

WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL
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PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ FEBRUARY 2010
For up to date info visit our website at www.whspfa.org

FROM THE OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL TOM GWIN

The school committee has approved a 4.49 % increase in the school budget for the 2010-2011 school year totaling \$34,910,531. Most of this increase is due to contractual obligations but there is a portion of this increase that will positively affect the high school. The FY11 budget proposal includes new initiatives in Mandarin Chinese, on-line math courses, and a new elective focusing on technology/21st century skills. Currently WHS only offers the romance languages. The Mandarin allows us to expand our foreign language selection to the Pacific Rim and add a language that is considered a “critical need” by the government. On-line math courses give students the opportunity to take courses not offered by the department or to repeat a course if necessary without going to summer school. (It’s only a matter of time before on-line courses will be a critical part of all high schools.) A committee has been discussing a technology graduation requirement and the new elective will allow us to the opportunity to pilot a potential program. These programs are much needed components of a 21st century education.

The FY11 budget also provides a small increase in our equipment and supplies line and includes the in-house suspension program. Formerly this program had been funded by state grants that are no longer available. Finally, the budget will pick up a small portion of the Connect and Commit coordinator’s salary. This position has been funded by the Winchester Community Service Foundation but there is a five year plan for the school department to pick up this salary. The 4.49% increase will be subject to reductions as the budget process continues and we find out about decreases in state aid and projections for town revenue. Stay tuned.

Stat of the Month: Per Pupil Expenditures in Towns We Compare Ourselves To

Per pupil expenditure is calculated by dividing all school operating expenditures by the total number of students in the district. This is FY08 data from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website. See them all at: http://finance1.doe.mass.edu/schfin/statistics/function08_detail.aspx

Town	Per Pupil Expenditure
State Average	12,454
Winchester	10,865
Belmont	11,301
Lexington	14,469
Newton	15,498
Wayland	14,033
Wellesley	13,916
Weston	17,017

Principal Drop-in The Principal Drop-in will take place on the second Wednesday of the month in February rather than the first- February 10, 5:30-7 pm.

MESSAGES FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Cafeteria and Lunch

Students should conduct themselves in such a manner so as to insure a clean, pleasant atmosphere for both the eating of lunch and the social use of the cafeteria. Each student shall assume responsibility for keeping the cafeteria clean and orderly during the day. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary consequences. Students may eat outside in the courtyard, providing they keep the area clean of debris. Inappropriate behavior in the cafeteria may result in detentions or temporary loss of café privileges. Lunch area is restricted to the cafeteria and the front courtyard between the library and the auditorium. No students are allowed to eat in the hallways or in non designated areas. Failure to comply will result in detentions or possible suspensions. Students who have finished lunch are allowed to go to the Library, without food. Not remaining in the courtyard, library or cafeteria during lunch may result in detentions or a suspension from school. Students need to be responsible for their own trash pick up in and around the school. Food and drink cannot be consumed in the hallways.

Personal Property and Valuables

The high school administration strongly discourages students from bringing excess money or valuable items to school. Likewise excess money or valuable items should not be stored in lockers at Winchester High School. Under NO circumstances does the Town of Winchester, Winchester High School, its administration, or its staff assumes liability for personal possessions brought to school.

CLASS NEWS

CLASS OF 2010: The Senior Class will be sponsoring a Valentine Day Bake Sale on Friday, February 12th. This is an all day bake sale so be sure to bring some extra change to school so you can treat yourself to something sweet. Seniors be sure to bake some goodies. Watch for e-mail reminders.

SOPHOMORE CLASS: On March 20, Kaplan will be hosting a PSAT Practice Test for the class of 2012. The cost is \$10 per student. All you need to bring is at least 2 number two pencils and a calculator. On April 5th at 7:00pm, there will be a PSAT Test Strategies Workshop. This follow-up workshop is for parents and students. All of which will take place at Winchester High School. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the Sophomore Class at: winchesterhigh2012@gmail.com.

