

WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL
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PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ MAY 2011

Visit our website at www.whspfa.org

FROM THE OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL TOM GWIN

Entering the month of May, the administration and staff at the high school are busily involved in end of the year activities as well as planning for the 2011-12 school year. The scheduling process is well underway with course registration complete and entered into our administrative database. Currently the directors are working with individual course registration numbers to determine the number of sections that will be offered for each course. They will then assign sections to the teachers in their department and all of this information is fed into our administrative software to create the master schedule. We're also going through the painful process of reducing the faculty by the equivalent of three positions due to the failed override. This means cutting 15 sections of classes from this year's schedule. Those reductions will be distributed over several departments.

The Homework Policy, School Culture, and Honor Code committees are also finishing their work and I will be able to report on their recommendations in the next newsletter. A subcommittee of the Focus on the Future steering committee is also finishing its work.

MESSAGES FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Student Health Records ~ Graduating Seniors: Your original school health immunization record will be mailed to your home. Copies of this document will no longer be kept on file by the high school. It is advisable to make additional copies and maintain this important document for your records. .

School Transfer ~ A student who plans to move, leave school early, or withdraw from Winchester High School for any reason prior to graduation should secure a Transfer Sign-Out Form from the Registrar. This form needs to be completed and returned to the Registrar and should signify that all books have been returned and that all course work has been completed. Upon request the high school will forward student records to a school in which the student seeks to enroll only upon return of the completed Transfer form.

Exams ~ WHS schedules semester/final exams in January and June. These exams challenge students to summarize and condense a large body of knowledge and to demonstrate skills developed over a semester or the year. The exams also prepare students for the type of test taking that they will be confronting when they apply to post-secondary institutions. No final exams will be administered early. Students who have been granted permission to leave school prior to final exams must return in the summer to take their exams. Exams taken in the summer will not be graded until September and their results will not be available until that time. Seniors with an average of B or above and who did not receive an "N" for second semester, will be exempt from taking that course's final.

PFA NEWS

FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Ann Hibbard and Martha Sampson

By the time you read this, April vacation will have come and gone and this means that the PFA is moving into the planning stage for next year. If you've never been involved with the PFA before, please think about joining us for next year. We're always looking for new faces and it's a great way to learn more about what's going on at the school and in the community. For more information please email caren.connelly@gmail.com

At our April meeting, we had a lovely reception from WHS Librarian Karen Miller to thank us for our support of the library over the years. She showed us many of the recent technological updates to the library, including a state-of-the-art media center that both WFEE and the PFA helped to fund. Caren Connelly, representing WFEE, was also at the meeting and gave us an update on some of their initiatives, especially their focus on technology in the schools. We're very lucky to have this organization in town.

At our May meeting, we look forward to welcoming Assistant Superintendent Dr. Rhonda Cohen. See you on Wednesday, May 4, at 7:30pm in the WHS Library.

CLASS NEWS

CLASS OF 2011

SENIOR PHOTO REQUEST FOR THE ALL NIGHT GRADUATION PARTY

The photo wall is a great attraction at the All Night Graduation Party! Our teens take a walk down memory as they relive their elementary, middle, and high school years together. In order for your teen to be a part of it we need your help!

Wanted: Baby, Individual Candid, and Group Shots

Size: 3x5 or 4x6 only (There will be about 1,000 pictures) **Copies only:** No originals or JPEGs. You do not get the photos back! The photo boards will be collected at the end of the ANG Party and given to the Class President to bring to their 5th reunion

Identification: Please put names on the back of each photo. Please identify if it is an elementary school year picture and which school for grouping purposes. Also identify middle vs. high school years.

Deadline: Friday, May 13 (The sooner the better please!)

Drop Off Locations: Winchester High School, Main Office
Mary Doherty, 11 Town Way
Ann Olmsted, 197 Mystic Valley Parkway

Questions: Ann at ann.olmsted@comcast.net or Mary at olsen_philip@hotmail.com

CLASS OF 2013

Hosting Practice PSAT & Free Follow-Up Strategies Workshop for Participants

What: The PSAT is a reasoning test that most sophomores and juniors take at WHS. While it is not necessarily reported to colleges, like the SAT, it is an important test to take for several reasons.

