

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

PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ DECEMBER, 2012

Visit our website at www.whspfa.org

FROM THE OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL TOM GWIN

Symmes, Maini & McKee Associates (SMMA) continue their work on the WHS Feasibility Study. SMMA currently meets weekly (up from bimonthly) with the Educational Facilities Public Building Committee (EFPBC) on the progress of the study. These meetings take place on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm at Town Hall and the public is invited. I will also present updates at the monthly PFA meetings.

If all goes according to the scheduled timeline, a preferred conceptual design and location will be approved in mid-December. The site has been narrowed to the current location or Ciarcia (Skillings) Field. There are various iterations of the conceptual design, but basically we're looking at a new school on Ciarcia, a renovation of the current building with small additions, or a new building on the current site that would be phased in over 4-5 years. The last option means demolishing sections of the current WHS and building new over a period of time.

Various problematic issues have emerged during the study. The estimated costs of any of the conceptual designs (\$126 to \$163 million) were much higher than the EFPBC anticipated. The length of time of a phased project, up to five years, was longer than anyone projected. How will we accommodate all students in a phased project? Construction of a new school on Ciarcia cannot take place until four flood mitigation projects are completed. These projects will take much of the field out of the floodplain. But they may not be completed until 2017. Will the Massachusetts School Building Authority (that will reimburse the town for about one third of the project) keep a WHS project in its cue, if the project is not beginning until 2017?

Many questions need to be answered before the preferred design and location is chosen. Stay tuned in my weekly emails for the most up-to-date information. Slides of the conceptual designs, minutes from EFPBC meetings, and other pertinent information can be found at the Skanska USA website below.

<https://partners.myskanska.com/usa/clients/TOW/WHS/SitePages/Home.aspx>

PFA NEWS

From the Co-Presidents

Jody Collins Skinner and Audrey Loria

Can you believe that it is already December? With the Holidays approaching we would like to you know that if you haven't given yet to the Direct Appeal it is not too late. Add WHS to your shopping list and give so we can make a grants wish list come true. You can pay via the link to PayPal at www.whspfa.org or mail a check to Cheryl Meyers at PO BOX 550, Winchester, MA 01890

Please join us at our next PFA meeting on December 5th at 7:30pm in the library. The program for the evening is New Directions in Social Studies, English, and Library-Media. The panel will include Chris Kurhajetz, Judy Hession and Amy Fiske. We will be discussing how the librarian and the library support History and English classes, how the students develop research and writing skills or information literacy and the changes our librarian, Amy Fiske, is making in the library.

WHS is a busy place. Come hear Dr. Gwin's latest update on the high school renovation, updates on each of the classes by the parent representatives, or bring any questions or comments you might have about the school. We encourage everyone to be involved.

Happy Holidays!

CLASS NEWS

CLASS OF 2013 NEWS

LAST CALL for Sachem "PRIDE" Sweatshirt! Thank you to everyone who purchased and picked-up their Sachem PRIDE Sweatshirt! We hope that you are enjoying your sweatshirt and wore it with pride to the Annual Thanksgiving Day football game.

We have received several requests to place one more order in time for holiday gift-giving. So, for those of you who missed the fall order deadline, but would like to place an order now, click on this link www.whspfa.org/clientimages/39852/miscellaneous1213/Sweatshirt_Order_Form_2012.pdf to get to the order form. This year's design is a sophisticated black Sachem quarter-zip polo pullover sweatshirt featuring a stitched Sachem head sewn onto the left breast, with the words "Winchester Sachems" stitched into the fabric surrounding the logo. It is full cut, with rib knit cuffs and hem. Incredibly soft and durable, and, like our previous sweatshirts, no pilling! Click here to see a photo www.whspfa.org/clientimages/39852/miscellaneous1213/Sweatshirt_Full_View.jpg

The final order will be placed on **Monday, December 3rd**, with delivery in time for the holidays.

Thank you for supporting the Class of 2013 in our last major fundraiser!

GO SACHEMS!