GENERAL SCHOOL NEWS

An Evening of Sharing of National History Day Projects: Innovation in History

Come see the fruits of student research in Social Studies on February 8th. Join other students, parents and teachers on Monday evening, February 8th, in the Social Studies Open Area from 7 to 8 PM and learn about student research through visual displays, documentaries, dramatic presentations, student created websites and written papers. This year's theme is Innovation in History and students have spent five months preparing for this competition. Student work will be displayed throughout the Social Studies Open Area. At the end of the evening winners from the Winchester 9th and 10th grade classes participating in the National History Day Competition will be announced.

Dandelion Project Still Accepting Applications

Students interested in going on the summer trip to the Dandelion School in Beijing, China this summer still have time to apply for this special summer service learning opportunity. The trip runs from June 16th to June 28th. If you are interested in learning more about the program or getting an application, stop by the Social Studies Department and see Ms. Kangas or Mrs. Harvey.

The next meeting of the Language Based Learning Disability Parents Group has been changed to Tuesday February 2 at 7pm in the McCall School Library. We have had 30+ parents attend our last two meetings. If you have a child with dyslexia or other language based learning disability please join us for support and helpful conversation. Thank you, Amy Kraft akpk1282@verizon.net and Kim Lazarus kimberly.lazarus@verizon.net

PFA NEWS

PFA President's Letter from Caren Connelly

What constitutes a true 21st century education for our high school students? What should we be teaching? How should we do it and where should we do it? Big questions and ones that many teachers, administrators and parents think about every day. Please plan to join us for the February PFA meeting to share your ideas and learn what initiatives are already underway to make WHS an even better school. We will discuss a WFEE grant designed to expand the teaching of science, technology, engineering and math in our schools and also hear about a Focus on the Future of WHS.

Don't forget that the PFA meeting will be the second Wednesday of February, Feb. 10th. The WFEE Trivia Bee will be Wednesday, February 3rd at Town Hall, 7pm.

WHS PFA DIRECT APPEAL / 2009-2010

The Board of the WHS Parent Faculty 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.

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.**

Thank you!

The Guide



A Monthly Newsletter from the WHS Guidance Department

Selective Service Registration

A recent mailing from the Selective Service System's District of Massachusetts office requested that male students be informed of their responsibility to register for Selective Service. The letter states that, "By registering, the student maintains his eligibility for student loans, federally funded vocational training programs, and Civil Service employment opportunities." It explains, "By not registering, he is in violation of the law." The Guidance Department is alerting parents of male students 18 years of age or older, who may be applying for federally-sponsored financial aid programs, that the student must register for Selective Service. The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Assistance) asks whether the student has registered with Selective Service. The student becomes ineligible for financial aid if he has not registered. A student may register for Selective Service online at: www.sss.gov.

Winchester Scholarship Foundation Applications are available in the Guidance Department. Applications are due to Lindsay Santini, WSF Chairperson, no later than May 15, 2010

Course Selection

Course selection for the 2010-2011 school year will begin in March. Students will meet with Guidance Counselors to select courses based on teacher recommendations.

Phillips Andover Academy Summer Opportunities Fair Sunday, February 7, 2010 - The 19th annual 2009 Summer Opportunities Annual Fair will take place on Sunday, February 8, 2009 in the Case Memorial Cage, located off Route 28 near the intersection of Salem Street on the Phillips Academy campus in Andover, Massachusetts. The fair will be open to the public from noon to 2 p.m. Admission is free and the facility is wheelchair-accessible. This event is sponsored by the Phillips Academy Summer Opportunities Office and the Parents of Students of Phillips Academy (PSPA). Representatives from more than 80 local, national and international summer opportunities programs, as well as interim year programs, will be available to talk with interested students and their families. This unique fair offers a wide range of programs that focus on interim year, academic enrichment, outdoor adventure, international homestay, travel, internships, community service, camps, arts, sports and more for middle school and high school students. For more information, call the Summer Opportunities Office at 978-749-4480 or visit www.andover.edu/summerops/fair.

