

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

PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ OCTOBER 2011

Visit our website at www.whspfa.org

FROM THE OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL TOM GWIN

The Winchester Advisory Group (WAG), the 9th grade advisory program, officially kicked off on Wednesday, September 21. Twenty faculty advisors (who have volunteered) have about 15 students in their advisories and the groups will meet monthly. All of the students in each advisory are assigned to the same guidance counselor. Therefore the advisories provide another point of contact between counselors and students.

The purpose of WAG is to prepare and provide students with the knowledge, skills, resources, and supports that will ensure a successful transition to Winchester High. The program will offer a safe, connected, and emotionally enriching environment that will promote personal and academic growth for the 9th graders.

The goals of WAG are to:

- Build a high school community that encourages a sense of belonging and respect.
- Prepare students for the personal and academic challenges of WHS to maximize future success.
- Cultivate the important tools of clear communication, emotional intelligence, effective study habits, time management, and organizational skill.
- Develop decision-making skills, resiliency, responsibility, and respect of self and others.

The advisory period also allows other classes to meet for special programs, breakfasts, and “town” meetings. For example in September, the League of Women Voters presented a program on voting to the seniors, the juniors participated in a town meeting, and sophomores got together for a class breakfast. These activities will rotate among the three classes each month.

The advisory program is just one part of the Focus on the Future strategic plan. I will focus on a different area of the plan each month in the PFA newsletter.

MESSAGES FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Edline: Parents/guardians and students please be sure that you have activated your Edline accounts. The most up-to-date WHS information and the daily announcements are on Edline. If you should need assistance in setting up your account please contact the main office at the high school.

Information Sheet: If you have not already done so please return the gold colored information sheet into the main office. This paperwork is one of the most important documents the school has on file for every student. Please keep this information up-to-date.

Cell Phones: Students are not allowed to use a cell phone during the time that school is in session. All

cell phones must be turned off. A student in violation of this policy will have his/her cell phone taken away and sent to an Administrator. A parent must then meet with an Administrator to pick up the phone.

PFA NEWS

FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Carol Cashion and Jody Collins Skinner

We had a large turnout for the first PFA meeting on September 7th. Welcome to all the Freshman parents and guardians who attended.

This year the PFA is focused on the Strategic Plan for the future. Each month we will address a different issue highlighted in the plan. Last month a panel from the Winchester Advisory Group (WAG) introduced the new program for the Freshmen this year. The purpose of this program is to prepare and provide students with the knowledge, skills, resources, and supports that will ensure a successful transition to Winchester High School. There are 20 advisors for the Freshman class. Each of those advisors is the student's homeroom teacher and once a month they will be having a program designed to offer a safe, connected and emotionally enriching environment that will promote personal and academic growth for its members. The other three classes will be engaged in class activities during the same time period. One class will have a program in the auditorium, one will have a town meeting in the gym, and one will have a breakfast in the cafeteria.

This month the focus is on the 3rd goal in the strategic plan: implementing instructional and formative assessments for all students that are supported by current research and directed at the achievement of high standards for each child, with a curriculum aligned with state and national standards. We will have a panel of the directors from each core subject to discuss the topic of challenging and motivating students at all levels. The Focus on the Future Action Plan can be found on the home page of Edline under "Focus on the Future." Please read the strategic plan goal that can be found starting on page 8 in the Action Plan so that you can fully engage in a dialogue with the directors.

We look forward to seeing you Wednesday, Oct 5th at 7:30pm in the library.

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

ATTENTION SENIORS!!!

Please keep the following dates in mind!

October 1, 2011 is the deadline for submitting your senior picture for the yearbook. Burlington Studios is our official school photographer. If you have any questions regarding senior picture, please contact Erin Mayo or Jennifer Baker. Remember to please allow 7 – 10 days after your seating for your proofs to be posted online by Burlington Studios. If you do not choose a yearbook pose by October 1, 2011, Burlington Studios reserves the right to choose a pose for you. If you took your own photo or at had your seating done at another studio please notify us so that we will be sure that we receive that photo.