Remember, these make terrific holiday gifts! Any questions, please contact the Class of 2013 Parent Advisors, Lia Borrelli at liaborrelli2002@yahoo.com or Anne Marie Hill at hill.davis@comcast.net.

CLASS OF 2014 NEWS

The class of 2014 has had a busy November so far. On Election Day we participated in the Glen Doherty Foundation fundraiser by joining our fellow classmates selling American Flag pins. We were at the Lynch school all day and it was a huge success. Many people donated and appreciated the efforts of all WHS students.

Our Veterans' Day Soccer tournament Bake Sale was also a big success for our class. Thank yous go out to all our volunteers and donors. We will once again be looking for volunteers (Come on Cabinet members!!!) and bakers for the concession stand at the WHS December play. Watch for an eblast for date and time!

A big thank you to Mrs. Grimes for her help with our Wilson Pies Sale fundraiser. We thank everyone who bought, helped distribute, and deliver the pies. Enjoy!

Class Unity was present during Spirit Week with the Juniors' hallway decked out in RED!!! Dan Holohan and Shirlane Chan and Tia Grimes and John Dooley and FRIENDS did a very enthusiastic job!!!! Go Sachems!!!

And finally, if you are looking for a gift idea for your Sachem Super Fan, we have Authentic Camelback Sachem Water Bottles for just \$25.00. Everyone wants one! We can deliver your surprise, just email 2014whs@gmail.com and provide your name and address. Don't miss out. Get your Sachem Camelback TODAY!

CLASS OF 2016 NEWS

The Freshman class has some exciting events planned for the next month, along with a few down the road.

For WHS Gives Back, we will be having a wrapping paper drive. Please bring in non-religious wrapping paper, sticky bows, tape or other materials to room C207 before December 10th. The holiday wrapping materials will be used in each homeroom to wrap presents for a sponsored family, which, together with gifts from the Giving Project, will help make the holidays brighter for needy families.

Another pre-holiday event is the sale of Sachem-logo sweatshirts and sweatpants which will make excellent gifts this holiday season. [Click here](#) for an order form.

Springtime dates to remember:

- Class semi-formal on April 26th
- Class dinner on March 6th. The class dinner will be an opportunity for parents and students to come together, so make sure to mark it on your calendar. That's all for now!

SCHOOL NEWS

WHS MATH TUTOR CENTER

Does your student need extra help in math? Do they understand the concepts in class but need some extra help on homework or extra practice before a test? If you answered yes to the above, please encourage your student to come to the **math tutoring center** located in the math open area. There are **tutors waiting to help every block of the seven** day cycle. Whether they need help with geometry, algebra, pre-calculus and even calculus, the math tutors will help them understand the material and make them feel more prepared for class and tests. All they need to do is get a pass from study hall or from their math teacher and sign in when they arrive. Encourage them to stop by and get some extra help soon!

GET YOUR HOLIDAY TREE AT WHS!

Buy a beautiful, top quality Christmas tree AND support the WHS Alpine Ski Team! Our holiday trees come from Canada, range from small to large and cost between \$36 and \$65. Team members will be selling the trees Dec. 5th, Dec. 6th and 7th from 5:00pm to 9:00pm. Stop by the WHS Parking Lot, buy your holiday tree and help our athletes!

SUPPORT WHS WRESTLING!

Looking for a great gift for the Sachem fans and athletes on your list? The WHS Wrestling team is selling Sachem-logo Adidas Sack Packs for just \$25! These stylish and practical string backpack-style bags have a small zippered pocket for wallet, keys, etc., two mesh pockets on the sides of the bag for athletic shoes or wet items, and a roomy, drawstring main pouch for all your other stuff. They sold out at the WHS Open House, so email Kyle Carney kyle@mounauburncc.com today before they're gone!

WHS BOYS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

If you are looking for a great gift idea for your athlete or your Sachem fan, the boys volleyball team is selling black windbreakers with 1/4 zipper and the Sachem Log embroidered on the chest for \$35.00. *The deadline to order is Wednesday, December 12th.*

Please e-mail Patrick or Mitchell Ulacco at ulacco2@aol.com and provide your name, address, phone number and the size that you are looking for.

