

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

PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ NOVEMBER, 2012

Visit our website at www.whspfa.org

FROM THE OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL TOM GWIN

Symmes, Maini& McKee Associates (SMMA) continue their work on the WHS Feasibility Study. SMMA currently meets weekly (up from bimonthly) with the Educational Facilities Public Building Committee (EFPBC) on the progress of the study. These meetings take place on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm at Town Hall and the public is invited. I will also present updates at the monthly PFA meetings.

If all goes according to the scheduled timeline, a preferred conceptual design and location will be approved in mid-December. The site has been narrowed to the current location or Ciarcia (Skillings) Field. There are various iterations of the conceptual design, but basically we're looking at a new school on Ciarcia, a renovation of the current building with small additions, or a new building on the current site that would be phased in over 4-5 years. The last option means demolishing sections of the current WHS and building new over a period of time.

Various problematic issues have emerged during the study. The estimated costs of any of the conceptual designs (\$126 to \$163 million) were much higher than the EFPBC anticipated. The length of time of a phased project, up to five years, was longer than anyone projected. How will we accommodate all students in a phased project? Construction of a new school on Ciarcia cannot take place until four flood mitigation projects are completed. These projects will take much of the field out of the floodplain. But they may not be completed until 2017. Will the Massachusetts School Building Authority (that will reimburse the town for about one third of the project) keep a WHS project in its queue, if the project is not beginning until 2017?

Many questions need to be answered before the preferred design and location is chosen. Stay tuned in my weekly emails for the most up-to-date information. Slides of the conceptual designs, minutes from EFPBC meetings, and other pertinent information can be found at the Skanska USA website below. Skanska is the project manager.

<https://partners.myskanska.com/usa/clients/TOW/WHIS/SitePages/Home.aspx>

From the Co-Presidents

Jody Collins Skinner and Audrey Loria

Thank you to all who attended our October PFA meeting, where representatives from the WAG (Winchester Advisory Group) shared with us the various ways that they are working with our students. Dr. Gwin gave us his monthly update about the ongoing work towards a new and/or improved high

school. We encourage everyone to attend the community forums as decisions are made about the preferred plan.

Roger Hain and Kathy Czeck were elected to the School Council in the recent election.

November's meeting will give parents a chance to meet Suzanne Ontso, Director of Guidance and Phil Coss, School Resource Officer. Please join us to meet these new faces at WHS! We will also be hearing from the Budget/Grants Committee members and hear recommendations about the grants that we will be funding this school year. Speaking of Direct Appeal, it isn't too late to make your contribution! Unlike many other organizations, the WHS PFA makes an annual appeal in order to fund programs and grants that affect all of the students. If you haven't had a chance to make your donation, please click here to do so: <http://www.whspfa.org/templates/System/details.asp?id=39852&PID=737672>

Please join us next Wednesday, November 7, at 7:30 pm in the WHS library. We really want you to share your ideas and input with us!

CLASS NEWS

CLASS OF 2014 NEWS

November is a busy month! We need volunteers and donations to help with the Veteran's Day Soccer Tournament (11/17) and concessions for the Fall play 12/6 - 12/8. Baked goods and candy are greatly appreciated. Watch eblasts for more details. We WON Spirit Week last year. Let's try to repeat! We will need everyone to help with the hallway decorations and dressing in the color of the day! Watch Facebook for details. Keep up the unity and class spirit. GO SACHEMS!

WILSON PIES ARE BACK

Hate waiting in long lines? We got you covered. Love the smell of fresh baked pies at Thanksgiving? We've got you covered. We will be selling the infamous Wilson Pies for Thanksgiving. Purchase any of the 12 varieties of delicious, home-cooked pies for the holidays and pick them up right here at the high school. No lines, no waiting. Can't make it to the high school? We will deliver for a nominal fee.

Click here for a link to the pie order form.

www.whspfa.org/clientimages/39852/miscellaneous1213/Pie_Order_Form_2014.pdf

All order forms and payment need to be returned to the high school main office by Wednesday, November 14th. Pie pick-up will be Tuesday, November 20th in the cafeteria between 2:00 and 3:30 PM. Deliveries will be made during the same time.

