we hope you all decide to join us!

A significant part of the evening is our silent auction and raffle. We need donations!! Do you provide a service you can donate? So far we have donations for architectural services, tutoring, and college essay editing. Do you have a hobby you can share such as teaching a cooking or baking class, knitting, or other? Would you donate a gift certificate to your favorite restaurant or store? Put together a great gift basket? Can your business donate a product or service? Are you an artist who can donate a piece of work, or a jewelry maker who can donate a piece of jewelry? Tickets to sporting events are always a great donation, as is signed sports memorabilia. Donations can be large or small we are happy for them all. Contact Annmarie Galli at annealli@comcast.net or 781-721-4557 to donate, or for more information.

Also coming up is the Junior Class Semi on Friday April 11. Ticket information for the dinner and more information on other class events will be available soon!

Thank you as always for supporting the WHS Class of 09.
The WHS Class of 09 Officers

Senior Class of 2008 News
CIAO!

Everyone is invited to enjoy great Italian food at the Senior Class Dinner on Thursday, March 13th from 6:30-8pm in the WHS Cafeteria. Tickets are \$15 per person. Please support the Senior Class and bring everyone together for our last fundraising effort before senior week and the prom. Friends and Family Welcome! Contact Pete Stein (pdsteiners@hotmail.com).

SOPHOMORE CLASS SPRING FLING 2008 WEEKEND GIVEAWAY

THE SOPHOMORE CLASS WILL BE GIVING AWAY \$100.00 CASH EVERY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY IN APRIL. RAFFLE TICKETS WILL BE SOLD DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH. TICKETS WILL COST \$5.00 EACH. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO BUY A TICKET. A WINNING TICKET WILL BE PLACED BACK IN THE DRAW FOR ANOTHER CHANCE TO WIN. ALL SOPHOMORE CLASS MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SELL A TICKET OR TWO. PLEASE CONTACT OR SEE A CLASS OFFICER IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BUY OR SELL TICKETS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Matt Marotta: marotta.r@comcast.net

Nina Krane: dancergurl9@yahoo.com

David Oleksak: h-david@comcast.net

Cindy DeRosa: CinDeR58@aol.com

Michael Kalfopolous: Kalfopolous@comcast.net

WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS THE MUSICAL "MACK AND MABEL" ON THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 7, AND 8, AT WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL.

"Mack and Mabel" is based on the lives of silent movie director, Mack Sennett and his discovery, Mabel Normand. The story is told through flashbacks, as Mack recalls the golden age of silent movies, and his romance with Mabel. Mabel falls in love with Mack, who is only interested in making movies. She is a success in his comedies, but, wants to star in serious films as well. So, she leaves Mack to pursue her career, only to return and, eventually win Mack's heart.

The real Mack Sennett was known for his Bathing Beauties and the Keystone Cops – all of whom make "appearances" in Mack and Mabel. With the transition to talking pictures, a new star, Lottie Ames, emerges to sing and dance her way across the screen. Music and lyrics for "Mack and Mabel" are by Jerry Herman (Hello Dolly, Mame, La Cage aux Folles) The Broadway production opened in 1974 and received 8 Tony nominations.

The Winchester High School production is directed by Jason Van Dinter and choreographed by Keren Avnery and Anna Quinn. The orchestral conductor is Brendan Kenney.

All performances are at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased at Book Ends or at the door.

For more information, contact Melodie Wing at 781-721-2364 or Mr. Van Dinter at jvandinter@winchester.k12.ma.us.

WHS PFA Direct Appeal

The PFA Board cannot say thank you enough to the very large number of WHS families who have supported the 2007-08 Direct Appeal. In January, we received new contributions from 26 families bringing the total number of participating families to 418, about 45% of all WHS families. We hope to receive contributions from more families in the coming weeks, as they will enable us to provide new and ongoing financial support for a wide range of student programs and supplies during the second semester.

If your family has not yet made a contribution to the Direct Appeal, please consider doing so now, so that the PFA Board can plan effectively for the rest of the school year. 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://whspfpa.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 dljshenry@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.**

Winchester High School Department of Music, March Music Notes

CONGRATULATIONS JUNIOR DISTRICT, SENIOR DISTRICT, AND ALL STATE MUSIC STUDENTS!

