

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

**PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ DECEMBER 2009**  
**For up to date info visit our website at**

**FROM THE OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL TOM GWIN**

It appears that the high school has survived the first onslaught of the H1N1 virus this school year. On Monday, November 2 our absence rate more than doubled to about 11% (about 115 students) and remained high through the week. The same trend happened at McCall and the five elementary schools. Since then we have seen a steady decline in the number of absences. The researchers say that the H1N1 will hit in waves so we are not out of the woods yet. It is important to continue advising students to wash their hands frequently and stay at home if they have a fever with a cough and/or sore throat. As you know, in Massachusetts and across the country, the H1N1 vaccine has been very hard to come by. An H1N1 vaccine clinic will take place at WHS ~ we're just not sure when. When the vaccine does become available, elementary students will have the clinics [www.whspfa.org](http://www.whspfa.org) first as younger children are more vulnerable. For the time we will continue to watch and wait, and try to minimize the impact of the flu virus.

Stat of the Month: WHS Enrollment Data

The superintendent's office recently released enrollment projections for the high school.

Year	Projection
2005-06 1056	2010-11 1083
2006-07 1095	2011-12 1099
2007-08 1101	2012-13 1184
2008-09 1081	2013-14 1218
2009-10 1072	2014-15 1301

You can see that enrollment has been holding steady, but will make a huge jump in September 2012. You can be sure that the school committee and superintendent will be working to ensure that we have the proper space at WHS for this increase in numbers.

**MESSAGES FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS**

Family Vacations/Personal Trips ~ Parents and students are reminded that Massachusetts's law requires compulsory attendance for students. We strongly discourage family vacations when school is in session. In addition to compromising the attendance law, family vacations/personal trips interrupt the education process of each course in ways that make-up work cannot reverse.

If family vacations/personal trips for longer than two (2) days are planned, the Family/Personal Trip Absence Form must be filled out at least one (1) week in advance to afford students the opportunity to obtain make-up work. These forms are available from the Registrar's Office. The form must be signed by the parent/guardian and each teacher, and returned to the office prior to the trip.

It is the student's responsibility to initiate a meeting with each of his/her teachers to arrange for make-up work. Teachers are not required to provide make-up work unless the family/personal trip form has been filed in a timely manner.

**Note:** All vacations and personal days count toward the absence policy.

**FROM THE PFA PRESIDENT, CAREN CONNELLY**

What national program to support academically talented students of color has had a home here in Winchester for nearly 40 years?

**A Better Chance**, currently hosting 9 scholars at WHS. Plan to attend this month's PFA meeting, **December 2nd**, at 7:30pm to learn more about the ABC program from Jennifer Jeffrey, current ABC president. She will provide a brief history of the program, talk about Winchester ABC's mission and goals, and offer suggestions on how you can become involved in this very worthwhile effort.

What upcoming WHS event gives you a great opportunity to make your family happy and support a fabulous cause at the same time?

**Desserts for Doctors**, organized by Connect and Commit, scheduled for December 10th. Great food will be up for purchase and auction, money raised will support Paul Farmer's organization Partners in Health.

Why am I writing this note in question format?

So I have a good excuse to mention that the **Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence** (WFEE) will be holding its annual **Trivia Bee** on February 3rd and we need a parent team to represent WHS! If you are interested, please email [info@wfee.org](mailto:info@wfee.org). All proceeds from the Trivia Bee benefit the public schools in the form of teacher grants. This year alone WHS has been the recipient of 8 WFEE grants totaling more than \$33,000. For details on those grants please see the WFEE website, [www.wfee.org](http://www.wfee.org)

As we head into the busiest (and darkest!) time of the year I wish all of our WHS families well. Thank you for your support of the PFA Direct Appeal - your generosity has allowed the PFA to fund a number of programs that help our teachers and students every day. Just a few of this year's grants include:

- Funding for start up supplies to a student group, The Sachem Detailers
- Continued support for the Art Department to pursue creative projects

- Help to the Robotics Club as they enter national competitions
- A boost to our student musicians through support of new band uniforms

Special thanks to Eileen Carney and Carol Savage for spearheading our grants' program and to Maureen McElhinney for her work in getting publicity for the efforts of the WHS PFA.

**MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS 12-09**

The WHS Symphony and Sinfonietta are joined by the Ambrose School 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus for a concert supporting the Mission of Deeds on Sunday, December 13, 4:00 pm at St. Mary's church. The program, led by John McCann and Susie Petrov, includes highlights from Carmen, a Handel Concerto Grosso, the Haydn Trumpet Concerto played by senior Greg Russian, and a variety of rounds and partner songs for children's voices and strings. Proceeds support the Mission of Deeds work providing household items to families in transition.