Seniors

Refer to Naviance Family Connection for a list of available scholarships.

CONNECT AND COMMIT

Connect and Commit Service Club Meets Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30pm in the WHS Library

You can sign up for the opportunities listed below at the weekly meetings or in the Connect and Commit office, which is in the library of the high school. If you have questions about Connect and Commit, visit Kristen Ritchie, Program Director, in the Connect and Commit Office or contact Kristen via email 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 February, we will be focusing on Elder Issues. Below are events and other activities that the students have planned around these issues.

February: Elder Issues

Wednesday February 3rd

WFEE Trivia Bee, 7-9:30pm at Town Hall. Five volunteers are needed to help work the lights and audio equipment, help with refreshments and event set up and also to time the 5th grade contestants.

Sunday February 7th

Teenlife Boston Service Fair 1-4pm at the Chestnut Hill Mall. Students and parents will find numerous organizations with information tables. It is a great place to find new volunteer opportunities, summer programs, college planning resources, internships and more. They will also have live entertainment from several local A Cappella groups.

Wednesday February 24th

Love is Still in the Air Event 2:30-3:30 at the Jenks Center. Join Connect & Commit and the Jenks Center in a late valentines celebration filled with

activities, refreshments, crafts and a live performance from the Octets.

* 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.

Ongoing Opportunities

- Best Buddies Program: Be a friend and mentor to another student with intellectual disabilities * Boys are needed!
- TOP Hoops Program Sundays from 2:30-3:30, January 3rd- February 7th in the Ambrose gym. Help teach students with disabilities basketball skills. You will help to organize drills and games and provide fun activities and social interaction.
- Muraco Tutoring Program- Wednesdays 2:30-3:30 January 13th-April 14th in the Muraco Library. Become a tutor and mentor to an elementary school student for one afternoon every week. Provide homework help, reading assistance and fun.
- PAWS- a regional organization who's mission is to promote and protect the rights and well-being of all domestic animals and to foster a greater understanding of animal welfare and animal rights through education. Volunteer opportunities may include working with the organization to help facilitate cat adoption, fostering, and rescue both in person and by helping with newsletter and web updates.
- World Challenge Expedition Trip to Ecuador in the summer of 2011. An opportunity for students to travel with a group of peers and engage in service work and exploration. More information will be provided to the classes of 2012 and 2013 during a student assembly on January 25th followed by an informational session for parents Thursday February 4th at 7pm. Any questions in the mean time can be directed to Program Director, Kristen Ritchie
- WHS Recycling Program- Help the WHS community to recycle all of its bottles and cans. Every other Thursday, a group of students is needed to empty the new recycling bins around the school and bring the bags of bottles and can to the loading dock for pick up. Volunteers should also replace the liners inside of the bins when they are finished.
- If you are looking for service opportunities over February vacation, please speak with Kristen Ritchie in the Connect & Commit office or via email at kritchie@winchester.k12.ma.us



Winchester Youth Center, 4158R Main Street, Winchester MA 01890, 781-721-0906, www.wincyc.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

The **WYC Peer Leaders** are a group of WHS 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.

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.