Each year the Massachusetts Music Educators Association (MMEA) sponsors prestigious regional and state-wide music events. The program is offered by the MMEA as an enrichment opportunity providing a musical experience to talented young people. Junior District Music Festival and Concert is offered to music students in grades 7-9, students in grades 9-12 may audition for Senior Districts, and those who score high in Senior District auditions receive a recommendation to audition for All State.

Thousands of students from public and private schools have auditioned for these events, and we are honored that several WHS students were selected to participate in the Northeast Massachusetts District and All State Music Festivals this year. Representing Winchester High School in Senior District in the 2008 Festival and Concert at the beginning of January, were: Camille Mathey-Andrews, Jenna Anglin, Maria Arshanskiy, Keren Avnery, Jeffrey Chen, Jinjian Chen, Mariah Colby, Karen Donovan, Aaron Feldman, Kayla Feldman, Carol Fraser, Christina Galante, Alex Greaves, Greg Johnston, Alexa Rinn, and Greg Russian.

The following students were selected to perform in the Junior District Concert Band, Orchestra, Boys Chorus and Girls Chorus: From McCall Middle School: James Benedict, Brian Carney, Eduardo Draetta, Perry Emerson, David Goodell, Matthew Kahl, Nicky Manning, Renata Mukai, Julia Page, Matthew Patalano, and Caroline Pierce. WHS ninth graders invited to participate include: Sarah Barnabei, Maddy Mangan, Kyle Prates, and Sam Stratton. These students will rehearse with guest conductors and then perform in a concert to be held at Lowell High School in Lowell, MA on Saturday, March 15, 2008.

Receiving an appointment to All State Ensembles is quite an honor and carries a lot of weight on college applications. With so much competition to get into some of the most prestigious colleges in the United States, admissions counselors look to a track record of high level participation in music. (Note: the Common Application for colleges also has a Arts Supplement that students should fill out. www.commonapp.org).

The following WHS students had successful auditions for All State and will be participating in the Festival and Concert: Maria Arshanskiy, Keren Avnery, Mariah Colby, Kayla Feldman, Carol Fraser, Christina Galante, Alexander Greaves, and Alexandra Rinn. 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 29th.

Ms. Quintana is the MMEA All State Concert Manager. She has been involved in organizing the All State auditions, lining up adjudicators and conductors, developing the festival and performance, and working with the Park Plaza and Symphony Hall, as well as people from all over the state. All the logistics that go on behind the scenes leading up to and including the performance are a huge undertaking that ultimately showcase Winchester Schools. 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.

MICCA FESTIVAL

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 5th. More information will be sent home to parents about the event. 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. It will be a positive and interesting educational experience for everyone.

UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS AND CONCERTS

MARCH, 2008

March 12, 14, 15: Junior District Festival and Concert at Lowell High School. 3/12 3:00-7:30 pm rehearsal; 3/14 3:00-7:30 pm rehearsal; 3/15 9:00 am rehearsal, 2:00 pm concert

Bus transportation provided to the rehearsals/parent drivers needed for return trip.

March 19, 7:30 pm: WHS Orchestra & Sinfonietta Concert at WHS Auditorium

March 27-29: All State Festival at Park Plaza, Boston. 3/29, 1:00 pm-All State Concert at Symphony Hall, Boston. Parent drivers needed for Thursday morning, 3/27; arrange to bring your students home after the performance on 3/29.

APRIL, 2008

April 5th MICCA Choral Festival (WHS Choruses) takes place in Norwood school district.

Bus transportation provided. Information to be sent home.

Tues, April 8th, 7:00 pm Music Festival: District-wide Choral Concert: McCall 8th Grade and Select Choruses & WHS Choruses at WHS Auditorium.

Thurs, Apr 10, 7:00 pm Music Festival: District-wide Elementary Choral Concert (includes Octets & Chamber Singers)

Sat., April 12th, 7:30 pm Music Festival: Spring A Cappella Fest at Winchester Town Hall, hosted by WHS Octets & featuring WHS Chamber Singers, and guest collegiate ensembles.

Mon, April 14th, 7:00 pm Music Festival: District-wide Orchestra Concert at WHS Auditorium.

Tuesday April 15th, 7:30 pm Music Festival: District-wide Band Concert at WHS Auditorium

The Guide

A Monthly Newsletter from the



WHS Guidance Department

March 2008

Boston National College Fair at Bayside Expo on April 8-9

The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) has announced that the Boston National College Fair will be held at the Bayside Expo Center, Boston on:

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The National College Fair program assists over 750,000 students each year in making informed decisions on what educational path to follow after high school. Flyers will be available in the Guidance Department listing institutions that will be in attendance. For more information, students may go online to www.nacacnet.org.

