

WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL
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PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ OCTOBER 2008

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

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From the Office of Principal Tom Gwin

After three weeks in school, Winchester High School is in full stride. Students and teachers have settled into the daily routines as we move into October, cooler weather, and the MLB playoffs. When everything was said and done, we hired 33 teachers, counselors, teaching assistants, and in-house substitute teachers for the new school year. That represents about 25% of the staff. School enrollment is at 1082 students, down slightly from last year. Next year we are projected to be slightly above 1100 students and enrollment continues to increase in subsequent years. With both enrollment and diversity increasing in the student body, strengthening the school climate will be a major goal in the years ahead. Our Student Leadership Development Program and the Rachel's Challenge assemblies will be important components of achieving this goal.

Student Leadership Development Program: Last May, 65 students participated in a one day leadership training that was designed to open their eyes, hearts, and minds to the problems and possibilities that exist at WHS. On September 12, twenty five students spent the first of three days in an intensive leadership development workshop learning from each other, addressing school climate issues, developing leadership skills, and learning how to take their knowledge to the greater community. These twenty-five students will participate in two more days of training in October. Our plan is to expose this kind of training to as many students and staff members as possible with the ultimate goal of creating a stronger school environment where every student feels safe, cared for, and celebrated. Stay tuned for further information in future newsletters

Rachel's Challenge: All students will see the assembly program, Rachel's Challenge, on October 23 or 24. Rachel Scott was the first person killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. Her acts of kindness and compassion along with the contents of her six diaries have become the foundation for a school assembly program. The program includes footage of the Columbine tragedy and an inspirational presentation by Rachel's uncle. The program emphasizes caring and respect for all members of the school community in the effort to improve school climate. The program will be presented to parents and community members at 7 pm on October 23 in the WHS auditorium. All are welcome. I strongly encourage you to attend. Special thanks to the Winchester Substance Abuse Coalition for sponsoring this program.

MCAS Results: Students should receive 2008 MCAS results in your home mail by the end of September. Seniors will receive U.S. History scores, juniors will receive Math and English Language Arts scores, sophomores will receive Biology scores and freshmen will receive their eighth grade scores. I have the unofficial raw scores and know the high school performed very well once again. I will report on the official scores in the November newsletter. Currently passing the Math and English MCAS exams is a graduation requirement; passing science becomes a requirement for the Class of 2010. Recently the state eased the appeal rule for the science MCAS. Students who have taken the science exam and failed can file an appeal based on their performance in their next science course and having a 95% attendance rate in the course.

New Handbook Policies: There are two new policy changes related to attendance. You will be able to locate this information within the pages of your student's planner. The first is very straight forward. If any student leaves campus during the school day without permission or an excused dismissal, he or she will receive a one day suspension. The second is called the N rule and is successfully used in other high schools in the area (Newton North and South and Weston High School) to improve student attendance. Formerly we had the eight day rule. When students reached 8 absences in a semester they would lose 2.5 credits of credits unless there was a medically documented excusal or the loss of credit was successfully appealed. This past year, some seniors did not graduate or came close to not graduating because of loss of credit due to absences. The N rule brings a greater urgency to the importance of daily school attendance. With the N rule, when a student reaches 5 absences in a quarter in a course, the student will receive a grade of N on the report card in that class. The N is merely an attendance grade. The academic grade that the student achieved for the quarter is what will be averaged into the final grade so the student's final transcript will not be affected. However the N on the report card indicates to the students and parents/guardians that attendance is an issue. Students, who receive 3 or 4 Ns in a course during the year, will receive an N for the year with no credit. Certain types of absences that will not count toward the N rule include extended or chronic illness with medical documentation, field trips, college visits, school suspensions, religious holidays, and administrative exemptions granted by the principal. For N rule details, see pages 26-7 in the planner. Already, I sense a greater awareness of the importance of school attendance as students discuss not missing days for unimportant reasons.

Student Flu Shots: For those students who signed up and paid last June, flu shots will be given in school on Tuesday, October 21. Students will be called to the Nurses Office individually by our school nurse, Mrs. Britt. Unfortunately, because the order was based on the number of students who registered in June, no other students will be able to receive flu shots at this time.

Photo Retakes: Burlington Studios will be back at school on Tuesday, October 7 for photo retakes during both lunch blocks in the corridor outside the cafeteria. If you student is new to WHS and has not had their photograph taken this would be a good opportunity to do so.