October 1, 2011 is also the **last** deadline for parents to submit their **parent congratulatory ad** for the yearbook but do **NOT** submit by email!!!! If you miss the deadline, we will do our best to accommodate your ad, but you must also include a *\$25 late fee* in your payment. *Don't miss out on this WHS senior tradition.* Senior Parent Dedication forms were mailed out in early July. If you did not receive one contact Erin Mayo or Jennifer Baker.

October 1, 2011 is the deadline for submitting your "**senior quote**" to us at Yearbook. Please send your senior quote to us at: Winchester.HS.Yearbook2012@gmail.com. We are starting a new tradition of printing each senior's favorite quote under their senior portrait. This **must** be an "attributable" quote (something another person has said.) It's **not** a personal message space. If you have any questions please contact Erin Mayo.

Yearbook order forms can be found here:

http://whspfa.org/clientimages/39852/miscellaneous1112/2012_book_sales.pdf

Additional information, including ad info, can be found here:

http://whspfa.org/clientimages/39852/miscellaneous1112/2012_senior_form.pdf

If you have any questions, comments, concerns please contact: Erin Mayo, Editor-in-Chief, at Winchester.HS.Yearbook2012@gmail.com or Jennifer Baker, Winchester High School Yearbook Advisor at jenpbaker81@gmail.com

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.

PROM!

Our Prom will be on May 30th, 2012 at the Boston Seaport Hotel. More info to follow soon.

Also, please be advised that our **Senior t-shirts** are on sale for \$20. If you were unable to purchase one at Open House, please contact one of the Senior Class Officers and we'll be sure to get you one!

The chosen shirt is "Seniors 2012...Don't you want to be 1 2?"

CONNECT AND COMMIT

This Fall the WHS Connect and Commit service learning group has "connected" with the North Shore Walk to Defeat ALS and "committed" to helping those fighting Lou Gehrig's Disease. Students have initiated an ALS awareness campaign, sponsored an educational visit of an ALS patient to WHS, and are gathering a team of walkers, **TEAM WINCHESTER**, to support and participate in the Walk to Defeat ALS taking place around Wakefield's beautiful Lake Quannapowitt on Saturday, October 15th. To support this worthy cause embraced by Connect & Commit please visit als-ma.org, find North Shore Walk and join/sponsor either the team in general or one of the 33-and-counting students on the team. Every dollar counts! For more information contact Kristen Ritchie at kritchie@winchester.k12.ma.us

SCHOOL NEWS

WHITSONS CULINARY GROUP CAFETERIA POINT OF SALE INFO

The point of sale program for use in our cafeteria is similar to what your student used at McCall Middle Scholl. This system is a CASHLESS, TICKETLESS "debit" system that eliminates the need to pay with

tickets or cash each day for a meals thus speeding up the lunch lines so students have more time to eat. You will be able to make payments on-line and all students/ teachers will be required to have a pre-paid account if they wish to participate in the school lunch program.

All students entering the 9th grade here at WHS who came over from McCall Middle School, any balance (positive or negative) has been transferred to your POS account at the high school. Your child will no longer use a pin number for purchases in the cafeteria; they will use their student identification card that they will swipe at the registers. All student accounts that are coming over from McCall Middle School must be closed and re-opened under the Winchester High School account showing that the student is in the 9th grade. You will need to enter the student identification number in the correct prompt. This can be completed by going to www.payforit.net.

