

WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL
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PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ OCTOBER 2007

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

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From the Principal, Tom Gwin, October Greetings

I hope your sons and daughters have made smooth adjustments to the new high school year. The P.A.L. (Peer Alliance Link) program continues to ease the transition for ninth graders. The PALs are juniors and seniors who guide the freshmen on the first day of school. The PALs met their freshmen in homeroom, helped them understand the ins and outs of WHS, and provided a tour of the building. In their green PAL t-shirts, the upperclassmen were easily visible in the halls to 9th graders who needed help. There will be opportunities for PALs to reconnect with their ninth graders as the year goes on.

Students and teachers are also transitioning into our new extended block schedule. Early reports indicate that many students and teachers have been pleasantly surprised by the new schedule. Repeatedly I have heard that the day “flies” by and the building feels calmer and more settled. Students report they are better able to focus on their studies when they are in class for a longer period of time and can concentrate on fewer homework assignments at night (because only five classes meet a day.) I will be working with the administrative team to more formally evaluate the new format as the year goes on.

The new school year also brought some unpleasant news. On the first day with students, the athletic director and I received an email with three digital photos showing WHS student-athletes at a party where alcohol was available. Someone had anonymously emailed the photos to a web site called badjocks.com and the site had forwarded the photos to us. After consulting with the superintendent and other Middlesex League principals, and interviewing the captains of the team in question, we suspended four student athletes for two games. Students and parents have questioned why we did not apply the MIAA penalty for chemical, alcohol, or tobacco use. This rule states that if a student “uses, consumes, buys/sells, or gives away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product; marijuana; steroids; or any controlled substance,” the student will be suspended from 25% of the season’s contests. We apply this rule consistently when we receive written police reports or other legitimate evidence of substance abuse. Mr. Murray and I believe that an email received third hand from an anonymous source was not credible enough to apply the MIAA standard. In addition to suspending the players, Mr. Murray and I held a meeting with team members and their parents to review and discuss the situation. Parents discussed their responsibility in making sure that students are making good decisions and staying away from these kinds of parties. If parents or students are aware of any of these kinds of activities, they can leave a message at our anonymous tip line- 781-721-0775.

Progress reports will be mailed home during the second full week of October. All 9th graders will receive progress reports for the first term. Photo retakes will be taken on October 4. There will be a special information night for ninth grade parents on Wednesday night, October 24, at 7:30 pm in the auditorium.

SCHOOL INFORMATION FORM

Just a reminder that every student attending Winchester High should have turned in a peach colored information sheet. This sheet has taken the place of the three cards. It is extremely important for the school to have this information. If you have not filled out this form, please call the school and one will be mailed to you.

CELL PHONES

Cell phones must be turned off and out of sight during the entire school day. If a cell phone is confiscated by the administration, it will be returned **only** to a parent or guardian.

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS:

This is a reminder to all students that Winchester High School has a dress code. A student’s personal appearance should not disrupt the orderly conduct of school business or the educational process, nor should it constitute a threat to the health and safety of any member of the school. Students must wear shoes at all times. All clothing and hats with any insignia referring to alcohol, drugs and/or tobacco, racial and/or ethnic slurs, violence, homophobic, profanity, gender bias or any other inappropriate comments are not allowed to be worn. Teachers will decide if hats can be worn in their classroom. The torso must be covered, strapless tops are not allowed, a student is not allowed to have his/her head covered by a hooded garment, and under garments must not be visible. Inappropriate dress may result in a student being asked to change clothing, cover up, as well as parental contact. Administration and staff will decide if specific clothing is inappropriate. A teacher may ask the student to put a sweater or jacket on if they feel the student needs to cover up. A teacher may send a student down to the office if they feel the student’s personal appearance is inappropriate.

REMINDER TO ALL SENIORS:

Cap and gown measurements will take place on Thursday, November 01, 2007 during both lunches. Measurements will be in the “RED” stairwell by the student parking lot. The cost will be \$ 17.00 dollars, checks should be made payable to Winchester High School with the student’s name and “Cap & Gown” notated on the memo line. All outfits come with a souvenir tassel in June. Extra tassels will be available to purchase on that day for an additional \$ 4.00 dollars. Students will also be asked to verify their name for the printing of their diplomas. They should check the spelling and the set up; i.e. John J. Smith vs. John James Smith. Students will be asked to initial their name or make the change on the sheet.

