

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

PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ FEBRUARY 2011
For up to date info visit our website at www.whspfa.org

FROM THE OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL TOM GWIN

As I am writing this, we have already had two snow days in January with extreme cold and more snow in the forecast. I hope this next storm goes out to sea. We have not seen a winter like this in a very long time.

The Race to Nowhere presentations at McCall in November brought a great deal of feedback regarding the volume of homework at WHS as well as homework assigned during vacations. In response, WHS will form a committee to develop a workable homework policy for the 2011-12 school year. The committee will include parents, students, and teachers. If you would like to serve on this committee, please send me an email at tgwin@winchester.k12.ma.us.

The Steering Committee continues to work on the WHS **Focus on the Future Strategic Plan**. The process is taking longer than we originally thought because we want to make sure we get it right. Making change happen at an institution like WHS is very complex and we want to make sure we have a plan that is comprehensive and feasible. We're at the point that we have a draft that needs fine tuning. Stay tuned for more information next month.

The WHS Course Selection book will be available on Edline soon. We will send an email when it is available. The registration process will begin during the week of March 7.

MESSAGES FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARDS: Every student, at the beginning of this school year, was issued their own identification card. It is imperative that every student carry their card. It is now used for library book access, the cafeteria and attendance. If the card has been lost or misplaced, the student may purchase another card at the cost of five dollars. Please see Ms. Gustin in the main office for details.

OFF CAMPUS: Parents are reminded that Senior and Junior privileges (open ends and lunch) are as follows: Seniors who have open end privileges are only allowed to arrive at school or leave school for one period at the beginning or the end of the day. Additionally, lunch privileges are limited to the lunch period that the student is assigned. They do not include any class or assigned academic block (study hall) during the lunch periods.

Junior lunch privileges are only for the lunch period that they are assigned and not the entire lunch block from 11:21 ~ 1:03. Juniors must attend assigned classes or study halls during the lunch block. Failure to follow school policy for these privileges could result in forfeiture of these privileges. Any student who leaves campus without permission will be suspended.

MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

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 the lockers. Under NO circumstances does the Town of Winchester, Winchester High School, the Administration, or its staff assume any liability for personal possessions brought to school.

PFA NEWS

FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Ann Hibbard and Martha Sampson

We had a very informative meeting in January with school Resource Officer Stephen Palmer. He shared stories and listened to parents' concerns about safety in Winchester. He stressed that we should feel free to call him (721-7020, x1121) with ANY concerns. Tom Gwin mentioned looking into developing a homework policy for next year. Direct Appeal is going well and we are getting closer to our goal. If you have not yet donated please consider doing so; information is below. We have new Freshman class parent advisors, Patti Greene, Carol Hanson, Sheryl Brennan, and Kathleen Foley. The WFEE Trivia Bee is coming on February 9th. It should be a fun event. Please watch and cheer on the PFA team of Scott Davis, Jacki Santoro and Robin Wolf. Our Next PFA meeting is Wednesday, February 2, 2011 at 7:30. Hope to see you there!

UPDATE ON THE WHS PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION'S 2010-2011 DIRECT APPEAL

It's not too late! We are still seeking donations for this year's Direct Appeal. Last year from Direct Appeal fundraising efforts, \$24,000 in wide-ranging grants were provided to WHS teachers, organizations, and leaders who needed academic supplies, equipment, curriculum or enrichment expenditures not covered by the school budget. **Year to date, we have funding for \$21,000 in grants thus far approved for this academic year. Your contribution matters!**

If you received a yellow Direct Appeal post card reminder in early December, and have not yet made a contribution to this year's Direct Appeal, please consider making a contribution today!

To those families that have already contributed – **thank you!**

Although a contribution of any amount is very much appreciated, we ask that each family consider making a one-time contribution for this school year of \$75.00 or more, which includes PFA dues.

Contributions may be made by check or via PayPal:

- Checks may be made payable to the "WHS PFA" and sent to Joanne O'Donnell, 9 Pierrepont Road, Winchester, MA 01890. Please include your child's name and grade on the memo line of your check.
- Contributions via PayPal may be made by going to the Direct Appeal page on the WHS PFA website, www.whspa.org. Click on the yellow "Donate" button at the bottom of the Direct Appeal page and follow the directions provided.

Thank you for your participation!

SCHOOL NEWS

NEWS FROM THE CLASS OF 2011

Attention all Senior Parents!