Are you searching for the perfect Valentine's Day present for the special girls in your life? Then stop by the WYC and check out WYC Jewels: Original creations all designed by the Peer Leaders - Made from recycled materials, glass and metal beads, pearls, turquoise, and more - Stop by the WYC any day from 2:00-5:00 to see what we've created - All proceeds benefit our youth development programs
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

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

During April vacation 15 of the WYC Peer Leaders will be participating in our 5th annual Habitat for Humanity trip. We will be traveling to Erie Pennsylvania to complete a week-long service-learning experience building homes for families in need. We are currently working toward fundraising 100% of the expenses for our trip including a \$2250 donation to the Habitat affiliate. 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:

♥ **Jewelry Sales** ♥ **Are you searching for the perfect Valentine's Day present for the special girls in your life? Come buy all of your Valentine's presents** - WYC Peer Leaders will be outside the cafeteria during lunches on Monday, February 8th and Tuesday, February 9th selling our original jewelry. Original creations all designed by the Peer Leaders - Made from recycled materials, glass and metal beads, pearls, turquoise, and more

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

Raffle tickets - Buy your \$20 tickets for the chance to win: iPod Touch, GPS Navigation System, \$100 Simon Mall Gift Card, Drawing: April 9th
Contact the WYC for more information

COMMUNITY NEWS

WFEE News:

- BEE there on February 3rd at the WFEE Trivia Bee to support WHS! The Bee starts at 7pm, Town Hall, and there are three teams contending from the WHS community: the PFA team, Faculty team and, for the first time (thanks to sponsorship by Emily Ehl of Waterfield Sotheby's International Realty), a student team. For more information check www.wfee.org.
- WHS students are working with the Disability Access Commission on a WFEE grant to help explain autism to elementary aged children. Using scripts and large puppets purchased by WFEE, the students will be performing at Winchester elementary schools in the coming months.
- Teacher grant applications are due February 26th

Free Online Help for Students!! Service Offered by Winchester Public Library!

HelpNow!, powered by Brainfuse, is online tutoring offered through the Winchester Public Library. Log on to the library website databases, and students in grades 3-12 can receive LIVE help in English/Language Arts, Math, Science, or Social Studies. The online classroom uses Instant Messenger and a whiteboard to share the messages. HelpNow also has a Writing Lab! Send your paper to a tutor and receive a constructive response within 24 hours! There are no session limits and the hours are Monday – Sunday, 2:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Take advantage of this special service for homework help or specific skills building! Give it a try, fill out a brief survey form in the children's room at the Winchester Public Library, and you will be entered in a raffle for Book Ends gift certificates! Deadline: February 19th!

Parent to Parent Presents:

Parenting Book Group discussion of "Mom, Jason's Breathing on Me!" *The Solutions to Sibling Bickering* by Anthony Wolf, Ph.D. Join us on Thursday, February 25, 2010 from 7 to 9pm at the Winchester Public Library. This insightful book explores one of the greatest banes of parenting-- sibling bickering. The author, using anecdotes from his own life, gives parents ammunition through tried-and-true tactics. Wolf addresses many other aspects of childrearing including how parents can teach fairness to children while remaining above the fray. Books will be available at the circulation desk of the library and on sale at BookEnds. You do not have to have read the book to participate.

The Talk: What Your Kids Need to Hear from YOU About Sex

Sharon Maxwell, PhD is a clinical psychologist with a private practice, author, speaker, consultant, and mom. Back by popular demand, Dr. Maxwell will speak to parents on Wednesday, March 10th, 7:30 to 9:30 pm at the Winchester High School. Her book (of the same title) will be on sale from BookEnds at the program. Our children are being barraged by sexual information and stimulation at an earlier and earlier age. As parents, we need to be proactive in giving our children the information and behavioral guidelines they need to successfully handle both media and peer pressure. Schools can do only so much to teach about basic facts and healthy habits. We need to begin a deeper conversation with our kids while our opinion is still more valuable than the influence of their peers. However, it is never too late to start. This program will present parents with practical and positive ways of beginning and sustaining a dialogue about sexuality that includes values, guidelines for behavior, and peer pressure.

