

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

**PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ DECEMBER 2008**

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

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**From the Office of Principal Tom Gwin**

I am happy to report that WHS is finally catching up to the electronic age in our ongoing efforts to improve communication between families and the school. For the first time, report cards were emailed home to families that had indicated that they were willing to receive electronic report cards. Over 500 electronic report cards were sent, saving WHS over \$200 in postal costs. Since the mailing, 100 more families have given us permission to email report cards. If you would like to be added to the list, please email my administrative assistant, Mia Gustin at [mgustin@winchester.k12.ma.us](mailto:mgustin@winchester.k12.ma.us). With this new email capability, I will be able to send a bulk email to parents or students without depending on the PFA's email program.

In addition, WHS is piloting the use of Edline, an online service that will serve as an extension to our school's website. Edline will improve communication between parents, students, and teachers in a safe, secure online environment. With Edline, students and parents know what's going in school- from activities to your student's latest exam score. You will be able to check on grades, school news, assignments, calendars, and more.

Edline is being piloted by a few math teachers. The students in these classes have a personal activation code that allows them to check their math grades online. So far, the students really love this new capability as it allows them to know where they stand in class. Using the new email feature, we will be sending home parent activation codes so you too can access Edline. Each staff member, parent, and student will have his or her own screen name (login) and password allowing them access to the WHS Edline site. If your son or daughter is in one of the math pilots, you will be able to check their math grades. If not, you will still be able to access WHS information on the Edline website. As the year progresses, I expect more teachers will be using Edline grade reporting feature with their classes.

As we move into the snow season, the school district will be moving to an emergency notification system called School Messenger. When school will be cancelled or important information needs to go out, the superintendent will be able to record a message that will go out to all families in the district within minutes. When the phone rings on a snowy morning, the kids will know that they can stay in bed. Principals will have the capability to send a recorded message to their staff or parent body. The new communication system should be in place sometime in December so stay tuned for details.

Town Meeting approved the funding of \$1.35 million for Phase I of the Comprehensive Field Restoration Plan. Phase I includes a new synthetic turf, multi-sport playing field at Manchester Field. Our football, soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse teams will be able to play at this site. Phase I also includes new 800-seat bleachers on the hill adjacent to the field and a new baseball diamond at Lynch Field (relocated from Manchester). It is hoped that the new turf field will be ready for the Thanksgiving Day football game in 2009. The entire project also includes a new eight-lane track with a natural sod field at Manchester Field, and a renovated baseball diamond and three renovated playing fields at Ciarcia. Fundraising will finance Phase II of the project. At long last, the football and track teams will be able to host home events.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

**MESSAGE FROM SRO RUSSO**

With the winter season here ~ a couple of reminders for everyone.

During days of rain or snow please allow yourself ample time to arrive at school safely. This will help to alleviate congestion and prevent any accidents at the high school.

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90, Section 13 requires removal of all snow and ice before operating your motor vehicle.

With the governors "Click It or Ticket" campaign in full swing ~ Massachusetts Law requires seat belt use for everyone.

**CLASS NEWS**

**The Junior Class** would like to thank everyone who donated to the Junior Class Dinner. Specifically, we would like to thank Policeman Fox and the Octets, for their performances, the custodial and lunch room staff, for their help in setting up, and everyone who donated raffle items. Your help made our night such a success!

We would also like to thank everyone who donated to our Thanksgiving Food Drive, to benefit the Woburn Food Pantry. With your donations, we were able to help feed numerous families during the Thanksgiving holiday. We thank you for your continuous support and generosity.

Matt Marotta, Class President Neil Erikson, Vice President, Mike Kalfopoulos, Secretary, Nina Krane, Treasurer

**Class of 2011 News!**

SHOW YOUR CLASS SPIRIT -- BUY A 2011 T-SHIRT! The t-shirts are \$20.00 and can be purchased by a class officer, Ms. Kangas, or Ms. Rees. There will be many opportunities to wear them!

