

WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL
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Telephone 781-721-7020

PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ DECEMBER 2011

Visit our website at www.whspfa.org

FROM THE OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL TOM GWIN

In the Strategic Plan's Focus Area of Technology, the goal is to provide a robust technology infrastructure that supports state-of-the-art classroom instruction and collaboration tools for students, teachers, and staff. With this goal in mind, I have been watching with great interest the 1:1 computer initiative at Burlington High School, the first Massachusetts High School to go Apple iPad. Each of the 1100 students there and all of the teachers received an Apple iPad this school year. The iPads are being leased from Apple and are funded through the regular school budget. The parents sign a user agreement stating they will repair or replace the tablets should they be damaged. Parents are also able to take out a \$39 insurance policy that covers loss or damage of the iPad. The cost of the iPad program is about \$200,000 and was partially funded by reducing the textbook budget and ending another technology leasing program. It's only a matter of time before many open source high school texts will be available for iPad-like devices and textbook costs should drop dramatically. Texts on an iPad will include video and interactive learning apps making learning from them more user friendly. It's crazy when you think that the cost of three advanced placement texts is about equal to an iPad. Forget those 40 pound backpacks. Students only will need to carry their tablet device. It's early in the iPad game, but Burlington High students and faculty report very positive results so far. Students talk about the efficiency of having all of their class notes word processed and organized on the same device. Students can easily share notes via email or Google docs. Students take on-line quizzes and tests and get immediate results. Teachers talk about new and innovative instructional possibilities. Students and teachers are learning together to integrate the iPad into the Burlington High Educational Experience. It will be very interesting to see how this experiment in Burlington goes as WHS thinks about its own vision of technology in the school.

MESSAGES FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Attendance Policy ~ In concert with the Massachusetts Education Reform Act of 1993 and its position on student learning time, Winchester High School requires a high level of participation in engaged learning. We, as professionals, are expected to provide a school and classroom learning environment that is thoughtful, active, productive, and challenging. Students, in order to benefit from these efforts, are expected to be in school. Regular, consistent attendance enables students to benefit from classroom discussions, presentations, and interactive activities. These shared academic experiences are integral to the learning process and cannot be recreated or replicated.

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.

Dismissal from School ~ Students who are to be dismissed from school must be excused with an explanatory note or telephone call from a parent 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 and the school nurse. Parents will be contacted prior to dismissal. Any student who leaves school grounds without following the dismissal policy is subject to school suspension. If a student has an excused dismissal, he or she must see the teacher no later than the following day or the first day the student returns to school to make arrangements to make up the quiz or test and receive information regarding future projects or assignments.

PFA NEWS

FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Carol Cashion and Jody Collins Skinner

PFA Grants in action in the Classroom at WHS: A Focus on Technology:

This month's PFA meeting will feature two of our grant recipients doing a classroom demonstration of their grants in action. In this meeting, we will be focusing on technology, and are pleased to present:

- **The Paperless Classroom:** Eric Lister will present an interactive forum for parents in his British Literature paperless classroom. Come try it out for yourself! Followed by:
- **Computer-Aided Music Theory:** John McCann's discussion of how he and his students apply technology to music theory, jazz improvisation and composition in the classroom using iPads.

Please note location change: We will meet in Room B210, Eric Lister's classroom on **Wednesday, December 7 at 7:30**. Room B210 is near the orange staircase.

We were pleased to approve 31 total grants spanning a wide range of innovative and engaging ideas, or covering needed supplies and materials. We would like to thank WHS families for your generous support of our grants program that enabled us to award these grants.

THE WHS PFA 2011-2012 DIRECT APPEAL

Please be sure to make your donation to the WHS PFA's DIRECT APPEAL!

The Direct Appeal is the sole source of funding for the PFA's budget, and **funds raised through the Direct Appeal fund important and innovative programs for students through the PFA Grants Program**, as well as the cost of equipment 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 your students. Your contributions are important to our school community as they are reinvested in programming, equipment, and supplies that your children benefit from. Please help us to meet our budget!

The PFA's goal is to raise Direct Appeal funds through the contributions of 100% of WHS families. Please be sure to participate! 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.