We need your help; we need your energy. Senior activities are fast approaching! We are looking for parents who are willing to help coordinate or serve on committees for the following activities:

Thursday, June 2, Senior Luau @ Borggaard Beach from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. This traditional WHS Senior event includes a cookout, games, and a bonfire.

Friday, June 3, Graduation Rehearsal Luncheon Students gather together for the traditional farewell luncheon. A simple menu of sandwiches is catered by D'Agostino's. Parent Class Advisors: Patty Castro, Mary Doherty, and Judy Spang will be there to offer assistance, support, and guidance.

Please contact Mary Doherty at olsen_philip@hotmail.com if you would like to be involved in these fun and memorable activities for your special senior. These events cannot happen without your help! Thank you!

Sunday, June 5, "THE ALL NIGHT GRADUATION PARTY" This committee is already established, but we are in need of support people. Anyone interested in this event please contact Patty Castro at patty@castrofamily.org.

NEWS FROM THE CLASS OF 2013

The Class Officers, with the help of their advisors, will be hosting a parent/guardian social at **Lucia's Restaurant on Friday, February 11th to coincide with the Class of 2013 Semi-Formal**. The idea is that you would sign-in your child at Town Hall for their semi-formal and then walk over to Lucia's for a few hours of social time with friends before having to pick-up your child after the dance.

TICKETS: The tickets for this event will be \$20 per person, and include hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction. Tickets will go on sale January 21st. Seating is limited and tickets will be handled first come-first served. To order tickets starting on January 21, e-mail Anne Marie Hill at hill.davis@comcast.net with your name, address and phone number and the number of tickets you would like to purchase. You'll receive a confirmation e-mail with instructions for payment and ticket pick-up.

AUCTION ITEMS: Thank you to all who have contacted us with a silent auction donation! We have some terrific items coming in, including golf outings, gift baskets and sporting event tickets. But we are still in need of a few more items. If you would like to make a donation to the silent auction, please contact Anne Marie Hill at hill.davis@comcast.net. We hope that you will join us for a fun evening supporting the Class of 2013.

Class Officers: Kenzie Koss, Mike Marotta, Dan Boulanger and Alex George, **Parent Advisors:** Anne Marie Hill, Lia Borrelli, Cicely Hall, **Teacher Advisor:** Krystin Morin

NEWS FROM THE CLASS OF 2014

With the new year upon us we'd like to let you know what the freshman class has been up to. The class officers; President Deirdre Macrorie, VP Dan Haloran, Secretary Shirlane Chan, and Treasurer Jay Ryan, make a great team with lots of ideas for "**Class Unity**". In October a trip to **Witches Woods** was

well attended and a huge success. An outdoor **Bake Sale** held Nov. 20 and 21 during **Veterans Day Soccer** weekend proved to be profitable. Our spirited freshman manned the table where generously donated homemade baked goods and hot chocolate kept spectators and players toasty and warm. Next came some lighthearted competition among the classes with the **Annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale**. Congratulations to the Freshman class for selling the most pies. They will take over this particular fundraiser for the next 3 years. The officers continued their enthusiasm for class unity with the sale of **2014 t-shirts**. Many freshman can be seen in the hallways and at WHS events proudly wearing the "**Black and Red**". You can still purchase a t-shirt by contacting 2014whs@gmail.com. Class unity was front and center during **Freshman Friday** where they watched their fellow students perform in the WHS production of **Rumors**. As the holidays approached another enthusiastic freshman, Lisa Fantini, helped to spearhead the class-sponsored **Coat Drive**. Thanks to everyone in the community who contributed. 130 coats were collected for those in need. In addition, 45 toys were collected and distributed to various local charities. In January, a fun night of **tubing at Nashoba Valley** was held for the freshman. And parents... stay tuned for information regarding our **big fundraiser in April**.

Patti Greene, Karen Hanson, Kathleen Foley, Sheryl Brennan, Parent Reps. class of 2014

DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Technology Committee on December 20, 2010 was canceled due to weather conditions. The next meeting is scheduled for March 1, Tuesday, from 7-9 pm. We will be meeting in the library at Winchester High School. If you might be interested in joining this committee, please join us for this informational session. Topics for discussion will include an update of the state of technology within our schools and the committee's work over the years to move the District Tech Plan forward. Any questions please contact Annamaria Schrimpf, Director of Educational Technology at 781-721-7007 or aschrimpf@winchester.k12.ma.us.

