

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

PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ MARCH 2012

Visit our website at www.whspfa.org

FROM THE OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL TOM GWIN

March features the course registration process that will kick off during the week of March 5th. Guidance counselors will visit social studies classes to give out the 2012-13 Student Guide and Course of Studies and discuss the registration calendar, graduation requirements, new courses, and other important registration-related information. The 2012-13 Student Guide and Course of Studies is currently available on the WHS Edline website. Faculty will make course recommendations for students during the same time period. Teachers make recommendations based on the current course level and student performance during the year. Please consider teacher decisions seriously as courses are recommended that both challenge your children and provide them the best opportunity for academic success. There is an appeal process if the parent/guardian(s) and student disagree with the teacher recommendation. Course appeal forms are available on the Edline website, and should be submitted to the appropriate director by Monday, April 2. Parents will be notified of appeal decisions by May 1.

A special evening for parents of incoming 9th graders will take place on Monday, March 5 at 7 pm in the WHS auditorium. The evening includes a presentation from the directors on ninth grade course options as well as a Parent-to-Parent program featuring current WHS students and parents.

March also brings the first round of MCAS testing for 10th graders. English Language Arts testing will take place on the mornings of March 20-22. Later in the year, 10th graders will take the MCAS mathematics while 9th graders will complete a biology MCAS.

Advanced Placement exam registration has begun. Unlike SAT registration, AP registration takes place at WHS. Students will receive forms and booklets in their AP classes. Registrations are due to Mrs. Flood in the Main Office by March 16.

I hope you are able to attend our musical, Gypsy, taking place on the nights of Thursday-Saturday, March 8, 9, and 10 at 7:30 pm in the auditorium. Please come and support our young performers.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Dance Policy ~ WHS Dances are traditionally sponsored by a class. WHS joins with the Winchester Coalition for a Safer Community to co-sponsor and chaperone these events. A dance proposal must be presented, reviewed and approved by the WHS principal. Students may not purchase a ticket to the dance without having signed a Dance Contract specifying expectations and specific guidelines. Parents are also expected to sign this contract. Unless receiving prior approval from an administrator, every student must be present in school for the entire day of the dance, including any assigned detentions, in order to attend. Students with unapproved absences or cuts in classes or Academic Blocks on that day will not be allowed to attend the dance.

Cell Phones ~ Student cell phones must be turned off at all times. There are no exceptions. A cell phone cannot be visible, it must be put away. A student in violation of this policy will have their cell phone confiscated, given to an administrator, and a parent must pick up the phone in the main office. Refusal to give up a cell phone to any staff member is insubordination and is subject to immediate suspension.

Visitors ~ All visitors to the high school must check in and sign a Visitors Log in the Main Office. All visitors must wear a visitor's name tag. Students are not allowed to bring guests to school, and shadowing is not allowed at any time during the school day. Individuals who do not attend Winchester High School but are on the school grounds or in the school building will be treated as trespassers. This offense is a violation of the General Laws of the Commonwealth and carries a fine and/or imprisonment. Police will be notified.

PFA NEWS

FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Carol Cashion and Jody Collins Skinner

Welcome back everyone from February break! As the seniors and parents anxiously await news on which college they will be attending in the Fall, we invite everyone else to the March 7th PFA meeting that is focusing on the WHS guidance center. The topic is: **What Changes are Ahead for the Guidance Program?** *Sherri Lewis-Sholler will be our featured speaker. Please come and find out what your son and/or daughter can expect from the guidance center in the coming year.*

INSPIRING STUDENTS AT WHS – THE WHS PFA 2011-2012 DIRECT APPEAL

It's not too late! We are still seeking donations for this year's Direct Appeal, which has a direct impact on classroom learning and fostering student support at WHS. This year, the Direct Appeal, through the issuance of wide-ranging [PFA Grants](#), seeks to fund more than \$24,000 in innovative programs to help inspire our students, as well as to fund simply needed materials not covered by the school budget.