DANDELION EVENING OF SHARING FOLLOW-UP

This year's Dandelion Evening of Sharing held Thursday 11/15/12 was a great success, with over 50 people coming to hear the students share their stories! We'd like to thank all of the people who came out to learn more about the exchange trip. Anyone who is interested in participating in this year's exchange trip should pick up an application form from Ms. Kangas in the Social Studies office. Applications will be due January 4, 2013. Please email Ms. Kangas at akangas@winchester.k12.ma.us if you have any questions.

SUPPORT THE RED & BLACK!

Subscriptions to the WHS Red and Black student newspaper are now available to anyone interested. Each year the paper publishes a total of eight editions that have enjoyable articles on current events, student life and just about anything happening around the school. The subscription rate is \$25. The checks should be made payable to WHS with Red & Black in the memo line. If you are interested, send your payment to:

The WHS Red and Black Newspaper
80 Skillings Road
Winchester, MA 01890

Subscribe to support this WHS tradition!

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

December Music Events/Concerts

- **Thursday, December 6** - Caroling on the Common- Select music groups. Times to be announced.
- **Tuesday, December 10**- Major Works Dress Rehearsal from 6 to 8:30 pm at WHS, choruses and orchestras.
- **Wednesday, December 12**- Major Works Concert, 7:30 pm at WHS auditorium. Orchestras and Choruses will be performing.

WFEE NEWS

WHS Counselor Shafiya Ciccarelli will be joining McCall Counselor Phyllis Greenspan at two mental health conferences this winter. The two wrote collaborative grants to WFEE to attend training at Harvard Medical School. The seminars will deal with eating disorders as well as social and behavioral issues facing adolescents. According to Ms. Ciccarelli, "Given the increasingly challenging environment in which students live, collaboration among providers is essential." In November, WFEE announced \$11,300 in additional professional development grants for the remainder of this school year. Previously the Foundation gave out \$136,000 in professional development and educational grants to Winchester's teachers. For more information on WFEE grants please visit www.wfee.org. WFEE is a private, non-profit organization funded by community donations.

CONNECT AND COMMIT

Connect & Commit Community Service-Learning Club

All meetings are 6:30-7:30pm in the WHS Library

January Club Meetings will be held Tuesday the 8th and Tuesday the 29th

The Connect & Commit club is open to all students. You can get involved at any time. 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.

Volunteer Opportunities & Events

Lantern Walk Youth Board- Monday December 10th, 7pm at the Winchester Youth Center

After the tremendous momentum and outpouring of support that we saw at the Winchester Community Lantern Walk on November 11th, we wanted to create a platform for students to advocate for themselves around the stresses and challenges they are faced with. We also want to create a safe environment where students feel comfortable talking about what those issues are and even how they are personally affected. Our meeting is open to EVERYONE!! Please contact Kristen Ritchie at Connect & Commit or Becca Levine at the Winchester Youth Center if you are interested in attending the meeting or being a part of the ongoing discussion.

Living Legacy Project- Ongoing- January-April

Connect & Commit is partnering with the Winchester Nursing Center to develop on-going relationships between student volunteers and residents at the center. Interested students would be paired with a resident and over the course of a few months, work to develop a living legacy for that resident through interviews, discussions, sharing photos etc. We imagine weekly afternoon visits as a group to the nursing center from 3:15-4:15pm supervised by Mrs. Harvey. There will be more information to come, but if you are interested please contact Kristen Ritchie.

Room to Grow- Saturday January 12th, 10am-12pm Back Bay, Boston

Volunteers are needed to help this nonprofit sort and organize incoming donations of baby and children's clothes as well as other items that the agency needs to support new mothers and their children.

Jenks Cyber Cafes- always 3-4pm 1/15/13, 1/30/13, 2/7/13, 2/26/13, 3/7/13, 3/26/13

Spend an hour one afternoon with 2 peers assisting senior citizens at the Jenks Center with technology needs. Work together to come up with a theme for each session. Theme ideas include: Apps, Uploading Photos, Emails, etc. If you are interested, please contact Kristen Ritchie.