CONNECT AND COMMIT

The 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 High School library. 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.

The Guide



A Monthly Newsletter from the WHS Guidance Department February 2011

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 no later than May 15, 2011.

Freshman Parents

An informative coffee for ninth grade parents was held in January. If you were unable to attend, please refer to the Guidance website for

the information presented.

Sophomore Parents

An informative coffee for tenth grade parents was held in January. If you were unable to attend, please refer to the Guidance website for the information presented.

During the month of January, Guidance Counselors met with all tenth grade students. Students received their password for Naviance and completed the *Do What You Are* personality assessment. Using results from this assessment, students were then instructed on how to use the career exploration tools. Please review the results of these assessments on Naviance with your child as this is the first step in the postsecondary planning process.

Junior Parent Night

The Guidance Department's Early College Planning Night for parents of juniors is scheduled for Tuesday evening, February 1, 2011, at 7:00 P.M. in the auditorium.

Seniors

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



**Winchester Youth Center, 458R Main Street, Winchester MA 01890, 781-721-0906,
www.wync.com**

**It's our 10th anniversary
The WYC has been in its current space at McCall for 10 years. Come celebrate with us!**

If you are a teenager who wants: to do something good for others...something fun to do after school...cool events and activities to attend...to spread the word about important issues...to be a role model to others...to give something back to the community...to learn more about yourself and what you're capable of...then the WYC is the place for you

The WYC offers something for everyone, come check us out and find out how you can get involved. Go to www.wync.com for more information.

All 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!

WYC COFFEE HOUSE

Friday, January 28th 8:00-11:00

Featuring live music, delicious homemade desserts, frappes, and coffee drinks--\$5 admission. High school students only. As with all WYC events, there is no re-entry and outside drinks are not allowed. Proceeds will benefit the WYC Peer Leaders' April vacation Habitat for Humanity trip.

VALENTINE'S JEWELRY & CRAFT PARTY

Sunday, January 30th 1:00-4:00pm

1 Alden Lane. Featuring jewelry, cookie jars, journals, note cards, Valentine's ornaments, and many additional crafts created by the WYC Peer Leaders. Stop by anytime from 1:00-4:00 and pick up something for your sweetheart! All proceeds will benefit our April vacation Habitat for Humanity trip. Check our website for more info.

RAFFLE TICKETS

Buy your \$10 tickets for the chance to win an Xbox 360, GPS Navigation System, or a \$50 Dunkin Donuts Gift Card. Drawing is April 11th. Contact the WYC for more information. All proceeds will benefit our April vacation Habitat for Humanity trip.

ALS COMMUNITY OF HOPE

Please support our efforts to defeat ALS! Go to www.alsa.org/goto/haleyscomets. Help us support people in our community with ALS and spread awareness of the urgency to find treatment and a cure for this disease. Please check our website for upcoming fundraising events to benefit the ALS Association.

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 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

COMMUNITY NEWS**WATCH THE TRIVIA BEE!**

The annual WFEE Trivia Bee is fast approaching on **Wednesday February 9th!** As you know, the Trivia Bee is a town wide community-building event that raises funds for the Winchester Foundation For Educational Excellence. WFEE supports innovation and excellence in Winchester schools through grants and system wide initiatives that are beyond the reach of available public funds. Every child has been impacted by WFEE and we thank all of YOU for making this possible with your support of WFEE and events like the Annual Trivia BEE!

Come to Town Hall at 7:00 to cheer on the WHS Faculty and PFA teams, or watch on WinCam!

PARENT TO PARENT PRESENTS

Helping Children and Teens Cope with Stress & Anxiety

Rick Irving, LICSW, returns as one of Parent to Parent's most popular speakers. In this presentation, he will address the issues of stress and anxiety in children and teens. Rick will discuss how to evaluate the level of stress in certain situations, and the level of coping skill in each child. Learn about which responses are part of the child's natural coping processes, and which ones may indicate a more serious level of anxiety. Parents will be given language and techniques that they can use - and those to avoid - for helping children develop the ability to manage worry, decrease their anxious responses, and feel more confident. Rick Irving is a psychotherapist and school counselor, who has been a frequent speaker for Parent to Parent. Please join us on Tuesday, February 15th at 7:30 PM at McCall Middle School (snow date Feb. 16th.) For more information visit: www.parenttoparentwinchester.org

FRIENDS OF ART

If you would like to help **support the art program in your child's school** please join us as we plan for the **Party for the Arts!** The theme for this year is "**20/20 Visions**" and the date is set for **March 26, 2011**. Mark your calendar!

