

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

**PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ SEPTEMBER 2011**

Visit our website at [www.whspfa.org](http://www.whspfa.org)

**FROM THE OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL TOM GWIN**

Welcome to the 2011-2012 academic year! After more than a year of planning, WHS will implement its Focus on the Future Strategic Plan this school year. The plan provides a roadmap that clearly articulates key goals, specific action steps, and benchmarks that provide an emerging vision for change. Immediate changes include an honor code, a homework policy, and a 9<sup>th</sup> grade advisory program. Other initiatives include improved school-wide communication, stronger adherence and accountability for school policies, a formal assessment of our guidance program, and more effective supervision and evaluation of the staff. The PFA meetings will highlight a different aspect of the plan each month. The September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting will feature the ninth grade advisory program. You can see the entire report at: [http://www.edline.net/pages/Winchester\\_High\\_School](http://www.edline.net/pages/Winchester_High_School)

The strategic plan provides a blueprint for the school improvement that will guide the design of the future Winchester High building project. The WHS feasibility study will begin this Fall and proceed through the end of the school year.

School begins on Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Ninth graders should report to the high school auditorium at 7:45 a.m. and will be dismissed at 11:15 a.m. Tenth, eleventh, and twelfth graders should report to homeroom at 11:30 pm. Check the opening day schedule found later in the newsletter for further details. Wednesday and Thursday will be full days for all students; school will be closed on Friday for the long weekend. Faculty and staff are aware that Eid al-Fitr takes place during this week and accommodations for students observing this holiday will be provided.

After the auditorium meeting on Tuesday, ninth graders will report to their advisories. The PAL (Peer Alliance Link) program will again ease the transition of the incoming ninth graders. About 100 PALs (10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders) will serve as mentors to the freshmen, helping them out in their advisories and providing a tour of the school. Each PAL will serve as a mentor to three ninth graders. After the advisory period, ninth graders will run through an abbreviated schedule and then attend the Club Fair in the cafeteria. All clubs will have booths set up and provide information to the Freshmen. Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors will attend homeroom and run through an abbreviated schedule in the afternoon.

Assistant principals Jerry Chapman and Sue Mochrie have been working with me through the summer planning the upcoming year. Sue will oversee the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades, while Jerry will supervise the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

Each week I will email a WHS Weekly Update for parents and students. For up to date information regarding WHS, please log on to [www.edline.net](http://www.edline.net). Many of you have activated your Edline accounts and created your screen names and passwords. Activation codes have been mailed to Freshmen parents. If you have not received an activation code, please email [whsemail@winchester.k12.ma.us](mailto:whsemail@winchester.k12.ma.us).

Please contact the school whenever you have questions or concerns. Your son's or daughter's guidance

counselors are an excellent first source of information. The names of the teachers and the assigned guidance counselor will be printed on the schedule that your son or daughter will receive on the first day of school. Teachers and counselors are available via email and voice mail—email is your best bet.

## **MESSAGES FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS**

### **EMERGENCY INFORMATION FORMS**

On the first day of school, all students will be given a gold colored emergency information sheet to bring home. Please verify all information and sign. Remember to please ask your student about the sheet, make any necessary changes and return it to school the next day. We need to have the contacts, as well as important medical information on file for your student's safety. Please assist us by checking the sheet and returning it back to school on the following day. Please check that your email information is correct, as we will be sending important daily announcements and report cards via email.

### **STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

Every student, at the beginning of this school year, will be issued their own identification card. It is imperative that every student carry their card, it is now used for library book access, the cafeteria and attendance. If the card has been lost or misplaced, the student may purchase another card at the cost of five dollars. Please see Mrs. Gustin in the main office for details.

### **OFF CAMPUS**

Parents are reminded that Senior and Junior privileges (open ends and lunch) are as follows: Seniors who have open end privileges are only allowed to arrive at school or leave school for one period at the beginning or the end of the day. Additionally, lunch privileges are limited to the lunch period that the student is assigned. They do not include any class or assigned academic block (study hall) during the lunch periods.