**Please come and support the Winchester High School Choral Students as they present their annual Winter Concert on Wednesday, December 9th at 7:30pm in the WHS Auditorium.** The concert will feature all WHS choirs singing a variety of beautiful music, styles including some holiday favorites. You do not want to miss it! Hope to see you there. Free Admission.

**GENERAL SCHOOL NEWS 12-09**

The Social Studies Department would like to thank the PFA for their funding of a "Scholar-in-Residence" program this last month. On October 22nd, Dr. Zoe Trodd, a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard University, spoke to all of our Social Studies classes over the course of the day on the topic of Modern Slavery. Before her presentations, students read an excerpt from one of her books, Modern Slavery. She made thoughtful and carefully researched observations on the nature of modern slavery in different regions around the world, including the United States. Most of us were surprised to learn that 27 million people are enslaved around the world. She talked about the characteristics of modern slavery and the differences between modern slavery and the 19th century American institution of slavery, and she talked about projects and initiatives that have been taken recently to eradicate slavery. Her passion and knowledge were truly impressive. Students and teachers, alike were riveted by her lecture. After speaking to students, she met with teachers at the end of the day to talk in more depth about her current research and work in this field. This was an inspiring and consciousness-raising experience for us all. We could not have had this accomplished young scholar join us for the day without the support and funding from the PFA. Thank you. Margie Harvey, Director of Social Studies

**Language Based Learning Disability Parents Group**

We had over 30 people respond to our e-mail about starting this group. Our first meeting on November 4th was a huge success with 17 people in attendance. The parents represented 4 out of 5 elementary schools, McCall and WHS and almost every grade K - 9 was represented. Linda Stapp, Director of Pupil Services, was in attendance and we were all thrilled to have her there! She was happy to see our group forming and said she was available to help. We had a great discussion that included assistive technology, our children's wonderful strengths, IEPs & accommodations. We also talked about our children's self esteem and confidence & private evaluations vs. school evaluations. Many people walked away with helpful ideas and suggestions that they could act upon immediately. Several parents exchanged names, e-mail and phone numbers. And everyone was happy to have a forum in which to talk about the unique strengths of our children and the areas that challenge our kids.

Our second meeting will be held at Amy Kraft's home located at 34 Oxford Street on Wednesday December 2nd at 9:15 am. We will be following an agenda for the first part of the meeting and then the last hour we will have time to mingle and talk with the other parents. Refreshments will be served. Please feel free to contact Amy Kraft [akpk1282@verizon.net](mailto:akpk1282@verizon.net) or Kim Lazarus at [kimberly.lazarus@verizon.net](mailto:kimberly.lazarus@verizon.net)

**WHS PFA DIRECT APPEAL / 2009-2010**

The Board of the WHS Parent Faulty Association would like to thank all those WHS families who have contributed to the Direct Appeal thus far. If you have not yet contributed please consider doing so now!

The Direct Appeal is the sole source of funding for the PFA, and your 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. The Direct Appeal funds grants to academic departments and the school library, and supports many extracurricular, enrichment, and support programs for your students. Your contribution is an important source of funding and benefits your children!

Although a contribution of any amount is truly appreciated, the PFA asks that each family consider making a one-time donation for this school year of \$75.00 or more. For your convenience, the PFA now offers two methods of making a contribution to the Direct Appeal:

For additional information, please contact Joanne O'Donnell at [pfodonnell@verizon.net](mailto:pfodonnell@verizon.net).

**Thank your consideration, and your donation!**

**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.**

# The Guide



## A Monthly Newsletter from the WHS Guidance Department

### Junior Parent College Night Scheduled for January 12

The Guidance Department's Early College Planning Night for parents of juniors has been scheduled for Tuesday evening, January 12, 2010, 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.**

### 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. If a college requests to see the first quarter report card prior to mid-year reports, please see Mrs. Conroy in Guidance.

### **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 2009 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.

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

Each year for the past 22 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.

### **CONNECT AND COMMIT SERVICE CLUB MEETS TUESDAYS FROM 6:30-7:30 PM 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 or contact Kristen via email [kritchie@winchester.k12.ma.us](mailto:kritchie@winchester.k12.ma.us) or phone 781-721-7020 x1999.

This year, each month will have a theme. Each meeting that month as well as the additional service activities and events will relate to that specific topic. For the month of December, we will be focusing on Global Health. Below are events and other activities that the students have planned around these issues.