MESSAGES FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

VISITORS: All visitors to the high school, including parents, must check in and sign a Visitors Log in the Main Office. All visitors must wear a visitor's name tag. Individuals who do not attend Winchester High School or are not on official business but are on the school grounds or in the school building will be treated as trespassers. This offense is a violation of the General Laws of the Commonwealth and carries a fine and/or imprisonment. Police will be notified.

DRESS CODE REMINDER: Students should refer to page 37 in their student handbook. Specifically, students should not wear any clothing that would be a distraction or a disruption to the educational process. At no time are hoods allowed to be worn. Girls are not permitted to wear strapless or low cut tops. Inappropriate dress will result in a student being asked to change clothing, cover up and parental contact.

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT: Students are not allowed to use a cell phone in school at any time. All cell phones must be turned off. A student in violation of this policy will have his/her cell phone taken away and sent to an administrator. A parent must meet with an Administrator to pick up the phone. Ipods, MP3 players etc., cannot be used in class but they may be used at lunch.

DISMISSALS: A reminder to all parents that if your student is to be dismissed from school, they must be excused with an explanatory note or telephone call from a parent/guardian to the Main Office PRIOR TO THE DISMISSAL. A NOTE AFTER THE FACT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. A student may also be dismissed from school at the discretion of the Assistant Principal/s and the School Nurse. Parents will be contacted prior to the dismissal.

OFF CAMPUS: Parents are reminded that Senior and Junior privileges (open ends and lunch) are as follows: Seniors who have open end privileges are only allowed to arrive at school or leave school for one period at the beginning or the end of the day. Additionally, lunch privileges are limited to the lunch period that the student is assigned. They do not include any class or assigned academic block (study hall) during the lunch periods. Junior lunch privileges are only for the lunch period that they are assigned and not the entire lunch block from 11:21-1:03. Juniors must attend assigned classes or study halls during the lunch block. Failure to follow school policy for these privileges could result in forfeiture of these privileges. Any student who leaves campus without permission will be suspended.

ATTENTION SENIORS: Cap & Gown Measurements

Cap and Gown Measurements will take place on Thursday October 23rd, during both lunches. Measurements will be held in the red staircase by the student parking lot. The cost is \$17.00, checks should be made payable to: Winchester High School. Student's name and "cap & gown" should be written on the memo. Each outfit comes with a tassel, which students will receive in June. If you wish to purchase a tassel now please have \$4.00 cash to pay the University Cap & Gown Representative. You Must have your Check/Cash to be measured! You will also be asked to verify your name, spelling etc. for your diploma.

A FLYER WITH INFO RE CAPS AND GOWNS CAN BE FOUND AT:

<http://whspfa.org/clientimages/39852/october2008/capgowninfo.pdf>

CLASS NEWS

The Winchester Junior class will be hosting a class dinner this, October 23rd at 6:30. Come for good times, good friends, and good food. Anna's Taquareaia will be catering, and many prizes will be able to be won.

Senior Portrait Deadline: Parents of Seniors - Final deadline for senior portraits is Monday, November 3, 2008.

if not taken at Burlington Studios, image **must** be digital, high resolution (at least 300 dpi). Questions? Email Ms. Hillstrom, Yearbook Advisor khillstrom@winchester.k12.ma.us

The "**PIE GUYS AND GALSS**" are BACK!!!

The WHS Senior Class of '09' is holding their 4th Annual (and Final) Wilson Farm Thanksgiving Pie Fundraiser!!!! This year's pie choices include Pumpkin, Lemon Meringue, Apple Hi-Pie, Boston Cream, Southern Pecan and Blueberry Hi-Pie.

All pies will be sold for \$12.00 and **must be ordered by Wednesday Nov. 12!!** Pick up will be on Tuesday, Nov. 25 in the high school cafeteria between 2:30 and 5:00 pm. Order forms are available in this newsletter and at the Main Office.

Please order your pies early and support your favorite Senior!!! All proceeds will support our end of the year activities.

Thank you!! **COMPLETE INFO AND ORDER FORMS CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT:**

<http://whspfa.org/clientimages/39852/october2008/seniororderformwilsonfarm-2.pdf>

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

The evening of **October 23rd** Winchester High School in collaboration with the Winchester Substance Abuse Coalition (WSAC) will host a presentation of **Rachel's Challenge** for our community starting at **7pm** in the high school auditorium. What is Rachel's Challenge?