In order to pay online, you should go to www.payforit.net a secure on-line payment service. Once at this site, click on "sign up for an account" in the upper right hand corner of the screen and follow the instructions. To set up an account, all you need is a valid e-mail address, a credit card, and your child's Student Identification Number. Do not enter the first zero of the student identification number. If you choose this payment option, you will be able to check your child's account balance at no cost, put money in your child's meal account over the internet 24 hours a day 7 days a week and see what purchases are made to the account. You should note that there is a 5.75 percent charge for any monies deposited on the website and could take up to 48 hours to be entered into the system. If you do not want to pay on-line and prefer to pay in cash or check, you can go to the school cafeteria in the mornings with a cash or check made payable to Winchester School lunch program. We encourage you to consider paying one week or more at a time. If you have any questions about our POS system, please contact Kevin Silvia or Trina Scotti of Whitson's Culinary Group (Foodservice Provider) at 781-721-7033.

PLEASE JOIN PARENT CONVERSATIONS

Friday, October 7th* 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.

*In November, we will begin meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 8:45am. Please mark your calendars and join us! Meeting dates are:

Nov. 9th
Dec. 14th
Jan. 11th

Feb. 8th
March 14th
April 11th

May 9th

2011 PSAT/NMSQT TEST October 15, 2011

The PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) will be administered at WHS on Saturday, October 15, 2011. This is the only date the test will be given at WHS. The cost of the exam is \$25.00. Please note the OFFICIAL College Board PSAT is only given once a year.

All juniors are automatically registered to take the PSAT. Information will be distributed to juniors on September 21st during the Advisory Period.

Sophomores who would like to register to take the PSAT should see Mrs. Paradis in the Math Department before or after school from September 19-30.

Any questions please call Sherri Lewis-Sholler, Director of Guidance, Winchester High School/ 781-721-7020 x1406.

FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON AT WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL!

Support the Red & Black, a high quality monthly newspaper displaying the best student writers, photographers, and artists at the high school since 1939. We are a student-run newspaper and receive no funding from the school; therefore, we rely solely on private donations to meet printing costs.

If you are interested in subscribing to our newspaper, the details are below. Donations of any amount are very much appreciated as well. One year's subscription (8 issues): \$22, cash or check payable to Winchester H.S./Red & Black. Send your subscription order to:

Winchester High School/The Red & Black
80 Skillings Road
Winchester, MA 01890

Please include the address you want the newspaper sent to. To contact us, please email us at: redandblacknewspaper@gmail.com

Lucas Phillips & Carolyn Burnham, Editors-in-Chief

SAVE THE DATE!

Music Department Dance

October 15
7:00 pm to 10:00 pm
Town Hall, Winchester

More information to follow.
www.WinchesterHighSchoolChoir.com

NEWS FROM THE WINCHESTER FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE (WFEE):

The WHS Physics lab is moving to a new level thanks to a WFEE grant! The nearly \$10,000 grant is purchasing new computers to run, graph and analyze data, bringing teachers to the next level of technology based instruction. And, according to Physics teacher Lis Angus, "The kids are going to feel seriously appreciated by this grant."

Turn out to support Principal Gwin in his Winchester stage debut! Winchester's NextDoor Theater is

producing the Tony winning musical “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.” Not to give away the whole story...but... if you attend the show on Thursday, October 13th at 7:30pm chances are very, very good you will see Principal Gwin in a new light. As an added bonus, half of the ticket sales that night will be donated to WFEE in support of teacher grants. Buy your tickets at www.nextdoortheater.org – this musical contains comic adult material, suitable for older teens but not their younger siblings. A kids’ matinee is set for October 16th at 2:00pm.

The Guide

A Monthly Newsletter from the



WHS Guidance Department
October 2011

Senior Parents

Senior Parent Financial Aid Night October 4 at 7:00 pm

A representative from MEFA will be presenting information on financial aid for senior parents and students. This information session is designed to help plan and assist in the decision making process as students are completing their college applications. Seniors are invited to accompany their parents to this informative evening presentation.

Guidance counselors met with all seniors during the week of September 19th to review the College Application Process. Students were given blue information folders. Please review this folder with your child. If you were unable to attend Senior Parent Night on September 27th, please refer to the Guidance Website for information regarding the College Application Process.

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.