Class of 2008:

The senior class has been very busy with the start of the 2007-2008 school year! We just completed printing our senior tee shirts designed by our class member, Charlie Hale. The tee shirts will go on sale for \$20 during the WHS Open House on Sept. 27th and will then be available for purchase from any class officer. Please buy tee shirts, as they are a great fundraiser for our end of the year activities. Oct. 5th is our designated "Senior Tee Shirt Day" so don't miss out on getting one to wear that day.

There will be a Halloween Bake Sale Oct. 31st during both lunches to benefit our end of the year activities. If you are interested in baking something please contact Jackie Lionetta at blionetta@aol.com.

For All Parents Of Juniors:

In order to ensure that the junior class has a memorable year and raises enough money for next year's big senior activities, the junior class officers, advisors and parents are planning several events over the course of this year. We hope the following list of events and dates will give you a better idea of our major plans and their timing. The exact dates of some events may change, but they will stay within their general timeframes. More fundraising and community service opportunities will be added so keep your eyes open! We are looking forward to a great junior year!

Event	Date or approximate time
Class event (trip to Boston sports game)	November 20
Wilson Pie Fundraiser	November (Pick up Nov. 20)
Junior class dinner and silent auction	March 20
Semi-Formal Dance	April 11
Spring Barbecue	May 28

From PFA President, Carol Cashion

At our first meeting on September 19th, Tom Gwin reported that even with the implementation of a new class schedule, the 2007-2008 school year is off to a smooth start. The PFA is also starting strong. Our budget is in place, our Board and other parents are hard at work, and our Direct Appeal is underway. This year, we aim to distribute over \$20,000 in discretionary grants for worthy projects and pressing needs at Winchester High School, supporting both academic and extracurricular activities. If you have not yet contributed, please take the time to do so. Gifts of any size are welcome; a high level of participation is as important to us at the final figure of dollars raised.

The September Open House showcases the range and enthusiasm of the many student groups at WHS, from the music in the hallways to the fundraising displays in the cafeteria. The PFA plays a role in helping students put that energy to good use, from helping publicize student activities to offering logistical or financial support for a range of school organizations. One of the joys of watching high school students at work is seeing how much they have learned to do for themselves, but faculty advisors, coaches, and parents still have a role to play in helping them follow through, succeed, and be safe. We encourage you to stay involved!

Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 3 at 7:30pm in the WHS Library. Following the Principal's Report, we will have a presentation by School Safety Officer Dan Perenick and the Winchester Substance Abuse Coalition featuring a film created by a WHS student that explores where social aspects of high school intersect with underage drinking. I'm sure it will be valuable for all who attend, and a starting point for important conversations we need to continue to have between us, as parents, about alcohol use by students in our school and community. I hope to see you there.

News from the Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence: WFEE is pleased to contribute more than \$18,000 to three very different WHS projects this year. Jim Goodwin will be collaborating with teachers and students at Lynch Elementary on a year long robotics project. WHS students will be sharing their technology expertise with younger students while working on their own project to produce robots for a national competition. Honors English teacher Katie Hillstrom is collaborating with Amanda Gordon on a service learning project designed to deepen 9th graders understanding of issues of racism and classism. For the 3rd year, WHS students will participate in an exchange with students from Boston's English High. The exchange includes "e-pal" emails plus classroom time at both schools. WFEE is also continuing its support of the Digital Photography program with a \$5,000 grant for the purchase of cameras and software upgrades. In 2004 WFEE provided more than \$19,000 for the purchase of photography equipment and supplies. Thanks to our many donors who have made this possible over the years! For more information on the Foundation please visit our website, wfef.org, or call at (781) 756-8020.