SCHOOL NEWS

PARENT CONVERSATIONS

Please join Parent Conversations Wednesday, November 14th at 8:45am. Next month's Parent Conversation will meet in Room B101, rather than 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. At our last PC, many issues were discussed and we look forward to hearing follow-up as well as new topics or concerns. Join us on the 14th! Shafiya Ciccarelli, WHS Clinical Counselor facilitates the group discussion.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

Saturday, November 3- Fall A Cappella Fest - 7:30 pm, Octets and Chamber Singers will be performing at **Winchester High School Auditorium. (Please note change in location; NOT at Town Hall).**

Benefit Concert November 4

The Winchester High School Symphony, Orchestra, Sinfonietta and soloists will perform a musical program to benefit the Mission of Deeds. The concert begins at **3:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 4**, and will be held at St. Mary's Church, 159 Washington Street. There is no charge for admission. Works by Schubert, Gershwin, Bizet, Wagner and Gluck will be featured.

The Mission of Deeds, founded by the late Anthony J. Triglione of Winchester, is a volunteer charity that provides beds, furniture and household goods to those in need. Mission of Deeds will use the Concert's freewill offering to buy new mattresses and box springs for its clients.

This is the fifth year that Dr. McCann and Winchester High musicians have performed a benefit concert for Mission Of Deeds.

Friday, November 16th- Winchester Idol, 7:00 pm at Winchester High School

Saturday, November 17th- Senior District Auditions, select vocal and instrumental students

WHS FEASIBILITY STUDY

High School Feasibility Study architects, SMMA, have recommended a process for Winchester to select a preferred design and location for a new or renovated high school.

After narrowing down site selection over the past few months to either the current location or Skillings field, the Education Facilities Planning and Building Committee (EFPBC) are on schedule currently pursuing all available design options. The number of alternatives under consideration has expanded to eight, with 27 permutations dependent on the scope of education programming, space configurations, and site considerations. To simplify the process, SMMA recommended focusing on three sets of objectives which differentiate each alternative.

On Wednesday, October 17th the EFPBC met to evaluate alternatives according to **education program** and project cost tradeoffs. Wednesday October 24th site, **construction** and cost tradeoffs were discussed. Finally, on Wednesday October 31st, **schedule** and cost tradeoffs will be used to compare schematic designs.

Once the EFPBC has assessed alternatives based on these three filters, community discussions will shift to a focus on the 24 priorities and goals established at the start of the project. SMMA has also recommended abstaining consideration of any alternatives which fall below the MSBA's standard program or those which do not successfully accommodate the projected enrollment high water mark of 1370 ninth through twelfth graders

Over this phase of the feasibility study, SMMA will provide the EFPBC and the community with decision making tools, intended to illustrate through graphics, models, and estimates, the cost and educational implications of the decisions being considered. All alternatives considered in the future will include where possible proposed community use elements, including the location and size criteria for the addition of a community pool. For more information, please visit the project website: www.winchesterhsproject.com.

WFEE NEWS

How creative are WHS teachers and who is supporting their efforts? Thanks to a grant from the Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence (WFEE) English Teacher Eric Lister has created a digital service learning project. Advanced Placement English students are using WFEE funded tablets as video/still cameras, to develop lessons to teach the freshmen Homer's Odyssey. Freshman students and their teachers are evaluating the projects. Mr. Lister says, "We want a mobile perspective and a personal computer perspectives. The goal is for the AP Students to have complex interactions with an influential text in a meaningful manner. It helps them think about how they learn so that they can help shape the course to their own needs." Mr. Lister's grant is only one of the WFEE funded projects at WHS. For more information on WFEE grants visit the WFEE website, www.wfee.org

CONNECT AND COMMIT

Connect & Commit Community Service-Learning Club
Meetings are the last Tuesday of the month
All meetings are 6:30-7:30pm in the WHS Library

The Connect & Commit club is open to all students. You can get involved at any time. 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

Sunday November 11th - **Lantern Walk**- Winchester, MA

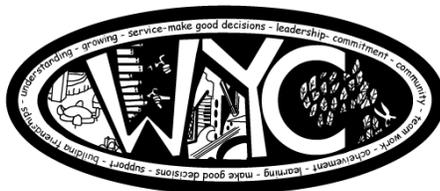
The Lantern Walk grew out of the recognition of the role that stress plays in all of our lives. The goal of the walk is to shed some light on the issue of stress, learn about ways to combat it, find local resources that will help, and make a pledge to take some small step toward reducing stress in your life. * We will be decorating lanterns at our October 30th Open Club Meeting. Please save and bring in to the office any 1 or 2 liter empty bottles you have at home.