Middlesex League College Fair on October 25th

Students and parents from Winchester High School are invited to attend the Middlesex League College Fair co-sponsored by the WHS Guidance Department in cooperation with the Guidance Departments at several other Middlesex League high schools. The College Night will be held at the Shriners Auditorium on Tuesday, October 25, 2011 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Representatives from more than two hundred colleges will be in attendance to speak with students and parents and provide admissions information. Directions to the Shriners Auditorium: Take exit 39 off Route 93N. Bear right off exit and take the first left at the Fordham Road traffic lights. Shriners Auditorium is at the end of Fordham Road.

ADDITIONAL COLLEGE FAIRS/SPECIAL INTEREST COLLEGE FAIRS & PROGRAMS

NEACAC (New England Association for College Admission Counseling) College Fair: Sunday, October 2, 2011 at Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill, 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

Canadian College Fair

October 2, 2011 6:00-8:00 pm
Marriott Boston Newton
Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA
Call (617) 969-1000

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:

October 2011 through January 2012 Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

RISD will host Saturday Programs: October 1, 8, 29; 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

National Portfolio Day,

October 30, 2011 Boston, MA at the Hynes Convention Center

Helpful Suggestions for Attending a College Fair:

Planning ahead can make attendance at a college fair a much more productive experience. Some easy-to-use suggestions include:

- Identify the colleges you definitely want to visit.
- Prepare a list of questions to ask.
- Bring mailing labels if you have them to save time when filling out cards.
- Bring a pad and pen.
- Only pick up brochures you really need and want.
- Do a computer search ahead of time to find colleges that meet your criteria.

For additional suggestions, students or parents may ask for a College Fair sheet from their guidance counselor.

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.

Parents of Sophomores and Juniors

2011 PSAT Saturday, October 15

The PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) will be administered at WHS on Saturday, October 15. **This is the only date the test will be given at WHS.**

Test Day Information:

On the day of the test (10/15/11) students should bring \$25 (check made out to WHS or cash), 2 pencils, and a calculator.

Students should arrive between 7:15am and 8:00 am through the courtyard by the cafe as doors close sharply at 8:00. No admittance will be allowed after 8 am. Once the test starts, it will be 3 hours long (unless you have pre-approved extended time). No one is allowed to leave before the entire classroom finishes the test.

Why take the PSAT/NMSQT? The PSAT is the qualifying test that students (usually juniors) must take to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) competitions for college scholarships that will be awarded in 2012. Information about NMSC programs, entry requirements, and scholarships can be found in the 2011 PSAT/NMSQT Student Bulletin that

will be provided to students when they register for the test. Other reasons sophomores and juniors may want to take the PSAT are:

- To get feedback about critical academic skills.
- To seek information from colleges.

Parents of Freshmen

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.

***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

OPEN MEETING

Wednesday, October 5th

5:30-7:00pm

For all WHS students who are interested in joining any of the WYC's high school youth groups
Peer Leaders, SSA, ABS, The 84

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. Please contact wincchesteryouthcenter@gmail.com for more information on any of these programs and come to the open meeting on Wednesday, October 5th.

PEER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Does your son or daughter have what it takes to be a peer leader?

If s/he has natural leadership skills, wants to have a positive impact on the community, likes 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 staff the Drop-in Center after school and serve as Project Leaders for all of the WYC's service-learning projects including all of our special events and community service projects

SSA: STUDENTS SPREADING AWARENESS

SSA is a peer education group for Winchester High School students. The mission of this group is "to inspire positive change in our world and provide opportunities for students to become active in the community. We identify issues of concern that we feel our peers are under-informed about and spread awareness in unique and interactive ways."

ABS: ANTI-BULLYING SQUAD

The WYC is seeking high school and middle school students who are confident, responsible, outgoing, and caring to join our Anti-Bullying Squad! The members of ABS will join together to help ensure that our community is a place where all teens feel safe and supported. The ABS members will spread awareness to help their peers identify all types of bullying and harassment and work to let bullies know that their actions will not be tolerated. All WHS students are invited to join us!