Save the Date for a Winter Fiesta! Come out of the cold and turn up the heat for a night that will support local arts and help to make a splash! The Winchester Cultural Council and FAN's Borggaard Beach Revitalization Committee are pleased to present a Cultural Fiesta to be held on March 13th from 7:30 to 10:30 pm at the Town Hall Auditorium to help raise funds for the arts in Winchester and the revitalization of Borggaard Beach. Live salsa music performed by the 8-piece Tequila Amigos Latin Orchestra will be sure to liven up the room! Light refreshments and a cash bar will also be available. We are pleased to announce Mr. Allan Eyden will take to the stage as our honored guest and auctioneer and a 50/50 raffle will also be taking place throughout the night. You can show your support for the community and for the spirit of the occasion prior to the event by becoming an event sponsor, program advertiser, or by reserving a private table- you can even select a donor package option! Please contact Elizabeth Angelino at info@fansplash.org for more information! Tickets will be available for purchase soon, via PayPal at www.fansplash.org, or at Bookends (559 Main St, Winchester, MA). Please feel free to email WinCulturalCouncil@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to volunteer on the Fiesta Committee! So save the date and grab your friends and colleagues and enjoy a party that will be sure to turn up the heat and make a splash!

One Winchester, Many Traditions to show Monsoon Wedding Feb 8 The second year of the international film series sponsored by *One Winchester, Many Traditions* continues with the Indian film *Monsoon Wedding* (114 minutes, R-rated for language) on Monday, February 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library Meeting Room. This series is free and open to the public; seating is limited. We hope you will mark your calendars for the entire series and join us for thought-provoking films and lively discussion with your neighbors. The other films in the series this year will be: *Keys to the House* (Italy) on March 8, and *Chocolat* (France) on April 12. *One Winchester, Many Traditions* is a project to welcome the town's residents from other countries and to celebrate the varied cultural heritages of all of Winchester's residents. Made possible by the generosity of the John and Mary Murphy Educational Foundation, *One Winchester, Many Traditions* is produced by the Winchester Public Library in conjunction with the Multicultural Network. For further information, check the library's website, www.winpubliclib.org, or contact Janet Nelson, Community Services Librarian, at jnelson@minilib.net or 781-721-7171 x 20.

Winchester Multicultural Network is proud to present Black History Month Program: "Claiming ALL Our History - Mystic Valley Slave Trade

Revealed" Date: Wednesday, February 24th, 2010 Time: 6:30 – 9:00 PM Location: Griffin Photography Museum, 67 Shore Road, Winchester, MA Our program will begin with viewing portions of the film, "Traces of the Trade—a Story From the Deep North", where filmmaker Katrina Browne discovers that her New England ancestors were the largest slave- trading family in U.S history. We will then hear from our three panelists: Reverend David Pettee, a Winchester native, will share his research into his family's involvement with the New England slave trade and how he traced and met the descendents of his family's slaves; Dee Morris, a Medford historian and author, will share her research into Medford's involvement in the slave trade; and Reverend Neal Pearson, of the St. John's Baptist Church in Woburn, will share his reflections. Afterwards, Reverend Eric Dupee of Crawford Memorial Methodist Church and the Winchester Multicultural Network will facilitate a discussion. **The program is free of charge – All are Welcome!**

NextDoor Theater Event! Saturday February 27 (Revised Date) Showtime is 8pm, champagne and sweets reception 1/2 hour before the show.

Save the date for a wonderful evening of cabaret entertainment featuring actress and singer Angela Williams. Ms. Williams was featured in Winchester film producer/director Pamela Tanner Boll's documentary "Who Does She Think She Is?" which was screened at the NextDoor Theater last winter through the Multi Cultural Network and again this past November. Anyone who saw the film will remember Angela's outstanding voice as well as her dynamic stage personality. This will be a night to remember!

The NextDoor Theater, located at 40 Cross St in Winchester, is excited about bringing this talented artist to our community for a unique evening of live music for all to enjoy. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at www.nextdoortheater.org, or call (781) 729-NEXT(6398). Seating is limited and all proceeds will benefit the NextDoor Theater and its mission to "build community through the arts with education, participation and presentation."