

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

PARENT-FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ FEBRUARY 2016
Visit our website at <http://www.whspfa.org>

FROM THE OFFICE OF INTERIM PRINCIPAL CHRIS KELLEY

Hello WHS,

I always liked the month of February. For me, it was always a month of big events. In an elementary school, educators celebrate important milestones like the "100th Day of School" and Valentine's Day. Though less evident in a high school, February also marks a month of milestones. This month becomes what I like to think of as the "sweet spot" of the school year. No longer new to the grade or the course, students are mostly comfortable and well versed on what they need to do to be successful in their classes and activities. This is the time where they can focus on their bigger questions "What kind of student am I?" "What kind of student would I like to be?" "What are my plans beyond high school?" "How can I make strides to making my dreams become reality?"

In our busy, over scheduled lives, it is easy to forget those who have made a lasting influence on our lives. Some of us credit friends, family, a coach, a teacher or another important person in our lives that helped us to follow our dreams and led us down a path that allowed us to answer some of the questions aforementioned.

I recently read a blog written by an educator entitled, "One of the Best Assignments I Have Ever Given". In the article the educator gave the following assignment:

Directions: Think about someone that did something or said something that changed your life for the better. Someone you have never properly thanked. Your task is to write a letter to this individual and if possible deliver it to them in person. The letter should be about 300 words. Be specific about what they did for you and how it affected your life. Let them know what you are doing now and how you often remember those words. Hopefully you can both share your feelings about this moment.

Assignment: You should write a two paragraph reflection of your gratitude visit. One paragraph should describe your feelings as you wrote and delivered this letter. The second paragraph should describe how the person who received your gratitude responded.

I love this idea. How often do any of us take the time to thank people for their roles in our lives? I challenge all of us to think of February as our "Sharing the Love" month. Think of

one person that you really should thank for something that they did for you along the way. Reach out and hopefully plan (if possible) to visit that person to express your gratitude and thanks.

As JFK once said, "We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives." I plan to reach out to several of my mentors who have led me along the way...will you?

PFA NEWS

Hooray!!! Mid-term examinations are over. Hopefully everyone in your house survived and are gearing up to start semester 2.

February brings a couple events to our high school community. First is the WFEE Trivia Bee. The Bee will be held on Wednesday, February 3rd at the Lynch School from 7:00-9:30. The WHS PFA team, 2 Gents and a Lady, will be represented by Malini Dutta, John Ulwick and Walter Scully. Please stop by and support our team as the evening is always a lot of fun and supports a great organization. The second event is the WHS Valentine's Treat for faculty, staff and administration. This is a great annual tradition where the PFA and parents show WHS personnel how much we appreciate all they do for our children. Donations are welcome, <http://www.signupgenius.com/Valentine's Treat>.

As Valentine's Day is around the corner, the PFA would LOVE if you would consider making a donation to the direct appeal. We are so close to making our goal of \$30,000. To date we have raised a little over \$28,000, so a big THANK YOU to everyone who has made a donation. Please considering picking the direct appeal to be your VALENTINE and make a donation through our convenient online payment system by clicking [here](#).

The next PFA meeting is scheduled for March 8th (this is a date change) at 7:30pm in the WHS dining commons. The main topic for the meeting will be a presentation from the WHS STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) directors. We hope to see you there with questions in hand.

Sincerely,
Lori Scully
Mikie Ulwick
PFA Co-Chairs

PFA GRANTS NEWS

Grants for the WHS teachers and staff were awarded at last November's PFA meeting. These grants support many important programs, clubs, and activities at WHS which might otherwise go unfunded. Some of the ways PFA grants have already been used this year:

- Pizza for new student lunches - each fall the Guidance Department hosts lunches to

- welcome new students and help integrate them into the WHS community.
- Colored printer ink for the Mac Lab printers for Photoshop courses.
 - Program materials for Inner Peace, an after school group providing peer support and help with stress management.
 - Project Adventure trip for students in the Excel/Transition program. The Excel program is a regular education program designed for students at risk of school failure, and the Transition program serves students re-entering WHS after a prolonged absence.

We would also like to share a recent note from Andrea Zampitella, Library/Media Specialist:

Thank you so much for granting the WHS Learning Commons \$700 in grant funding. Your support will allow for many new workshops, special project opportunities and new reading materials for our students. I cannot wait to invite you to see our students' work when we hold our student showcase in January. Thank you again!!!

*Kind Regards,
Andrea Zampitella*

A complete list of grants already awarded can be found on the [WSPFA website](#). These programs and activities are all made possible by the generous support of WHS parents.

Karin Sangster
Kathy Czeck
PFA Grants Co-Chairs

SCHOOL NEWS

WFEE Trivia Bee - Tonight at 7:00

The WFEE Trivia Bee is tonight, Wednesday, February 3rd at Lynch Elementary. You won't "bee" hungry or bored at the Bee. Sponsor Joe's Main Street Pizza is generously donating the pies, we will be selling 2 slices of pizza for \$5.00. Up for raffle, it's a Chromebook and a tablet, a lighting quick laptop that is perfect for a student heading to the "bring your own device" world of McCall Middle School. If you can't attend the Bee but are interested in the raffle you can purchase 3 raffle tickets for \$20 on line at www.wfee.org. Go to the Donate Now page and charge your tickets, your information will automatically be entered into the raffle. Tickets can be purchased till 5pm on Wednesday, February 3rd. Questions? Caren Connelly at info@wfee.org

Winchester Sports Foundation Donation to Athletic Department

The Winchester Sports Foundation has made a \$40,000 donation to support the athletic department at Winchester High School. Founded in 1989, the Foundation's mission is to help preserve and promote the level of sports programs at the high school, and to help

meet the costs and expenses of the athletic department.