Junior lunch privileges are only for the lunch period that they are assigned and not the entire lunch block from 11:21 ~ 1:03. Juniors must attend assigned classes or study halls during the lunch block. Failure to follow school policy for these privileges could result in forfeiture of these privileges. Any student who leaves campus without permission will be suspended.

### **MESSAGES FOR STUDENTS**

Frequently, parents call asking the Administrative Staff to get messages to students. Example, a parent may call asking the Main Office to locate a student and remind him or her about a music lesson, appointment, etc. Principal Gwin is requesting that parents make these requests only in emergency situations. Thank you for your understanding.

### **FACULTY EMAIL ADDRESSES**

All staff and faculty may be reached by email using the first initial plus last name @ [winchester.k12.ma.us](mailto:winchester.k12.ma.us)  
Example: [tgwin@winchester.k12.ma.us](mailto:tgwin@winchester.k12.ma.us)

### **VOICE MAIL**

Parents may leave voice mail for all staff and faculty. Please be aware that the faculty has limited access to telephones. Your best way of communication is to send an email.

### **AGENDA/HANDBOOKS**

The high school will provide planners for every student. These planners contain the student handbook and other school calendar information. The planners will help the students keep their busy schedules and assignments organized. The planner contains a great deal of information about the high school and a

complete list of the school's rules. Please familiarize yourself with the material and point out information that you find particularly pertinent to your son/daughter. As a point of information, it might be helpful to be aware of the rules that students most often "bump up against". They are:

- The Attendance Policy
- Policies Concerning Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco
- Computer Use & Internet Access: Acceptable Use Policy
- Student Parking
- Test/Home work make-up policy
- Field Trips/Exchange Trip policy
- Dance Rules
- Hall Passes
- Personal Appearance

### **ATTENDANCE**

If your child needs to stay home because of illness, will be arriving late, or needs to be dismissed early, please call the attendance line prior to 10:00 a.m. The telephone number is [781.721.7020](tel:781.721.7020), attendance is the first item on our voice mail tree ~ press "1" and leave your information. Please be sure to give the date, name, grade and most importantly the student identification number.

### **FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH PROGRAM**

The free and reduced lunch program applications will be available to everyone. Please stop by the main office and pick up a copy. If your student does not have a copy, please call Mrs. Gustin at the school number, extension 1120 and one will be mailed to you, or download a copy from the District web site ([www.winchester.k12.ma.us](http://www.winchester.k12.ma.us)), click on Business Office in the upper right corner.

### **OPEN HOUSE ~ THURSDAY ~ SEPTEMBER 22, 2011**

Parents will meet with the High School Administration in the auditorium at 7:00 p.m. You will visit each of your student's classes for a ten minute presentation. The evening should run until approximately 9:00 p.m.

### **DROP IN WITH PRINCIPAL GWIN**

On the first Wednesday of every month, Principal Gwin has set aside a block of time from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm for a "Parent Drop ~ In session". Parents are invited to speak with Principal Gwin without an appointment. The first "Drop ~ In" will be Wednesday, September 07th.

### **SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS ~ SEPTEMBER 01, 2011**

All students (Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12) will have their photographs taken by Burlington Studios. All students will receive a photo identification card, which will be needed for attendance purposes, library, cafeteria use, etc. The five digit student identification number will also be imprinted on the card. Please use this number when calling the attendance line.

## **MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER**

**PERSONAL PROPERTY AND VALUABLES:** The High School Administration strongly discourages students from bringing excess money or valuable items to school. Likewise excess money or valuable items should not be stored in the lockers. Under NO circumstances does the Town of Winchester, Winchester High School, the Administration, or its staff assume any liability for personal possessions brought to school.

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2011 ~ OPENING DAY SPECIAL SCHEDULE FOR ALL STUDENTS**

Winchester High School's schedule for the 2011 ~ 2012 school year will begin on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Ninth graders should report directly to the auditorium at 7:45 am and will be dismissed at 11:15 am. All other students should report to homeroom at 11:30 am and will be dismissed at 2:15. Lunch will not be served on Tuesday.