#### December: Global Health

- Tuesday Dec. 1st-** At the Connect & Commit Club meeting, students will kick off the month's global health focus with a movie night. Students from Connect & Commit, the Multicultural Issues, and Film Clubs will get together to watch a movie related to the topic. The event will be from 6-8pm in the WHS Library.
- Tuesday Dec. 8th-** At the Connect & Commit Club meeting, students will finalize preparations for the Desserts for Doctors fundraiser, watch a short video from Partners In Health, and bake desserts or decorate cookies for the Desserts for Doctors dessert auction.
- Thursday Dec. 10th-** Connect & Commit will host the **Desserts for Doctors** dessert auction. All proceeds will benefit the Partners In Health organization. Guests will be able to learn about Partners in Health from a special speaker while they sample desserts before the auction begins. Guests can bid to take home their favorite dessert, a great way to save some time during the busy holiday season. More information to come.
- Tuesday Dec. 15th-** The Connect & Commit Club will be hosting a guest speaker from the organization Medicines for Humanity. Tim Bilodeau will share his experiences and travels and show a brief video. Student will engage in a discussion on global health and other issues raised through his presentation. The meeting will be in the WHS Library from 6:30-7:30pm.
- Tuesday Dec. 22nd-** At the Connect & Commit Club meeting, students will have a chance to reflect on what they've learned throughout the month, share their service experiences and celebrate their accomplishments.

\* There will be community service opportunities on weekends in December related to the global health theme, more specifics will be available through the Connect & Commit office in the coming weeks.

**Upcoming Service** - On Thursday January 14th, Connect & Commit and the Winchester Youth Center will be hosting a **Blood Drive**. Students 16 and older are eligible to participate. A sign-up sheet and waivers will be available in the Connect & Commit office in mid December.



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

All of the WYC leadership programs, special events, and service-learning projects are open to all WHS students. Anyone who is interested in doing something good in the community, being a role model for others, working and hanging out with other great kids, and making good decisions should check out the WYC!

## 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 contact the WYC for more information.

### 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." Throughout this school year we'll be focusing our efforts on issues as diverse as the war in Iraq, drinking and driving, local and world hunger, AIDS, sexual health, and the genocide in Darfur. Anyone interested in joining this group should contact the WYC.

## 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.**

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

In recognition of this international event the WYC Peer Leaders will be spreading awareness about the AIDS epidemic by handing out AIDS ribbons at WHS so that we can all demonstrate our care and concern about HIV/AIDS. On Tuesday evening many of us 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.

### 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 20<sup>th</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 donate a new gift toward this amazing event please contact the WYC.

### Woburn Food Pantry, Lowell Wish Project, Animal Rescue League

The Peer Leaders are collecting donations for these local charities. Please stop by the WYC any day from 2:00-5:00 to drop off any of the following items:  
Non-perishable foods, Lightly used pots & pans, jeans & sweatshirts, winter jackets & outerwear, and baby gear, Clean cotton bath towels, laundry detergent, and new dog & cat toys

### Habitat for Humanity

The Peer Leaders are currently planning for their fifth annual week-long Habitat for Humanity trip Please contact us if you would like to make a donation toward this amazing service-learning experience Proceeds from all of the following fundraising efforts will benefit our trip:

**Raffle tickets** - Buy your \$20 tickets for the chance to win: iPod Touch, GPS Navigation System, \$100 Simon Mall Gift Card, The drawing will be held on April 9<sup>th</sup> Contact the WYC for more information

**Dump Runs** - Let us take care of your trash on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> We are currently selling dump run vouchers for \$10. Contact the WYC for more information

## COMMUNITY NEWS 12-09

### PARENT TO PARENT PRESENTS "EVENING WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT"

Parent to Parent will be hosting its annual "Evening With the Superintendent" on Thursday, January 21, 2010, 7:30 to 9:00 pm at Winchester High School. Please join us for a "state of our schools" report and open dialogue with Superintendent William McAlduff. Topics may include the school budget, curriculum, new programs, school building maintenance, sports and fields, and more. To submit your questions ahead of time to the superintendent, please send them to [info@parenttoparentwinchester.org](mailto:info@parenttoparentwinchester.org).

### WRESTLERS SELLING YANKEE CANDLES

Help support the WHS Wrestling Program by purchasing specially designed Yankee Candles with the Sachem Logo. These candles will be a festive red in a RedBerry Cedar fragrance. Each candle has a double wick and will cost \$20.00 each. Ask your favorite WHS wrestler about these or contact Charlene Williams at [cabwilliams@comcast.net](mailto:cabwilliams@comcast.net).