WHS PFA Direct Appeal 2007-08

The WHS Parent Faculty Association's Direct Appeal is now underway for the 2007-08 school year. Funds raised through the Direct Appeal will enable the PFA to benefit all students and teachers at WHS by covering the cost of many important programs and supplies not included in the high school budget. In recent years, Direct Appeal funds have been used to provide grants to all WHS academic departments, the school library, and many extracurricular, enrichment, and support programs for students.

The PFA's goal is to raise Direct Appeal funds through the contributions of 100% of WHS families. Although a contribution of any amount is very much appreciated, we ask that each family consider making a one-time contribution for this school year of \$75.00 or more, which includes PFA dues.

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**. You may also make your contribution at the WHS Open House or the October meeting of the PFA.

Thank you!

The Guide

A Monthly Newsletter from the



WHS Guidance Department October 2007

Middlesex League College Fair on October 29

Students and parents from Winchester High School are invited to attend the Middlesex League College Fair co-sponsored by the WHS Guidance Department in cooperation with the Guidance Departments at several other Middlesex League high schools. The College Night will be held at the Shriners Auditorium in Wilmington, on Monday, October 29, 2007 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Representatives from more than two hundred colleges will be in attendance to speak with students and parents and provide admissions information. Directions to the Shriners Auditorium: Take exit 39 off Route 93N. Bear right off exit and take the first left at the Fordham Road traffic lights. Shriners Auditorium is at the end of Fordham Road.

Regional College Fairs/Special Interest College Fairs

The New England Association of College Admission Counselors (N.E.A.C.A.C.) sponsors a number of regional college fairs throughout New England. More than 250 colleges, universities and technical institutes will be represented at each of these regional events.

The N.E.A.C.A.C. College Fair located closest to the Winchester area will be held on Sunday, September 30, 2007 from 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. at Northern Essex Community College's Sport & Fitness Center, Haverhill, Massachusetts.

For students interested in pursuing a program of study in the area of performing or visual arts, the National Association of College Admissions Counselors (N.A.C.A.C.) is sponsoring a Performing & Visual Arts (PVA) College Fair where attendees can learn about educational opportunities, admissions and financial aid, portfolio days, audition and entrance requirements from representatives of educational institutions with specialized programs in the visual and performing arts. The program will be held on **Tuesday, October 23, 2007 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Northeastern University, The Cabot Physical Education Center, Boston, Massachusetts.** Visit www.nacacnet.org/fairs to access directions and a list of institutions represented at the fair.

The National Association of Christian Colleges (NACCAP) will be sponsoring a series of College Fairs. The NACCAP fair closest to Winchester will be held at Gordon College, 255 Grapevine Road, Wenham, Massachusetts, on Tuesday, October 2, 2007. For further information, call (978) 927-2300.

Helpful Suggestions for Attending a College Fair

Planning ahead can make attendance at a college fair a much more productive experience. Some easy-to-use suggestions include:

- Identify the colleges you definitely want to visit.
- Prepare a list of questions to ask.
- Bring mailing labels if you have them to save time when filling out cards.
- Bring a pad and pen.
- Only pick up brochures you really need and want.
- Do a computer search ahead of time to find colleges that meet your criteria.

For additional suggestions, students or parents may ask for a College Fair sheet from their guidance counselor.

**PSAT/NMSQT Sign-up in the Math
Department Office from Sept. 26 through Oct.
12, for Gr. 10 & Gr. 11**
For more information on the PSAT, please go to
www.collegeboard.com

REMINDER
College Workshop for
Parents of Seniors: Class of 2008
Tuesday October 2, 2007
Morning workshop: 8 – 9:30 AM
or
Evening workshop: 7 – 9:30 PM
Location: WHS Auditorium

Fall College Representatives' Visits to the WHS Guidance Office

The guidance counselors believe it is an essential part of the college search process for students to meet with college representatives. In an effort to promote this contact between students and college admissions personnel, an approach successfully initiated last year will be continued this fall. Colleges have been invited to come to the Guidance Office on Wednesday afternoons at 2:15 p.m. The number of colleges on any Wednesday will be limited. Colleges that cannot schedule a Wednesday afternoon time are invited to arrange another appointment that will be announced to students. Students who have a study hall and obtain a pass will be allowed to meet with these admissions representatives. Listed below are the colleges that have already signed up, along with the scheduled dates and times. Additional colleges are signing up every day, so it is

important to check the **Naviance Family Connection** website for new additions to the list. These visits allow for a great deal of personal interaction between admissions personnel and students.