Thank you for your donation!

Checks made payable to the "WHS PFA" may be sent to Joanne O'Donnell, 9 Pierrepont Road, Winchester, MA 01890. Please include the following information:

Name of WHS Student(s) _____

Grade(s) _____

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

PayPal - 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. Make your contributions via PayPal by clicking on the following link to the Direct Appeal page on the WHS PFA Website. Direct Appeal Page. Please then click on the "Yellow Donate Button" which will open up another page. On the check at the top of the page, please enter the amount of your donation in the field under "Donation Amount" and then click "Update Total." This will bring you to the bottom of the page where you can either log into your PayPal account (on the lower right hand side) or pay by credit card (on the left hand side.) If you don't have a PayPal account, you don't need to open one to pay by credit card.

For additional information, please contact Joanne O'Donnell at pfodonnell@verizon.net.

CLASS NEWS

CLASS OF 2015

The Freshman Class would like to thank the PFA for contributing funds to the account to start us off on the right foot! Thank you PFA! The Class of 2015 is off to a great start! Freshman, CLASS of 2015, T-shirts are still being sold, and order forms are available in the front office. Please support your class by ordering one of these! They look Great! For the month of December, 2011 the CLASS of 2015 is collaborating with the CLASS of 2012 in a mentorship of community service in supporting their efforts to provide toiletries and gifts to the Boy's Transition House. The CLASS of 2015 will be collecting gift cards, toiletries, and supplies for the boys through the entire month of December and dropping them off Christmas Week. A list of popular donations will be e-blasted to the school next week, and we would like to see a school wide effort of contribution to this worthy cause. The CLASS of 2015 is pleased to announce the room parent selection to assist the class in their efforts: they are Jen Trevett, Sue Morris, Toby Kelley, Cheryl Donovan, and Marie Sabatino. Thanks to all of you for volunteering!!!! The CLASS of 2015 would like to wish the entire Winchester community a happy holiday season!!! Any questions should be forwarded to Nancy Smith Freshman Class of 2015 Advisor.

CONNECT AND COMMIT

Connect and Commit Service Club Meets The Last Tuesday of the Month from 6:30-7:30pm in the WHS Library. You can sign up for the opportunities listed below at the 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 connectandcommit@gmail.com or phone 781-721-7020 x1999.

Check out our new website at www.connectandcommit.org

Volunteer Opportunities & Events

Saturday Dec. 10th Prison Book Program 10am-1pm Help to read handwritten requests from prisoners for books and select, package and send the books off to the prisoners. *Parent Driver/Chaperone Needed*

Saturday Dec. 10th Annual Bridget Brigade Bash 5-11pm (in shifts) at Parish of the Epiphany Church (70 Church St.). Volunteers are needed to help set up for the event, serve meals, clear plates and then help clean up and break down the event.

Tuesday Dec. 13th- Bridget Brigade Foundation Toy Drive One or two students with a driver's license are needed to help pick up the donated toys and bring them to a pre-determined location in town.

Friday Dec. 16th- Night of the Arts- 3-10pm (in shifts) Hosted by the Entrepreneurial Youth Society, the goal of Night of the Arts is to raise money for the American Studies trip to Chicago while showcasing Winchester High School's artistically talented students. There will be performances of singing, dancing, acting, and more, as well as displays of art, sculpture and photography--all created by WHS students. Various fund-raising activities will take place throughout the night as well, such as lotteries, art auctions, food catering, and the sale of postcards and calendars. We are looking for volunteers to help run some of these activities as well as help to set up and clean up the event, which would take place in the WHS Social Studies Wing.

Saturday Dec. 17th- Cradles to Crayons 10am-12pm, Volunteer to help reach the goal that one day, every child in need will have the essentials to feel safe, warm, ready to learn and valued. You will likely sort goods to be delivered to children in need at their "giving factory". *2 Parent Volunteers/Drivers Needed*

Saturday Jan. 7th Room to Grow 12-2pm Help to sort and process all of the holiday donations that come through this non-profit. This organization seeks to enrich the lives of babies born into poverty through their critical first three years of development. By volunteering you will help them with this mission. *2 Parent Volunteers/Drivers Needed*

Wednesday Feb. 8th- WFEE Trivia Bee Help WFEE set up for and run their annual Trivia Bee!