Why: There are three main reasons to take the practice PSAT.

- **First**, it is a shorter version of the SAT test that most students take in their junior year so it is just good practice.
- **Second**, it is the test that determines National Merit Scholarships and Commendations for juniors.
- **Third**, if you are a student athlete considering playing a sport at college, most colleges require you to complete their on line prospective student athlete questionnaire and those forms ask for your PSAT score as an indicator of your academic ability.

When: Practice PSAT, Saturday, May 14th at 9:00 am.
Strategies Workshop, Tuesday, May 24th at 7:00 pm.

Where: Practice PSAT held in the WHS cafeteria. FREE Strategies Workshop for participants AND their parents held in WHS Auditorium.

How: Register online at Kaplan.com or by phone at 1-800-KAP-TEST. (While walk-ins are welcome if space is available, we urge you to reserve your spot by registering now.)

Cost: \$10 collected at the door. Bring #2 pencils and calculator!

Reminder: The actual PSAT is given in the fall so watch for info from Guidance!

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

CHAMBER SINGERS

There are two Chamber Singers performances on Sunday, May 1st. The first is a ten minute performance at 3:45 at the Music School in Winchester for Music Maynia. The second is a performance with Cantilena at 7:00 pm at the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, 630 Massachusetts Avenue in Arlington Center. (Visit http://www.cantilena.org/current_season.htm for more info.)

The final Chamber Singers concert is Monday, May 23rd at 7:30pm at WHS.

OTHER MUSIC DEPARTMENT EVENTS:

Friday, May 6	WHS Jazz Band and Symphony tour Elementary Schools
Wednesday, May 11	WHS Orchestra Concert at WHS, 7:30 pm
Thursday, May 19	WHS Strawberry Pops, WHS Lawn, 6:30 PM
Tuesday, May 31	Octets Final Concert at WHS, 7:30

The Guide



A Monthly Newsletter from the WHS Guidance Department May 2011

Summer Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities and enrichment programs are a key way for high school and college students to gain experience and try out career paths. Please refer to the WHS Guidance Website, Naviance, and www.teenlife.com for information on summer opportunities

Dear Class of 2012 and Parents:

Reminder: Please complete the *Counselor Report Form* and *Parent Brag Sheet* in *Naviance* by June 1st. Guidance Counselors use this form to write secondary school report that goes out to every college you apply to next year. Please go to:

<http://connection.naviance.com/winchester> and log into your account to complete the survey. If you don't remember your account, email your guidance counselor and we will provide you with your account information.

Please Note: For security reasons, Naviance is designed to sign you out automatically if your session is inactive for 45 minutes. If you are signed out in less than 45 minutes or if your session ends unexpectedly while you are actively using the system, it is likely that a small file written to your computer while you use Naviance known as a "session cookie" has become corrupted or that your school is using a proxy server that is ending your session. To address this issue, you should first delete cookies on your computer and clear the cache your browser keeps of the sites you visit. In most cases, completing these steps resolves any issues relating to sessions ending prematurely.

The Claremont College Consortia, California – Harvey Mudd College, Claremont McKenna College, Pitzer College and Scripps College will host an admissions receptions on May 18, 2011 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm in Cambridge, MA at the Boston Marriott. To obtain an invitation or to pre-register for this breakfast contact: Office of Admissions & Financial Aid, Baver Ctr. North, 500 East North St, Claremont, CA., 91711, (909) 621-8088 admissions@claremontmckenna.edu

NACAC College Fair

Tuesday, April 12th

World Trade Center

Boston, MA

9:00 am-12:00 pm

6:00 pm-9:00 pm

WWW.NACACNET.ORG

Final Transcripts for Class of 2011

SENIOR SURVEY

Seniors will be meeting with their guidance counselor the last week of April to complete the annual *Senior Survey* in *Naviance*. Seniors should log-in to their *Naviance* accounts and click on "Graduation Survey". The survey asks seniors to indicate to which college or post-secondary institution they want their final transcript sent, as well as to provide the results of the colleges' decisions on their other applications. Seniors are required to complete this *Senior Survey* as part of their graduation

requirements before receiving their caps and gowns.

The Guidance Department is aware that plans do change. A number of seniors pay a deposit to one college to hold a space for next fall, but choose to remain on a waiting list at a second college. Graduates are asked to notify the Guidance Office **immediately** if they wish to change the college to which their final transcript will be sent.

REMINDER

**Winchester Scholarship Foundation
Applications are due May 15th**

Vacancy Lists Keep College Option Open

Current seniors or past graduates who may have postponed the college application process for a variety of reasons should know that it's not too late to apply to college for next fall. Two organizations compile vacancy lists of colleges that are still accepting students for Fall 2011. The New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) maintains a list of New England colleges and universities that still have openings. Students may visit www.nebhe.org to view this list in mid-to-late May. The National Association for College Admission Counseling posts its Annual Space Availability Survey on its website, www.nacac.com to assist college counseling professionals working with students who have not completed the college admission process. This annual survey indicates openings not only in Fall 2011 freshman classes, but also openings for transfer students, as well as the availability of financial aid and campus housing.

Helping Your Child Handle Rejection and Acceptance

The College Board's website contains helpful information for parents of seniors who receive a "letter of denial" from a college. The information offers suggestions on how to help put admissions decisions in perspective. Go to www.collegeboard.com and click on the link "For Parents" to read the entire article.

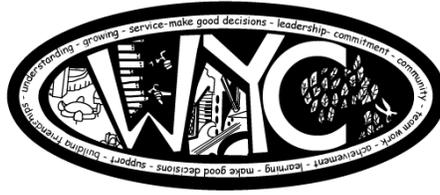
Class of 2013 and 2014

Counselors distributed information to students in honors science classes about taking the SAT II during the week of April 11-15. Students in honors-level science courses (i.e. Honors Biology, Honors Chemistry) may wish to take the **SAT Subject Test** in Biology-E, Biology-M, or Chemistry (the teacher will provide direction as to which would be the most appropriate) in June, upon completion of the course. Online registration at: www.collegeboard.com. SAT Subject Tests are one-hour, primarily multiple-choice tests, designed to show a student's knowledge and ability to apply that knowledge in specific subject areas.

Spring 2011: SAT Program Test Dates

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
June 4, 2011	May 6, 2011

**Please enter the WHS CEEB Code 222-440
Winchester High School as a recipient of your
admissions test scores.**



Winchester Youth Center, 458R Main Street, Winchester MA 01890, 781-721-0906,
www.wynec.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.wynec.com for more information.

WYC COFFEE HOUSE

Jersey Shore theme

Friday, May 6th 7:30-10:30

Featuring live music, delicious homemade desserts and frappes

\$5 admission (High school students only)

As with all WYC events, there is no re-entry and outside drinks are not allowed

All proceeds will benefit the Peer Leaders' Habitat for Humanity trip

WINCHESTER YOUTH SERVICE DAY

Sponsored by the Winchester Youth Center and Connect & Commit

Saturday, May 14th

A day to celebrate community service and...

Clean up sports fields Clean up our parks

Beautify our schools...be a part of a great cause!

All WHS students are encouraged to participate!! Stop by the WYC or Connect & Commit office to register. Everyone who signs-up by May 4th will receive a Youth Service Day t-shirt

We are also searching for adult volunteers and additional service projects that we can put on our list, please contact the WYC at 781-721-0906 or winchesteryouthcenter@gmail.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

THANK YOU FROM WINCHESTER FRIENDS OF ART

Thank You! Thank You! Thank you to one and all for making this year's Party for the Arts such a fun and successful event. Thanks to all the students, teachers and artists who shared their valuable time and many talents, all the volunteers who pitched in with everything from the small details to the big jobs, all those who came to The Party and celebrated art in our community, all those who took a chance on a raffle at the Family Reception or made a bid at the Auction, all those who made beautiful music for the celebrations, all the Friends of Art Alumni who helped to make our 20th anniversary year a very special celebration, all those who helped set up, clean up, or take tickets, all those who couldn't come to The Party but sent a donation and/or wished us well, and last but not least, the person who left some very nice woman's gloves at the registration desk during the family reception. (Please contact Patty @ 781-729-9762 to claim your gloves.) Some of us are still celebrating and we are planning to move right into some early planning for next year's party. Please join us at our next Winchester Friends of Art meeting which will be held on Monday, May 2, 2011 at 7:00 pm at WHS in the photo lab, opposite the Cafeteria. If you can't make the meeting but have ideas for next year, send us an email at WinchesterFOA@gmail.com and let us know how you would like to help out.

PARENT TO PARENT PRESENTS

An informal book discussion group on [Pressured Parents, Stressed-Out Kids: Dealing with Competition While Raising a Successful Child](#) by Wendy S. Grolnik, Ph.D. and Kathy Seal. **Monday, May 2, 2011** in the meeting room of the Winchester Public Library 7pm to 8:30pm.

This timely book provides solid research about competition and its role in learning. The authors offer powerful insights on what really motivates kids and the importance of changing one's mindset in order to counteract over-emphasis on competitiveness. With practical information on how to let kids live and learn at their own pace, the authors stimulate the reader to question long-held assumptions about learning and achievement. How do we foster healthy self-esteem and a love of learning without unwittingly pushing too hard and causing more pressure? How do we manage our desire for our children's success and avoid the tendency to live through them? You don't need to have read the book to participate in the discussion. Books are available at BookEnds and at the Library's Circulation Desk. For more information visit our website: parenttoparent.org.

WFEE NEWS

Time to Get Your Tickets to the WFEE Prom 'n Aid! I know...it seems early, but the Prom 'n Aid is right around the corner, Saturday, May 7th. May 7th is a scant two weeks after we return from April break. Beat the rush! Get your tickets now either on line at www.wfee.org or at Book Ends. Tickets purchased by April 15th are \$350 a pair, \$175 apiece - prices go up \$10 a ticket after the 15th. You won't want to miss an evening of surprises! Try your hand at charity blackjack, bid on our "mystery box," enjoy a great dinner from Bistro 5 then rock the house with SIX. All proceeds benefit your students and their teachers through grants from the Winchester Foundation of Educational Excellence.

ABC BOTTLE DRIVE

The Winchester ABC Program will hold its next Bottle Drive on Saturday, May 7, 2011, from 8 AM to 3 PM in the parking lot behind the Sons of Italy Hall at the entrance to the transfer station. Your returnable bottles and cans help to finance the ABC Program. As always, volunteers are needed the day of the drive to help sort the bottles and cans. If you have an hour or two and can help, please know that you are welcome. For more information, please call Brian Sergenian at 781-721-0242 or Mary D. Jordan at 781-729-8397. Again, thank you for your continued help.

MEDICATION TAKE-BACK PROGRAM

Time to clean out your medicine cabinets, drawers and cupboards of unwanted/unused medicines. The Winchester Coalition for a Safer Community in partnership with the Winchester Police Department, Winchester Hospital and the Winchester Board of Health, and with the support of the Winchester Co-operative Bank will be holding its 4th annual Medication Take Back Program on **Saturday, May 7th, from 9:a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** at the parking lot outside of the Transfer Station. Residents are encouraged to bring down their expired, unwanted or unused medications for proper disposal. Drugs that accumulate in our medicine cabinets can contribute to accidental poisonings and illegal access that can lead to abuse. Much of the unwanted medicines that are flushed down toilets or thrown in the trash end up in our surface or ground waters, potentially impacting wildlife and aquatic organisms. Winchester Hospital pharmacists are volunteering their time in accepting unwanted and expired medication for free and safe disposal. Accepted medications include all prescription drugs; over the counter medicine, herbal products; vitamin and mineral supplements, and throat lozenges. Residents are asked to cross out their name and address their permanent marker but the NAME OF THE MEDICATION SHOULD REMAIN VISIBLE ON THE LABEL. Certain medications are disposed of differently according to state and federal regulations. Those residents who are unable to participate may drop off medications at THE KIOSK sponsored by the Winchester Coalition for a Safer Community located in the Winchester Police Department's Lobby

WINCHESTER LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

From the State House to Town Hall and Your House: LWV Brings Legislators to You

Meet your State Legislators, Sen. Pat Jehlen and Rep. Jason Lewis, to hear and discuss the latest developments on the Economy, Jobs, Budgets, Education, Healthcare, and the Environment. What does the national and state economic downturn mean for Winchester? How do ever-changing state policies -- and funding levels -- impact our schools, our seniors, our town center, and our quality of life? The LWV invites you to join a conversation on these "Hot Topics" with our Beacon Hill delegation, **Monday, May 23, 2011**, 10 to 11:30 am in the Winchester Public Library Meeting Room. Enjoy a selection of pastries and fruit. Child-friendly & handicap accessible. The Winchester League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to providing information, promoting civil public debate, and fostering participation in government. More info at lwvwinchester.org.

"A RACE TO REMEMBER"

"A Race to Remember" on Sunday, June 12, 2011 to celebrate the lives of Charlotte and Finn Mortimer, Laura Stone-Mortimer, and Ragna Ellen Stone. Funds raised from "A Race to Remember" will be used to build a memorial at Ginn Playground honoring the family. The road race will begin at 9am and will include a 3.6 mile Run/Walk as well as a Kids Fun Run beginning and ending at Ginn Field. Pre-registration fee is \$25 for individuals with 100 percent of the proceeds going towards the park and memorial. Registration information is available at www.beGINNagain.com.

ENKA NEWS**EN KA SOCIETY SEEKS BOOK DONATIONS****Bring out your books!!**

We have the space, we have the volunteers, we have the boxes ... all we need are the books!

The Book Committee is ready and eager to sort and box the donated books that will then be sold at the EnKa Fair's Book Tent. Tell your friends, your neighbors, your tennis group and investment club ... Please gather all your gently read books. We take everything – paperback, fiction, hardcover, non-fiction, mysteries, and children's books. DVDs, audiotapes and CDs in good condition are also appreciated. Well, just about everything – please no textbooks, employee manuals, encyclopedias, magazines or condensed books. Keep in mind, if you wouldn't buy the item in its condition, neither will anyone else!

We will continue to collect until May 13th. Books can be left anytime on the wooden collection pallets at the Sanborn House's Carriage House, adjacent to the Ambrose School at 27 High Street in Winchester. Look for signs saying "Book Drop Here". Books should be placed in small, easy to handle boxes. Please wrap boxes in plastic to protect the books from the elements.

All proceeds from the book sale will support En Ka's annual grants to dozens of Winchester's charitable and civic organizations. Books that remain unsold at the end of the Fair will be donated to More Than Words in Waltham (www.mtwyouth.org) Any questions please contact enkabooks@yahoo.com.

ENKA'S ANNUAL YARD SALE

9:00-1:00, Friday, MAY 6 and Saturday, MAY 7, 2011

At the ENKA EXCHANGE 1037 Main St Winchester

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ENKA FAIR

Volunteers who are over 18 years of age are needed for the upcoming EnKa Fair being held Friday and Saturday, May 20 and 21. Those interested in taking tickets for a ride or helping with a game for a two-hour shift, please email nancyhickey@gmail.com.

EN KA DAY AT MAHONEY'S ROCKY LEDGE

Wednesday, May 18th

The En Ka annual fundraiser will be held from 10 am - 5 pm on Wednesday, May 18th at Mahoney's Rocky Ledge Garden Center, 242 Cambridge Street in Winchester. Buy flowers, plants, tools, gift certificates and more. For the 28th consecutive year, Mahoney's will donate a percentage of that day's sales to the En Ka Society to help fund grants for Winchester's charitable and civic organizations. Please pay at the Main Greenhouse.