**9<sup>th</sup> Graders**

7:45-8:00 Welcome in auditorium

8:00-9:35 Meet in homerooms/work with mentors

**Bell Schedule for Grade 9**

A 9:35 – 9:40

B 9:45 – 9:50

C 9:55 – 10:00

D 10:05 -10:10

E 10:15 –10:20

F 10:25 –10:30

G 10:35 –10:40

10:45 –11:15 Club Fair in cafeteria – **left side** – 9<sup>th</sup> graders dismissed from cafeteria

**10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> Graders**

11:30-11:55 Meet in homerooms

**Bell Schedule for Grades 10, 11 and 12**

A 12:00-12:15

B 12:20-12:35

C 12:40-12:55

D 1:00- 1:15

E 1:20- 1:35

F 1:40- 1:55

G 2:00- 2:15

**SPECIAL SCHEDULE FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31 AND  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 01, 2011**

A Block 7:45 ~ 8:25

Homeroom 8:30 ~ 8:35

B Block 8:40 ~ 9:20

C Block 9:25 ~ 10:10

D Block 10:15 ~ 11:00

First Lunch 11:05 ~ 11:40 ~ E Block 11:45 ~ 12:35

Second Lunch 12:00 ~ 12:35 ~ E Block 11:05 ~ 11:55

F Block 12:40 ~ 1:25

G Block 1:30 ~ 2:15

**SCHOOL PHOTOS FOR ALL CLASSES WILL BE TAKEN ON THURSDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 1 DURING ENGLISH.**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th WILL BE DAY 1 OF THE REGULAR SCHEDULE.**

**Winchester High School Parent Faculty Association  
Meetings & Programs 2011-2012**

Please Note: Each monthly meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. and devote time to one portion of the WHS strategic plan, Focus on the Future

- |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 7 | <b>Faculty Advisors' New Role in Student Life at WHS</b><br><i>Members of the School Culture Committee</i>                                                                                                             |
| October 5   | <b>Challenging and Motivating Students at All Levels</b><br><i>Panel Discussion with Directors Judy Hession (English), Tom Haver (Math), Margie Harvey (History), Anna Tirone (Languages), Mike Marchand (Science)</i> |
| November 2  | <b>Communication: How are We Doing?</b><br><i>Principal Tom Gwin, Assistant Principals Jerry Chapman and Sue Mochrie</i><br>(Also on agenda: approval of PFA Annual Budget and Grants Program: New Grants)             |
| December 7  | <b>Innovation, Grants and Technology at WHS</b><br><i>PFA Grants Committee, WHS Faculty members, WFEE</i>                                                                                                              |
| January 4   | <b>Where We Are on Building Plans for WHS</b><br><i>Speaker from Educational Facilities Planning and Building Committee ("EFPBC")</i>                                                                                  |
| February 1  | <b>What Changes are Ahead for the Guidance Program?</b><br><i>Guidance Review Committee and Sherri Lewis-Shollar</i>                                                                                                   |
| March 7     | <b>Expanding Service Learning to Reach All Seniors at WHS</b><br><i>Panel discussion with Kristen Ritchie and WHS students</i>                                                                                         |
| April 4     | <b>How Do We Assess Our Teachers: New State Requirements</b><br><i>Speaker TBA</i>                                                                                                                                     |
| May 2       | <b>Evaluating Effects of WHS Honor Code, Homework Policy and other Policies in 2011-12</b><br><i>Protocol and Policy Review Committee and Assistant Principal Sue Mochrie</i>                                          |
| June 6      | <b>How Did the WHS Community Evaluate This Year: What's Working, What Needs Work?</b><br><i>Principal Tom Gwin</i>                                                                                                     |

## PFA NEWS

### FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

*Carol Cashion and Jody Collins Skinner*

#### The PFA and Focus on the Future

As you read in the Principal's Letter, WHS will begin to implement the Focus on the Future Strategic Plan in the 201-2012 school year. What changes are planned for this year, and how will they affect your child? What are the next steps being undertaken? Where and when will your voice as a parent be heard in this important and ongoing work?