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Summer Learning Academy At Curry College

Students with documented language-based learning disabilities or attention deficit disorder who are entering their senior year in high school in September 2008 may be interested in Curry College's Learning Academy. The one-week summer residential program on the Curry College campus in Milton, MA, is designed to assist students to discover ways to use their strengths and develop strategies in areas such as studying and test-taking, organization and time management, note-taking, active listening, and reading comprehension. The program also includes informal and organized activities on campus. There are two one-week sessions:

Session I: 6/22 – 6/27/08

Session II: 7/27 – 8/1/08

Cost of the program is \$1400. Limited scholarship funds are available for students who demonstrate significant financial need. Call (617) 333-2250 for an application. Deadline for applications is May 1, 2008. Further information is available at www.curry.edu.

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TERI Provides FREE Financial Aid Advice

January signaled the launch of the student financial aid process—the time when people planning to attend college next fall must apply for financial aid. It is important for people to apply as soon after January 1 as possible. **TERI** (The Educational Resources Institute) is a non-profit organization in Boston, and Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) in other Massachusetts cities, offer free assistance with completing financial aid forms. TERI also has a toll-free information hotline that people can call for assistance, funded by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance. The hotline number is:

1-877-ED-AID-4U (1-877-332-4348)

For those wishing to get help in person, TERI has College Planning Centers in the greater Boston area. TERI will also refer those outside of Greater Boston to a resource in their community. TERI's Main Center is located in the Boston Public Library, Copley Square, Boston.

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Winchester Hospital Community Health Institute Offers Nursing Assistant Course

Winchester Hospital's Community Health Institute, Woburn, MA, offers a 75-hour, state certified Nursing Assistant Training Course. Students who successfully complete the course receive a Nurses' Aide Training Certificate which is required for the state certification exam to become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). The four-week course, comprised of both class and clinical hours, is perfect for graduating seniors who may not be interested in going to a four-year college, but are interested in working with people. College-bound seniors planning to enter a health profession may also be interested in this course to gain exposure in a healthcare setting, working with patients. The course

is offered in both a day and an evening format, and interested students must pass an entrance exam. Cost of the course is \$550.00 which includes the text. For additional information, contact Jennifer Donnelly at: jdonnelly@winhosp.org.

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**MassCore Approved by Mass.
Board of Education**

At its November meeting, the Massachusetts Board of Education voted “to approve **MassCore**, the state’s recommended high school core program of studies for college and career-readiness. The recommended **MassCore** includes: four years of English, four years of mathematics, three years of a lab-based science, three years of history, two years of the same foreign language, one year of an arts program, and five additional ‘core’ courses such as business education, health, and/or technology.” The Board of Higher Education is also looking at these recommendations as gateway courses to entering the state college and university system in Massachusetts.

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**Johnson & Wales’ Three-Day Summer Programs:
CareerExplorations 2008**

Johnson & Wales Career Explorations programs can help students explore a variety of possible careers. During the summer before their junior or senior year in high school, students can discover what it’s like to work in the areas of business, culinary arts, hospitality, or technology at one of Johnson & Wales’ campuses in Providence, Rhode Island; North Miami, Florida; Denver, Colorado; or Charlotte, North Carolina. Summer program offerings vary by campus. Programs cost \$95.00, with the exception of the Culinary Arts Baking & Pastry Arts program which costs \$195 per student. Program cost includes materials, accommodations for two nights, all meals upon arrival, city and campus tours, and extracurricular activities. Students who live more than a six-hour drive from the campus of their choice, but within the continental U.S., are eligible for the “Fly-In Option”, which allows them to fly to that campus for an additional \$200.00 per person. For more information about CareerExplorations 2008, visit the Johnson & Wales website at: www.jwu.edu.