Rachel Scott was the first person killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. Her acts of kindness and compassion coupled with the contents of her six diaries have become the foundation for a school assembly program.

Parents with children of any age, community leaders, and concerned Winchester residents are invited to come hear the Rachel's uncle conduct an inspirational presentation that includes powerful video/audio footage of Rachel's life and the Columbine tragedy. Our high school students will have a chance to see this presentation during the school day. This assembly has held students across our country spell-bound during a one hour school presentation that motivates them to positive change in the way they treat others. The assembly creates the "want to" or desire for positive change. The follow up class discussions at Winchester High School will provide the "how to" and ensures that the positive impact will continue.

We encourage middle and elementary school parents to attend this unique opportunity so that they can pass on these important messages to their children and family. We can all be part of the chain reaction.

For more information contact WSAC at 781-721-7121 or visit <http://www.rachelschallenge.com/>

JOIN AFTER SCHOOL CHORUS! If you are enrolled in band or orchestra and do not have room in your schedule for choir this year, come and join *After School Chorus*. We meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:15-3:15pm in the Choir Room. Come by and see Mrs. Miller if interested.

WINCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRESENTS UNCOVERING GIFTEDNESS IN YOUR CHILD: PROBABILITIES, POSSIBILITIES, AND PROJECTIONS

This session will provide an overview of characteristics of different types of giftedness, discuss means and methods of evaluation and associated problems, and outline provisions for effective intervention to maximize each child's potential. The session will be concluded with a question and answer period in a "press conference" format. Monday, October 6th 7—9 p.m. McCall Middle School
Guest Speaker: Dr. Ruth Harris Director of G.A.T.E.S. Research & Evaluation, an independent consulting firm specializing in evaluation, educational counseling, and individualized curriculum design for gifted and talented children located in the Boston area.
All are welcome! RSVP 781-721-7004 lgambardella@winchester.k12.ma.us FLYER CAN BE FOUND AT:
<http://whspfa.org/clientimages/39852/october2008/gtparentnightsign10-08.pdf>

From the PFA Co-President, Carol Cashion

Something wonderful happened at our first PFA meeting of the year on September 10. We ran out of chairs! An overflow crowd perched on the staircase in the center of the library. We are so appreciative of your enthusiasm, and hope to see high parent attendance continue (setting up more chairs is not a problem!). It's so easy to feel out of touch with what happens during school hours once your children are in high school, and while attending PFA meetings won't unlock the mysteries of the cafeteria or ensure that you will be able to help with pre-calc homework, it can open a window into what is going on with students both academically and socially.

We begin each meeting with a report by Principal Tom Gwin followed by open Q&A. It's a great opportunity to raise issues important to the parent community. You can also do that by emailing the PFA Presidents at the addresses below with your questions and concerns. Part of our job is to communicate regularly with Mr. Gwin on behalf of parents, and he is always eager to hear from us. We talk with him in advance of the monthly meetings about questions and concerns that we have heard from parents, both specific comments and, as importantly, what seems to be "in the air." This allows Mr. Gwin to respond quickly and directly to our concerns at the monthly meetings.

Our monthly meetings also feature a short, 15-20 minute program presentation. Sometimes the focus is on teaching and learning, with presentations by faculty members; parents welcome the opportunity to learn more about student performance, expectations, and curriculum. Also slated for this year are opportunities to get to know the new Guidance Director and Athletic Director, who will be invited to talk about their vision for those two important areas of student life. The programs can be quite varied; if you have suggestions or requests, please direct them to our Program Chair, Annmarie Galli at anngalli@comcast.net.

By the time you receive this newsletter, it will be time for Open House. Rushed as it is, and lost as I always get, I am a big fan of this annual evening. What I enjoy most is the energy in the building coming from the faculty (I particularly enjoy the science demonstrations!) and also from the students as they compete for our attention to advertise what their teams and clubs are doing and selling. For a few hours, that window into their school-hours teenage lives is open, and every year, I'm encouraged by what I see. Don't miss it.

...or the **next PFA meeting at 7:30, October 1 in the WHS library**. There will be chairs for all!