### THE WINCHESTER FRIENDS OF MUSIC AND THE WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND UNIFORM FUND

Please help us put all the Winchester High School band members in new uniforms for next year's events! Funds are *still* needed to outfit a growing high school band with the increased enrollment in the schools. If you would like to help, please complete the form below and mail it with your donation to: WHS Friends of Music, 4 Magnolia Way, Winchester, MA 01890. Checks should be made payable to: "Friends of Music." For more information, email our Treasurer, Anne Marie Hill at [hill.davis@comcast.net](mailto:hill.davis@comcast.net).

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Yes, I would like to help the WHS Marching Band!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ DONATION AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE WHS MARCHING BAND.**

### WINCHESTER SOCCER CLUB ANNOUNCES WINTER TRAINING SESSIONS

Registration is now open for the following sessions:

#### SachemsFC Academy Session

Putting the FUN in learning the FUNdamentals!

Boys & Girls U6-U10

14 Saturdays. Begins January 2nd.

for more info go to [www.sachemsfc.com/sachemsfcacademy.html](http://www.sachemsfc.com/sachemsfcacademy.html)

#### SachemsFC Schools Session - Advanced Striker/GoalKeeper

with NEW Goal Keeper Trainer: Joci Rosa

Boys & Girls U10-U18

13 Thursdays. Begins January 7th.

for more info go to [www.sachemsfc.com/sfcschools.html](http://www.sachemsfc.com/sfcschools.html)

### FANSPLASH PARK PROGRESS TO DATE

We have raised over \$57,000 for the Splash Park! Only \$164,000 more to go, and if we raise this over the next 3 months, we can have a splash park **THIS** June! Our designer is finalizing what Splash Park elements will be included, which is dependent on how much money we raise! Please buy your tile via the Winchester Recreation Department ([www.winrec.com](http://www.winrec.com)) or donate via Paypal at [fansplash.org](http://fansplash.org) **today!** Interested in getting involved? Email [info@fansplash.org](mailto:info@fansplash.org) to join our team!

#### Have your Child Decorate a Tile to Help Make a Splash!

We invite you to submit a picture, drawing or signature(s) to be transferred onto a tile that will be installed on the Bathhouse! Register for your tile through [www.winrec.com](http://www.winrec.com) using the registration code: 100-FE-06A, or, call 781.721.7126. We ask that you purchase your tile(s) this month, but your completed designs can be submitted later in the Spring. Email [info@fansplash.org](mailto:info@fansplash.org) for more information!

#### Cost:

Whole Tile: \$150 for first tile, \$50 for each additional child

Large Name Tile: \$100 - 3"x 6" space for one or more typed names.

Small Name Tile: \$50 - 3"x 3" space for one or more typed names.

#### FANSplash Gift Bags Are Now Available For Your Gift Giving Needs!

Donate to FANSplash in honor of someone's birthday, as a holiday gift or as a party favor, & we'll provide you with a Gift Bag that can be customized by cost (\$10, \$15, \$25, \$50 increments), and for any holiday/birthday/gender/party theme! Our standard \$25 gift bag includes: Art supplies, tile making instructions, an announcement that a gift was made in their name to FANSplash, a \$25 coupon towards a fundraising tile, a holiday music CD, lollipop, rubber ducky toy, a fan, a handwritten thank you note, and a static cling FANSplash car window decal. Contact [info@fansplash.org](mailto:info@fansplash.org) to order yours today!

#### Don't Miss the Dinosaur Musical at the Stoneham Theater!

Discounted Premium seats are available for the March 20th 2 pm matinee exclusively through FAN until January 15. A portion of the ticket proceeds will go to FANSplash! Tickets are \$35 (normally \$44) and assigned seating will be determined by the date payment is received. For your convenience, you can pay on line via PayPal by RSVPing to the event's Evite (contact [info@fansplash.org](mailto:info@fansplash.org) if you would like an Evite to be sent to you) or send a check, made out to FAN, to Elizabeth Angelino at 8 Sachem Road, Winchester.

#### WANTED: SINGERS/DANCERS/ENTERTAINERS FOR 89<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WINTON CABARET SHOW

Auditions will be held on Monday, December 7 and Tuesday, December 8, beginning at 7PM at the Winchester Town Hall Auditorium, 71 Mt. Vernon Street. You only need to come on 1 of 2 nights, whichever is better for your schedule, however, please make sure you are available for all 5 performance nights! Singers prepare to sing up to 16 bars of a song of your choice (bring sheet music). Bring dance shoes with you (tap, jazz, character) if you have them, and both singers and dancers should wear comfortable clothes for movement. All levels of talent are welcome.

The show runs from January 26-30, 2010 and benefits Winchester Hospital. Rehearsals are held evenings during the month of January. We welcome anyone 18 or older (high school graduate) to join us. For more information see our web site, <http://cabaret.wintonclub.org>.