Your contribution matters!

If you recently received a red Direct Appeal post card reminder and have not yet made a contribution to this year's Direct Appeal - **Please help us to meet our goal and make your contribution today!**

To those families that have already contributed to this year's Direct Appeal in amounts ranging from \$20 to \$1,000 – **we thank you, with gratitude!**

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.

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 clicking on the link below to the Direct Appeal page on the WHS PFA Website. Click on the yellow "Donate" button at the bottom of the Direct Appeal page and follow the directions provided.

Thank you for your participation!

CLASS NEWS

CLASS OF 2013

In a little more than two months the Class of 2013 will be hosting a Junior Prom! We are extremely excited for the event, and are putting as much effort as we can into making it amazing. However, we cannot do everything on our own, and would greatly appreciate some help in procuring some decorations -- specifically colored Christmas lights. As of now, we are not looking for anybody to commit to lending us their lights, just a list of those who are interested. Please email the Class of 2013 at whsjuniorprom2012@gmail.com if you are interested in donating lights for the Junior Prom; we will contact you when we figure out how many lights we require. Please include your name and the quantity of lights you are willing to donate in your email; we are only looking for colored lights at the moment.

Thank you!

Alexander George, Class Secretary

CLASS OF 2014

We had a lot of fun at Laser Quest in Danvers during the half day in February. March is very busy and we need a lot of help from all of you!

On March 3rd, Winchester High School will be hosting the Regional National History Day. This is a competition which includes 30 towns and approximately 300-400 students. The Sophomore Class is responsible for the concessions that day. We need your help! We are looking for people to donate Dunkin Donut gift cards (so we can purchase coffee and donuts that morning), candy, baked goods and bottled water. Donations can be left in the main office and labeled NHD.

On March 9th we will be selling concessions at the Spring Musical, Gypsy. We will again be looking for donations of bottled water, candy and baked goods.

Please encourage your sons and daughters to help out at these events. We will have sign ups, but if you have any questions, or if you want to help in any way, please email 2014whs@gmail.com

To celebrate all our hard work, we will have our SOPHOMORE SEMI on Friday, March 16th. The kids will enjoy the music and dancing at the Town Hall, while all the parents enjoy an evening with each other at Lucia's. We are looking for some auction items for the evening, such as sporting events, gift baskets, etc. If you have anything you can donate toward the auction, email 2014whs@gmail.com More info to come. Watch for eblast announcements. Let the March Madness begin!!

CONNECT AND COMMIT

Connect and Commit Service Club Meets the Last Tuesday of the Month from 6:30-7:30pm in the WHS Library

You can sign up for the opportunities listed below at the meetings or in the Connect and Commit office, which is in the library of the high school. If you have questions about Connect and Commit, visit Kristen Ritchie, Program Director, in the Connect and Commit Office or contact Kristen via email connectandcommit@gmail.com or phone 781-721-7020 x1999.

Check out our new website at www.connectandcommit.org

Volunteer Opportunities & Events

Saturday Mar. 3rd Dwelling Place 5-7pm. Seven students will work together to design, cook and serve a meal for 25 patrons at the Dwelling Place in Woburn.

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

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

Wednesday April 11th Blood Drive 8:30am-2pm at Winchester High School. Students, faculty, staff and parents are invited to donate blood through MGH's Blood Mobile which will be parked on campus for the day. Anyone 16 or older may be eligible and can schedule an appointment to donate in the Connect & Commit office.

Friday April 27th – An Evening With Madeleine Albright 7-9pm at Town Hall Connect & Commit welcomes the Former Secretary of State back to Winchester for an evening of dialogue followed by a book signing of her latest work Prague Winter. Tickets will be made available soon through Bookends.