This year, the PFA's own focus is squarely on answering those questions, with you and for you, and on partnering with our teachers and administration in the continuing work set out in the plan. As your representatives, we will keep you informed of any and all opportunities for parent participation on task forces and solicit your feedback on action steps of the plan as they are implemented. If you have not regularly attend PFA meetings, a quick look at the meeting schedule below will show you just how substantive and informative our monthly meetings are going to be – mark your calendars and plan to attend. We will be minimizing the time spend on monthly organizational business so we can devote most of every meeting to a presentation or panel discussion on a part of the strategic plan. This is a year of action and a year of change for WHS and parent involvement is vital, so bring your questions, bring your experience, bring your comments and bring your friends - and we will all get to work.

See you on September 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the WHS Library.

#### WHS SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The PFA invites all parents and guardians to **volunteer** to participate in the School Council. **School Councils are mandated in every public school by the Education Reform Act of 1993, and are composed of parents and guardians, faculty and student representatives.** The Council meets with Principal Tom Gwin the first Wednesday of the Month at 6:45 am to discuss what is happening in the school. If there are more nominees than positions, the PFA will hold an election. Parents and guardians who wish to volunteer, as well as current parent representatives who wish to remain on the Council for this school year, should email [whspfa@gmail.com](mailto:whspfa@gmail.com). This is an exciting year going forward and a great time to get involved!

#### THE PFA GRANTS PROGRAM

Funded entirely by your contributions to the  
**WHS PFA Direct Appeal / 2011-2012**  
**DONATE TODAY!**

As always, the Parent's Association funds grants to teachers for innovative programs that would otherwise be cost-prohibitive. This year, we also expect to review teacher proposals inspired by the Focus on the Future strategic plan, and we anticipate we may have a surge in requests due to tight town budgets.

We are pleased to be able to support teachers who have a vision for excellence, but need the resources to help them realize their goals. Teacher and poet Robert Frost once said, "I am not a teacher but an awakener." We are proud to support these "awakeners" in our high school -- teachers and leaders with the initiative and commitment to support or challenge our children in new and engaging ways.

Last year, the PFA awarded over \$16,000 in grants, accounting for more than half of the monies raised by the Parent Association's Direct Appeal program. The grants provided support for teachers, organizations, and leaders in our high school who needed academic supplies, equipment, curriculum or enrichment expenditures not covered by the school budget.

Last year's grants funded wide-ranging initiatives, from the auto shop, honors English, the Spanish exchange program and the Multi-Media lab. Each year, grant applications are reviewed and prioritized by the Grants Co-Chairs with the PFA Executive Committee and the WHS Administration. A final list of recommendations is then presented and voted upon at our Parent Faculty Association meetings.

***So parents, please participate in the Direct Appeal! Help us support our innovative teachers and awaken our children! Do it now and click on the Links below!***

Brenda Reishus and Carol Savage, Co-Chairs for Grants  
Joanne O'Donnell, Direct Appeal Chair

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your participation!

## CLASS NEWS

### CLASS OF 2013 NEWS

The Class Officers have been busy this summer making plans for Junior year! Take a look at the following events and log onto the Class of 2013 Facebook page, or email Class president Kenzie Koss (kenziekoss@gmail.com), if you'd like to volunteer to help.

***The Return of the Junior Prom:*** After several years' hiatus, the class officers have successfully petitioned Principal Gwin to allow them to bring back the Junior Prom! While still in its planning stages, the Junior prom would be something more elaborate than the freshman/sophomore dances held in town hall, but not as formal as the senior prom. Our goal would be to host the event in late April or early May. Watch for updates as the planning progresses.

***The Much Anticipated Senior Prom:*** The class officers have been interviewing former class officers for feedback about their proms and shopping venues to host our own. They've narrowed their search down to three possible sites (all with beautiful water views) and will announce their choice after they speak with Principal Gwin.