WHS PFA Direct Appeal / 2008-2009

The WHS Parent Faculty Association's Direct Appeal is now underway for the 2008-2009 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 the WHS PFA may be sent to **Joanne O'Donnell, 9 Pierrpont Road, Winchester, MA 01890**. You may also make your contribution at the WHS Open House on the evening of September 25th. **Thank you!**

The Guide
A Monthly Newsletter from the



WHS Guidance Department
October 2008

Middlesex League College Fair on October 27th

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 on Monday, October 27, 2008 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.

Additional College Fairs/Special Interest College Fairs & Programs

For students interested in pursuing a program of study in the area of performing or visual arts, the National Association of College Admission Counseling (N.A.C.A.C.) is sponsoring a **Performing & Visual Arts 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 21, 2008 at Northeastern University, Boston. The fair will take place in the Curry Center. For additional information, directions, and a list of colleges attending, go to the website www.nationalcollegefairs.org**

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 from Sept. 29 through Oct. 10 for Gr. 10 & Gr. 11

TEST DAY: Saturday, October 18th

Fall College Representatives' Visits to the WHS Guidance Office

WHS 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, colleges have been invited to come to the Guidance Office Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons at 2:15 p.m. The number of colleges on these afternoons will be limited to four. 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.

October

Colby – Sawyer		Oct. 1
University of Denver	Oct. 1	
University of Southern Maine		Oct. 1
Oberlin College		Oct. 1
Saint Michael's College		Oct. 2
Providence College		Oct. 8
Vassar College		Oct. 8
Wentworth Institute of Technology		Oct. 8
Macalester College		Oct. 9
Bryant University		Oct. 15
Colgate University		Oct. 15
Union College		Oct. 15
Nichols College		Oct. 16
Salve Regina University		Oct. 16
Dickinson College		Oct. 22
Lafayette College		Oct. 22
Quinnipiac University	Oct. 22	
Stony Brook University		Oct. 22
University of New England		Oct. 23
George Mason University		Oct. 29
Stonehill College		Oct. 29
Bentley College		Oct. 30

November

Endicott College	Nov. 5
Lesley University	Nov. 5
Unity College	Nov. 5
Emmanuel College	Nov. 12
University of Massachusetts, Boston	Nov. 12
University of Rhode Island	Nov. 12
Lasell College	Nov. 19
Assumption College	Nov. 19

<p align="center">***REMINDER*** College Workshop for Parents of Seniors Class 2009 Tuesday October 7, 2008 8:00 am – 9:30 am & 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm WHS Auditorium</p>
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Connect and Commit Service Club Meets Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30pm in the WHS Library

You can sign up for the opportunities listed below at the weekly meetings or in the Connect and Commit office, which is in the library of the high school. If you have questions about Connect and Commit, visit Kristen Ritchie, Program Director, in the Connect and Commit Office, check out the Connect and Commit table at the High School Open House on September 25th from 7-9pm, or contact Kristen via email kritchie@winchester.k12.ma.us or via phone 781-721-7020 x1999.

Volunteer Opportunities for October

Saturday, October 4th **ArtOberfest** **Noon-4:00pm**
Sanborn House, Winchester

Volunteer to assist at the ArtOberfest, sponsored by the Winchester Friends of Art, which will include pumpkin-painting, mask-decorating, a parent-child team pumpkin-carving contest, WHS Teacher/students' hand-made mugs for sale filled with hot cider made by WHS Family and Consumer Science Department, BRIO integrated theater performance, music courtesy of Friends of Music, and Winchester art teachers' exhibit. Proceeds will benefit the Winchester K-12 Art Program and the Connect and Commit program. Questions: winchesterfoa@hotmail.com or dlannon@winchester.k12.ma.us.
Submit signed C&C permission slip to the Connect and Commit Office by Tuesday, September 30th. You may sign up for the entire time or only part of the event. Volunteers will meet Mr. Lannon at the Sanborn House.

Sunday, October 5th **Friends of Winter Pond** **2:00-3:30pm**
Winter Pond, Winchester **(1:45-3:45 with travel)**

Help the Friends up Winter Pond improve the landscaping around the pond and update the bulletin board.
Submit signed C&C permission slip to the Connect and Commit office by Tuesday, September 30th. Volunteers will meet at the big Winter Pond access point on Woodside Rd by the bulletin board and should bring gloves and a rake if they have one.