Saturday April 28th - The Food Project 9:30am-12:30pm, Get your hands dirty at one of the Food Project's farms. Their organizational mission is to engage young people in personal and social change through sustainable agriculture. The food raised on the farms is distributed through Community Supported Agriculture programs, Farmer's Markets and hunger relief organizations. **Parent Volunteers/Drivers Needed**

Friday June 16th-17th - Relay For Life 6pm fri-6am sat, Connect & Commit and the Winchester Youth Center are working together to bring Relay For Life to Winchester. Relay is the signature fundraising activity for the American Cancer Society. It is a place to celebrate cancer survivors and caregivers, remember those we have lost and to fight back against this disease that takes too much from too many. At Relay For Life teams of 8-15 people take turns walking around a track and commit to raising funds to support the American Cancer Society. We invite anyone in town who is interested in participating in Relay For Life in Winchester to visit our website at www.relayforlife.org/winchesterma

SCHOOL NEWS

PARENT CONVERSATIONS

Please join Parent Conversations Wednesday, March 14th, 2012 at 8:45 in the Guidance Conference Room. The monthly discussions are casual and drop in yet always confidential. New and "seasoned" parents offer stories and experiences and through these conversations, ideas are exchanged, questions are answered and many problems are solved. Shafiya Ciccarelli, WHS Clinical Counselor facilitates the group discussion. Please mark your calendars and join us! Remaining 2011-2012 dates April 11th and May 9th.

WHS PRESENTS "GYPSY!"

Winchester High School Curtain and Cue Society presents the Broadway musical comedy, Gypsy! Thursday, March 8, Friday March 9 and Saturday, March 10 at 7:30 pm, Winchester High School Auditorium, 80 Skillings Road. Great tunes, live orchestra, dancing. An American classic featuring the compelling story of burlesque star Gypsy Rose Lee's early life. Public welcome. Proceeds benefit musical productions at Winchester High. Tickets available at Book Ends, Winchester Center, or at the door: \$15.

NHS STUDENTS OFFER "HANDYMAN" SERVICES TO THE WINCHESTER COMMUNITY

For four weekends in March, the NHS of Winchester High School will be offering their time, talent, and "elbow grease" to provide help with any jobs that are needed throughout the Winchester community. Groups of students, in teams of two, four or six depending on the size of the job, will be providing assistance to those who cannot get to all the jobs on their to-do list. Students are available for such tasks as painting, raking, shoveling, cleaning, shopping, moving, etc. Community members may schedule the students for just one task or a number of activities for which they might need more manpower.

Students are available to work:

March 3-4;

March 10-11;

March 24-25;

March 31 – April 1

Please e-mail the NHS Advisor at nsmith@winchester.k12.ma.us to add your name and task to the list, along with what weekend day works best. Arrangements will be made to coordinate the effort.

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Madrigal Fest 2012: Saturday, March 17, 7:30 pm. An evening of a cappella choral music featuring the Winchester Chamber Singers under the direction of Christopher Nickelson. Joined by the Winchester High School Octets and other area a cappella groups. A perfect evening for family and friends at the Maurer Auditorium, Winchester Town Hall, 71 Mt. Vernon Street. Concert admission: Students/Seniors: \$8; Adults:\$15. Public welcome, tickets available at the door.

Dinner and concert special: 6:00 pm pre-concert dinner at Winchester High School cafeteria, 80 Skillings Road, Winchester. Sun-dried tomato and chicken penne, salad, rolls, dessert. Tickets available at the door, \$30 Adults/ \$20 students - includes admission to concert. Or, pre-purchase discount available. For more information: 781-413-5558, or www.winchesterhighschoolchoir.com

Save the date! The WHS Spring ACapella Fest will be held on Saturday, April 28 at 7:30pm in the Winchester Town Hall

Current 2011/2012 WHS Choral and Orchestra schedules are posted on the PFA Website under Music Department. Music Schedules. Additional concert information can be found here. [2011-2012 Music Schedules](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS—MR. WHS PAGEANT!