The Sophomore Class had a great turn-out for the Fall Bonding Trip to Witches Woods...look for pictures in the yearbook! The haunted hayride had EVERYONE screaming! We will definitely do that again! Many thanks to all the people who baked for the Halloween Bake Sale. It was a treat for everyone! We will have another Bake Sale on St. Patrick's Day.

**Back by popular demand**...the pizza lunch on Thursday, December 11th. (It is an early release) Remember all the raffle prizes! Tickets will go on sale in December, listen for the announcements. If you wear your t-shirt to the lunch, you will get extra raffle tickets! We will be looking for people to provide drinks and desserts. More to follow. ALSO, kids will have the opportunity to sign up to work on specific committees, class trips, bake sales, dances, school spirit, and many more. WE NEED YOU to make our class work!

BUY A T-SHIRT -- BUY A T-SHIRT -- BUY A T-SHIRT

**MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

- **December 4, 7:00 pm Caroling on the Commons/Tree Lighting Ceremony:** All 5th Grade Choruses and selected WHS brass players to perform on Winchester Commons
- **December 8, 7:30 pm Midnight Madness: Octets & Chamber Singers downtown Winchester**
- **December 10, 7:30 pm WHS Winter Choral Concert WHS Auditorium**
- **December 18, 7:30 pm WHS Small Ensemble Concert WHS Auditorium**

## From the PFA Co-President, Carol Cashion

Driving my son to WHS in the cold and the dark this morning, I felt winter settling in. That's always hard to accept, but the flurry of activity that December brings, hectic as it is, does add some light and warmth to the start of winter. Lights will be blazing on many December nights at Winchester High as our student actors and musicians take the stage in a series of performances stretching from opening night for the fall play on December 5 through the Small Ensemble Concert on December 18. Don't miss the chance to hear our students' voices and enjoy their accomplished playing. What are the dates? If you aren't already familiar with the Winchester Schools District Calendar, you will find all the answers there. This comprehensive calendar is a great resource; take a moment to find the link, labeled "District Calendar," at [www.winchester.k12.ma.us](http://www.winchester.k12.ma.us) and bookmark it. It's a life-saver.

At last month's PFA meeting, we heard an excellent presentation by a program offering Advanced Driver Training for young drivers. There was great enthusiasm in the room for organizing an opportunity for WHS students to attend this one-day course as a group, and the PFA is going to take that on. By the time those of us in attendance finished learning what we experienced drivers did not know (but should!) about braking, passing, skidding and tail-gating, many of us, I think, were ready to take the keys out of our young drivers' hands until they took this additional training course. The statistics on the safety benefits of this kind of training are compelling; we owe it to our young drivers to make this opportunity as broadly available as possible. Stay tuned for details.

We also had the pleasure of voting to award our PFA Grants for the school year. The PFA Grants are by far the largest line item in our budget, returning the bulk of your Direct Appeal donations directly to the students and teachers of Winchester High to meet critical needs and support new initiatives. The grants make a real difference in the daily lives of both students and faculty, from funding the purchase of innovative "smart boards" for our math classrooms to buying hot chocolate supplies to keep the library "warm" for our hard-working students. Thank you again for your generosity, and if you have not yet contributed, well, there's still time!

**Next month's PFA Meeting will take place on December 3 at 7:30pm in the Library. We hope to see you there!**

## Direct Appeal 2008-2009

The Board of the WHS Parent Faculty Association extends a big thank you to those families who have contributed to this year's Direct Appeal. Of the 896 families with students at WHS, 309 have contributed thus far. These generous contributions will be used to continue to cover the cost of many important programs and supplies for WHS students and teachers not included in the WHS budget, by providing grants to academic departments and the school library, and to support many extracurricular, enrichment, and support programs for students. If you have not yet contributed, please consider doing so now so that we may meet our fundraising goal and plan effectively for the entire school year. The PFA's goal is to raise Direct Appeal funds through the contributions of 100% of WHS families, which includes PFA dues. Although a contribution of any amount is truly appreciated, the PFA asks that each family consider making a one-time donation for this school year of \$75.00 or more.