Saturday, October 18th **Rosie's Place** **11:00am-1:30pm**
889 Harrison Ave, Boston **(10:15am-2:15pm with travel)**

Prepare, serve, and clean up lunch for poor and low income women.
Submit signed C&C permission slip to the Connect and Commit office by Tuesday, October 14th.

Sunday, October 19th **Cradles to Crayons** **1:00-4:00pm**
92 Myrtle Street, North Quincy **(12:30-4:30pm 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, October 14th

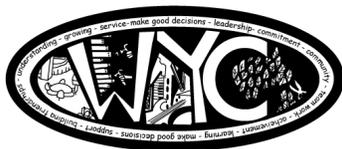
Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

After School Mentorship **McCall Middle School**

James is a clever, funny 6th grader with Down syndrome. He wants to get more involved in afterschool activities and is looking for someone to spend time with him while supporting his interaction with other kids during afterschool activities, pushing him to do his homework, and maybe even walking him home from school. This is a flexible opportunity as we are looking for someone who could spend a lot of time with him and provide some consistency as you get to know James' needs and personality. No experience is necessary and support will be provided.

Books for South Africa

Volunteers are needed to help sort books to be sent to South African communities. The books are gathered at Winchester's transfer station and then sorted and packaged to be sent to areas in desperate need of books. A few hours per month would be a big help. If interested, please contact Cherie Arruda at Cherie.arruda@collindecasaubon.com or 617-721-4500.



Winchester Youth Center

458R Main Street
Winchester MA 01890
781-721-0906
www.winyc.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.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

Peer Leadership Program

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 talk to Rebecca at the WYC.

SSA: Students Spreading Awareness

SSA is the WYC's peer education group for Winchester High School students. The mission of this group is "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."

This month we'll be focusing our efforts on the issues of Hunger and Drinking & Driving. Our meetings will take place on Tuesdays, October 14 and 18 from 7:00-8:00pm in the WYC. Anyone interested in joining this group is welcome to attend!

SPECIAL EVENTS

Throughout the year the WYC runs a ton of different special events in an effort to provide WHS students with great alcohol & drug-free alternatives. It's all part of the Peer Leaders' commitment to help their peers make good decisions! Check out our website to learn about all of our special events and mark your calendars for all the things you don't want to miss.

1st Annual Town-Wide Scavenger Hunt: Monday, October 13th (new date)

Attention all WHS students: Are you looking for something fun to do on that day off of school in October? The WYC is running the 1st annual town-wide Scavenger Hunt for middle and high school students on Columbus Day. Identify 3-5 of your quickest, smartest, stealthiest, most adventurous friends and enter your team in this super fun challenge. Trophies, medals, and other prizes will be awarded to the most cunning, most creative, and all-around best teams. Stop by the WYC to register, sign up at our table at lunch, or check out our website to find out more.

WYC Halloween Costume Party Coffee House: Friday, October 24th

The Peer Leaders will transform the WYC into a spooky Halloween-themed Coffee House from 8:30-11:00. 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. As always, the Coffee House will feature live music and delicious homemade treats, frappes, and coffee drinks.

The Coffee House is open to high school students only. Admission is \$5. All proceeds will benefit the Peer Leaders' April vacation Habitat for Humanity trip.

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 21st from 7:00-11:00pm in the Winchester Town Hall Auditorium. If you are interested in registering your band, contact

the WYC or email us at rock4youth@gmail.com. If you have friends in a band or just like to listen to great, live music be there to select the bands that will move on to Round 2. Admission is \$8, each audience member receives one ballot to vote for their 3 favorite bands. As with all WYC events, no outside drinks are allowed and students are not allowed to re-enter. Proceeds from Rock for Youth benefit the Harrison Chadwick Youth Service Award Scholarships.

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.

WYC 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. 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 or contact us and we'll pick them up from your home.

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 or contact us and we'll pick them up from your home.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

The Peer Leaders are organizing a team to participate in the annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Boston on October 5th. Please check out our website or contact us at the WYC to find out how you can make a donation to this tremendous cause for the American Cancer Society.

Woburn Food Pantry: Non-Perishable Food Collections

Each month the Peer Leaders and Little Brothers & Sisters go door-to-door in Winchester neighborhoods to collect food for the Woburn Council of Social Concern's food pantry. On Sunday, October 19th we will be all over town trick-or-treating for non-perishable items. Please contact the WYC if you have food items that you would like to donate and be on the lookout for flyers saying that we're coming to your neighborhood. We will also be out in November and December collecting for the holiday season.