The Tenth Annual Mr. WHS pageant will take place Sunday, March 25th at 7 pm in the High School Auditorium. The student-run production, which annually features the talents of a select group of male seniors, will entertain the audience with everything from feats of strength to musical performances. Sections include Formal Wear, Swim Wear, Talent, Contestant Video, and Question and Answer.

This year's contestants are Kristof Vajda, Thomas Yokum, Keegan Delurey, Brendan Kelley, Eddy Schneider, and Phil Michienzi. The Masters of Ceremony are Nick Cashion and Seamus Cassidy. More information about tickets will be available in the next couple of weeks.

Looking to seeing all of you there,

The Senior Class Officers
(Tim Gallagher, Steve Spry, Ahmad Greene, Sam Oleksak)

NEWS FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Softball

For anyone interested in playing softball, there will be a sign up meeting on THURSDAY, March 1st at 3pm in the cafeteria.

Indoor Track

Congratulations to Carrie Abraham for her 4th place finish at the All State Indoor Track Meet. Carrie will be in the New England Championship this Friday at Reggie Lewis Center.

Boys Swim Team

The WHS boys swim team competed in the Division II States championship meet with a mixture of disappointment and success.

Leading off was the 200-yard medley relay team of James Fosburgh, Kalin Stoyanchev, Josh Dinardo and Dom Kruszelnicki. Brian Reid finished just out of the points in 17th in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:53.18. Dinardo cut almost 2 seconds off his previous best time with a 56.85 in the 100-yard butterfly. Reid was right on his best time at 58.10.

In the 200-yard freestyle relay, Christian MacDonald led off with a best time of 23.8 in his 50 yards, with Dinardo, Reid and Fosburgh completing the relay team. The same four swimmers comprised the 400-yard relay team, finishing in 3:35.96, with Fosburgh breaking the one minute mark for the first time for his 100 yards on the anchor leg.

The season had many memorable highlights. Named Middlesex League All-Stars this year are Richard Cui, Josh Dinardo, Dale Gable, Christian MacDonald and Brian Reid. The team went undefeated in dual meets against Division II teams. Winchester won 8 of 11 events against Division I Lexington. Every swimmer on the team improved his times over the course of the season. The 400-yard freestyle relay team of Dinardo, Gable, MacDonald and Reid had a time of 3:29.19 in the Sectionals, which is believed to be a new WHS record. Four swimmers qualified for the North Sectionals and States, three of whom qualified in at least 3 events. Two of these are freshmen, one a sophomore and one a junior. Coach Menard and Coach Matthews are looking forward to next year, building on this year's successes.

The Guide



A Monthly Newsletter from the WHS Guidance Department March 2012

Course Selection for 2012-2013

Course selection for the 2012-2013 school year will begin in March. Students will meet with Guidance Counselors to select courses based on teacher recommendations. Additional scheduling information can be found on EdLine or the high school guidance website.

Course schedules may seem like a random selection of classes, but college admissions officers see it as the blueprint of a student's high school education. College admissions officers are looking for a solid foundation of learning that students can build on in college. Students should take at least five solid academic classes every semester. www.collegeboard.com

Senior Parents

Winchester High School will be hosting MEFA in presenting an “**After the Acceptance**” seminar on Tuesday, March 27th at 7:00 pm. Students are welcome to attend with their parents.

The **After the Acceptance Seminar** provides clear, straightforward advice on financing a college education. MEFA representatives will also be available after the program to speak privately with families. Seminar topics will include:

- Payment options and ways to minimize college loan debt.
- Award letters and the billing process
- Working with the financial aid office

2012-2013 Winchester Scholarship Foundation Application Available

The Winchester Scholarship Foundation (WSF) annually awards grants to students residing in Winchester who need financial assistance in order to attend a post-secondary institution. The WSF will award aid even if a student is receiving scholarships from several other sources, as long as it appears that there is a gap between what the parent can fairly be expected to contribute and the yearly costs of the school or college the student will be attending. WSF scholarships are often used to reduce inordinate amounts of loan or campus work. WHS seniors who are graduating in June are eligible to apply for WSF aid. The new 2012-2013 applications are now available in the Guidance Office. Deadline for submission of the WSF application with required tax documents is May 15, 2012. The WSF maintains a policy of strict confidentiality in regard to all information submitted by applicants.