September

Washington U. (St. Louis MO)-- Sept. 26 @ 2:15 PM
 Curry College--Sept. 26 @ 2:15 PM
 Wentworth Institute of Tech.--Sept. 26 @ 2:15 PM

October

Bowdoin College (ME)--Oct. 3 @ 2:15 PM
 Oberlin College (OH)--Oct. 3 @ 2:15 PM
 St. Anselm College (NH)--Oct. 3 @ 2:15 PM
 U. of So. California—Oct. 3 @ 2:15 PM
 Brown Univ. (RI)--Oct. 11 @ 2:15 PM
 Stonybrook Univ. (NY)--Oct. 10 @ 2:15 PM
 Fitchburg State College—Oct. 10 @ 2:15 PM
 Lesley University—Oct. 11 @ 2:15 PM
 Suffolk University—Oct. 11 @ 2:15 PM
 Vanderbilt U. (TN)—Oct. 17 @ 2:15 PM
 Johnson & Wales U. (RI)—Oct. 17 @ 2:15 PM
 Providence College (RI)—Oct. 17 @ 2:15 PM
 Salve Regina (RI)—Oct. 24 @ 2:15 PM
 Well College (NY)—Oct. 31 @ 2:15 PM

November

St. Michael's College (VT)—Nov. 7 @ 2:15 PM
 Roger Williams (RI)—Nov. 7 @ 2:15 PM
 Mt. Holyoke College—Nov. 8 @ 2:15 PM
 Univ. of Rhode Island—Nov. 14 @ 2:15 PM

Ten Hottest Careers for College Graduates

A recent article on collegeboard.com featured information from government studies concerning which occupations economists believe will grow fastest between 2004 and 2014. The predictions also included which occupations would have the most new jobs.

JOURNEYS TO THE EAST , WINCHESTER HIGH/CHINA TRAVEL/STUDY PROGRAMS

The community is invited to an Evening of Sharing on Thursday October 25th, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. to learn about the two China programs at Winchester High. Students at Winchester High have the opportunity to study about and then travel to China in **not one, but two** different programs.

There is the **Dandelion School Project** – a Service Learning program organized by Margie Harvey, Director of the Social Studies department and the Connect and Commit program at Winchester High School that gives students the opportunity to teach and tutor students in English at the Dandelion Middle School, a school for migrant workers' children in Beijing.

There is the **Pathways to China** Program – a joint program with other Boston area school districts that gives students an opportunity to take classes in the summer about

10 Fastest Growing Occupations for College Grads

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Network Systems & Data Communications analysts.....	+55%
Physician Assistants.....	+50%
Computer software engineers, Applications.....	+48%
Physical therapist assistants.....	+44%
Dental hygienists.....	+43%
Computer software engineers, systems software.....	+43%
Network & computer systems Administrators.....	+38%
Database administrators.....	+38%
Physical therapists.....	+37%
Forensic science technicians.....	+36%

Occupations with the Most New Jobs: Bachelor's Degrees

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Change (in thousands)</u>
Elementary School teachers, except special education.....	265
Accountants and auditors.....	264
Computer software engineers, Applications.....	222
Computer systems analysts.....	153
Secondary school teachers, except special & vocational ed.....	148
Computer software engineers, systems software.....	146
Network systems & data communications analysts.....	126
Network & computer systems Administrators.....	107
Middle school teachers, except special & vocational education.....	86
Employment, recruitment & placement specialists.....	55

Chinese culture and history and then gives them the opportunity to travel to China to see and experience what they learned in class.

Come and hear from Winchester teachers and students about their eye-opening, life-changing experiences on both these projects.

Everyone in the community is invited to this evening of sharing; there will be food, photographs and information about how students and families can participate in future China programs.