Sunday November 17th - **Rock The Ages Basketball Tournament**- 8:30 am-2:30 pm in the WHS Gym

Student volunteers needed to help manage the scoreboards etc. Volunteers are needed from 8:30am-2:30pm, but students are not expected to stay the whole time. Volunteers can sign up to help for as long as they would like. * free food and drinks are offered for volunteers*

TBD- **Winchester Housing Authority**- Palmer Street Building

Residents received plants from Mahoney's and after planting them, dumped the plastic containers behind the building. They are looking for some nice volunteers to come and restore the grounds to a clean and friendly environment.



Winchester Youth Center

458R Main Street

Winchester MA 01890

781-721-0906

www.winyc.com

winchesteryouthcenter@gmail.com

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

The WYC offers a wide range of leadership, service-learning, and good-decision-making activities for WHS students. Please join us at our open meeting on Thursday, September 13th at 6:00pm to learn more about our amazing youth groups, awesome special events, and fabulous service projects. 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.

WINCHESTER COMMUNITY LANTERN WALK

Sunday, November 11th 4:00pm

Winchester Town Common

A community event to express support and raise awareness of the negative impacts of stress and pressure on our youth and families. If you believe that stress is a major problem for our children and in our society, please take a stand. Walk with your family, friends, and neighbors in Winchester's first Community Lantern Walk. We will walk to raise awareness of the negative impacts of stress on our children and families and give thought to what we can all do to reduce stress in our lives. We will meet on the Common at 4:00 and, as dusk falls, we will walk with glowing lanterns through downtown and then back to the Common where we will hang our lanterns from the trees as a symbol of the light that we are shining on this issue. Please check our website at www.winchesterlanternwalk.org for more information, resources, and lantern-making instructions.

TREATS FOR OUR TROOPS

October 30-November 9

The WYC is collecting is once again collecting Halloween Candy for our troops overseas. Over the last few years Treats For Our Troops has sent more than 6000 lbs of candy to troops stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Please join in and donate some of your Halloween candy or pick up an extra bag at the store and help us send a little Halloween cheer overseas! Please look for the orange Treats For Our Troops collection bins located at the WYC and at WHS, McCall, and all of the elementary schools. If you know of a soldier stationed overseas who would like to receive a box, please email his/her info to treatsforourtroops@gmail.com Thank you!

ROCK FOR YOUTH
Battle of the Bands
Friday, November 30th 7:00pm
Town Hall Auditorium

If you are interested in registering your band, email us at rock4youth@gmail.com. The band registration deadline is Friday, November 2nd. 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, no outside drinks are 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.

PEER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Do you have what it takes to be a peer leader?

If you have natural leadership skills, want to have a positive impact on the community, like to have fun and make good decisions; then the answer is yes! The WYC peer leadership program is a youth group for Winchester High School students who are committed to their community and serving as role models for their peers. The Peer Leaders have weekly youth group meetings to work on further developing their leadership, communication, interpersonal, and decision-making skills; plan for upcoming projects; and have a lot of fun. They serve as Project Leaders for all of the WYC's service-learning projects including all of our special events and community service projects. This group is open to any WHS student who has natural leadership skills and the desire to further develop them.

SSA: STUDENTS SPREADING AWARENESS

SSA is a group dedicated to spreading awareness about issues that we care about and feel our peers should be better informed about. In past years we have addressed issues including alcohol abuse, drinking and driving, the genocide in Darfur, world hunger, and more. This fall we will be focusing our efforts on supporting the Winchester Community Lantern Walk which is an event that has been created to raise awareness and create community support around the negative impacts that extreme stress and pressure are having on youth and families in our community. We invite all WHS students to come join us to help identify the issues that are of most concern to Winchester teens and develop plans to spread awareness.

COMMUNITY NEWS

MAGICAL EVENING BENEFIT FOR THE WINCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Help keep the Winchester Public Library open on Sundays in 2013 by enjoying an evening of magic, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, wine, raffles and music on Saturday, November 3, 7:30 – 9:30 pm at the Sanborn House located at 15 High Street in Winchester, next to Ambrose School. Since 2006, the Winchester Public Library has raised the required \$1,000 per Sunday funds privately to keep the library open on Sundays. A highlight of the evening will be a special appearance by magician David Hall. Tickets are \$75. For information or to reserve tickets, please call the Winchester Public Library at 781-721-7171, ext. 10.

FROM THE MULTICULTURAL NETWORK

International Pot Luck Supper

Sunday, November 4 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. Chidley Hall, First Congregational Church

The International Connections Committee invites you to its 13th 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. The evening will include a short performance by children from the Winchester School of Chinese Culture, a little magic, and a raffle.