Scholarships

Scholarship opportunities are posted on Naviance. Please allow at least 10 days to process transcripts for scholarships.

How to Spot a Scholarship Scam

A recent article on collegeboard.com highlighted tell-tale signs that a scholarship service is a scam. According to the College Board, "...nearly all available financial aid comes from the federal government or from individual colleges." In Winchester, a significant source of assistance is provided by the WSF (see above) and there are often private scholarships for very specific applicants with particular career interests, or memberships in certain churches or other social organizations. Collegeboard.com lists the following guidelines as a sign that you may be getting duped:

- The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back.
- You can't get this information anywhere else.
- I just need your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship.
- We'll do all the work.
- The scholarship will cost money.
- "You've been selected by a national foundation" to receive a scholarship or "You're a finalist" in a contest you never entered.

Scholarship Scams from FinAid.org provides advice on how to identify scams, how to distinguish between legitimate and fraudulent organizations, how to protect yourself from scholarship scams, and what to do if you are scammed. The basic rule to follow—"Free money shouldn't cost a thing."

Senioritis

Colleges can revoke their offer of admission. This seems harsh, but many colleges have revoked their admission offers to students due to senioritis. Many college acceptance letters even include warnings to students such as, "Your admission is contingent on your continued successful performance." If your grades start to slip during your senior year, many colleges take that as a sign that you don't want to continue your education. So, don't slump on academics once those college acceptance letters arrive. **Your college performance can be affected.** If you choose to slack off during your senior year, you will not be ready for the challenges of

college. Many students who were affected by senioritis in high school required remedial help once they entered college

Junior Parents

If you were unable to attend Junior Parent Night, the information presented is available on the Guidance Website.

In February Guidance Counselors met with all eleventh grade students to review post secondary options and the college process. Juniors received a folder of information which included a Junior Handbook. The handbook is also available on the Guidance Website.

Advice For Students Attending A College Fair

Students can create a brief profile and leave it at the table of the college they wish to receive either information or a personal contact. The profile can be a card with the students name, address, telephone number, email address, the name of the high school the student is attending with a graduation date, descriptions of areas of interest, and a statement that the student would like to meet personally with the college representative should that person be in the area.

The student and parent can divide the table hopping task and each deliver profile cards. While delivering profile cards pick up the college representatives card for future reference. It is helpful to have a specific name (reference) when requesting information/ interview.

NACAC College Fair

May 3 & May 4

World Trade Center

Boston, MA

WWW.NACACNET.ORG

Colleges of the Fenway

The Colleges of the Fenway (COF) gives students the benefits of a university—access to a wider range of social and academic experiences and opportunities—while maintaining the personal touch of a small college. COF is a consortium that brings together the resources of

six colleges in Boston's famed Fenway Cultural District, to offer more classes, more clubs (225 clubs on the six campuses), and more social activities, just by attending one of the six COF colleges: Emmanuel College, Massachusetts College of Art, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Simmons College, Wentworth Institute of Technology, and Wheelock College. COF's joint initiatives, including cross registration and student programs, aim to improve the quality of education and enrich student experiences while ensuring each college maintains its individual identity. Together, COF represents more than 11,000 undergraduate students—16 percent of the total Boston population of undergraduates attending four-year colleges, and more than 2500 course offerings. To learn more about the Colleges of the Fenway, go to www.colleges.fenway.org.