When: Thursday October 25th 7:00 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.
Where: Social Studies Open Area 2nd Floor, Winchester High School

Winchester Educational Technology Department, Kelly Lyons and Kurt Paul, Elementary ITS

The following is a link to a newsletter called i-PARENT Times which is published by i-SAFE, the leader in Internet safety education: <http://www.isafe.org/imgs/pdf/newsletter/2007/i-Parent-09-07.pdf> Winchester works together with i-SAFE to ensure that our students have an understanding about safe practices when using the Internet. Please take a look at this link and refer to www.isafe.org for future editions. Thank you!

Save the Date: On November 8th from 6:30 – 8:00 pm, Winchester will hold its 4th Educational Technology Fair. Come to McCall Middle School and see how innovation happens in your school. Teachers, students and IT specialists will be showcasing the ways in which technology helps to enrich learning in your classroom. Grades K-12 will be participating and those in attendance will have a chance to win great prizes like an IPOD shuffle or flat screen for your computer. Look for more details in the coming month!



Winchester Youth Center
458R Main Street
Winchester MA 01890
781-721-0906
www.wynec.com

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

The goals of the WYC are to:

Provide Winchester teens with their own space that will foster healthy, safe, and enriching alternative activities outside of school hours. This is a place for Winchester teens to engage in substance-free activities and develop healthy social skills.

Supply valuable work and service-learning opportunities in the community that enhance leadership development through real life experiences.

Strengthen the relationship between teens and the community and instill a commitment to civic responsibility and community involvement.

Promote positive and healthy youth development.

WYC MEMBERSHIP

Become a member of the WYC! Applications are available at the WHS Main Office, the Recreation Department, and at the WYC.

Benefits of WYC membership:

Access to after school Drop-in Center and all of our amazing daily activities

Email updates on upcoming programs and special events

Reduced rates on various programs and special events including:

Rock for Youth admission: \$8 for non-members, **\$5 for members**

Coffee House admission: \$5 for non-members, **\$4 for members**

Movie Night admission: \$5 for non-members, **\$4 for members**

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

WYC Peer Leaders

The WYC Peer Leaders are a group of Winchester High School students who are committed to their community and serving as role models for all Winchester teens. The Peer Leaders meet on Monday evenings to work on further developing their leadership, communication, interpersonal, and decision-making skills; plan for upcoming projects; and have a lot of fun. They staff the Drop-in Center after school and serve as Project Leaders for all of the WYC's service-learning projects including all of our special events and community service projects. This group is open to any WHS student who has natural leadership skills and the desire to further develop them. Anyone interested in joining this awesome group is welcome to come in and talk to Rebecca at the WYC.

SSA: Students Spreading Awareness

SSA is the WYC's new peer education group for WHS students. This group hopes to inspire positive change in our world and provide opportunities for students to become active in the community. We identify issues of concern that we feel our peers are uninformed about and spread awareness in unique and interactive ways. Throughout this school year we'll be focusing our efforts on issues as diverse as the genocide in Darfur, body image and eating disorders, drinking and driving, and homeless youth. Anyone interested in joining this group should contact the WYC. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 7:00-8:00pm, this month we will meet on October 9th and 23rd.

WYC SPECIAL EVENTS

Scary Movie Night

Friday, October 28

7:00-11:00pm

@ the WYC

Double-feature on the giant movie screen

Popcorn, drinks, and movie snacks

High school students only

No outside drinks allowed & no re-entry

Admission is \$4 for WYC members and \$5 for non-members

WYC Halloween Costume Party Coffee House

Friday, October 26th

8:30-11:30pm

The WYC Peer Leaders will transform the WYC into a spooky Halloween-themed Coffee House. All attendees are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes and get into the Halloween spirit! There will be a contest for the best costumes and prizes will be awarded to the winners.

Featuring live music and delicious homemade treats, frappes, and coffee drinks.

The Coffee House is open to high school students only.

Admission is \$4 for WYC members and \$5 for non-members.

All proceeds will benefit the Peer Leaders' February vacation Habitat for Humanity trip.