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Colleges That Change Lives (CTCL) Tour

Loren Pope, author of *Looking Beyond the Ivy League*, and *Colleges That Change Lives*, wrote

these books for students seeking a college experience where learning is collaborative rather than competitive. Pope, a former *New York Times* education editor, felt strongly that uninformed choices could account for heavy dropout. The subtitle of *Colleges That Change Lives—40 schools you should know about even if you’re not a straight-A student*—provides a glimpse of what is contained in this book—a profile of 40 colleges that Pope believes can offer life-changing experiences. Now a *Colleges That Change Lives—Information Session and College Fair* is coming to the Boston area on Thursday, May 22, 2008. The event will feature admissions officials from schools profiled in the revised edition of Loren Pope’s book. CTCL deans and directors will share the latest research on specific campus characteristics and learning components that lead to the most successful college experience. Students and parents are invited to the CTCL Fair that will be held at The Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston Street Boston, MA, at 7:00 p.m. The program is free, and pre-registration is not required. For more details, visit www.ctcl.com.

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**Rutgers School of Environmental &
Biological Sciences**

Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences is a small professional school (3,000 students) with all the advantages of a major research university. Located in New Brunswick, New Jersey on 142 acres of woods and lawns, the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences has its own faculty and facilities and is one hour from Philadelphia, New York and the Jersey shore. The School of Environmental and Biological Sciences offers a wide variety of majors that provide excellent preparation for professional school (medical, dental, veterinary medicine, and law), graduate study, and positions in government, industry, business, and health-related areas. (B.S., B.A. degrees awarded.) For more information, visit www.sebs.rutgers.edu or contact the Office of Academic Programs and Research at 732-932-3000, ext. 512.

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NOTICE TO PARENTS OF JUNIORS:

Your child’s individual password for *Family Connection from Naviance* is being mailed home in the envelope with the mid-year report card. *Family Connection from Naviance* is a comprehensive web-based service for college planning and decision-making. Look for the password and instructions and encourage your child to set up a Naviance account immediately!

Notice To Public Schools: **I'm Coming After You!**

Help save the integrity of education! Do your duty! Volunteer to judge at the Greater Boston Regional History Day Competition on Saturday, March 8 from 8:00 - 1:00 at Winchester High School.

Contact Captain History Day (alias: Chris Kurhajetz) for more information.

Be a superhero for student-centered learning!



Connect & Commit, Community Service-Learning

The Connect & Commit student club is organizing the **3rd annual Ragin' Cajun Food Festival** for **Thursday, March 27**, 6:30 – 8:30 pm in the WHS cafeteria, featuring barbecue from Blue Ribbon and other restaurants, home cooked dishes, a hot-pepper-eating contest, games, a raffle and live music. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. This event raises money for Hurricane Katrina relief in New Orleans, which is still very much needed. Club leaders are looking for parents and students to volunteer to prepare a simple salad, side or dessert off the menu. Volunteers pay just \$5 and are needed to:

Set up: 4:45 – 6:30

Serve food: 6:15 – 7:30 or 7:30 – 8:30

Clean up: 8:30 – 9:15

Please contact Emily deRedon at deredon@comcast.net with which type of food you can prepare or what volunteer task you can help with at the event, and she will email you back with information. Thank you!

Congratulations to the students who did a great job presenting with me about Connect & Commit and service-learning in the schools at a Rotary Club of Winchester luncheon in February. Kelsey Holland talked about extracurricular service and club projects, Jackie informed members about the goals and successes of her School Store for a Greener WHS independent study project, and Terry Chen shared his experience with the Dandelion School service-learning project in Beijing. We're grateful for the past funding from the Rotary Club towards the Dandelion School project and the Winchester Youth Service Day (with the Youth Center), which will be on Saturday, May 10 this year—save the date!

The link is fixed! If you missed it the first time, you can catch comments from C&C club leaders in the Connect & Commit segment that aired January 18 on Fox 25 News at <http://media.myfoxboston.com/sports/hsfridayJan18.html>

WHS students recently worked with Lincoln Elementary's student council to improve their school paper recycling program. Tony Santa Maria, Katie MacDonald, Charlotte Page and Meena Sivaraman presented information to the council about the importance of recycling, the lifecycle of paper, the choices they have to either add to the landfill and contribute to the destruction of forests or to put waste paper back to use, and how best to get their peers to use the recycling bins.

Regarding summer service and programs:

- On March 6, students are invited to learn about The Experiment in International Living at 2:15 in the guidance department. It is a non-profit offering three- to five-week summer programs. www.usexperiment.org

- 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.
- There are now many catalogs of summer travel, service and leadership programs, from local to international, in the C&C office (thanks Cat Palmer). The guidance department has summer program information also.
- If you have volunteer information from summer opportunities fairs, feel free to leave some in the C&C office and/or bring it to a club meeting to show other students.
- Connect & Commit will also distribute a listing of local summer opportunities in the spring.
- If you find a volunteer position or internship, please let me know.