Saturday Mar. 10th-Boston Rescue Mission 7:30-10:30am, Volunteer for Saturday morning outreach. Prepare sandwiches, soups and hot cocoa to hand out to the homeless on Boston Common. *1 Parent Volunteer/Driver Needed*

Saturday Mar. 24th- Greater Boston Food Bank 9:30am-12pm, The GBFB acquires food through food industry product donations, food drives and financial contributions that enable them to purchase additional high nutrient quality food. Help them feed Massachusetts residents in need by sorting and packaging food in their warehouse. * 3 Parent Volunteers/ Drivers Needed*

Ongoing Service

Companion/ Helper A WHS Staff member is looking for someone to be a companion and helper for his 16 year-old daughter, who is in a wheelchair, after school and/or on weekends. The hours are flexible and she enjoys Facebook, listening to music etc. The family lives in Lynnfield, but is willing to arrange for transportation if you do not drive.

English at Large Located in Medford, this organization provides free English instruction to immigrant adults throughout Boston-area communities. They are currently looking for volunteers to:

- Be a prospective volunteer facilitator for a new online English learning program
- Be a graphic design volunteer to revise some publicity materials
- Help repaint their office walls

Muraco Tutoring Serve as a tutor and mentor to an elementary school student at Muraco. Work with them for an hour each week and help them through their homework and reading. If there is time once homework is done, play a game together and get to know one another. This Program will run 2:45-3:45 on Wednesdays from Jan 4th- March 7th

Lynch Tutoring Serve as a tutor and mentor to an elementary school student at Muraco. Work with them for an hour each week and help them through their homework and reading. If there is time once

homework is done, play a game together and get to know one another. This Program will run 2:45-3:45 on Wednesdays from December 7th- April 11th

Room to Grow They are always looking for dedicated volunteers. They have a variety of volunteer opportunities including helping prepare in-kind donations for families, organizing collection drives, assisting with fundraising and events and numerous other special projects. We are in the process of scheduling a group volunteer outing there, but they also have numerous individual opportunities as well.

Bridget Brigade Foundation The foundation is in need of one or two people who have some experience in webpage and FB/Twitter page design. Their current website, BridgetBrigade.org, needs some enhancements (or maybe a complete revamp). They would like to create FB & Twitter pages too. In addition, they'll be looking for suggestions on how best to keep their information timely, contemporary and interesting! They estimate this project will require at least 10 hours of your time.

Need for Local Babysitters A local parent has noticed a need for local babysitters and would be willing to work with interested students to set up a list of babysitters in town and also arranging for CPR certification for those sitters as well.

SCHOOL NEWS

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Seta Kaleshian, ITS

“How does WHS use technology in the classroom?” Computers, laptop carts, and computer labs are evident everywhere at Winchester High School. How do students learn to use technology, decipher through the massive information on the internet, and keep up with the ever changing 21st century skills? The answer to this question is by using cutting edge practices in the classroom and implementing project based learning and higher level problem solving techniques.

Ms. McWilliams' World History II students learned about the Enlightenment period and the impact the philosophers made to society during that time. They were instructed to research using the internet, and choose a philosopher of their choice such as, John Locke, Voltaire, Thomas Hobbes, Rousseau, Montesquieu, etc. Then they were to create an online, interactive, multimedia poster using Glogster.com. Students then were able to create their audio-visual posters including three philosophical ideas, graphics, a biography, a quote from the philosopher, with citations, and an original symbol, scanned and imported to the Glog.

Ms. Steel's Italian class is also using Glogster to create Glogs about adjectives. Students posted pictures and wrote the equivalent words in Italian, and were enthusiastic to find pictures representing the meaning of the adjectives.

Ms. Anderson's French II classes also used Glogster.com to practice their French. Students created interactive posters to present themselves to their imaginary pen-pals in France. Ms. Kudlate and Ms. Alberti came up with Spanish projects using the same site to present three parts of their daily life in Spanish.