Register your band for the 2007/2008 Rock for Youth

Each year the WYC sponsors a Battle of the Bands for local high school rock stars. The first of three rounds will take place on Friday, November 17th from 6:30-11:00pm in the Winchester Town Hall Auditorium. If you are interested in registering your band, contact the WYC. All bands must submit a demo tape and pay a \$35 registration fee. Don't let your band miss out on this opportunity!

SERVICE PROJECTS

If you're interested in doing something good for our community, stop by the WYC and find out how you can get involved. All WHS students are invited and welcome to participate in many of the following projects.

PB&J Jewels

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

Lowell Wish Project: Jeans & Sweatshirts Drive

The Peer Leaders and Little Brothers & Sisters are collecting new/lightly-worn jeans and sweatshirts to donate to the Lowell Wish Project. The Lowell Wish Project provides emergency, basic, and seasonal goods to low income families in the Merrimack Valley. Please bring your donations to the WYC any day between 2:00-6:00pm or contact us and we'll pick them up from your home.

Hands Across The Water: Books For South Africa Project

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

Halloween for the Hungry

On Sunday, October 28 the WYC Peer Leaders and Little Brothers & Sisters will be "trick-or-treating" for non-perishable food items for families served by the Woburn Council of Social Concern. Please be on the lookout for them in your neighborhood!

Habitat For Humanity

During February vacation the WYC Peer Leaders will be participating in our third annual Habitat for Humanity trip. Each year we travel to a different area of the country to participate in a week-long service-learning project with Habitat for Humanity and help build homes for needy families.

Throughout the fall and winter, the Peer Leaders will be running a variety of events in an effort to fundraise 100% of the expenses for our trip. Please contact us if you would like to make a donation toward this amazing service-learning experience.

Connect & Commit, Community Service-Learning

...Service trips in Thailand and China
...Anti Defamation League's Camp Interfaith
...People to People leadership summit in D.C.
...Assisting with Winchester's Reading Discovery and Rush Out and Read programs

How inspiring to hear about the service experiences that students had over the summer! Be on the lookout for summer service opportunities during the year and email me so I can include them in the Summer Service Opportunities Guide this spring.

Remember to join us on Thursday, October 25 for **Journeys to the East**: Students who participated in the Dandelion School Project (the service-learning teaching experience in Beijing) or the Pathways to China program share about their eye-opening, life-changing experiences in

this evening of sharing from 7:00 – 9:15 pm in the Social Studies open area.

The WHS Connect & Commit club has started off the year strong with a large group, including 95 students at the first meeting. The club leaders did a great job leading small groups in brainstorming the needs or issues students want to address this year, as well as some strategies.

Their first project is a collection drive of children's goods for Cradles to Crayons, where students volunteer on September 29. **The drive ends on September 28**, but if you miss it, there will be other drives this year for Iraqi children and for the Mission of Deeds.

All 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.

Many thanks to new parent volunteers Betsy Goodell, Kate Ebbott and Caren Connelly for chaperoning service trips in September!

Parents are encouraged to assist with one or more service events this year, including the following:

- Bringing students to Boston after the October 7 Torch Lighting for Genocide Survivors in Winchester
- Boo at the Stoneham Zoo on October 20 & 21
- October 25 service at Extras for Creative Learning
- November 3 at the Greater Boston Food Bank

See details in the current list of October 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 Opportunities for October 2007 (* = An activity that Ms. Gordon or another adult will be supervising)

Events:

Monday, October 1 – Deadline to apply for N.E. Aquarium W.O.W. Explorers Program The WOW Explorers Program is a science and education volunteer training class for teens ages 13 to 15. (Students over 15 yrs: apply to volunteer at www.neaq.org/community/vol/form.html) Participants learn background information and the skills needed to serve as Aquarium Guides in the Education department interpreting exhibits, leading activities and presenting gallery and live animal talks. Five Sat. classes, beginning Oct. 20; Qualified participants invited to volunteer weekends, school breaks and Monday holidays. Next session in spring with 3/31 deadline. See Ms. Gordon or www.neaq.org for an application.