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 something for everyone, we invite all WHS students to come check us out and find out how to get involved.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Throughout the year the WYC runs a ton of different special events in an effort to provide WHS students with great alcohol & drug-free alternatives. It's all part of the Peer Leaders' commitment to help their peers make good decisions! Check out our website to learn about all of our special events and mark your calendars for all the things you won't want to miss.

ROCK FOR YOUTH

Round 2 of the Battle of the Bands Friday, March 30th 7:00-11:00pm

Winchester Town Hall Auditorium

Admission is \$10 Proceeds benefit the WYC's Youth Service Award Scholarships

SERVICE PROJECTS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Throughout the year the WYC Peer Leaders coordinate and participate in a huge variety of community service projects. The Peer Leaders are committed to making a positive difference in the world and encouraging others to do the same. We invite all WHS students who are interested in doing something good for our community to stop by the WYC and find out how to get involved. Please check out our website for a complete description of our service efforts.

SUPPORT THE WYC PEER LEADERS'

APRIL VACATION HABITAT FOR HUMANITY TRIP

During April vacation 28 of the WYC Peer Leaders will be participating in our 7th annual Habitat for Humanity trip. We will be traveling to Franklin, West Virginia 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 \$5600 donation to Habitat for Humanity. 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. Contact the WYC for more information.

Dump Runs: Let us take care of your trash on Saturday, March 17th \$10

Raffle tickets: Buy your \$20 tickets for the chance to win an iPad 2, 4-pack Red Sox tickets or a live performance by The Dirt Dogs. Drawing: April 9th

RELAY FOR LIFE**June 16th-17th**www.relayforlife.org/winchesterma

Relay For Life is the signature fundraising event of the American Cancer Society. Winchester High School students from the Winchester Youth Center and the Connect & Commit program have teamed up with the American Cancer Society to create the first 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. Teams of 8-15 people take turns walking around a track and commit to raising funds for the American Cancer Society. Teams are made up of families, friends, co-workers, neighbors, churches, temples, and schools. The event is held overnight with each team keeping a representative on the track at all times because cancer doesn't sleep! Special activities honor cancer survivors, caregivers and the strength they share that inspires everyone. Relay For Life makes it possible for the American Cancer Society to save lives and help people. We hope that you will join us!

Go to www.relayforlife.org/winchesterma to register your team. Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter @winrelayforlife. Please contact the Winchester Youth Center 781-721-0906 or the Connect & Commit program 781-721-7020 x1999 for more information.

ALS COMMUNITY OF HOPE: Haley's Comets

Are you looking for a great cause to support during this coming holiday season?
Then please consider supporting our efforts to defeat ALS a.k.a. Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Go to <http://web.alsa.org/goto/haleyscomets>

Our goal is to raise money to support people in our community with ALS and to spread awareness of the urgency to find treatment and a cure for this disease.

COMMUNITY NEWS**WILSON FARMS FUNDRAISER**

March 7th from 9AM to 7PM

Once again, Wilson Farms has generously offered a Winchester Public Schools Fundraising Day! All Winchester families, school faculty, administrators, staff are welcome to shop at Wilson Farms on Wednesday March 7th from 9am-7pm and 20% of their total purchase will go directly to Winchester Public Schools! NOTE: The official flyer must be used in order to benefit Winchester. Click here to print the flyer. www.whspfa.org/clientimages/39852/miscellaneous1112/Wilson_Farms_Flyer.pdf

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WINCHESTER ASKS YOU TO REMEMBER TO VOTE

Are you registered to vote? Do you know where to vote? For information call 781-721-7130, email the townclerk@winchester.us or visit the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall. You may also mail in Voter Registration cards that are available at the Winchester Post Office and the Winchester Public Library. In order to vote in the Town election, you **must register by Wednesday, March 7th.**

Upcoming elections are the March 6 Presidential Primary and the March 27 Town election. Polls are

open from 7 am and 8 pm. If you will be away or you anticipate a situation that won't allow you to vote in person on election day, you can go to Town Hall between the hours of 8 am and 4 pm Monday-Friday and vote at the Town Clerk's Office until noon the day before the election. You can also request an absentee ballot by following the instructions about elections on the Town Clerk's webpage at www.winchester.us. Please allow at least ten days, to receive and return an absentee ballot by mail.