Service-Learning projects are really spreading throughout the WHS departments and growing in the middle and elementary schools. Here are some current projects:

Julia McElhinney's independent study temperature monitoring project was approved for a Service-Learning Mini-Grant. She will be collecting data in the high school from temperature data loggers and reporting to the town's Energy Management Committee so that the committee can work towards a more energy efficient building. She also plans to outreach to younger classrooms, teaching them about the process she's taking part in and about the need for energy efficiency and sustainable energy.

Ms. Harvey's Economics service-learning project on homelessness also received mini-grant funds. The class is looking forward to a visit from Mark Alston-Follansbee, the director of the Somerville Homeless Coalition, on March 10.

Ms. Hillstrom's grade 9 Honors English students have been emailing their English High School e-pals in preparation for the two-day Exchange taking place March 5 and March 11. Students will accompany their partner to a class this year. Winchester hosts on March 11, so please be welcoming to visiting students in the hallways or in class.

Mr. Petty's Integrated Analysis math class is doing a service-learning project around plastic consumption. Students are beginning by tracking their household's plastic consumption for two weeks, and researching the use, reuse, recycling and disposal of plastic--and associated problems.

Mr. Haver's AP Statistics students have service-learning options for their second semester project. The students took part in mini-workshops in which they brainstormed existing community needs/issues, such as hunger, substance abuse, car accidents and global warming, ways of applying statistics to these issues, and groups or organizations working on these issues whom they could partner with on their project. If you are working on community (or global) issues and would like to work with statistics students, please email me or Tom Haver ASAP.

In Foreign Language, Ms. Tirone has plans for her Italian students to visit St. Mary's and teach Italian to younger children.

The School Store continues to develop: the business plan is done and the mission is posted, there is now permanent closure and lighting, and they've begun selling biodegradable cornstarch pens, recycled cotton lunch bags, hemp wallets and more. You check out information at the store about living green from the recent Boston Going Green Expo.

Ms. Elion's reading students took part in a Book Brunch in January that brought them together with older Winchester residents to discuss the book *Stuck in Neutral*. What I like about the Book Brunch project is the dialogue it provokes around important themes like personal choice and responsibility, disability and race. Students are also blogging about their readings.

In younger grades, Ms. Pomerantz' 7th grade English classes learned about the Great Depression through reading *Nothing to Fear* and then inviting senior citizens to come speak about it, and their memories brought a deeper understanding of the Depression to the students. After discussing more about hunger and not being able to make ends meet, the McCall Globetrotters team spearheaded a non-perishable food drive for the Council of Social Concern's Food Pantry. They opened it to the whole school and were able to collect and deliver 15 boxes of food.

Also, Ms. Harrison's 2nd graders at Ambrose will be visiting the Winchester Nursing Center at the end of February to talk to residents, read together and complete a crafts project.

Thanks to all the parent volunteers who made recent service projects possible, including Kate Ebbott and Jody Naimark.

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, 781-721-7020 x1999

Connect & Commit March 2008 Volunteer Activities

Events

Sunday, March 9th, Jewish Community Center, 1:00-4:00pm, 333 Nahanton St., Newton (12:15-4:45pm with travel)

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.

Submit signed C&C permission slip to the Connect and Commit office by Tuesday, March 4th.

Saturday, March 15th Rosie's Place, 4:00-7:30pm, 889 Harrison Ave, Boston (3:15-8:15pm with travel)

Prepare, serve, and clean up for lunch for poor and low income women. *Submit signed C&C permission slip to the Connect and Commit office by Tuesday, March 11th.*

Saturday, March 22nd Cradles to Crayons, 10:00am-12noon, 92 Myrtle Street, North Quincy (9:30am-12:30pm with travel)
 Inspect books, pack clothing, sort through toys, stuff backpacks, or fill orders for local boys and girls. Before you come for your shift, look though your home for new and gently used children's clothing, books, safety equipment or toys to bring with you to donate. *Submit signed C&C permission slip and Cradles to Crayons Permission and Media Release Forms to the Connect and Commit office by Tuesday, March 18th.*