Saturday, October 6 - Somerville 5K Road Race – Volunteers or Runners! Annual race to benefit the Somerville Homeless Coalition (SHC). Volunteer road guards on the course needed starting 8:00 am or at 8:45 to set up, serve, and clean up from brunch. Volunteers get a free t-shirt and brunch! Runners: Check-in 7:30 - 8:30 am/ begins 9:00 am. Holland St., Davis Sq., Somerville in front of MBTA Red line stop. Entry fee \$20 or raise over \$100 to enter the race for free (present pledge money in full at registration for free entry) Info and good video at www.somervillehomelesscoalition.org.

Sunday, October 7 (Columbus weekend) –Torch Lighting for Genocide Survivors on Winchester common - 12:00 noon Join Genocide survivors, Darfur advocates and allies to continue the symbolic Olympic torch relay in Winchester and Boston to call on the Chinese government, as Olympic host and close partner of Khartoum, to take all necessary steps to bring security to Darfur. The US Torch Relay is conducted in solidarity with an international symbolic Olympic Torch Relay through countries that have experienced genocide.

Saturday, October 13 – Rosie’s Place- 4 – 7:30 pm Help prepare and serve dinner to women and children in need at Rosie’s Place in Boston. Leaves WHS at 3:15 and returns at 8:00 pm. C&C permission slip required by Fri. October 5.

Saturday, October 20 - Boo at the Zoo– 10:15 – 3:15 pm - Stone Zoo in Stoneham
Help with event activities for children: the trick-or-treat trail, creepy crafts, the haunted maze, costume contests, and other jobs. C&C and Zoo permission slips required by Fri. October 12. Volunteers may split up the shift if necessary.

Sunday, October 21 - Boo at the Zoo – 10:15 – 3:15 pm - Stone Zoo in Stoneham

(See above)

Thursday, October 25 – Serve & Learn: Prepare Crafts Materials and Make Journals – 6:00 – 8:00 pm Hosted by BOOYAH!, Boston Cares’ volunteer program for Youth and Families. Leaves WHS at 5:00, returns at 8:30 pm. At Extras for Creative Learning, 443 Warren St., Dorchester. C&C and Boston Cares permission slips required by Fri. October 19.

Friday, October 27 - Lynch Elementary Halloween Party - 6 – 8:30 pm Run games like limbo, ring toss, or do face painting and other activities with children. Halloween costumes strongly encouraged! At Lynch School.

Saturday, November 3 – Greater Boston Food Bank – 8:45 to 12:00 Help the Greater Boston Food Bank to provide meals for over 83,000 people each week! The Food Bank helps salvage food that would have gone to waste and send it to 600+ hunger relief agencies. Volunteers will inspect, sort and repack donated grocery products that are then distributed to people in need. Wear closed toe shoes and clothes you can get dirty. Leaves WHS at 8:00, returns at 12:30. Near Boston’s South Bay shopping center. C&C permission slip required by Fri. October 26.

Ongoing opportunities:

Vinson Owen Afterschool Volunteer – 1 or 2 days per week Provide assistance and encouragement to elementary school students as they use educational computer programs for extra help after school. From 2:30 – 3:15 pm. Please commit to 8 sessions (once a week for 8 weeks or twice a week for 4 weeks).

Technology volunteer Do you have skills in Microsoft Office? Volunteer needed on limited basis in C&C office to help set up Excel files and Word merges.

Cartridge recycling volunteer Students needed to coordinate C&C’s printer cartridge recycling project, which raises funds for the C&C club and reduces waste. Help publicize the project and collect, inventory and package cartridges for shipment.