THE 84

The WYC Peer Leaders have created our own chapter of the 84: a youth-led movement fighting for a tobacco-free generation in Massachusetts. The 84 represents the 84% of Massachusetts teens who choose not to smoke. As a chapter of the 84 we look forward to working with peer leaders in nearly 100 other chapters across the state who are fighting Big Tobacco in our schools and communities through interactive projects and awareness campaigns. Please check out our website or www.the84.org to learn more.

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.

HAUNTED HOUSE**Friday, October 21st****8:00-10:00pm &****Saturday, October 22nd****7:00-10:00pm****Borggaard Beach**

The Peer Leaders will transform Borggaard Beach into a CARN-EVIL scene for this year's Haunted House. Come experience the horror and prepare to be scared! Admission is \$5. All proceeds will benefit Habitat for Humanity.

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.

WYC HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY COFFEE HOUSE**Friday, October 28th****8:00-10:30pm**

All WHS are invited to the first Coffee House of the year. The Peer Leaders will transform the WYC into a spooky Halloween-themed Coffee House. All attendees are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes and get into the Halloween spirit! As always, the Coffee House will feature live music and delicious homemade treats, frappes, and coffee drinks. The Coffee House is open to high school students only. Admission is \$5.

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.

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.

ALS COMMUNITY OF HOPE: Haley's Comets

Wakefield Walk to Defeat ALS

Saturday, October 15th

Please support our efforts to defeat ALS a.k.a. Lou Gehrig's Disease. We have created "Haley's Comets", a Community of Hope Fund at <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. Please join our team at the North Shore Walk to Defeat ALS in Wakefield on Saturday, October 15th. Contact us at the WYC to learn more about how you can get involved.

BOSTON CARES

Boston Cares organizes and leads team oriented volunteer opportunities throughout Greater Boston that have a positive impact on individuals and communities. Following the amazing experiences that we had volunteering with Greater Philadelphia Cares while on our Habitat trip last April that included planting urban community gardens, working with kids at an inner-city camp, and volunteering at a food bank; the Peer Leaders have joined up with Boston Cares to participate in monthly service projects here in our own city.

FALL CLEANING COLLECTIONS

Woburn Food Pantry, Lowell Wish Project, Northeast Animal Shelter

Fall is a great time to clean out your closets and pantries and donate your unwanted items to those in need. The Peer Leaders are collecting the following items to local organizations: non-perishable foods, lightly used pots & pans, jeans & sweatshirts, winter jackets & outerwear, baby gear, clean cotton bath towels, laundry detergent, and new dog & cat toys. Please stop by the WYC any day from 2:00-5:00 to drop off any of these items or give us a call and we'll come pick them up from your home.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ABC BOTTLE DRIVE

The Winchester ABC Program will hold its next Bottle Drive on Saturday, October 1, 2011, from 8:00 am to 3:00pm 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 Michael Sharon at 781-721-5415.

WINCHESTER FRIENDS OF ART

School's In! at the Winchester Public Library

This annual exhibit showcases the work of Winchester students grades K-12. The selected pieces were chosen from hundreds of pieces on display at the Town Day Art Show this past June. Special thanks goes out to our good friends at Winchester Art & Frame for always donating their time and materials each year. The Winchester Friends of Art invite you to a reception to celebrate the Library Art Show exhibit. Please join us at the Winchester Public Library on Tuesday, October 18 from 6-8pm. Selected student works from all Winchester Public Schools will be on display beginning September 1 through the end of October. Come support the following WHS students who are participating in the show:

Tyler Antonevich – grade 9
Mallory Kiley – grade 9
Rachel Diamond – grade 9
Bonnie Whitehouse – grade 9
MacKenzie O'Connor – grade 10
Louis Herbert – grade 11
Tatianna Monroy – grade 11
Erica Pederson – grade 11
Nicole Vermes – grade 12

The mission of the Winchester Friends of Art (FOA) is to promote art for all ages in the town of Winchester. We are advocates for art education and raise funds to support art in the Winchester Public Schools, K-12. For more information, or to volunteer with the Winchester FOA, contact winchesterfoa@hotmail.com.