The PFA now offers two methods for making a contribution to the Direct Appeal

- **Checks** made payable to the WHS PFA may be sent to Joanne O'Donnell, 9 Pierrepont Road, Winchester, MA 01890. (The Direct Appeal mail-in form is below.)
- **PayPal** - Now, you may also contribute by making 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 follow the instructions in the electronic version of the Newsletter that you receive by email.

For additional information, please contact Joanne O'Donnell at [pfodonnell@verizon.net](mailto:pfodonnell@verizon.net) **Thank you for your contribution!**

Name of WHS Student(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Contribution \$75 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$125 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the WHS PFA and send to: **Joanne O'Donnell, 9 Pierrepont Road, Winchester, MA 01890.**



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## The Guide

### A Monthly Newsletter from the WHS Guidance Department

December 2008

#### Junior Parent College Night Scheduled for January 20

The Guidance Department's Early College Planning Night for parents of juniors has been scheduled for Tuesday evening, January 20, 2009, at 7:00 P.M. The program will be held in the auditorium and will feature speakers David Hautanen, Director of Undergraduate Admissions and Recruitment, Northeastern University, and Walker Coppedge, Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Tufts University. These admissions professionals will describe the admissions process from the colleges' perspective. Guidance Director Sherri Lewis-Sholler will discuss how to get started on the college selection process, with an emphasis on how to begin the college search, what to look for when visiting colleges, and a suggested schedule for college admissions testing. The Early College Planning Night is the first in a series of workshops designed to equip parents with as much information as possible about the college process. **Juniors are welcome to attend this workshop with their parents.**

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#### **Guidance Department to Host Morning Program for Parents of Sophomores**

On Wednesday, January 21, 2009, the Guidance Department will hold a morning program for parents of sophomores from 9:00 – 10:00 AM. The focus will be on how to use the PSAT/NMSQT Score Reports and a suggested schedule for further testing in high school. Parents who plan on attending this informal meeting should contact Guidance Director Sherri Lewis-Sholler at [slewishsholler@winchester.k12.ma.us](mailto:slewishsholler@winchester.k12.ma.us) to reserve a space.

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#### Important Information for Parents of Seniors

During the senior year, when a student requests that his/her transcript be sent to a college, the transcript of the first three years is sent to colleges. In February, after mid-year report cards have been issued, a copy of the semester report card is automatically sent to all colleges to which a senior has applied. The report cards sent to the colleges are copies of the report cards sent to parents, except that teachers' comments have been deleted. Parents or students who have questions concerning this information may contact Sherri Lewis-Sholler, Guidance Director.

#### **PSAT/NMSQT Score Reports to be Mailed in December**

The Guidance Department will be mailing PSAT/NMSQT score reports to students and parents in December, as soon as they are received from the College Board. Due to the high cost of mailing, however, **students' individual test booklets must be picked up in the Guidance Office.** By using the test booklet along with the score report, students will be able to identify areas of weakness to review and practice for the SAT. All high school students who took the 2008 PSAT/NMSQT will receive access to My College QuickStart, without charge. My College QuickStart will provide students with the opportunity for projecting their SAT score ranges, customizing an SAT study plan, and other college planning features. Directions for accessing My College QuickStart will be included with the PSAT Score Reports.

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#### **Harvard Offers Lowell Scholarship Program for Courses at Extension School**

Each year for the past 21 years, Harvard Extension School has offered Lowell Scholarships to qualified high school students to enable them to take one course per term at half tuition, provided the course is taken for credit and the student meets the course prerequisites. Forms may be downloaded from the web at: [www.extension.harvard.edu](http://www.extension.harvard.edu). To obtain further information about the program, call (617) 495-3192.