Saturday, March 22nd, Stone Zoo, Bunny Bonanzoo, 10:00am-3:15pm, 149 Pond Street, Stoneham, (9:45-3:30 with travel)
 Help out at this fun event by assisting with Bunny Maze, fun games and crafts, seed planting, Easter basket raffle table and Easter bunny photos. Requirements: Able to lift 25 lbs., tolerate all weather conditions (heat, cold, rain, snow), weather-appropriate dress, and comfortable shoes. Lunch will be provided. Volunteers will be outside most of the day. *Submit signed C&C permission slip and Zoo New England Volunteer Release Form to the Connect and Commit Office by March 18th.*

Wednesday, March 26th VNA Phonathon, 5:30-8:00pm, 37 Broadway, 2nd floor, Arlington (5:15-8:15pm with travel)

Volunteer to help raise funds for the Visiting Nurse and Community Health phonathon. Need to be well spoken and able to follow a brief script. *Submit signed C&C permission slip to the Connect and Commit office by Friday, March 14th.*

Thursday, March 27th Ragin' Cajun Food Festival, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
 Volunteer for the 3rd annual Ragin' Cajun Food Festival by preparing a salad, side or dessert off the menu, and/or volunteering at the event with set up (4:45 – 6:30), serving (6:15 – 7:30 or 7:30 – 8:30) or clean up (8:30 – 9:15). A fundraiser for Hurricane Katrina relief in New Orleans, the event features barbecue from Blue Ribbon and other restaurants, home cooked dishes, a hot-pepper-eating contest, games, a raffle and live music. Volunteers get in for just \$5; tickets regularly \$10 in advance/ \$15 at the door. In the WHS cafeteria.

Saturday, March 29th Mission of Deeds, 9:15-11:15am 6 Chapin Avenue, Reading (9:00-11:30am with travel)
 Volunteers deliver donations of furniture and household items to families in need. Some heavy lifting of furniture, but also can carry lighter stuff such as lamps and linens. *Submit signed C&C permission slip to the Connect and Commit office by Friday, March 21st.*

Ongoing Opportunities

In-School Peer Mentoring for Social Skills
 Looking for students who are interested in working 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. Sign up in the Connect & Commit office

The Childwatch Room, Youth Sports Coach assistants, Preschool Sports and Enrichment Teachers, and many aquatics positions. Contact Kasey Ward at (781) 935-3270 ext. 209 for a volunteer application.

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 an average of 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.

The **North Suburban Family YMCA** is looking for dedicated volunteers! We have many areas around the facility that would love to have a few extra hands helping out! The available areas are: The Front Desk, The Fitness Center, The Zones, Birthday Parties,

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

Reduce	Reuse	Recycle
The WHS library ended the use of 1,000 Styrofoam cups per week! First by switching to biodegradable corn cups provided by the Environmental Club, and now asking all to provide their own reusable cup for coffee and hot chocolate.	How can you run your car on fuel that's free and safer for the environment? Talk to the Exploratory Mechanics club about the nearly complete Grease Car project, in which students helped convert Mr. Fisher's car to run on waste vegetable oil. See www.greasecar.com to read about this popular trend.	What do you do when you notice people throwing plastic bottles and other recyclable materials in the trash? What can you do to ensure that more people in your school, workplace, or even household are recycling appropriately?



Winchester Youth Center

458R Main Street
Winchester MA 01890
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.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY TRIP

The 15 Peer Leaders who participated in our February vacation Habitat for Humanity trip would like to thank the members of the WHS community for their support.

Whether you attended our Art Gallery, bought a Dump Run, attended a Jewelry Party, bought a Raffle Ticket, attended a Coffee House, or simply made a donation you helped make this amazing service-learning trip possible!

ROCK FOR YOUTH

Round 2 of the Battle of the Bands

Friday, March 28th

7:00-11:00pm

Winchester Town Hall Auditorium

Doors open at 6:45

Admission is \$8

The bands are:

Girls with Moustaches, Gun Slinger, Hoboken Philharmonic Jazz Quartet, The Pelicans, Policeman Fox, The Real Ghost Pirates, Release the Chocolate Hostages, Sean Kirkpatrick & the Plaster Disaster, The Tariots, and Ubiquitous

Proceeds from the Rock for Youth benefit the Council on Youth's Harrison Chadwick Youth Service Award Scholarships

*All audience members should be aware of the following rules and regulations:

- All audience members must pay the admission at the door
- The doors will open at 7:00pm
- No one under the influence or in possession of alcohol or other drugs will be permitted into the auditorium
- Students are not allowed to leave and re-enter
- No smoking is allowed inside or outside the auditorium
- Student audience members are required to stay on the main floor of the auditorium

Anyone who breaks these rules will be removed from the premises by a Police Officer

YOUTH SERVICE AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS

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 14th. The scholarship applications are available in the WHS Guidance office and at the Winchester Youth Center. The completed applications with recommendations are due no later than 5:00pm on Monday, April 7th.