Ms. Milner, French teacher, decided to use Voicethread.com to present the different regions of France. Students were assigned a project to research a specific region, prepare a PowerPoint presentation, to upload to Voicethread, and to record their voices. Then they presented their region to the class pointing the important facts, the capital, and the main product of the region. They were then graded on the accuracy of the facts, the presentation, and the pronunciation of the language.

Technology Integration takes place in many ways. We have several digital/video cameras provided by the Technology Department. Students re-enacted the unrest and the peaceful demonstrations occurring in the

Middle East in Ms. Rees' Social Studies class. Students created videos about current topics in the news. They learned about the uprisings in different countries of the Middle East. Each group re-enacted the uprising of a country of their choice, recorded and edited the videos using Windows Movie Maker. Then they shared it with the rest of the class.

Ms. Baker's Senior Focus class in Social Studies used the video cameras to do the "Arab Spring News Project". Students were divided into groups. They interviewed and videotaped a newscast reporting the uprising of their chosen country in the Middle East. They had to film three separate episodes (2-3 minutes). Each member of the group was in the newscast and presented a portion of the episode. They had the correct and pertinent information, showed creativity and thought. They also analyzed the protest, interpreted the cause of the uprising, the response from their government and the international community, and how the students thought the situation could be helped. Then the presentations were shown in class.

To culminate this project, Ms. Rees and Ms. Baker invited a special guest speaker, Mr. Paul Baron from Harvard University, specialist in Middle Eastern Studies, who had been to Egypt many times during the last 20 years. His lecture was recorded and then posted on Ms. Baker's Edline pages. Students who were absent could play the video in Edline and learn from the lecture.

In the Social Studies Department, Mr. Langlois' students created children's books on line using Storyjumper.com. When finished, parents had the option to buy these hard covered books for \$24.95. Storyjumper.com has scenes and props students could use, or they could import their own pictures and characters.

Technology integration is happening every day at Winchester High School. I am pleased to report that every year there is increased demand and technology integration in the classroom as teaching and learning changes at WHS.

WHS BOYS SOCCER

How many turkeys does it take to spell Winchester? The WHS Boys Soccer teams will tell you the answer is 95 because that is how many goals the three boys teams scored this season. For every goal the WHS boys soccer teams are donating a turkey to the Pine Street Inn. For each goal scored, a tag was placed on the fence at Knowlton Field representing a turkey that will be donated. It took 95 tags to spell Winchester and 95 turkeys will be dropped off at the Pine Street Inn on Saturday November 19th. The Pine Street Inn prepares and serves 2,500 meals everyday, 365 days a year and they rely on food donations to make this happen. In addition to serving meals to their guests on a daily basis, The Pine Street Inn provides frozen turkeys to over 125 half-way and transitional housing units over the next week and a half. Our 95 turkeys will come at just the right time to help in both of these areas. If you want more information about the Pine Street Inn, visit their website: <http://www.pinestreetinn.org/index.php>.

NEWS FROM THE WINCHESTER FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE (WFEE)

Thanks to a WFEE grant, 12 new computers are up and running in the WHS Physics lab. More than 200 students are using the computers which allow them to see data generated by experiments in "real time." Teacher Lis Angus wrote the grant hoping to bring a new level of technology-based instruction to the school. All Physics teachers and students are using the new lab.

Four WHS teachers will be presenting at the National Council for the Social Studies annual conference

this month. Katy Rees was invited to discuss teaching about Islam and Africa in the high school classroom. Conference organizers also invited Kristen Richie, Anna McWilliams and Jen Baker to talk about their experiences creating and implementing service learning projects. Congratulations to our teachers for this national recognition of their classroom work! WFEE was pleased to help make their trip possible. For more information on WFEE grants and programs, please visit www.wfee.org

The Guide



A Monthly Newsletter from the WHS Guidance Department December 2011

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 2011 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.

Sophomore Parents

During the month of January, Guidance Counselors will be meeting with all tenth grade students. Students will receive passwords for Naviance and can begin utilizing career exploration tools available through Naviance. An informative coffee for tenth grade parents will be scheduled during the month of January. (TBA)

Junior Parent Night Scheduled For January 31, 2012

The Guidance Department's Early College Planning Night for parents of juniors has been scheduled for Tuesday evening, January 31, 2012, at 7:00 P.M. The program will be held in the auditorium and will feature speakers David Hautanen, Director of Admissions and Recruitment, Northeastern

University, and the Associate Director of Enrollment from Tufts University. The 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 encouraged to attend this workshop with their parents.