**FINANCIAL AID NIGHT: DECEMBER 2, 2008  
7:00 PM IN THE AUDITORIUM**

#### Financial Aid Workshop

The W.H.S. Guidance Department is holding a Financial Aid Workshop for parents of seniors on **Tuesday, December 2, 2008, at 7:00 P.M. in the auditorium.** Liz Bassett, Associate Director of Financial Aid at Suffolk University, and an educational loan representative from a local bank will present the program. Ms. Bassett will provide step-by-step instructions on completing the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA), the form required to apply for all types of financial aid. She will also present information on the *Profile* form required by many private institutions, in addition to the FAFSA. The bank representative will explain the various educational loan programs. A representative from the Winchester Scholarship Foundation will present information on how to apply for scholarships from the WSF, and WSF applications will be available. Students are welcome to attend this informative workshop with their parents.

**A second financial aid night will be held for parents of juniors on January 27, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the auditorium. A representative from College Funding Services will present information about various ways to finance your child's college education. Senior parents are also welcome to attend.**

### **Connect & Commit- Winchester's Community Service-Learning Program**

The Community Service Club has a lot to offer in the coming months. Here is a list of volunteer opportunities and other things to look forward to.

#### **Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1:30- 3:30 or 3:30-5:30**

**Woburn Holiday House Tour** put on by SCI Woburn is looking for volunteers to assist them by greeting tour-goers and to helping to keep them in designated areas of the houses. Volunteers must be 16 or older or accompanied by a parent. All volunteers will also get a free ticket to the show.

#### **Tuesday December 9<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm- WHS Library**

Nicole Fountas from **Boston Cares** will be coming to speak with the students about what the Boston Cares organization does and ways in which we can be involved. Boston Cares organizes numerous volunteer opportunities in the Boston area and we are excited to be forming a relationship with them this year.

#### **Tues. & Wed. January-April 2:30-3:30- Muraco & Lynch Schools The Muraco-Lynch Tutoring Program** has been

incredibly popular with students in the past. Students spend one hour a week with a student that they have been paired up with and provide tutoring and mentorship. The High School students will be provided with training and support throughout the program with teachers always on hand to help and support you.

**Club Meetings:** Every Tuesday at 6:30pm the Connect & Commit Club meets in the WHS Library. These meetings are open to everyone and I would encourage students to come at least once this year and learn what it's all about!

#### **LOOKING AHEAD**

Christmas in the City- December 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Greater Boston Food Bank- January 24<sup>th</sup>  
Pennies for Patients- March 2<sup>nd</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>  
EnKa Yard Sale- April 27<sup>th</sup>-May 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Blood Drive- April 30<sup>th</sup>

More information on these opportunities to come!

If you would like to be on our email list and receive the most updated volunteer opportunities, or if you would like to sign up to volunteer please contact Program Director, Kristen Ritchie at (781) 721-7020 x1999 or [kritchier@winchester.k12.ma.us](mailto:kritchier@winchester.k12.ma.us)



### **Winchester Youth Center**

458R Main Street  
Winchester MA 01890  
781-721-0906  
[www.wynec.com](http://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.*

### **DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> IS WORLD AIDS DAY**

In recognition of this international event, members of SSA will be spreading awareness about the AIDS epidemic and we will be handing out AIDS ribbons so that we can all demonstrate our care and concern about HIV and AIDS.

On Monday evening all of the Peer Leaders will be travelling into Boston to visit Medicine Wheel, an annual interactive art installation at Boston Center for the Arts Cyclorama which honors World AIDS Day with a 24 hour vigil. All members of the WHS community are welcome to join us. Please contact the WYC for more information.

### **SUPPORT THE WYC PEER LEADERS' APRIL VACATION HABITAT FOR HUMANITY TRIP**

#### **Join us for a jewelry party!**

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>  
3:00-6:00pm  
1 Alden Lane  
Hosted by Karen Erikson

Leaders will make sure your gifts are beautifully wrapped and tied with a bow!