Call [781-729-7100](tel:781-729-7100) or email office@wmcn.org to sign up.

Please Join Us at Our International Drop-In Gatherings!

The Winchester Multicultural Network hosts informal drop-in gatherings so that all Winchester residents have an opportunity to meet one another and make connections. Many friendships have been established over the years, thanks to these wonderful weekly get-togethers. This year, we are holding our Thursday morning drop-in meetings at Bruegger's Bagels, 600 Main Street. Bruegger's is a wonderful location for chatting with friends and purchasing a bagel or a cup of coffee. We have had a successful start to the drop-ins this fall and look forward to this weekly and lovely tradition. Please feel free to come in any time between 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. Children are welcome!

FRIENDS OF THE WINCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENT:

Wednesday, November 7th @ 7:00 pm Winchester Public Library: "Death In Shorts", a panel discussion focusing on how writers plot, construct and populate the mystery short story. The panel will feature Winchester author Adam Renn Olenn and 3 other local writers: J.A. Hennrikus of Cambridge, Daniel Moses Luft of Medford, and Barbara Ross of Somerville. Their stories are among the thirty-one that publisher Level Best Books included in their 10th anthology of crime stories by New England writers entitled *Blood Moon*. Join us for a sometimes scary, sometimes hilarious, walk down the region's dark side!

NEWS FROM THE WINCHESTER COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL**Thursday, November 01, 7:00 - 9:00 PM – Open Mic Night at Starbucks in Downtown Winchester!**

Come on down! Join us at Starbucks in downtown Winchester every first Thursday of the month for Open Mic Night. We welcome performers, families and friends for this lively emceed, coffee house event with a supportive and friendly setting. Come perform at the microphone or just listen to the local talent while enjoying tasty beverages and bakery items. Hope to see you there! Individual or small duo/trio performances are encouraged, but we welcome all ages, all instruments, and all types of music.

Friday, November 02, 8:00 PM – Faculty Rock Ensemble Concert at Next Door Center for the Arts!

Winchester Community Music School presents Born to Run, the classic Bruce Springsteen record performed in its entirety by our Underground Faculty Band. Performers include: Mike Verge, vocals/guitar; Paul Ahlstrand, saxophone; Eliot Hunt, guitar; John Kramer, piano; Phil Aiken, organ; Matt Pendergast, synthesizers/production; Mark Pucci, bass; Andrew Jones, drums. \$15 general admission; Tickets available online at nextdoortheater.org or in person at WCMS. For more information, visit winchestermusic.org or call 781-721-2950.

Saturday, November 10, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM – Senior District Pre-Audition Workshop

Join us for this helpful workshop to practice your district piece before you take your audition. Students will play for each other and WCMS faculty members to receive valuable feedback and suggestions. Each student will play the required scales, musical selection, and sight reading material. The workshop will also cover general presentation issues, expectations of the adjudicators, relaxation suggestions, and tips on audition strategies. Call us today to sign up! 781-721-2950

WINTON CLUB***Midnight Madness Holiday Fair******To benefit Winchester Hospital***

When: Wednesday, November 14, 6:00 P.M. TO 12 Midnight
Thursday, November 15, 9:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.
Friday, November 16, 9:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

Location: WINCHESTER HOSPITAL LOBBY
41 Highland Avenue
Free valet parking is available.

For more Information, go to www.wintonclub.org

WFDC & USA BOXING PRESENT**The WEST POINT MILITARY CADETS BOXING TEAM VS.
U.S. COAST GUARD ACADEMY BOXING TEAM**

Saturday, November 10, 2012

Maurer Auditorium at Winchester Town Hall

Doors open at 6:00pm, First Match 7:00pm

On Saturday, November 10, 2012 the Winchester Field Development Council (WFDC) will be hosting a special and exciting fundraising event. The event will be a sanctioned USA Amateur Boxing Night in Winchester. The night will feature a fun filled night of quality boxing with a special appearance by Boston Celtic great and NBA Hall of Famer JoJo White and Winchester's own Luca LoConte-Botis.

Tickets are limited and are \$25.00 (General Admission) \$40.00 (Reserved Floor Seating). To purchase tickets visit WWW.WFDC.NET and click on the "Fight Night" section. For details on the limited V.I.P. Sponsorship opportunities relating to this event please contact Paul Manganaro at pmanganaro@manganaro.com or 1-781-315-1962.