Our next meeting will be on Monday, February 7, 2011 at 7 PM in the Winchester High School Photo Lab (diagonally across from the cafeteria). For more information email winchesterfoa@hotmail.com

Please join us and learn more about how you can help keep the visual arts a meaningful part of your child's school experience.

THANK YOU FROM BOY SCOUT TROOP 507

On behalf of Boy Scout Troop 507, we wish to express our gratitude to the entire Winchester community for its enthusiastic support of our seventeenth annual Christmas Tree Pick-Up fundraiser. On Saturday, January 8, the seventy scouts and adults in twenty-two vehicles collected approximately 1,250 trees from all over town and transported them to the Transfer Station. The boys are proud to provide this service to

their neighbors, and your donations help the troop raise money for monthly trips, summer camp, high adventure trips, and troop equipment.

We thank the many residents who signed up for the Christmas tree pick-up service and those who generously donated additional funds. A special thanks is due the Winchester merchants, newspapers and web sites that permitted us to advertise for customers, and the Town of Winchester Department of Public Works for its help. We are especially grateful to Gene Fredey of Carole Kitchen and Bath Design for assisting with the pick-up and allowing us to use his truck.

In addition, we would like to thank the following merchants for their generous donations, which also helped to make the fundraiser a success: Dunkin Donuts (Main Street, Winchester); Gloria's Pizzeria, Market Basket (Burlington), Panera Bread (Burlington), Roche Brothers (Burlington), Stop & Shop, and Whole Foods.

Lastly, this event could not have been possible without the scouts, families, and friends of Troop 507, including former scouts and their families.

Robin Smith, Tree Pick-Up Committee Chair and Christopher Rogers, Scoutmaster

YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL FUNDRAISER

Join your Baseball and Softball friends for a night of "Love and Laughter" themed in honor of Valentines Day! Friday February 11, 2011 starting at 7pm at the Woburn Country Club. Enjoy the Comedy of Tony V. He is no stranger to benefits and fundraisers performing at functions for The American Cancer Society, Children's Hospital, and many other charitable organizations. He has also been a guest on Jay Leno, Comedy Central and The A&E channel. Bid on Silent and Live Auction items and support SYBS. Proceeds will be used to purchase electronic scoreboards for Ginn and Skillings Fields to benefit both the boys' and girls' programs and fund the recently established SYBS Scholarships. Tickets are \$45.00 per person. [Order tickets here.](#) Only 250 tickets will be sold so don't be left out! [You can find the SYBS homepage here.](#)

FEBRUARY COMMUNITY EVENTS AT WINCHESTER COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL

Thursday, February 3 7:30-9PM **Open Mic Night**

Join us in Nichols Performance Hall for the return of "First Thursdays" Open Mic Nights. We welcome performers, families and friends for this lively emceed, coffee house-style event. Solos, duos, and bands welcome. This month's host and performer, guitarist & songwriter Mike Verge. Free admission and open to the community, performer sign-ups begin at 7 PM. Check out the full event description here: <http://winchestermusic.org/the-underground/open.aspx>

Tuesday, February 8 7:30-9PM **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>

Thursday, February 10 7:30-9PM **Broadway on Highland** open sing event. 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. Free admission and open to the community. Check out the full event description here: <http://winchestermusic.org/concerts/broadway.aspx>

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Race, the Power of an Illusion

Sunday, February 13, 2011 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Church Hall

Free and all are welcome

The Peace and Justice Committee of St. Mary's Church and the Multicultural Network are honoring Black History Month with a screening of excerpts from *Race, the Power of an Illusion*, a documentary series that reviews the development of the concept of race and its impact on social and political policy. The three segments of the documentary are titled: *The Difference Between Us* which cites scientific evidence for why the peoples of the world cannot be divided into distinct biological groups; *The Story We Tell* which traces the origins of the racial idea to the European conquest of the New World and the American slave system; and *The House We Live In* which deals with institutional racism and its impact on housing, neighborhoods, and communities in America. If you haven't seen *Race, the Power of an Illusion*, we urge you to attend this screening and participate in the discussion of this powerful film.