#### **Dump Runs!**

Let us take care of your trash on Saturdays, January 17<sup>th</sup> and March 21<sup>st</sup>

We are currently selling dump run vouchers for \$20 for the two dates

Contact the WYC for more information

#### **Let us do your holiday present wrapping!**

Bring your Christmas/Chanukah presents to the WYC any day after school from December 2<sup>nd</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> and the Peer

### **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 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. Currently we are focusing our efforts on the issues of HIV/AIDS, Hunger & Homelessness, and Body Image & Eating Disorders. Anyone interested in joining this group should contact the WYC. Our meetings take place on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:00pm, this month we will meet on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **SERVICE PROJECTS**

**Throughout the year the WYC Peer Leaders coordinate and participate in a huge variety of community service projects. The Peer Leaders are committed to making a positive difference in the world and encouraging others to do the same. If you're interested in doing something good for our community, stop by the WYC and find out how you can get involved. Please check out our website for a complete description of our service efforts.**

#### **Christmas in the City**

Once again this Holiday season the WYC Peer Leaders will be collecting and purchasing new gifts for children served by Christmas in the City. On December 21<sup>st</sup> the Peer Leaders will volunteer at the Christmas in the City event, an all-day holiday celebration at the Bayside Expo Center for over 3,000 homeless individuals in Greater Boston. Over 2,000 children will receive holiday gifts at the event! If you would like to make a contribution toward this amazing event (new gifts only) please contact the WYC.

#### **WYC Jewels: Great Holiday Gifts!**

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. Please check our website to find dates of upcoming jewelry parties.

#### **Lowell Wish Project: Collection of Pots & Pans, Jeans, and Baby Items**

The Lowell Wish Project provides emergency, basic, and seasonal goods to low income families in the Merrimack Valley. The Peer Leaders volunteer several times throughout the year sorting and organizing donated items are collecting a wide variety of greatly needed items including new/lightly used pots & pans, jeans for school-aged children, clothing and other gear for babies. We respectfully request that all items be in new/lightly used condition. Please bring your donations to the WYC any day between 2:00-6:00pm.

**Animal Rescue League: Collection of Dog & Cat Toys and Cotton Towels**

The Animal Rescue League of Boston is a non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing domesticated animals and wildlife from suffering, cruelty, abandonment, and neglect. The Peer Leaders are collecting clean cotton bath towels and new dog & cat toys to donate to their 3 local shelters. Please bring your donations to the WYC any day between 2:00-6:00pm.

**Woburn Council of Social Concern food collection**

Throughout the month of December the WYC Peer Leaders and Little Brothers & Sisters will be collecting non-perishable food for the Woburn Council of Social Concern's food pantry. We will be preparing several baskets for families to have for holiday dinners. Please contact the WYC if you have items that you would like to donate.

**Winchester Public Schools Office of the Superintendent 154 Horn Pond Brook Road 781-721-7004**

**A message from the Superintendent concerning school closing or delayed opening, due to inclement weather.**

In addition to the possibility of closing schools due to inclement weather, we may also use a delayed opening. In order to ensure greater safety, the opening of schools may be delayed up to two hours. Be sure to listen to the no school announcements.

**If there is a delay in the start of school due to inclement weather there will be NO MORNING PRESCHOOL classes. The other preschool programs will follow the time delay as indicated for the rest of the district.**

Should there be a delayed opening, students will be expected to go to their bus stop or to leave their houses (if they walk to school) one (or two) hours after their regularly scheduled time. The bus company and crossing guards will know about the delay and will rearrange their schedules accordingly.

The quickest way to determine whether school will be closed or the opening delayed due to bad weather is to listen to your radio or television. **Please do not call the police, fire or school officials.** This only ties up telephone lines and disrupts attempts to plan for or respond to emergencies.