Juniors

In January and February Guidance Counselors will be meeting with all eleventh grade students to review post secondary options and the college process. Students are also encouraged to attend the Junior Parent Night 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 mid-year report card is automatically sent to all colleges to which a senior has applied.** The mid-year report sent to the colleges reflects only the students mid-year grades in each course. Quarter grades, mid-year exam grades, and teacher comments are not included in the mid-year report. If a college requests to see the first quarter report card prior to mid-year reports, please see Mrs. Wilson in Guidance.

Plan Now for Free College Goal Sunday, January 29, 2012

College Goal Sunday is a volunteer-driven effort to provide free assistance to students and families in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA). The program is supported and administered by a volunteer committee comprised of members of the Massachusetts Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (MASFAA). College Goal Sunday workshops will be held at various locations across the state. To learn more or to register go to: www.FAFSADay.org

Financial Aid ...Get Your PIN Now!

Although the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA) cannot be filed until after January 1, 2012, seniors and their parents planning to apply for financial aid can get a **PIN** (Personal Identification Number) now which will be used to electronically sign the FAFSA when completing and filing the application online. Applying for a **PIN** now will avoid holding up the process of filing the FAFSA online after January 1. To obtain a **PIN**, students will need to supply their name, social security number, date of birth and mailing address and submit the **PIN** request. Parents of a dependent student must also request a **PIN**, since both parent and student must sign the FAFSA. To obtain the **PIN**, go to: www.pin.ed.gov.

Out-of-State Tuition Break Through RSP

The New England Board of Higher Education's (NEBHE) Regional Student Program (RSP) gives thousands of New England college students a significant out-of-state tuition break each year when they enroll in approved degree programs at out-of-state public colleges and universities in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. Through the RSP, the New England states cooperate to share academic programs offered by their public higher education institutions and provide eligible New England residents with a tuition break when they pursue approved programs not offered by their home-state public colleges and universities. The NEBHE website www.nebhe.org features comprehensive RSP information.

Scholarships

Winchester Scholarship Foundation applications will be available in January 2012 in the Guidance Office.

Additional scholarship information can be found under the *Scholarship* tab in Naviance.

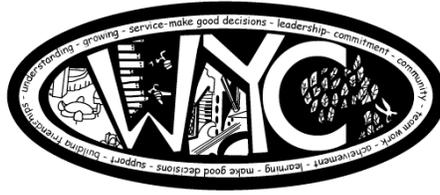
College Financing Tool

The U.S. Department of Education has announced a new online tool to help students and families financially prepare for college before a student's senior year of high school. The **FAFSA4caster** provides parents with an early estimate of their eligibility for federal student aid, including grants, reduces the time it will take to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Assistance) and clarifies the financial aid process for students and parents. To use the **FAFSA4caster**, go to: www.fafsa.ed.gov and click on the link to **FAFSA4caster**.

Harvard Offers Lowell Scholarship Program for Courses at Extension School

Each year 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. To obtain further information about the program, call (617) 495-3192.

Keep up with the latest information: Visit the WHS Guidance Website!
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Winchester Youth Center

458R Main Street

Winchester MA 01890

781-721-0906

www.wincyc.com

wincchesteryouthcenter@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/pages/Winchester-Youth-Center

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 won't want to miss.

ROCK FOR YOUTH

Friday, December 2nd 7:00-10:30pm

Winchester Town Hall Auditorium

Admission is \$10. Outside drinks are not allowed. There is no re-entry. Rock for Youth is a substance free event. Come join us and make good decisions! Proceeds benefit the WYC Youth Service Scholarships that are awarded to WHS seniors.

WYC CRAFTS & JEWELRY

HOLIDAY SALES

Saturday, December 10th

Are you looking to purchase some unique and beautiful holiday presents this year? Then check out the WYC's Crafts & Jewelry. The Peer Leaders have created original crafts and jewelry that are sure to please everyone on your list. All proceeds will benefit the Peer Leaders' Habitat for Humanity trip and other service-learning programs at the WYC. Please check our website for times and location.