Grass Roots Help Needed!

Help keep us informed about art happenings at your children's school! We need parents who can help our art teachers get their needs met. This could include bringing information to our monthly group meetings, hanging art exhibits in school, for the Party for the Arts or at the Town Day Art Show. Art teachers are always in need of an extra set of hands or two. Friends of Art provides public spaces to display student artwork throughout the school year and the month of August. We need your help to make this happen. If you would like to help out, please email us at winchesterfoa@hotmail.com.

WINCHESTER COALITION FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY

Save the Dates: October 18th and 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 by presenting two powerful speakers on the topic of teen stress. The first presentation will be held on October 18th and feature Sal Caraviello, a local youth minister who has worked in Winchester for over two decades and has been on the front line of teen issues in our community. The second presentation will be held on November 14th by renowned clinical psychologist, Dr. Robert Brooks, who will talk about how to be a “charismatic adult” capable of raising resilient children in a culture of high stress. The high school and middle school Parent Conversations for November and December will provide parents an additional venue to discuss concerns and solutions.

WINCHESTER SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

DID YOU KNOW? Whether or not your child receives services under an IEP, the Winchester Special Education Parent Advisory Council is here to make your family's school year better! Our website (winspecialpac.com) is packed with information about books, websites, support groups, enrichment activities, and local professional services to help children be successful. It also contains detailed information on resources and developments in specific disability areas. (For example, check out the article on how iPads are revolutionizing the education of children with autism and executive functioning difficulties). Our "Special Education 101" section explains the nuts and bolts of special education, with links to external sites for answers to more detailed questions. Our Google group offers members a "real time" way for parents and educators to keep abreast of upcoming events, legislative developments, advocacy issues, and emerging research and technology. (Email us at winspecialpac@gmail.com to join.)

Our programs help parents become more effective coaches and advocates. This fall we are co-hosting a "Basic Rights" workshop in Lexington (10/13/11) and a fun, interactive class on "Understanding My Child's Learning Style" in Winchester (10/27/11). Our monthly coffees allow parents to share advice and support. So if you're wondering whether you should be concerned because your third grader still has trouble holding a pencil, or your fifth grader constantly forgets to turn in completed homework, come to a coffee. Chances are, another parent has been in the same boat. Coffees also provide a forum for parents to help identify ways our town can improve the delivery of services to our children. Together, we can ensure that every child in Winchester receives an excellent education!

Janet Boswell, Chair
Winchester Special Education Parent Advisory Council

WINCHESTER SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

A presenter from the Federation for Children with Special Needs will conduct these workshops. Federation workshops are free to parents and open to the public. Please register in advance by contacting Janet Boswell, Chair WSEPAC winspecialpac@gmail.com or 781-729-6837, or phone the Federation's receptionist at 617-236-7210 or 800-331-0688 ext. 0 or go online at <http://fcsn.org/pti/workshops/home.php>

UNDERSTANDING MY CHILD'S LEARNING STYLE

The different ways people take in and generate information can greatly affect how and whether they succeed in school and in life. This workshop delves into different learning styles and discusses how they can be understood and harnessed to achieve success in many different environments, including the classroom."

Date: 10/27/11
Location: McCall Middle School Library
Time: 7:00 to 9:00

BASIC RIGHTS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP

The Basic Rights workshop provides families with an introduction to their rights and responsibilities under:

- **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**
- **Massachusetts Special Education Law and**
- **No Child Left Behind (NCLB).**

This workshop is designed to help parents learn to be effective partners with their child's school to decide their child's eligibility for special education, and to plan, make decisions and monitor their child's progress in school.

Date: 10/13/11
Location: Minuteman Career & Technical High School
758 Marrett Road, Lexington
Time: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm