

WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL
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PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ NOVEMBER 2011

Visit our website at www.whspfa.org

FROM THE OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL TOM GWIN

My monthly piece will focus on a different aspect of the Focus on the Future Strategic Plan this year. In the Focus Area of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, one of the action steps is to implement the new state performance regulations for teacher evaluation.

During the summer the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved the new regulations that had been recommended by a state task force. The new rules dramatically change the landscape of the teacher supervision process by tying the scores of MCAS and other district testing data to teachers' evaluations. Because about only 17% of teachers instruct students who will take MCAS in their disciplines, each school district will need to develop other grade and course wide assessments in order to fulfill the new regulations. Student feedback on teachers will also be part of the new process. Administrators, using this assessment data along with evidence from more frequent and rigorous classroom observations, will assign teachers to one of four categories- exemplary, proficient, needs improvement, or unsatisfactory. Teachers in the needs improvement and unsatisfactory categories will be placed on an improvement plan. Those with an unsatisfactory rating for two straight years will face dismissal. Those with a needs improvement rating will have two years to reach one of the top two categories or face possible dismissal.

These new regulations tying teacher evaluation to test scores were a requirement for all states that received Race to the Top federal funds. As a district receiving Race to the Top Money (we don't get much), Winchester is required to implement the new regulations next September. As I wrote in the weekly update two weeks ago, the district has initiated a new student learning initiative with the goal of developing common student learning expectations at each elementary grade and for courses at the secondary level. This work will include the development of specific and common achievement targets for students at each grade level and each course, constructing common assessments from the achievement targets, and analyzing the results of the common assessments to improve instruction. You can be sure that these common assessments will become part of the teacher evaluation process.

MESSAGES FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Please read the following dress code rule as quoted from the student handbook.

Dress Code ~ A student's personal appearance should not disrupt the orderly conduct of school business or the educational process, nor should it constitute a threat to the health and safety of any member of the school. Students must wear shoes at all times. All clothing and hats with any insignia referring to alcohol, drugs and/or tobacco, racial and/or ethnic slurs, violence, homophobia, profanity, gender bias or any other inappropriate comments are not allowed to be worn. Teachers will decide if hats can be worn in their classroom. The torso must be covered, strapless tops are not allowed, a student is not allowed to have his/her head covered by a hooded garment, and under garments must not be visible.

Inappropriate dress may result in a student being asked to change clothing, cover up, as well as parental contact. Administration and staff will decide if specific clothing is inappropriate. A teacher may ask the student to put a sweater or jacket on if they feel the student needs to cover up. A teacher may send a student down to the office if they feel the student's personal appearance is inappropriate.

Communication with Parents/Guardians ~ The following methods have been developed to provide the best communications possible in our school.

Edline ~ Edline is an electronic communication between the school, teachers, students and parents with any school related information.

Parent Contact ~ Parents should contact teachers by email. A teacher's email address consists of the teacher's first initial and last name (one word) plus winchester.k12.ma.us. For example, Tom Gwin would be tgwin@winchester.k12.ma.us

Public Address ~ Announcements are made to the entire school during a designated period only. Check your Edline account for daily announcements.

The Red and Black ~ The student newspaper is published throughout the year. This publication reports news and sports and contains features and editorials.

The Electronic Bulletin Boards ~ The Electronic Bulletin Boards have write-ups of announcements and notices of up-coming events, meetings and events. The bulletin boards are located in the cafeteria and the main office hallway.

The Parent/Faculty (PFA) Newsletter ~ is a monthly electronic mailing. The PFA also sends out periodic electronic "blasts."

WHS Student /Parent Handbook ~ This publication is distributed at the beginning of the school year to each student.

WHS Course Catalog ~ is distributed to students each spring when signing up for courses the following year and is on the school website.

Report Cards ~ Report cards contain course grades, attendance records, a summary of course credits, teacher comments, and course levels. All report cards are emailed home.

Progress Reports ~ Students will receive a report on their progress from each of their teachers mid-way through the quarter.

PFA NEWS

FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Carol Cashion and Jody Collins Skinner

First, our thanks to all who attended our October PFA meeting, where we had the chance to hear from all five of our Department Directors on the topic of course leveling and course consistency. What I thought was most valuable about the discussion was that it was truly a two-way exchange between faculty and parents. I think we parents learned a great deal by listening to one another as well. We want to keep that dialogue going!

Appropriately, then, the topic for this month's meeting is "Communications: How Are We Doing?" Our guests will be Principal Tom Gwin and Vice Principal Sue Mochrie addressing the "Expectations and Communications" focus area of the strategic plan. I encourage you to do your homework and prep for this discussion by reviewing the "action items" in this section of the plan so we can give the administration our feedback on their efforts and help guide the work they still have ahead of them. The entire Focus on the Future report is available on Edline under the "News" tab (you have to click down to "more"), or you can link to the Action Plan directly here:

http://www.edline.net/files/RPCfr/243e3679ffac59ed3745a49013852ec4/Focus_on_the_FutureActionPlan.pdf

November is also the month when our Budget/Grants Committee reports on how we plan to spend our Direct Appeal funds this year. Co-Chairs Brenda Reishus and Carol Savage will present their recommendations for our Grants Program, which we are pleased to say will allow us to fund a wide range of teacher and student needs and help move forward important school improvement initiatives. We will also vote on our annual budget.

Please join us next Wednesday, November 2, in the library. We have good, substantive work to do, and we need your voice, your perspective, your involvement, your support.

THE WHS PFA 2011-2012 DIRECT APPEAL

Please be sure to make your donation to the WHS PFA's DIRECT APPEAL!

The Direct Appeal is the sole source of funding for the PFA's budget, and **funds raised through the Direct Appeal fund important and innovative programs for students through the PFA Grants Program**, as well as the cost of equipment and supplies not included in the high school budget. In recent years, Direct Appeal funds have been used to provide grants to all WHS academic departments, the school library, and many extracurricular, enrichment, and support programs for your students. Your contributions are important to our school community as they are reinvested in programming, equipment, and supplies that your children benefit from. Please help us to meet our budget!

The PFA's goal is to raise Direct Appeal funds through the contributions of 100% of WHS families. Please be sure to participate! 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.

Thank you for your donation!

Checks made payable to the "WHS PFA" may be sent to Joanne O'Donnell, 9 Pierrepont Road, Winchester, MA 01890. Please include the following information:

Name of WHS Student(s) _____

Grade(s) _____

Amount of Contribution \$75 _____ \$100 _____ \$125 _____ Other _____

PayPal - You may also contribute by making a quick and easy online transaction through a PayPal account that the PFA has set up for the Direct Appeal. Make your contributions via PayPal by clicking on

the following link to the Direct Appeal page on the WHS PFA Website. Direct Appeal Page. Please then click on the "Yellow Donate Button," which will open up another page. On the check at the top of the page, please enter the amount of your donation in the field under "Donation Amount" and then click "Update Total." This will bring you to the bottom of the page where you can either log into your PayPal account (on the lower right hand side) or pay by credit card (on the left hand side.) If you don't have a PayPal account, you don't need to open one to pay by credit card.

For additional information, please contact Joanne O'Donnell at pfodonnell@verizon.net.

CLASS NEWS

CLASS OF 2012

Thank you to all of the seniors who got their Parent Ad, Senior Quote and chose their senior portrait by October 3rd! For the next couple of months, the yearbook staff will be hard at work capturing our life here at Winchester High. The yearbook staff is looking forward to the exciting months ahead working on this time capsule of the 2011 – 2012 school year so that in ten years of now your memories of high school will come rushing back. If you have not bought a book now's the time! Here's how to order:

Online:

- Go to www.yearbookordercenter.com and pay by credit card
- Enter school code: **13780**

Phone:

- Call us at 1-866-287-3096 and pay by credit card
- Enter school code: **13780**

Mail:

- Complete the form attached called "Yearbook Order Form"
http://www.whspfa.org/clientimages/39852/nov2011/Yearbook_Order_Form.pdf
- Check should be made out to "Winchester High School Yearbook"
- You may mail this form and your check to the high school, Attn: Yearbook Order

Please note that the **last** day that you can order your yearbook is **January 31, 2012**. If you have any questions, please contact: **Erin Mayo**, Editor-in-Chief at Winchester.HS.Yearbook2012@gmail.com or **Jennifer Baker**, Winchester High School Yearbook Advisor at JBaker@Winchester.K12.MA.US

IMPORTANT INFO RE CAPS AND GOWNS

Cap and Gown Measurements will take place on Wednesday November 9th, during both lunches. Measurements will be held in the red staircase by the student parking lot. The cost is \$17.00, checks should be made payable to: Winchester High School. The student's name and "cap & gown" should be written on the memo line. You must have your Check/Cash to be measured! Each outfit comes with a tassel, which students will receive in June. If you wish to purchase an extra tassel now please have **\$4.00 cash** to pay the University Cap & Gown Representative. You will also be asked to verify your name, spelling etc. for your diploma.

CLASS OF 2014

Your class officers have been busy planning "class unity" fundraisers and activities during the months of September and October. Our new Sachem sweatpants sold in great demand during open house. We are still taking orders. See one of the class officers or Mrs. Troiano for an order form.

We are very proud and excited to be selling Wilson pies for Thanksgiving. Purchase any of the 12 varieties of delicious, home-cooked pies for the holidays, and all proceeds will help the Class of 2014. Click here for a link to the pie order form

http://whspfa.org/clientimages/39852/miscellaneous1112/Wilson_Farms_Pie_Order_Form.pdf

to indicate your pie choices, quantities, and contact information. Pies will be available for pickup on November 22nd at the high school cafeteria, and pie deliveries can also be made to your house on that day for an additional charge. All order forms must be returned by Tuesday November 15.

NEWS FROM THE WINCHESTER FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE (WFEE)

A big "thank you!" to Principal Gwin for his participation in "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." Dr. Gwin and Winchester's other principals acted as "guest spellers" for the NextDoor Theater's production of this award winning musical in October. The principals sang, danced and spelled, all to benefit the WFEE grants' program. Thanks to their enthusiastic participation in this fundraiser, the NextDoor Theater was able to donate over \$1,000 to WFEE. If you missed the shows, check out the pictures at www.wfee.org

Winchester High School students are writing, recording and producing their own songs thanks to a WFEE grant that has provided iPads to the Music Department. The grant was the brainchild of Dr. John McCann. "The iPads offer students a platform for individual music learning that is flexible, portable and fun," according to Dr. McCann. Dr. McCann's students use the iPads both for composition and to learn the sounds and symbols of music theory. While one section of the class rehearses, another works on the iPads, progressing at their own pace and maximizing their time. "The opportunity to use this cutting edge modality for learning would not exist without the broad support for the Winchester schools that is channeled through WFEE, says Dr. McCann.

Thank you to all of our donors who have made Dr. McCann's dream of a more interactive classroom come true! For more information on all of our grants visit www.wfee.org

CONNECT AND COMMIT

The Connect & Commit Service Club meets the last Tuesday of each 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.

Volunteer Opportunities & Events

Saturday Nov. 5th - Lowell Wish Project 9-11am, Help sort donated goods for distribution. Each year Lowell Wish Project provides \$1.4 million in value of free furniture, home, clothing and baby goods for

more than 25,000 needy people. Help them make it possible. **Parent Volunteers/ Drivers Needed!**

Saturday Nov. 11th & Wednesday Nov. 16th- Winchester Environmental Summit 4-6pm and 7-9pm (respectively) at Town Hall

Saturday Nov. 19th – Rock the Ages- Volunteer to help with scoring, registration, etc. at this fun and exciting women's basketball tournament held in the WHS gym.

Saturday Dec. 10th Prison Book Program 10am-1pm Help to read handwritten requests from prisoners for books and then select, package and send the books off to the prisoners.

Saturday Dec. 17th- Cradles to Crayons 10am-12pm, Volunteer to help reach the goal that one day, every child in need will have the essentials to feel safe, warm, ready to learn and valued. You will likely sort goods to be delivered to children in need at their "giving factory". **2 Parent Volunteers/ Drivers Needed!**

Saturday Jan. 7th Room to Grow 12-2pm Help to sort and process all of the holiday donations that come through this non profit. This organization seeks to enrich the lives of babies born into poverty through their critical first three years of development. By volunteering you will help them with this mission. **2 Parent Volunteers/Drivers Needed!**

Wednesday Feb. 8th- WFEE Trivia Bee Help WFEE set up for and run their annual Trivia Bee!

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!**

Saturday May 5th- 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.**

SCHOOL NEWS

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

The students in Mr. Downs "Developing Mobile Applications" course have been hard at work creating mobile applications for their Android phones and tablets. Students have been learning how to integrate technology such as the "accelerometer", "swipe and scroll" and "touch event gestures". Using these skills students have developed information architecture for the layout of their apps, designed them and then deployed them on to Motorola zoom tablets to test. Students have been excited to welcome this new curriculum to the Computer Education Department. To check out the progress in this class and see some cool videos of our apps check out the homepage www.androidapplicationsclass.com .

PLEASE JOIN PARENT CONVERSATIONS**Wednesday, November 9th at 8:45 in the Guidance Conference Room**

Parent Conversations invites you to join us for coffee and informal conversation about our kids, WHS and our community. 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. The monthly discussions vary among open topics, specific topics and guest speakers. Past guest speakers have included Head of Guidance, The Athletic Director and the School Resource Officer. Shafiya Ciccarelli, WHS Clinical Counselor facilitates the group discussion.

A+ SCHOOL REWARDS!

Parents, Welcome to the start of a new school year and A+ School Rewards! Starting October 6, 2011 through March 29, 2012, Winchester High School will have the opportunity to earn cash through Stop & Shop A+ School Rewards Program. All you have to do is: Log on to www.stopandshop.com/aplus to register online OR Dial 1-877-275-2758 to register your card over the phone After you register your card, each shopping trip at Stop & Shop using your Stop & Shop Card earns CASH for our school! Each month, the amount of CASH awarded will be updated on the Stop & Shop website. You can track the amount of points you earn for our school by checking your grocery receipt and online when you create an account at www.stopandshop.com. Our school will receive a check at the end of the program. The money can be used for any of our school's educational needs. Attending to this simple process makes a HUGE difference to our school. We need your support. Please be sure to register your card to benefit Winchester High School using ID # 09331 or scroll down to Massachusetts, Winchester and click on the Winchester High School listing. Please sign up right away so we will be ready to earn money the minute the program officially begins. As always thank you for your support.

WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL OCTETS PRESENT THEIR FALL A CAPPELLA FEST

Saturday, November 5, 2011

7:30pm Concert

Doors Open at 7pm

Refreshments will be sold at intermission.

The Winchester High School Octets, under the direction of Christopher Nickelson, will present their Annual Fall A Cappella Fest. The Octets will perform a set of songs featuring original arrangements by its members. Joining the Octets will be several college a cappella groups and Octets alumni, including groups from Boston University and Tufts. Also joining the Octets will be the WHS Chamber Singers. The Fall A Cappella Fest will be held on Saturday, November 5th at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, 71 Mount Vernon Street in Winchester. Tickets will be \$15 for Adults, \$8 for Students and Seniors, and a Family Rate of \$40 for two adults with their minor aged children. The Octets also will be selling their CD, Flour: 5 Cents for \$15. Advanced tickets and/or CDs may be purchased at BookEnds, 559 Main Street in Winchester, or by visiting www.WinchesterHighSchoolChoir.com Proceeds from the concert and CD sales support Octets activities and competitions. Children under the age of 13 need to be accompanied by an adult guardian. For additional information about the Octets, their CD, and their availability for private performances, please visit www.WinchesterHighSchoolChoir.com

NEWS FROM THE FIELD HOCKEY PROGRAM

October was Breast Cancer Awareness month and the Winchester High School Girls Field Hockey Program raised money for the Susan G. Komen Foundation and the Winchester Hospital Breast Care Center. On Saturday, October 8th the girls held a car wash and successfully raised over \$500.00, the proceeds from this event will be donated to the Winchester Hospital Breast Cancer Center. On Monday, October 10th the Lady Sachems "Played 4 the Cure" when they hosted Wilmington and raised over \$600.00 through "Admission" donations and selling baked goods. The proceeds from "Play 4 the Cure" will go directly to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. The Field Hockey Teams and Coaches would like to thank everyone for their generous donations. The incredible support from Parents, Friends and the Winchester Community is so greatly appreciated, we couldn't have done it without you.

The Guide



A Monthly Newsletter from the WHS Guidance Department November 2011

Important Information for Parents of Seniors

During the senior year, when a student requests that his/her transcript be sent to a college, the transcript of the first three years is sent. In February, after mid-year report cards have been issued, a copy of the mid-year report card is automatically sent to all colleges to which a senior has applied. The mid-year report sent to the colleges reflects only the student's mid-year grades in each course. Quarter grades, mid-year exam grades, and teacher comments are not included in the mid-year report. *If a college requests to see the first quarter report card prior to mid-year reports, please see Mrs. Wilson in Guidance.*

IMPORTANT: Notice to College-bound Seniors and their Parents:

Please be sure to adhere to the Guidance Office Deadlines when requesting transcripts. In order for transcripts to reach colleges on time, it is critical that electronic Transcript Requests be submitted by the specified deadline.

Financial Aid ...Get Your PIN Now!

Although the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA) cannot be filed until after January 1, 2012, seniors and their

parents planning to apply for financial aid can get a **PIN** (Personal Identification Number) now which will be used to electronically sign the **FAFSA** when completing and filing the application online. Applying for a **PIN** now will avoid holding up the process of filing the **FAFSA** online after January 1. To obtain a **PIN**, students will need to supply their name, social security number, date of birth and mailing address and submit the **PIN** request. Parents of a dependent student must also request a **PIN**, since both parent and student must sign the **FAFSA**. To obtain the **PIN**, go to: www.pin.ed.gov.

If you missed the Financial Aid Workshop held at Winchester High School on October 5th, please visit www.MEFA.org to view the

presentation provided by MEFA or to attend a Financial Aid seminar hosted by MEFA. Workbooks are available in the Guidance Office.

College Financing Tool

The U.S. Department of Education has announced a new online tool to help students and families financially prepare for college before a student's senior year of high school. The **FAFSA4caster** provides parents with an early estimate of their eligibility for federal student aid, including grants, reduces the time it will take to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Assistance) and clarifies the financial aid process for students and parents. To use the **FAFSA4caster**, go to: www.fafsa.ed.gov and click on the link to **FAFSA4caster**.

Out-of-State Tuition Break Through RSP

The New England Board of Higher Education's (NEBHE) Regional Student Program (RSP) gives thousands of New England college students a significant out-of-state tuition break each year when they enroll in approved degree programs at out-of-state public colleges and universities in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. Through the RSP, the New England states cooperate to share academic programs offered by their public higher education institutions and provide eligible New England residents with a tuition break when they pursue approved programs not offered by their home-state public colleges and universities. The NEBHE website www.nebhe.org features comprehensive RSP information.

Scholarships

Winchester Scholarship Foundation applications will be available in January 2012 in the Guidance Office.

Additional scholarship information can be found under the **Scholarship** tab in Naviance.

Junior & Senior Parents

FALL COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES' VISITS TO THE WHS GUIDANCE OFFICE

WHS guidance counselors believe it is an essential part of the college search process for senior and junior students to meet with college representatives. In an effort to promote this contact between students and college admissions personnel, colleges have been invited to come to the Guidance Office Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons at 2:15 p.m. The number of colleges on these afternoons will be limited to three. Please check the list on Naviance for days and times colleges will visit WHS. These visits allow for a great deal of personal interaction between admissions personnel and students.

ADDITIONAL COLLEGE FAIRS/SPECIAL INTEREST COLLEGE FAIRS & PROGRAMS

Performing & Visual Arts College Fair

For students interested in pursuing a program of study in the area of performing or visual arts, the National Association of College Admission Counseling (N.A.C.A.C.) is sponsoring a Performing & Visual Arts College Fair where attendees can learn about educational opportunities, admissions and financial aid, portfolio days, audition and entrance requirements from representatives of educational institutions with specialized programs in the visual and performing arts. The program will be

held on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at The Boston Center for the Arts. For additional information, directions, and a list of colleges attending, go to the website www.nacacnet.org

Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI. The Admission Department will host a number of Open House & Information Session type programs during the 2011 – 2012 school year. Each program will consist of a three hour presentation which will begin at 1:00 pm and

consist of a discussion regarding Admissions and the Application Process and a tour of the facilities. Please note that each presentation is designed to be student and family friendly. The Schedule will be as follows:
November 2011 through January 2012 Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. RISD will host Saturday Programs: November 5, 19; March 3,17. The Saturday Programs are subject to change. Please call to check the date/time of any program. well ahead (three to four weeks) of the intended program date and secure a reservation. Call the RISD Admissions Office at (800) 364-RISD

Annual “Academy/ROTC Night” at Danversport Yacht Club, Danvers MA at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, November 2, 2011.

Military personnel will be present at 6:30 pm through 9:30 pm to answer questions. The program will start at 7:00pm. Representatives from the service academies: The Citadel, Maine Maritime Academy, the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy, Massachusetts Maritime Academy & New York State Maritime Academy, Norwich University, Valley Forge Military Institute, and the Virginia Military Institute. All ROTC Programs and representatives of area Congressional Officials will be present to meet with prospective students and their parents. For more detailed information contact: Capt. Ed Bryant, USNIA, at 978-356-5453 or Email captecb29@aol.com

SAT Fee Waiver Service

During the 2011 – 2012 academic year, CollegeBoard will again offer a fee waiver service to assist students for whom the payment of fees for the SAT Reasoning Test and the SAT Subject Tests presents a serious barrier to testing and applying for college admission. To be eligible for a fee waiver, a student must apply through his/her guidance counselor and must meet financial eligibility guidelines such as participation in the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program or household income eligibility guidelines which your guidance counselor will share with you. Only students in grades 11 and 12 are eligible for fee waivers. Eligible students may receive up to a total of four fee waivers

(two for the SAT, two for Subject Tests). The fee waivers do not cover standby or late fees and may be used in online or mail-in registrations. Students who qualify for fee waivers may also qualify for up to four college application fee waivers. Parents who would like to learn more about fee waivers are encouraged to contact their child’s guidance counselor.

NCAA Eligibility

High school athletes who would like to participate in any sport at an NCAA Division I or II school must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse. It is the student-athlete’s responsibility to register with the Clearinghouse, preferably during their junior year. Eligibility requirements change from year to year, please refer www.ncaa.org to view requirements and to register.

Parents of Sophomores

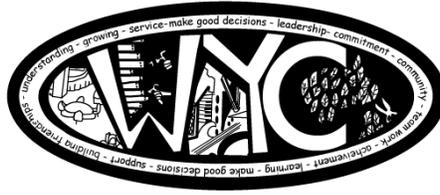
Guidance counselor will be checking in with sophomores on an individual basis as needed. Students will formally meet with their guidance counselor December –January regarding career exploration.

Parents of Freshman

Guidance Counselors met with all ninth grade students during the week of September 26th. All students received an informational handout about Guidance Services which is available on the Guidance Website for your review.

An informational freshman parent coffee will be held on Tuesday, November 15th at 8:00 am. (Location TBD). Please RSVP to Elizabeth Wilson, Guidance Secretary at ewilson1@winchester.k12.ma.us.

***Keep up with the latest information:
Visit the WHS Guidance Website!***



Winchester Youth Center

458R Main Street

Winchester MA 01890

781-721-0906

www.winc.com

wincchesteryouthcenter@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/pages/Winchester-Youth-Center

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.

TOWN-WIDE PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT

Thursday, November 10th

12:00-3:00pm

The WYC's annual town-wide scavenger hunt is back! We invite all WHS students to select 3-5 of your quickest, smartest, stealthiest, most adventurous friends and enter your team in this super fun challenge. Teams must have a team name, costumes, and a digital camera. Trophies, medals, and other prizes will be awarded to the most cunning, most creative, and best teams. Check out our website to find out more or stop by the WYC to enter.

ROCK FOR YOUTH

Friday, December 2nd

7:00-11:00pm

Each year the WYC sponsors a Battle of the Bands for local high school rock stars. The first of three rounds will take place on Friday, December 2nd in the Winchester Town Hall Auditorium. If you are interested in registering your band, contact the WYC or email us at rock4youth@gmail.com. If you have friends in a band or just like to listen to great, live music be there to select the bands that will move on to Round 2.

Admission is \$10 and each audience member receives one ballot to vote for their favorite bands.

As with all WYC events, outside drinks are not allowed and students are not allowed to re-enter.

Proceeds from Rock for Youth benefit the WYC's Youth Service Award Scholarships.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

The WYC has several youth groups for WHS students that focus on responsibility, respect for others, trust, commitment, teamwork, support, and community service. Through these groups students are given many opportunities to develop their skills in the areas of communication, organization, decision-making, and leadership. They also build confidence and self-esteem by serving as role models for their peers and making a difference in their community. Please contact wincchesteryouthcenter@gmail.com for more

information on any of these programs.

SERVICE PROJECTS

Throughout the year the WYC Peer Leaders coordinate and participate in a huge variety of community service projects. The Peer Leaders are committed to making a positive difference in the world and encouraging others to do the same. 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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

GIRL SCOUTS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

To kick off the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting, the Winchester Girl Scouts will be hosting a party to celebrate the birthday of our founder Juliette Gordon Low. The event will be held on October 30th, 2011 from 3 - 5 PM at the Winchester 2nd Congregational Church, 485 Washington Street. The party is open to all girls in kindergarten through 12th grade, their families, and any current or former adult Girl Scouts. Adult Girl Scouts are encouraged to bring sashes, badge books, pictures, and other memorabilia to share. Classic Girl Scout songs will be sung and refreshments will be served. A donation of \$3 will be collected at the door. We will also be collecting books to send to soldiers in Afghanistan in honor of Veteran's Day at the party--all genres are welcome. For more information, please contact Elli Goeke at winchestergirlscouts@gmail.com.

WINCHESTER READS

Please come to hear Marina Endicott, author of Good to a Fault, who will speak at the McCall Middle School, 456 Main Street, on Tuesday, November 1st, at 7:30 pm. Her book, Good to a Fault, addresses the dilemma of Clara Purdy who welcomes a homeless family into her house. What is her motivation? Is she doing good for them or is she trying to change her lonely life. Who benefits from her actions? Join the Winchester Reads audience for the tenth year of reading together in the town.

WINCHESTER MULTICULTURAL NETWORK

Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible

A film about challenging racism.

Sunday, November 6 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 478 Main St., Winchester

The Multicultural Network and the Winchester Unitarian Society invite you to a screening of the film *Mirrors of Privilege*, featuring the experiences of white men and women who have worked to gain insight into what it means to challenge racism. As those of us who are white listen to the voices of Peggy McIntosh, Tim Wise, Joe Fahey, Marguerite Parks, Gary Howard, and others, we may be better able to understand our own experience. All are welcome to this free program.

International Pot Luck Supper

Sunday, November 6 from 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Chidley Hall, First Congregational Church, 21 Church St., Winchester

The International Connections Committee invites you to its 12th annual International Pot Luck Supper. Bring a dish of food from your culture to share, and enjoy a delightful evening with Winchester neighbors from other countries. This event has become a Winchester tradition and is a wonderful way to celebrate Winchester's growing diversity. Call 781-729-7100 or email office@wmcn.org to sign up.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WINCHESTERHot Topic: **“Town Government 101”**

November 20, 2011, 2-4 pm

Town Hall Auditorium

Do you have questions about how our town government works, how all the pieces fit together? What are the various boards, committees, and commissions, and what decisions do they make?

It all starts with VOTERS. Mark your calendar for the League’s **Fall Hot Topic “Town Government 101”** and please join us on **Sunday, November 20 from 2-4 pm at the Town Hall Auditorium.**

Representatives from Town Meeting, the Town Manager’s Office, Finance Committee, and other town officials will be on hand to explain what they do and the vital role voters play in the civic life of Winchester. Light refreshments will be served; parking available; accessible. More info about the League at lwvwinchester.org **Let’s make Winchester the town where everyone votes!**

LEARN TO SKATE @ FLYNN RINK

Currently accepting enrollments for Session II classes!

Flynn Rink's 7-week sessions are geared towards skaters of all ages (3 and up), including Adults, and feature 40 minute classes offered on Tuesdays/Thursdays/Saturdays at 3:10 p.m., and Saturdays at 2:20 p.m. or Sundays at 11:10 a.m. Fall classes are underway and Session II begins November 5th!

Participants will learn the fundamentals of skating from qualified instructors, and will be evaluated at the end of each session with the hope of progressing to the next level! **ENROLL TODAY** and skate into Winter! Questions? Customer Service at 781.396.8500 for more information.

Flynn Rink | 300 Elm Street, Medford, MA 02155 | www.flynnrink.com

WINTON CLUB ANNUAL HOLIDAY FAIR

Come one & all – there’s something here for everyone! Colorful seasonal merchandise, Decorative Holiday & Hostess Gifts, Jewelry, Accessories, Toys, & Candy

Wednesday: November 16 - “Midnight Madness” - 6:00 PM - Midnight

Thursday: November 17 - 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Friday: November 18 - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Main Lobby of Winchester Hospital

41 Highland Avenue ~ Winchester

All proceeds benefit the Hospital

WINCHESTER COALITION FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY PRESENTS

Dr. Robert Brooks--November 14th 7:00 PM at McCall Middle School

After the overwhelming response to *Race to Nowhere*, the Winchester Coalition for A Safer Community is continuing the discussion on the topic of teen stress. Renowned clinical psychologist Dr. Robert Brooks will talk about how to be a “charismatic adult” capable of raising resilient children in a culture of high stress. Parent Conversations for November and December will provide parents an additional venue to discuss concerns and solutions.