Be a Carbon Conscious Consumer (c3)! Pledge today to “Junk Your Junk Mail” at <http://c3.newdream.org> and pass the word along. Just spend a few minutes with the opt-out web forms, sit back, and enjoy the clutter-free benefits for years to come. Our climate will enjoy the benefits of less junk mail too: the production and disposal of direct mail consumes more energy than 3 million cars!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Autism Therapies Panel Discussion: RDI, Floortime, and A.B.A., Thursday October 11th McCall Library 7:00-9:00pm Does your child carry a diagnosis on the spectrum? Come hear this panel of three specialists in these different types of therapies sometimes recommended for autistic children. Panelists will be Leslie Deutchman, BCBA Board Certified Behavioral analyst specializing in ABA/Verbal Behavior therapy, and Lauren Weeks, Psy.D., Certified Relational Development Consultant who is one of two certified RDI consultants in Massachusetts. A third panelist TBD will speak about Floortime therapies. For more information contact winspedpac@verizon.net or visit our website at www.winchesterspedpac.org.

Special Education PAC: General Business Meeting, Tuesday October 16th, McCall Library 7:00-9:00pm PAC kick-off meeting to review plans for the 2007-08 school year and discuss items of interest. Please come support the PAC in its efforts to drive important issues that concern our children. For more information contact winspedpac@verizon.net or visit our website at www.winchesterspedpac.org.

Special Education PAC Out-of-District Parent Coffee, Thursday October 18, 7:00-9:00pm Join us for our first-ever Out-of-District Parent Coffee at Cara Falconi's home, 62 Water St. Come and talk with other Special Education parents who have children in out of district placements. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit with old friends, meet new ones and share our experiences. For more information contact winspedpac@verizon.net or visit our website at www.winchesterspedpac.org.

OCTOBER SPECIAL EDUCATION PAC COFFEE, Tuesday, October 23, 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 October Coffee will be held on Tuesday, October 23, 9:30-11:30 am, at the home of Jean Batty, 58 Bacon Street. Questions? Contact Jean at 781-570-2777 or winspedpac@yahoo.com. Also see the PAC website, www.winchesterspedpac.org.

FRIENDS OF MUSIC FUNDRAISING BENEFIT, Sunday, November 4th Crate and Barrel – New Store, Burlington Mall, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. The Friends of Music is holding a fun-filled fundraising benefit at the new Crate and Barrel store at Burlington Mall. You will be able to enjoy food preparation demonstrations, food tasting, hot beverage tasting, wine tasting all while shopping for holiday gifts for others and yourselves during a private shopping opportunity during which the store is open specifically for those attending the benefit. **Crate and Barrel will generously donate 10% of all sales made during this benefit to Friends of Music.** Also included at this event will be a raffle. Of wonderful packages assembled and donated by Crate and Barrel. Gather neighbors, do a friends night out, call your book clubs, call your relatives and come get a great start on your holiday and personal shopping at a really fun event, all the while helping to support the music opportunities our children have in the schools. **Tickets are available** for this benefit at the great low suggested minimum donation price of \$10 per ticket. You may purchase these by submitting your name, phone number, number of tickets you want, \$10 per ticket

(checks made payable to Friends of Music), and a self-addressed stamped envelope in the container marked "Friends of Music" in the school office or designated room. If you have questions or you are placing your order after November 1st, please contact Wendy Jo New at 781-721-1675.

"Back to School" Art Exhibit at the Winchester Public Library The Winchester Friends of Art present the annual "Back to School" art exhibit at the library, now through October. The display is a wonderful collection of art work done by students of all ages, from all of the Winchester Public Schools. There will be a **reception at the library on October 2, 2007 from 7-8:30pm, and a brief Friends of Art meeting.** Everyone is welcome! For more information about the Winchester Friends of Art, please contact winchesterfoa@hotmail.com.

Winchester Multicultural Network, P.O. Box 346, Winchester, MA 01890, (781) 729-7100 International parents are invited to a program, "Understanding American Schools" on Monday, October 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Winchester Public Library. Dr. Anne Copeland will answer questions such as "why do American teachers write 'great!' on a paper that has mistakes on it?"; "why do our public schools hold fundraisers?" and "why does your child's teacher tolerate students arguing with her?" Dr. Copeland is the founder of the Interchange Institute and editor of the Newcomers Almanac, a monthly newsletter for people new to this country. She will help parents understand the core values underlying educational practices in the United States. There will be plenty of time for questions and the program is free. Call the Multicultural Network at 781-729-7100 or email office@wmcn.org for more information.