READ, MEET, EAT: AN INTERNATIONAL BOOK CLUB

"One Winchester, Many Traditions" is sponsoring a new book club, Read, Meet, Eat – an international book club (with snacks!) The second meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. to discuss ***The Unknown Errors of Our Lives*** by Chitra Divakaruni. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to attend. Copies of the book will be available on loan through the Library (ask at the Circulation Desk for book club books) and there will be copies for purchase at a discount at BookEnds (mention the book group). For more information, please contact Janet Nelson at jnelson@minlib.net or 721-7171 x20. "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.

FARMERS' MARKET LECTURE SERIES

As we wait for the farmers market to open for the 2011 season on June 11, we are happy to announce our Winter/Spring Lecture Series. These talks offer a great opportunity to learn about a variety of topics and to stay connected to the farmers market community in Winchester as we all eagerly await the opening of the market in June. The second lecture will be on Organic Gardening, presented by Demetra Tseckares, February 15, 2011, 7:00 pm, Winchester Public Library

The farmers market will also be hosting a potluck dinner in Winchester on February 13. Come meet other vendors, volunteers, and customers in a friendly, casual atmosphere. If you are interested in attending the potluck, contact ahirschfeld@winchesterfarmersmarket.org for more information.

NEWS FROM THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Winchester Recreation & Community Education

www.winrec.com

COLLEGE ESSAY BOOT CAMP (for students)

Instructor: John Halbrooks

The thought of beginning your senior year—with the attendant pressures of maintaining good grades, playing sports, taking the SAT's, squeezing in college visits, applying for financial aid and filling out college applications—is stressful enough without worrying about writing the dreaded “college essay”. This course is designed to minimize your stress by helping you finish your college essay before you finish classes your junior year. Together we will work through a process of self-discovery that will free you up to write a clear, meaningful, perhaps even passionate essay that will give college admissions officers a very good sense of just who you are. Before classes end, you will breathe a sigh of relief knowing that you have in-hand an essay you can confidently include with your college applications. In this course, we will discuss and dissect a variety of creative approaches that will prepare you to tackle this writing project with confidence. We will meet twice as a class, with follow-up critiques by e-mail. Two sessions

John Halbrooks is a long-time editor/writer for business magazines (Inc., Club Business International, Purchasing), and has contributed freelance articles to many others, including Boston Magazine, Parade, and TWA Ambassador.

111-BF-03A	Mon. Feb. 7 & 28	7-8:30pm
Winchester High School	Skillings Rd.	\$99

NEW DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS (for parents)

Instructor: Joe Ferreira

Whether it's in 18 years or next year, learn strategies to use to save for your children or grandchildren's education. This program is designed for parents and grandparents interested in learning the options available for saving and paying for a child's education. It's a realistic overview of education costs and the various options for savings for education, including 529 Plans, Coverdell Education Savings Plan and Financial Aid, etc. A \$5 materials fee is included in the registration. One session

111-BF-04A	Wed. Feb. 9	7-8:30pm
Winchester High School	Skillings Rd.	\$25

MAXIMIZE YOUR COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID (for parents)

Instructor: Don Anderson, College Funding Advisor

This one night workshop is a must for all parents of college-bound high school students, especially freshmen and sophomores. We will demystify the college financial aid process and teach you how to access the more than \$90 billion in financial aid dollars, monies that are even available to “high income” families and business owners. Strategies will be presented that will help you protect your assets by maximizing your eligibility for aid, effectively lowering your college costs. You will learn the optimum time to set the strategies in place (Hint, best before junior year) and why if you wait until the financial aid deadline to file your forms, you may miss out on the full amount of aid you qualify for. You will also

learn how to minimize the equity in your home. A free comprehensive analysis will be provided for those attending the class. One session.

111-BF-05A	Tu. Mar. 8	\$25/single
111-BF-05B	Tu. Mar. 8	\$29/couple
Winchester High School	Skillings Rd.	7-9pm

WAYS TO REGISTER

On-line Registration: www.winrec.com

Phone-In Registration: Call 781-721-7126, 24 hours.

Mail-In Registration: Refer to the registration form and instructions on the inside back cover of the brochure that was mailed to Winchester residents. Include the signed waiver.

FAX Registration: Refer to the registration form and instructions on the inside back cover of the brochure that was mailed to Winchester residents. Include the signed waiver.

Walk-In Registration: Register at the Recreation office at 263 Main St. between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.