Habitat for Humanity

For 3 years the Peer Leaders have participated in a week-long service-learning project with Habitat for Humanity to help build homes for needy families. Throughout this school year we are going to work with Habitat for Humanity Boston and work to make a difference in our local communities. During April vacation we will travel to a different area of the country to participate in our fourth annual week-long service trip.

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

SCHOOL RELATED NEWS AND EVENTS

Parent Conversations Monday, October 20, 2008 9am Main Office Conference Room

Join us for a presentation from the Head of Guidance. Come with your questions and concerns. Coffee served!

District Technology Committee - Date correction and reminder

The District Technology Committee would like to extend an invitation for parents and community members interested in joining the committee to an **informational session on October 6, 2008**, (NOT THE 8TH AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED) at the Lynch Elementary School Library from 7-9 pm. The District Technology Committee has been instrumental in creating the Winchester Technology Plan and guiding the district conversation relating to technology. New comers are welcome.

The District Technology Plan is located at <http://www.winchester.k12.ma.us/technology/technologyinfo.htm>

Parent to Parent Presents: Who Are You Voting For, Mom? Talking to Children about Power, Leadership, and the Presidential Election

Dr. Petra Hesse will answer questions such as: How do children understand power, political leadership and government? What do they know about their own and other countries? How do they make sense of personal and political conflict? Dr. Hesse will provide an overview of the development of children's political understanding from early childhood to adolescence, and will make some recommendations for political discussions and how to deal with the emotions that come up with children and youth during this election season.

Dr. Petra Hesse is an associate professor of human development at Wheelock College. She holds graduate degrees in child development and international relations, has done research on children's understanding of the enemy and war, and teaches a class on children's political lives at Wheelock College.

Please join us Thursday, October 2, 7:30 - 9:30pm at Winchester High School, Social Studies Open Area.

For more information: www.parenttoparentwinchester.org

Parent to Parent Presents: "An Evening with Superintendent William McAlduff"

Please join us for a talk with Winchester's School Superintendent William McAlduff. Mr. McAlduff will engage in an open dialogue with parents of elementary, middle, and high school students regarding a wide range of concerns. He will discuss the current state of the school district after his first year here and the progress of his short and long term goals for the Winchester Public Schools. You may contact us at our website www.parenttoparentwinchester.org if you would like to identify specific questions in advance for Mr. McAlduff to address that evening.

Thursday, October 16th from 7:30- 9 PM in the Social Studies Open Area at Winchester High School

SPECIAL EDUCATION PAC EVENTS

October 6, 2008: General Business Meeting McCall Library 7-9pm

Please join us for our 1st business meeting of the year to discuss items of interests. Your attendance and input supports the PAC's efforts to drive important issues that concern our children.

The first Special Education PAC coffee will be held at the home of Pamela Cort at 112 Arlington Street from 9:30 - 11:30 am on Tuesday October 14. Please feel free to call her with any questions at 781-369-1241. All are welcome to attend.

October 16, 2008: Shut Up About Your Perfect Kid McCall Middle School 7-9pm

Co-Sponsored by Winchester & Woburn PACs

Patty Konjoian and Gina Gallagher co-wrote a book entitled: Shut Up About Your Perfect Kid! The sisters raising children with Asperger's Syndrome & bipolar disorder respectively. You will laugh, you will cry!

Friends of Music - Fall Meeting - The first meeting of the year for Friends of Music will take place on Wednesday, October 29, at 6:00 pm in the WHS Chorus Room. This will be an opportunity to meet the new interim Music Director, Dr. John McCann, hear about what is happening with the grades K through 12 music program, get an update on the Crate and Barrel fundraiser and the fall A Cappella fest, as well as other activities planned for the year. And, when the meeting is over, stay for the WHS Orchestra Concert, starting at 7:30. For more information, contact Melodie Wing at 781-721-2364 or melodiewing@comcast.net.

WFEE News: What do the EnKa Society, the Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence, the WHS PFA and the Murphy Foundation have in common?