SCHOOL RELATED NEWS

Winchester Substance Abuse Coalition, MADD School Assembly, March 4, 2008, 7 pm

On March 4, 2008, the Winchester Substance Abuse Coalition (WSAC) in collaboration with McCall Middle school will be presenting the MADD multimedia show "The SPOT" for parents to view at 7 pm in the McCall auditorium. We strongly encourage all elementary, middle, and high parents to take this opportunity to see what our students' experience and the strategies that the coalition/faculty use to educate our youth. WSAC will also provide highlights from the 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey as it relates to the presentation. The seventh grade student body will have seen this show earlier that day. The sixth grade will be shown an age appropriate version of MADD entitled "GAME ON". The following school day, McCall faculty will have a special primetime to give our students a chance to talk about the show and practice positive decision making.

To see a 5 minute preview of "The SPOT" and/or "GAME ON" please visit MADD at www.schoolassembly.org
What kids see and experience relates to the survey.

HELP SUPPORT "MACK AND MABEL"

Dear Friends of the Winchester High School Musical,

We are very excited about the upcoming performance of *Mack and Mabel*, March 6, 7, and 8, in the Winchester High School Auditorium. In an effort to provide additional funding for the production, we are offering the opportunity to make donations to the musical in the form of ads placed in the play bill or direct contributions which will be listed in the program. Please use the form below for your gift. If you would like to purchase an ad for one of the cast members, fill in the message, and we will design the ad. If you would like to include your own artwork or photo, make sure it is black and white, will copy well, and please include specific instructions. If you have a business and would like to place an ad, please provide us with camera ready information and logo. For direct donations, please include your name as you would like it to appear in the program and your level of donation.

Make checks out to Winchester High School and write "Mack and Mabel" in the memo section. You may mail (or drop off) your form and check to Melodie Wing, 189 Mystic Valley Pkwy., Winchester no later than Sunday, March 2, 2008.

Thank you very much for helping make *Mack and Mabel* a success.

Name (as it should appear in the program)

Phone Number _____

Donation		Ad	
Benefactor \$100+	_____	¼ page	\$25 _____
Director \$50-99	_____	½ page	\$50 _____
Actor	\$1-49 _____	Full page	\$100 _____

Message for ad or include camera-ready print. Photos or logos must be in black and white.

Make check payable to Winchester High School; "Mack and Mabel" in memo section; mail or drop of by 3/2/08f: Melodie Wing, 189 Mystic Valley Pkwy, Winchester, 781-721-2364

MARCH SPECIAL EDUCATION PAC COFFEE, March 7th 9:00am-11:00am

School Committee member Michael Schindelman will be joining us. He is interested in hearing about concerns and issues faced by families of children with special needs. This a great opportunity to have your concerns heard! The March Coffee will be held on Friday morning, March 7th from 9:00am-11:00am at the home of Jean Batty at 58 Bacon St. Questions? Contact Jean at 781 570-2777 or email her at Battyfamily@comcast.net. Also see the PAC website, www.winchesterspedpac.org.

Neuropsychological Evaluations: What is it, who is qualified to give it, and when is it needed?

Thursday March 13th 7:00pm-9:00pm at McCall Library

Come hear neuropsychologist Gail Grodzinsky, Ph.D., ABPdN, Associate Staff in Neuropsychology at Children's Hospital Boston and in private practice at Lexington Clinical Associates. She will address the vital questions above the are pertinent for all our children.

**ART OF THIS WORLD - A PARTY FOR THE ARTS!
Support the K-12 visual arts program in the Winchester Public Schools**

You are invited to the annual PARTY FOR THE ARTS, to benefit the Winchester Public Schools' visual arts program. This year's theme, "Art of This World" has inspired our students and teachers to create an exciting collection of art work to be displayed at the PARTY. Please join the Friends of Art this year to celebrate and support our students, our schools and art in our community.