Relay for Life Kick-off Meeting- Wednesday February 6th 6-7pm in the Pond Room at the Jenks Center

Help us Kick Off the second annual Relay for Life of Winchester! Come join together for coffee and refreshments as we learn about plans for this year's American Cancer Society Event and how you can get involved. All are welcome!

Community Servings- always 1-4pm 2/6/13, 4/11/13, 5/6/13 (all half days) Jamaica Plain, Boston

Volunteers are needed to help prepare food for this nonprofit agency providing delivered meals to patients with terminal illnesses and as a result restricted diets.

Jenks Mardi Gras Festival- Saturday January 9th

Servers are needed to help at the Jenks Center Mardi Gras Festival. More information to come.

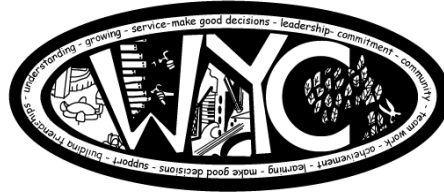
Brunch Servers at the Jenks- Sunday March 10th 11:30am

Volunteers are needed to help serve brunch to Patrons at the Jenks Center before they attend a local theatre show. More information to come.

RELAY FOR LIFE- Saturday June 22nd 5pm-6am Skillings Field

We are looking for a Planning Committee Chair as well as Planning Committee Members. This will be a big commitment for most of the year, especially second semester, but the rewards are great, so please take that into consideration when thinking about your interest.

www.relayforlife.org/winchesterma



Winchester Youth Center

458R Main Street

Winchester MA 01890

781-721-0906

www.wynec.com

winchesteryouthcenter@gmail.com

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

The WYC offers a wide range of leadership, service-learning, and good-decision-making activities for WHS students. We encourage all WHS students to check out our website and stop by the WYC anytime to find out how to get more involved in all the cool things that we have going on!

WINCHESTER COMMUNITY LANTERN WALK

Thank you to everyone who participated in the first annual Lantern Walk to shed light on the negative impacts of stress and pressure on our youth and community members of all ages. This first annual event was a huge success in bringing widespread awareness to these issues and expressing our community support. **We are currently in the process of developing a student Lantern Walk Committee that will continue to address these issues, develop programs, and advocate for change.** Students interested in joining this Committee should contact Rebecca Levine at the WYC or Kristen Ritchie in the Connect & Commit office at WHS. Please check out our website at www.winchesterlanternwalk.org for more information and resources related to these issues.

ROCK FOR YOUTH

Friday, November 30th 7:30-10:30pm

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!

WYC CRAFTS & JEWELRY

HOLIDAY SALE

Thursday, December 13th 6:30-8:00pm @ the WYC

Are you looking to purchase some unique and beautiful holiday presents this year? Then check out the WYC's Crafts & Jewelry. The Peer Leaders and members of the WYC community 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.

WORLD AIDS DAY
Saturday, December 1st

In recognition of this international event, the peer leaders will be handing out AIDS ribbons at WHS on Friday, November 30th 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!

RELAY FOR LIFE OF WINCHESTER
June 22nd-23rd

Form your teams, start your fundraising, and plan to join us for the second annual Relay For Life of Winchester on June 22-23! At the first annual Winchester Relay nearly 300 people participated in more than 30 teams and raised over \$60,000! Relay For Life is the signature fundraising event of the American Cancer Society. It unites communities across the globe to celebrate people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against this disease. The Winchester Youth Center and Connect & Commit will again be forming the Leadership Committee for the second annual Relay For Life of Winchester. Our goal is to bring community members of all ages together to raise money for the American Cancer Society, raise awareness of cancer, and honor all of the Winchester residents who have battled this disease. Go to www.relayforlife.org/winchesterma to register your team, like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter @winrelayforlife. Please contact the Winchester Youth Center 781-721-0906 for more information.