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. We invite all WHS students who are interested in doing something good for our community to stop by the WYC and find out how to get involved. Please check out our website for a complete description of our service efforts.

WORLD AIDS DAY

Thursday, December 1st

In recognition of this international event, the peer leaders will be handing out AIDS ribbons so that we can all demonstrate our care and concern about HIV/AIDS. Come to the WYC to learn more and find out how you too can make a difference!

ALS COMMUNITY OF HOPE: Haley's Comets

Are you looking for a great cause to support during this coming holiday season? Then please consider supporting our efforts to defeat ALS a.k.a. Lou Gehrig's Disease. Go to <http://web.alsa.org/goto/haleyscomets> Our goal is to raise money to support people in our community with ALS and to spread awareness of the urgency to find treatment and a cure for this disease.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

The WYC has several youth groups for WHS students that focus on responsibility, respect for others, trust, commitment, teamwork, support, and community service. Through these groups students are given many opportunities to develop their skills in the areas of communication, organization, decision-making, and leadership. They also build confidence and self-esteem by serving as role models for their peers and making a difference in their community. Please contact winchesteryouthcenter@gmail.com for more information on any of these programs.

COMMUNITY NEWS**Winchester Scholarship Foundation Awards 103 Scholarships**

The Winchester Scholarship Foundation (WSF) is proud to announce that 103 students received scholarships totaling \$315,000 in 2011. During the last 5 years WSF awarded \$1,526,570 in scholarships. WSF supports students who will continue to excel, who will continue to succeed and who will continue to rise to the needs and challenges of our society. Any contribution, great or small, is truly appreciated. Donations may be sent to Winchester Scholarship Foundation, P. O. Box 174, Winchester, MA 01890 Visit us at www.winchestersf.org for information on how you can establish a permanently endowed, named scholarship in honor of or memory of an individual.

From Despair to Possibility: Winchester Library Photography Exhibit

Winchester Public Library, 80 Washington St., Winchester

In December 2011, Caroline Krantz, local photographer and member of the Multicultural Network, will present *From Despair to Possibility*, a photographic exhibit, at the Winchester Public Library. The exhibit will feature photos of the beautiful country of Sri Lanka, and the damage done to its people and the countryside during the 30-year war in the North. Please join us on December 1, 7:00 p.m., for an opening reception at the Winchester Public Library.

December Community Events at Winchester Community Music School

Thursday, December 1 7:30-9PM Open Mic Night Open to the public, all instrumentalists and vocalists welcome. Sign-ups for performers between 7-7:30 PM or in advance by calling 781-721-2950. Amps, piano, drums, PA system provided. Held regularly on the first Thursday of each month. Winchester Community Music School, 407 Highland Avenue, Winchester. Free. Check out the full event description here: <http://winchestermusic.org/the-underground/open.aspx>

Tuesday, December 13 7:30-9PM Fat Tuesday Blues Jam Session, come play or sing with the Underground House Band. Open to the community, all ages. \$7 at the door to participate, audience free. For complete list of this month's songs, visit <http://winchestermusic.org/the-underground/jam.aspx>

December 6 7:30 PM Broadway on Highland Sing your favorite Broadway hit at the WCMS Broadway on Highland night. All ages and ability levels are welcome. Bring sheet music and a copy for the

accompanist. First-come, first-served open run-throughs with the accompanist will begin at 6:30. Audience members welcome.

Winton Cabaret 2012 Auditions

The Winton Club Cabaret 2012 presents its Annual Cabaret Fundraiser, "IT'S ABOUT TIME" to benefit Winchester Hospital January 31 through February 4, 2012 in the Winchester Town Hall Auditorium, 71 Mount Vernon Street, Winchester, MA. Cabaret Chairwoman/Producer Jean Buckley and the Winton Club invite you to join the fun and support Winchester Hospital at the same time. If you are interested in joining the cast, show "Tryouts" are in Winchester Town Hall on December 5 & 6, 2011 at 7:00 PM and rehearsals run the entire month of January. Wear comfortable clothes and be prepared to sing a song of your choice. Bring dance shoes if you can! For more information, go to: [<http://cabaret.wintonclub.org>]<http://cabaret.wintonclub.org>

SOCCER NEWS

Sachems FC, part of Winchester Soccer Club, announces...REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! for our Winter Soccer Training. Go to www.sachemsfc.com to register today! We have something for everyone!

Academy & Schools:

U10-U18, Boys & Girls

- Advanced Skills Training School
- Goal Keeping School

There are 2 Sessions: Session I begins the week of December 5th and Session II Begins the week of February 6th. Each 7-week session is \$150, and will take place at Athletic Evolution in Woburn. All Sachems FC clinics are run by professional coaches, with guest appearances by current *New England Revolution* players and other professional players. Sign up today. Space is limited and fills up quickly!

School Committee/Redistricting Committee

The Winchester Redistricting Advisory Committee held their first meeting on Thursday, November 17. This committee will meet regularly to prepare and present options for redistricting the elementary school attendance boundaries. Recommended plans should further the district's goal of providing the best physical learning environment possible by uniform and equitable utilization of facilities, according to the needs of our educational program. The Redistricting Committee acts as a Superintendent's advisory committee, and as such will make a recommendation to the Superintendent in late Spring 2012. The first public hearing will be in January; date TBA.

For information on this process, meeting agendas and minutes, or to contact the committee, please visit our website at www.winchesterredistricting.com

Parent to Parent Presents:

A book group discussion on Dr. Anthony Rao's new book **The Way of Boys: Promoting the Social and Emotional Development of Young Boys** on Thursday, January 19, 2012 co-sponsored with the Winchester Public Library. 7 to 8:30pm in the Library's large meeting room. Dr. Rao, recognizing the distinct challenges of raising young boys, offers practical advice on how to raise happy and healthy men. He urges parents, educators and others to reevaluate how we deal with young boys. In reaction to the current debate on the over-use of psychological disorder diagnoses, Dr. Rao clarifies what is normal boy

behavior and development, giving parents the tools for how to best advocate for their sons in both academic and social situations. You do not have to have read the book to participate. Books will be available at the Library circulation desk and BookEnds. For more information on book groups and upcoming programs, please visit www.parenttoparentwinchester.org. *Since the programs will be addressing parenting challenges, we respectfully ask that children do not attend.*

Parent to Parent will host an **"Evening With The Superintendent" on Monday, January 23, 2012 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the McCall Middle School Library.** Please join us for a "state of our schools" report and an open dialogue with Superintendent William McAlduff. Topics may include the school budget, curriculum, new programs, school building maintenance, sports and fields, and more. This is an annual event and a great opportunity to meet and hear what is happening at our schools.

To submit your questions ahead of time to the Superintendent, please send them to info@parenttoparentwinchester.org. For more information, visit www.parenttoparentwinchester.org *(Please note there is a Snow Date of January 30).*

Boy Scout Troop 507 Christmas Tree Pick-up

Saturday, January 7, 2012

\$10.00 per Tree (Donation)

Let Boy Scout Troop 507 help recycle your Christmas tree. The Boy Scouts will collect old holiday trees from Winchester residents on Saturday, January 7, 2012 starting at 7:00 am. The Scouts will collect trees and bring them to the Transfer Station from those residents who have pre-registered with a \$10 donation. This is the 18th year that this successful fundraiser has helped Winchester residents dispose of their old trees, while helping the troop raise money for equipment and trips. Send coupon below and check, payable to BSA Troop 507, to BSA Troop 507, c/o Tom Eid, 28 Maxwell Road, Winchester, MA 01890. Order deadline is Monday, January 2, 2012. Or, you can sign-up with a Boy Scout from Troop 507 at the Transfer Station on Saturdays in December. *Please remove all ornaments, lights, plastic and trim from the tree.* Please have your tree curbside by 7 am on Saturday, January 7, 2012. If you have any questions, email us at boyscout507trees@gmail.com or call Tree Central 617-694-2598 for more information.

Your Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

of Trees @ \$10 _____ Additional Donation _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Thank you for supporting Boy Scout Troop 507!