TOWN MEETING MEMBER ELECTIONS

There are more openings on the Town Meeting than official candidates in the following precincts:

- Precinct 1 (3 openings)
- Precinct 2 (3 openings)
- Precinct 4 (1 opening)
- Precinct 5 (1 opening)
- Precinct 6 (6 openings)
- Precinct 7 (1 opening for 2-year term)
- Precinct 8 (3 openings)

Any Winchester registered voter may be elected to Town Meeting by "write-in" votes. The deadline to be listed on the ballot by the nomination process has passed, but there will be spaces on the ballot for "write-in" candidates. To be elected by "write-in," you can ask voters to write your name in a space under your precinct. (You must receive at least 10 votes.)

More information on the March 27 Annual Town Election, registering to vote, precinct boundaries, and/or the "write-in" voting process is available from the Winchester Town Clerk, 781-721-7130 or online at <http://www.winchester.us/index.php/departments/town-clerk/28-town-clerk/52-voting-and-elections.html>

The year 2012 is an important election year, and every vote is important. The Winchester League of Women Voters asks you to help us make Winchester the town where everyone votes!

WINCHESTER FRIENDS OF ART 2012 Party for the Arts

Join the Winchester FOA on Saturday March 24th for "A Night in Venice". This year's party will feature an Italian dinner buffet, live music, silent auction and a dessert bar! — Plus an art exhibit from all Winchester Public Schools. For tickets and more information check out our new website www.winchesterfoa.org.

PARENT TO PARENT PRESENTS

The Childhood Roots of Adult Happiness: *Five Steps to Create and Sustain Lifelong Joy* with Dr. Ned Hollowell on Tuesday, March 27, 2012 in the McCall Middle School Auditorium, 7:30 to 9:00 pm.

What do we really want for our children? Most parents will answer that more than anything else they want their children to be *happy*. Research has proven that parents can greatly increase the chances that their children will grow up to be happy, responsible adults by instilling certain *inner* qualities such as optimism, playfulness, a can-do attitude, and connectedness. To help children grow into happy, moral, connected adults, parents need to encourage specific activities and actions. Dr. Hollowell will outline his five-step plan: Connect, Play, Practice, Mastery, and Recognition, based on research and his experience of what children need to thrive.

Dr. Ned Hallowell is a highly recognized speaker, clinical psychiatrist, and founder of The Hallowell Centers in Sudbury, MA and New York City. He has authored eighteen books on various topics including the childhood roots of happiness, attention deficit disorder, the power of the human connection, dealing with worry and managing excessive busyness, among others. He speaks nationally on family and health issues, and has been prominently featured on 20/20, Oprah, PBS, and NPR.

Dr. Hallowell's book of the same title and CrazyBusy will be on sale courtesy of BookEnds. Funding for this program has been made possible by generous donations to Parent to Parent's Direct Appeal. For more information, please visit: www.parenttoparentwinchester.org

FROM THE MULTICULTURAL NETWORK

Now an established annual event and key community program, the Winchester Multicultural Network presents its community workshop, "Deepening Your Multicultural Understanding," on **Friday evening March 9 (7 to 9 p.m.) and continuing Saturday, March 10, (9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)**. The Network invites those who live and/or work in Winchester to join its efforts in educating about, advocating for, responding to, and confronting intolerance and injustice. The workshop will be held at the Winchester Unitarian Society church, 478 Main Street and is open to all. Network activities are available regardless of financial means. A suggested donation of \$20 helps defray expenses. We appreciate your commitment to attend. Register immediately to ensure your place: Contact the Network's office, office@wmcn.org, call WMCN at 781 729-7100, or contact Gloria Welch Legvold at 781-729-8247.