COMMUNITY NEWS

NEWS FROM THE WINCHESTER COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL

Open Mic Night at Starbucks – Thursday, December 6, 7:00-9:00 PM

Join us for Open Mic Night at Starbucks, 542 Main Street, Winchester. Open Mic Nights occur the first Thursday of every month and we welcome performers, families and friends for this lively, emceed coffee house event. We welcome all ages, all instruments, and types of music. Bands are welcome but must be acoustic. Free and open to the public. For information call [781-721-2950](tel:781-721-2950) or visit www.winchestermusic.org

Broadway on Highland – Friday, December 7, 7:30-9:00 PM

If you love Broadway, come over to WCMS and sing your favorite Broadway hit or join the crowd during our sing-a-long numbers. All ages and ability levels are welcome! Singers from beginners to seasoned professionals are cordially invited to strut their stuff during this fun evening. Solo, duo, trio, or family act? We're happy to include you. Just bring your sheet music (no lead sheets please) and a copy for our fabulous accompanist. (Please note that the piano music should be in the same key in which you plan to sing.) Run-throughs with pianist available between 7-7:30 PM. Free and open to the public. For more information, call [781-721-2950](tel:781-721-2950) or visit www.winchestermusic.org.

Fat Tuesday Blues Jam – Tuesday, December 11, 7:30-9:00 PM

Join our Underground Faculty Band with Host Tim Gartland for a Blues Jam session at WCMS. Our Fat Tuesday Blues Jams are fun, spontaneous, and a great way to experiment with new techniques and skills in the company of fellow musicians. All instruments & vocalists are welcome! Amps, pianos, drums, and PA

system provided. \$7 for participants, spectators free. Open to the public. For more information, call [781-721-2950](tel:781-721-2950) or visit www.winchestermusic.org.

WINCHESTER BOY SCOUT TROOP 507 CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP

Saturday, January 5, 2013

Let Boy Scout Troop 507 help recycle your Christmas tree! On Saturday, January 5th the Scouts will pick up your Christmas tree and bring it to the Transfer Station -- all you need to do is pre-register with a \$10 donation. This year marks the 19th season that this successful fundraiser has helped Winchester residents dispose of their old trees while helping the troop raise money for equipment and trips. To register, send your name, address and phone number with a check for \$10 per tree payable to BSA Troop 507, c/o Tom Eid, 28 Maxwell Road, Winchester, MA 01890. Or you can sign up with a Boy Scout from Troop 507 at the Transfer Station on Saturdays in December. The order deadline is Monday, December 31st. Please remove all ornaments, lights, plastic and trim from the tree, and have your tree curbside by 7 am. If you have any questions, email us at boyscout507trees@gmail.com or call Tree Central at [781-960-3666](tel:781-960-3666). Thank you for supporting Boy Scout Troop 507!

FUNDING THE FABULOUS

Arthur Griffin Foundation Serves Winchester

Do you have a fabulous idea for making WHS a more beautiful place? If so, you need to contact the Arthur Griffin Foundation. Started by well known photographer and Winchester resident Arthur Griffin, the Foundation exists to support projects designed to help Winchester organizations who are focused on civic beauty. The Foundation has money in hand and is ready to launch its next project!

The Foundation wants to partner with organizations that can provide additional fundraising and volunteer support as needed. Grant requests should be in the form of a letter to the Arthur Griffin Foundation, Box 726, Winchester, MA 01890. Letters should include a description of the grant request, the amount needed and whether or not the project requires the support of any other organization or government authority. Complete information and grant applications are available at the Foundation's website, www.arthurgriffinfoundation.org. Contact Helen Babcock at [\(781\) 729-3155](tel:781-729-3155) with additional questions.

The Foundation is separate from the Griffin Center for Photography on Shore Road. The museum is responsible for its own fundraising, and its operational expenses are not supported by the Foundation, which focuses on the public beauty aspects of Winchester and supporting student interest in photography.

NEXTDOOR CENTER FOR THE ARTS CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH SPECIAL EVENTS

HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT THE GIFT OF ART - Unique handmade items, gifts, fine art, food & jewelry for sale all month long at our fourth annual event featuring the work of 35 local craftsmen. This retail gallery is now open daily November 25 through December 22 at 50 Cross Street in Winchester, adjacent to the NextDoor Center for the Arts. Hours Mon 9-5, Tue, Wed, Thu 9-7, Fri & Sat 9-5 and Sun 12-5.

HOLIDAY SONGS & STORIES with MRS CLAUS - Storyteller Diana Kane brings the lovable Mrs. Claus to life with her audience interactive presentation for ages 2-6. Santa himself will be there as well! Performances Sunday December 2 at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the NextDoor Center for the Arts, 40 Cross St., Winchester. Tickets are General Admission \$10 all ages and available in advance online at www.nextdoortheater.org, by calling 781 729 NEXT or at BookEnds.

AUNTIE CLAUS - an original musical created by Brian Milauskas with music by Bob Antonelli and Jerad Lawson featuring adult actors with a cast of students grades 2 through 7. This delightful show about Santa's mysterious sister is ideal for all ages! Performances are Friday December 7 & 14 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday & Sunday December 8-9 & 15-16 at 2:00 p.m. at the NextDoor Center for the Arts, 40 Cross St., Winchester. Tickets are Reserved Seating \$10 all ages and available in advance online at www.nextdoortheater.org, by calling 781 729 NEXT or at BookEnds.

NEW ADULT THEATER GROUP FORMING

Calling all parents who are looking for something FUN and CREATIVE to do once a week during daytime, weekday hours! We've started a cooperative daytime theater group for adults – meeting every Wednesday at 10:30am at the Nextdoor Theater. JOIN US! The more people we have involved, the more fun we can have! No experience is required -- just a desire to have fun and think creatively! Our group is exploring and developing two projects that can include performers, directors, musicians, dancers, singers, etc. Come to our group and let us know what your talents/interests are, and we'll make sure there's a place for you!

We're using Meetup to organize and communicate -- check out <http://www.meetup.com/daytimeplayers/>, or feel free to email any questions to daytimeplayers@gmail.com We hope to see you soon!

A MASTER SINGERS CHRISTMAS

If you need some holiday cheer, check out this late afternoon concert on December 9 in Lexington. The Master Singers of Lexington presents two dazzling major works for chorus, strings, and organ: Mozart's `Missa Brevis` and Pergolesi's `Magnificat`. The concert will be presented without intermission at 4:00 p.m. Join the chorus and guests for a festive reception with seasonal refreshments following the concert.

First Parish Church in Lexington is on the Battle Green at 7 Harrington Road and is fully accessible with ample free parking. Tickets are available in advance or at the door. Discounts are available to subscribers and Greater Boston Choral Consortium members and from members of the chorus. For directions and information see www.themastersingers.org or call [781-729-0581](tel:781-729-0581).

SAVE THE DATES! PARENT TO PARENT PRESENTS:

Three Workshops on Understanding and Interacting with Pre-Teens & Teenagers. Come to one, two, or all three!

Back by popular demand, **Rick Irving, LICSW** will speak to parents about effectively communicating with children even before they hit adolescence. Rick is a clinical social worker for the Andover Public Schools and has a private practice in Winchester.

First Session: Communicating Successfully with your Pre-Adolescent and Adolescent Child (So you don't go crazy!) Tuesday, January 22, 2013, 7 to 9 pm, *The First Congregational Church, Palmer Room, 21 Church St., Winchester Center.

In this workshop, Rick will cover ways to have more satisfying interactions with your children, focusing on components of adult-child interactions, common communication traps, techniques to avoid, and ways to listen for what your child is trying to share. He will go over specific language, timing and tone to use for various situations and temperamental styles. Parents are encouraged to bring questions and situations and will leave with practical ideas to try.

Second Session: The Characteristics of Our Tweens and Teens That Make Us Lose Sleep (And how to respond without feeling helpless!) Tuesday, February 5, 2013, 7 to 9 pm

Third Session: The Gift of Confidence, Resilience and Competence (So you can watch them handle the world) Tuesday, February 26, 2013, 7 to 9 pm

***Please note:** The First Congregational Church has generously provided funding and the space to make this series possible; however, there will be no religious content in the program. These workshops are **free and open to the public.**

Snow-date: Tuesday, March 12th