**Every effort will be made to call in "No School" announcements to the following radio stations and television channels before 6:00 a.m.**

WBZ – Channel 4	WinCam – Channel 9
WCVB – Channel 5	<a href="http://www.winchester.k12.ma.us">www.winchester.k12.ma.us</a>
WHDH – Channel 7	<b>Click link for School Cancellation Notification</b>
WFXT – FOX 25	

**If the announcement is not on the radio the previous evening, the decision has not yet been made. Normally, the decision is not made until the early morning hours of the day in question.**

The decision to close or delay the opening of school is made by the Superintendent of Schools. This decision is based upon the best information available on street and weather conditions from the Police Department, Public Works Department and the U.S. Weather Bureau, at the time the decision must be made, usually before 5:30 a.m. However, it may be necessary where the decision has to be made after that. Weather conditions do change sometimes, for better or for worse, but our intent is to determine that it is reasonably safe for students and staff to attend school.

**If school is held, but conditions are still very bad on any particular street or area in town, parents are urged to use their own judgment in determining whether or not to send a student to school. A student will not be marked absent in such a case.**

If a storm occurs during a school day, school will ordinarily remain in session. We are advised by the Police Department that once students are in school they are better off remaining there than being released early because of a storm. The reasons for this include: the Town has more time to service major accesses to and from schools prior to dismissal and parents of many younger children may not be home to receive them. However, parents should also make certain that their child knows where to go, in the event schools have to be dismissed early. Early dismissals, should they occur, will also be broadcast in advance over the referenced radio and television stations.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. The safety of the children will always be our prime consideration.

William H. McAlduff, Jr., Superintendent

**SCHOOL RELATED NEWS AND EVENTS**

**The Winchester ABC Program** will hold its next Bottle Drive on Saturday, January 10, 2009, from 8 AM to 3 PM in the parking lot behind the Sons of Italy Hall at the entrance to the transfer station. Your returnable bottles and cans would be appreciated. As always, volunteers are needed the day of the drive to help sort the bottles and cans. If you have an hour or two and can help, please know that you are welcome. For more information, please call Brian Sergenian at 781-721-0242.

Mark Your Calendars!  
**A Special Parent Conversations** at a Special Time  
Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 9am, Conference Room, Main Office  
We will have a presentation from the New School Resource Officer, Anthony Russo  
Find Out.....What's happening in Winchester on Saturday Nights?!

**SPECIAL EDUCATION PAC EVENTS**

**December 1, 2008: IEP for my Child, McCall Middle School 7-9pm**

This workshop takes parents step-by-step through the IEP development process: including how to articulate a vision, using evaluations to write annual measurable goals, and how to measure your child's progress. If you child is already on an IEP, bring it with you to the workshop.

### **SACHEM UMBRELLAS - SHOW YOUR WINCHESTER SPIRIT!!**

The Winchester High School Baseball Team still has a few SACHEM Umbrellas left for sale. These are great quality, large golf size umbrellas from Storm Duds RainGear with wooden shafts and wooden handle. These Red and Black umbrellas with the large SACHEM logo are a great way to show your SACHEM and Winchester Spirit. Great for holiday gift giving to friends and neighbors at only \$25.00 each. Please contact Maureen Mitropoulos at [mitrop5@comcast.net](mailto:mitrop5@comcast.net) or 781-729-2619. Thanks for supporting the WHS Baseball Program!!

### **WFEE News:**

The WHS Robotics Club is heading back into combat this month with new machines and an influx of younger participants. Freshmen and sophomores will be joining more seasoned club members at a robot competition at Plymouth North High School on December 13th. February will bring more challenges with students building a task oriented robot that is both autonomous and radio controlled; that 'bot will compete in the USFIRST Robotics Tech Challenge. This is the second year that WFEE has dedicated significant funding to the Robotics Club. This year's robotics grant is also providing increased opportunities for student participation at McCall Middle School's Cool Science Club. For more information on grants provided by WFEE or to make a donation check out the website, [www.wfee.org](http://www.wfee.org).

### **Parenting Book Group**

Mark your Calendars for a new Parenting Book Group. Parent to Parent, with the Winchester Public Library, is offering a book group focused on parenting issues. The group will meet on four Thursday evenings next year: January 15, February 26, March 19, and April 30, at 7:30 p.m. in the Library's meeting room. The group will run on a drop-in basis; read all or parts of that month's book, and join us. Details to follow.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Audition for the Winchester Cooperative Theatre Spring Musical!**

Audition dates: Monday, Dec 8<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, Dec 9<sup>th</sup> at the McCall Middle School Auditorium from 3:00 – 5:30 pm.