"We are very pleased to make this donation to the athletic program,' said Foundation President Scott Davis. "Through the generous support of our donors, we are able to fund major expenditures that can't be met by the athletic department budget and team fundraising."

"I want to thank the Foundation for its generous contribution and its continued support of our student-athletes," said High School Athletic Director Marc Arria. "Over the years the Foundation has been a critical source of funding for major expenses in the athletic department."

In recent years, the Foundation contributed \$100,000 toward the completion of the new track facility at Manchester Field and purchased all new equipment for the track team. The Foundation has also supported the launch of several of the teams at the high school, including the boys and girls volleyball teams, the ski team and the ultimate frisbee team.

The Foundation raises funds through an annual appeal and a golf tournament held each year at the Winchester Country Club. Further information about the Foundation and its mission can be found at its website, www.winchestersportsfoundation.com .



CLASS NEWS

Class of 2017 - College Night, Thursday, February 11, McCall Auditorium 7-8:30 pm

Counselors will be meeting with all eleventh graders during History in the first two weeks of February to review post secondary options and the college search process. They will be

hosting The College Planning Night, Thursday, February 11 in the McCall Auditorium from 7-8:30 pm

The College Planning Night is the first in a series of workshops designed to equip parents and students with as much information as possible about the college process. It will feature local admissions professionals who will describe the admissions process from the colleges' perspective. Guidance Director Suzanne Ontso will discuss how to get started on the college search process and provide an overview of how to use Naviance.

Students are strongly encouraged to attend this workshop with their parents.

MUSIC DEPT NEWS

Congratulations to the following students who were accepted to participate in the Massachusetts All-State Music Festival and Concert:

Joe Alejo for Tenor	Qiuyue Liu for Alto
Dylan Fam for Tenor	Francesca Panzara for Alto
Sam Lee for French Horn	Connor Shank for Tenor
Emilia Lew for Flute	Joy Zhang for Oboe

These students received a high enough rating this past November at the Northeast Music Senior District Festival in order to qualify to audition for States! You make Winchester proud, thank you.

Save The Date: March 21, 2016 WHS Construction Project Open House & Band Concert

The second WHS Construction Project Open House has been scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2016. Beginning at 5:45 p.m., WHS peer leaders will guide you through the spaces that have been completed as part of Phase 1, including the new Dining Commons, Library Media Center, Music Suite and Administrative wing, as well as the newly renovated Auditorium. Visit our modular classrooms that house some of our academic classes. Then, at 7 p.m., take a seat in the Auditorium and be treated to music by the WHS Jazz and Concert Bands. Stay tuned for more information!

WINPAC SPECIAL EDUCATION PRESENTATION

WinPac presents The State of Special Education in Winchester

Pam Girouard, Winchester's Administrator of Special Education, will speak about current special education programs and outline plans for the future. Q & A will follow the presentation.

February 8, 2016 at 7pm
McCall Middle School Library

458 Main St

For information on Win-Pac, Winchester Special Education Parent Advisory Council, go to winspecialdedpac.org. Please direct any questions to Win-PAC Co-Chairs Donna DePriest, donna@winspecialdedpac.org or Pamela Cort, pamcort@winspecialdedpac.org.

CONNECT AND COMMIT SERVICE CLUB

Connect & Commit February Service Announcement

Drop Everything And Read! (DEAR) - 6 Sessions - 2:45-4:00p

Help instill the love of learning by reading to Lynch Elementary students after school on Wednesdays. The dates below are when volunteers are needed: January 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, February 3rd, 10th

If you are interested in being a reader please get a Commitment Letter from Mrs. Winterer in room B217 in the Library and/or click the link below: <http://www.signupgenius.com/>

Check out our website to get the latest on Connect & Commit!
www.ConnectandCommit.org

WINCHESTER YOUTH CENTER

458R Main Street
Winchester MA 01890
781-721-0906
<http://www.wynec.com>

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

FEBRUARY SERVICE PROJECT: Valentines for the Troops

During the first two weeks of February the WYC is collecting items to send to troops overseas. Collection bins are located at the WYC. Please drop off items any day after school. On Friday, February 12th we will be making Valentine's cards to include in our care packages. Everyone is welcome to join us. Please help us send some love to our soldiers!

Items needed:

- * Coffee - K-Cups and ground (Dunkin Donuts or Starbucks)
- * Sunscreen - small bottles, max protection
- * Gatorade/energy drink mix - small packets to mix with water
- * Reading material - magazines, paperback books
- * Dry skin lotion
- * Beef Jerky
- * Protein bars
- * Weight lifting mixes
- * Eye drops
- * Nasal spray
- * Cotton towels
- * Motrin - regular and PM
- * Fabric softener - nothing smelly please
- * Laundry detergent - Small individual use powder, no liquids
- * White gym socks - ankle type, no tube socks
- * Foot powder - small bottles

**SAVE THE DATE:
Rock for Youth - Battle of the Bands - Round 2**

Friday, March 11 at 7:30pm in the Winchester Town Hall Auditorium. Admission is \$10.

Featuring:

Insight	Serendipity	Siegel's with Seagulls
Soulstice	Spellchecked	Swagmaster Flave & the Shaolin

Funks

Audience members will vote to select the bands that will perform in the finals on Town Day Eve.

Come out to support your friends and listen to some great live music! Contact rock4youth@gmail.com for more info.

Special thanks to Winchester Community Music School, The Real School of Music and Mouradian Guitar!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Every week the WHSPFA sends out a weekly email with upcoming community news. If you are not currently receiving this email, please visit the [WHSPFA website](#) and enter your email address at the bottom of the main page. Instructions on how to update your profile will be emailed.