Saturday, March 29, 2008 at the Sanborn House, 15 High Street (next to Ambrose School)

Student & Community Reception: 2pm-4pm (free)

Everyone is welcome to enjoy the student art work, live music by Winchester students and the Sanborn House renovations. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

PARTY FOR THE ARTS (21+) 8pm-11pm Tickets \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door.

The PARTY will feature "art of this world" done by Winchester students along with the live music of the Rich Greenblatt Swinging Jazz Trio & dancing, cocktails, and a silent auction of student and local artists' work, as well as other items and services.

For ticket and party information contact winchesterfoa@hotmail.com

The Winchester Friends of Art is a nonprofit, volunteer organization that supports and advocates for the visual arts program in the Winchester Public Schools.

COMMUNITY NEWS

International Parents' Meeting

The International Connections Committee of the Multicultural Network will host another in its series of International Parents' meetings on Tuesday, March 4 in the McCall Middle School library at 7:00 p.m. Carla McCoy, an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) instructor, will be the special guest. International parents of students in elementary, middle or high school are welcome. Come, meet other parents, and bring your questions or concerns. For more information, call Liz Sayre at 781-729-9242 or email office@wmcn.org

SYBS ST. PATRICK'S FUNDRAISER BASH - please join us at the Sachus Youth Baseball/Softball fundraiser on Saturday, March 8, 2008 at Montvale Plaza. Buffet dinner, DJ/Dancing, live and silent auction items. If your son or daughter is new to the baseball/softball program it is a great way to get involved and meet other families. More details on the SYBS website. Tickets on sale now for \$65 per person on line at www.sybs.org or by contacting: Mary Beth Cassidy mbdcassidy@hotmail.com, Maura Christopher maurac@comcast.net, Heidi Driscoll Hdri40923@aol.com, Paula Michienzi Michboysmom@aol.com, Nancy Pitts nmapitts@verizon.net, Deb Reardon b.reardon@comcast.net, Branda Wilhoite brjwilhoite@verizon.net, Randy Wilhoite rwilhoite@verizon.net, Carol Woolston cwoolston@att.net.

The Winchester Cooperative Theatre presents "Peter Pan," featuring the singing, dancing and acting talents of an entertaining 4th, 5th and 6th grade cast. Follow Peter Pan and Tinkerbell, as they travel with Wendy Darling and her brothers to Never Land and encounter Peter Pan's nemesis, the diabolical Captain Hook. This year we are shooting for the stars with Peter Pan and his friends soaring through the air under the aerial choreography of "Flying by Foy," the same company used in the Broadway productions of Peter Pan. Performances are Friday, March 28th at 7:30pm, Saturday, March 29th and Sunday, March 30th at 1:00pm, and Friday April 4th at 7:30pm, Saturday, April 5th and Sunday, April 6th at 1:00pm and 4:00pm at the McCall Middle School Auditorium, 458 Main Street, Winchester. Tickets are \$15.00. Appropriate for ages 3 & up. For tickets call: (781) 721-PLAY. McCall Auditorium is handicap accessible.

The Creative Soul of Children, Inc Speaker Series and Fundraising Event presents: Jonathan Mooney

Public speaker and co-author of *Learning Outside the Lines* and author of *The Short Bus, A Journey Beyond Normal*

Mr. Mooney speaks passionately and insightfully from his own experience about learning with a child's purpose in mind—not their parents', not their teacher's, not their school's and will also talk about his new book which helps people embrace their radical differences and concludes that "normal" is a state that no one actually visits.

7-9 pm Thursday, March 6, 2008, Winchester UU Church, www.winchesteruu.org for directions, \$20.00. Registration: www.embracechildspirit.org (scholarships available upon request)

Studio Art Workshop, For High School Juniors and Seniors, and Post-Graduate Students

Small group studio classes in drawing and painting are being offered at the Sanborn Cultural Center (High Street in Winchester)

Instructor: Dave Ardito

- Develop your portfolio
- Improve your observational drawing and painting skills
- Draw and paint from professional live models
- Receive art school and college admission counseling

Spring Session: March 11, 2008- May 20, 2008

Tuesdays 6-8:30 pm (10 classes)

Dave Ardito is a certified art teacher with many years of high school studio art teaching experience and is currently on the faculty of Mass College of Art in Boston. He was also the K-12 Director of Art for Winchester Public Schools from 1989-2007.

To register, email Dave Ardito at vdpaa@yahoo.com for a registration form, fees, a course syllabus, recommendations and the instructor's resume.