Open to all Winchester children in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades.

For more information, visit <http://geocities.com/cooptheatre> or call (781) 729-0224.

### **"Helping Our Children Feel Successful in Winchester Schools"**

The International Connections Committee of the Winchester Multicultural Network is continuing to sponsor meetings for international parents on issues related to the schools. Although there will be no meeting in November due to the election, the December meeting will be held on **Tuesday evening, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 PM** at the McCall Middle School library, 458 Main Street.

All parents who have come to Winchester from other countries are welcome, whether they are new here or not and whether they have school-aged children or not. For more information call Liz Sayre at 781-729-9242 oremail [office@wmcn.org](mailto:office@wmcn.org).

### **Wanted: Singers/Dancers/Entertainers**

Come one, come all - by yourself, with a friend or a group to audition for the 88<sup>th</sup> annual Winton Club Cabaret to benefit Winchester Hospital. Auditions will be held on Monday, December 8 and Tuesday, December 9, beginning at 7PM at the Winchester Town Hall Auditorium, 71 Mt. Vernon Street. All participants (even if you are not a singer) will be asked to sing up to 16 bars of a song of your choice (bring sheet music). You should wear comfortable clothing and bring dance shoes with you (tap, jazz, character) if you have them. All levels of talent are welcome and all participants will be cast in the show. We just ask that you be at least 18 years of age and bring a smile and lots of energy!

The show runs from January 27-31, 2009. This year's theme is "Seasons of Love" with acts depicting a variety of traditional and special events/moments enjoyed by Winchester residents and friends throughout the calendar year. Rehearsals are held during the month of January, mostly on weekday evenings. There is also one mandatory all-day rehearsal for the entire cast on Sunday, January 25. For more information, see our web site, [wintonclub.com/cabaret](http://wintonclub.com/cabaret) or call 781-721-7611.

### **Studio Art Classes**

**Small group studio classes in drawing and painting in Winchester are being offered by former Winchester High School art teacher and Director of Art, David Ardito.** The Winter term of art classes at the Sanborn Cultural Center on High Street in Winchester will start January 6, 2009 and will run through March, 2009. **There will also be a Spring term to be announced at a later date.** There will be a total of 10 class meetings in each term and classes are held on Tuesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Class size will be limited to 6 students. Instruction will include **life drawing and painting** with an emphasis on the development of observational drawing and painting skills and also on expressive drawing and painting techniques. There will also be opportunities for students to develop their **creative portfolios for college admission** and instruction will include portfolio assessment and counseling. Classes are offered on a first come, first serve basis and juniors and seniors will receive priority over underclassmen. David Ardito is an artist with thirty-five years art teaching experience at the secondary level, most recently for nineteen years at Winchester High School. He was the K-12 Director of Art for Winchester Public Schools for nineteen years and is currently on the art education faculty at Mass College of Art.

For David Ardito's resume, a registration form and for more information about fees and curriculum please email David at [vdpaa@yahoo.com](mailto:vdpaa@yahoo.com) or [david.ardito@massart.edu](mailto:david.ardito@massart.edu) or call 781 910 7119.

**The Winchester Home & Garden Club** proudly presents its second annual townwide holiday door decorating contest entitled, Doorways to the Holidays. This is a wonderful opportunity to begin a new family tradition. Share the beauty and wonder of this holiday season. Entry forms will be available beginning the week of Thanksgiving at Books Ends and the Public Library. Applications must be received by December 8th. The entry fee of \$20 helps support beautification projects in Winchester. Questions may be e-mailed to [ [mailto:Holidaydoors@WHGC.org](mailto:mailto:Holidaydoors@WHGC.org) ]Holidaydoors@WHGC.org. Watch for posters around town and details in the Winchester Star. Let the holiday decorating begin!