A hint – they are all eagerly awaiting the 2009 EnKa parade. Another clue – their enthusiasm is shared, even topped, by that of several dozen WHS students. The answer is parked in the auto shop, a 1992 Chevrolet pick up truck which students plan to convert this year to an electric vehicle. The students, along with a cadre of adult volunteers began work in early September with a goal of driving the converted truck in this year's EnKa parade. Under the direction of Terry Lannon and Dave Petty they will learn everything from metal fabrication and automotive mechanics to graphic design as they convert their truck from gas to electric. The project is funded by grants from EnKa, WFEE, the PFA and the Murphy Foundation. Look for the car at the Eco Fest on the Town Common October 25th!

Stand for Children Winchester Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, October 7, 7:30-9:00 pm, Winchester Public Library Meeting Room

Stand for Children, a statewide organization that advocates for children and public education, will be holding its October chapter meeting to plan important work concerning "Question 1," a November ballot question about the state income tax, and also our education funding Forum planned for February.

Current and new members are welcome to come and learn more about Stand's statewide actions and local initiatives, as well as the ways you can help make a difference for Massachusetts' children!

Chapter leaders will be on-hand at 7:00 pm for those new to the organization or with questions. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:30. New members may join at the meeting or on the organization's website at: www.stand.org/ma. For more information, contact: Heidi DiLeo at hdileo@stand.org

FRIENDS OF MUSIC FUNDRAISING BENEFIT

When: Sunday, November 2nd Where: Crate and Barrel Burlington Mall Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The Friends of Music is holding its fun-filled fundraising benefit at the stand-alone 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. The high school select music ensembles will be providing the wonderful background music during the event.

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 low suggested minimum donation price of \$25 per ticket—and you get a **\$15 Crate and Barrel giftcard with this donation!** You may purchase these by submitting your name, phone number, number of tickets

you want, \$25 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. If you have questions or you are placing your order after October 27th, please contact Wendy Jo New at 781-721-1675. **ORDER FROM CAN BE FOUND AT:**
<http://whspfa.org/clientimages/39852/october2008/friendsofmusicflyer10-08.pdf>

COMMUNITY NEWS

International Connections Events with the Winchester Multicultural Network

Ongoing : Drop-in Coffee at Café Dolce - Thursday morning drop-in coffee at Café Dolce, 831 Main St., Winchester. Stop in and enjoy coffee and conversation between 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. on Thursday mornings.

English Conversation Groups - English conversation groups are offered Monday or Tuesday mornings or Wednesday evenings with priority given to Winchester residents. For questions or to sign up call Liz Sayre at 781-729-9242 or email office@wmcn.org.

Saturday, October 4 at 10:00 a.m. - Fall Hike in the Fells - The Middlesex Fells Reservation is a beautiful wooded area with lovely trails. Meet members of International Connections for a hike around Long pond. Meet at the Long Pond parking lot, the first parking area on South Border Road from Winchester Center. The hike will last about 1 ½ hours. For Questions or for more information, call Anna at 781-729-4784 for more information and to sign up.

Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the McCall Middle School Library on October 7, November 4, and December 2. -International Parents' Meetings - Come and meet other parents, share your concerns and questions about Winchester schools. "Helping Your Child Be Successful in Winchester Schools" is the theme for our meetings.

Sunday, November 2, 5:30-8:00 p.m. - International Pot Luck Supper - Our annual pot luck supper will be held at the First Congregational Church, 21 Church Street. Share food from your country and enjoy a delightful evening. Call 781-729-7100 to sign up or email office@wmcn.org

Dates, times, and location to be announced - Winter Film Fest - Watch a movie, eat popcorn and talk with friends—a fun way to spend a winter evening.

Noontime once a month at different ethnic restaurants in the area - The Lunch Bunch - Email office@wmcn.org or call 781-729-7100 if you'd like to know when and where our next eating adventure will be.

Winchester Reads Events in October include:

Bill O'Connor: "The Irish in Boston" - Tuesday, October 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Pond Room, Jenks Senior Center

Family Fun Run - Saturday, October 25 at 1:00 p.m., Winchester High School.

An Evening With Ann Patchett, prize-winning author of Run Wednesday, October 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the McCall School Auditorium, 458 Main Street

Winchester Reads is a collaboration of representatives from the Winchester Multicultural Network, the Winchester Public Library, the Winchester schools, and Book Ends, and is supported by a grant from the John and Mary Murphy Educational Foundation.

North Suburban YMCA Fall I Session

Back to school means back to after school activities. Let the fun continue this fall with great programs at the North Suburban YMCA in Woburn. Fun and exciting aquatics, enrichment and sports programs are only minutes from your doorstep. The Fall I Session starts Monday, September 8th so sign up today!

Learn to swim at the YMCA. Group lessons, private lessons, and semi-private lessons are offered for all ages and levels. Adaptive Swim Classes (3+ years) are also offered for individuals with mental or physical disabilities that want to learn how to swim or improve swimming skills.

Choose from a variety of enrichment and sports classes like Creative Writing (1st to 5th grade), Elementary Spanish (K to 5th grade), Lacrosse (6-12 years), Boston Bruins Street Brigade (3-12 years), Jr. Celtics Basketball (3-12 years), or Dodge Ball Extreme (7-10 years).

For more information about the Fall I Session classes offered at the North Suburban YMCA call 781-935-3270 or visit www.ymcaboston.org/woburn to view the Fall I Session Brochure.

The North Suburban YMCA is dedicated to improving the health of mind, spirit and body of individuals and families in our community. We welcome men and women, boys and girls of all incomes, faiths and cultures. We will never turn a family away due to inability to pay.



FIRST ANNUAL WINCHESTER ECO FESTIVAL

The first ever Eco Festival is happening in Winchester on Saturday, October 25!

The themes of this event, co-organized by FAN and Sustainable Winchester will be recycling, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.

Thanks to generous sponsors like Whole Foods Market, REI, Carole Kitchen and Bath this will be a fun, free, community-wide celebration of the positive lifestyle changes we can make to help the environment.

We'll have booths set up on the town common (alongside the last Farmers Market of the season) with engaging children's activities, educational exhibitors and numerous green product demonstrations. Live music and a Trash Bash Musical Parade for families will surely delight.

And much more...

Recycled art exhibition at the Town Hall - RE-CREATE Art Exhibit that will feature children's artwork created from recycled objects. To participate, please contact the Arts Committee at: hannah@hannahniswongceramics.com. The deadline for submissions to Re-Create is October 6.

Unique recycling opportunities provided by organizations such as Cradles to Crayons, Bikes not Bombs, MIT, Building Resources Center, and the Department of Public Works will give you the opportunity to reduce, reuse and recycle!

Green presentations and discussions will take place at the First Congregational Church.

The hours of the Eco Festival will be 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

For more information, visit the website at: www.fanwinchester.org/ecofest

If you have any questions about the event, please feel free to contact Elizabeth Angelino, Co-President, FAN at: President@FANWinchester.org To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact Tara McCarthy at tarinamccarthy@gmail.com



Start Saving Your Recyclables Now! Have the kids help load up the red wagon to bring on the day of the Eco Festival – Saturday, October 25th...

The list is growing daily. To learn more about what you can recycle, where the drop off area will be, along with precise donation guidelines, please visit us at www.fanwinchester.org/ecofest/recycle

Baby Items (clothes, toys, books)
Computers
Eyeglasses
Bicycles (+\$10 donation)
Kitchen Cabinets and Countertops
Doors
Windows
Vanities

Drop In and Pedestal Sinks
Faucets
Some Tubs
Light Fixtures
Ceiling Fan Paddles
Lumber, Plywood and Sheetrock
Wood Flooring
Carpeting

Ceramic and Vinyl Tile
Fluorescent Light Bulbs
Rechargeable Batteries
Button Cell Batteries
Cell Phones
Thermostats
Thermometers
Mercury Switches

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 Fall term of art classes at the Sanborn Cultural Center on High Street in Winchester will start September 30, 2008 and will run through November, 2008. **There will also be Winter and Spring terms 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 or david.ardito@massart.edu or call 781 910 7119.

The Winchester Girl Scouts will hold fall registration on Monday, October 6 from 6-8 pm at the Winchester High School. Please drop by to register for a troop, to find out about volunteering, and to meet girls who are active in our town's troops. Any girl 5-18 is eligible to join. Can't make it on the 6th? Drop us an email at winchestergirlscouts@gmail.com with the name of your Girl Scout, her

grade, school, and phone number, and we'll hook you up with the right troop. Or visit us on the web at <http://winchestergirlscouts.wordpress.com>. Girls in existing troops should contact their leaders for registration information.