***Class Fundraiser at Open House:*** As they have in the past, the class officers will be selling sweatshirts at Open House to support the class of 2013 activities. Last year, we raised most of our money by selling "the Original" Sachems sweatshirt. It was so popular that they sold it beyond the high school to middle

and elementary school students as well. This year, they will do a re-printing of “the original”, but also have a new style of retro sweatshirt. Watch for an email blast with a picture of the new style and an order form to preorder in time for Open House.

***Class Fundraiser at Bruegger's:*** We will be emailing and handing out flyers for the Bruegger’s Bagels event. If you bring the flyer into Bruegger’s Bagels on the first day of school, August 30<sup>th</sup>, and 15% of profits from your purchase that day go to the Class of 2013.

***Social:*** We will be hosting another family Class Dinner and a few more purely social events as the year progresses. Watch for the email blasts and posters announcing each event. As always, we welcome your participation and support!

## SCHOOL NEWS

### 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. Come visit us in the cafeteria at Open House, or send 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](mailto:redandblacknewspaper@gmail.com)

Lucas Phillips & Carolyn Burnham  
Editors-in-Chief

## FROM THE WELLNESS DEPARTMENT

Welcome back! The Wellness Department is excited for the 2011-2012 school year! Members have been working during the summer to continue building a strong program. There are many new things happening this year in the Wellness Department.

Students in grades 9 and 10 will participate in a variety of activities such as archery, badminton, volleyball, cooperative games, fitness and ultimate games.

**Grade 9 Health** will focus on tobacco, alcohol and other drugs (TAOD) and mental health. A portion of the mental health unit will include the *S.O.S Suicide Prevention Program*. This program focuses on recognizing the signs of depression and suicide and provides students with strategies and resources on how to deal with it.

**Grade 10 Health** will focus on healthy and responsible relationships and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.



**Grade 11 & 12 WORKOUT-** Students will have an opportunity to workout all semester! They will learn how to create and follow an individualized workout plan while recording their performance and making modifications as needed to reach their individual goals.

**Grade 11 & 12 LIFETIME ACTIVITIES-** This course is designed for students who prefer to be active in individual and small team activities that promote lifelong fitness. Some activities include archery, golf, yoga, fitness, badminton and volleyball.

**Grade 11 & 12 TEAM SPORTS-** This course is designed for students who prefer to participate in team-based activities. Some activities may include floor hockey, basketball, team handball, ultimate games and baseball/softball.

### **Some reminders!!**

**Grade 11 & 12 ALTERNATIVE-** Students who have received approval to use an outside activity to fulfill their physical education requirement must meet with Mr. Carroll to review the criteria that will have to be completed in order to receive credit for the experience. The criteria includes: keeping a daily log of participation; regular meetings with Mr. Carroll and submission of an essay describing the activity and how it supported the five health components of fitness. A meeting will be scheduled by Mr. Carroll in early September to review the process and receive the daily log. Students who intend to use a school sport to fulfill their physical education requirement must successfully complete the season and receive a certificate upon completion. Successful completion will be determined by practice / game attendance and effort. Looking forward to seeing you in the fall!

*Winchester High School Wellness Department*

Andria Belanger, Jason Cacciapuoti, Walter Dembowski--Wellness Educators, Physical Education and Health; Janet Daniels, Karen Murphy--Wellness Educators, Health and Family Consumer Sciences

## **CONNECT AND COMMIT**

Welcome back to the school year! The Connect & Commit Service-Learning club is looking forward to seeing new faces and old this fall. There are great plans underway for service-learning in the classroom and for community service opportunities open to any students interested.

The first Connect & Commit club meeting will be held at **6:30 Tuesday evening, September 6<sup>th</sup>** in the WHS Library and is open to all students. We'll be starting off the new year strong with our new team of student leaders, community service opportunities to get involved with and opportunities for students to get to know each other.

Our first project is a **School Supply Drive** for El Hogar, a school in Tegucigalpa, Honduras that provides a home and education for abandoned, orphaned, or very poor children living in Honduras. It gives these children a chance at a better life and an escape from the dangerous slums where they grow up.

### **The Donations Needed Are:**

- Construction Paper
- Envelopes
- File Folders
- Glue

- Masking Tape
- Lined and Unlined Notebooks
- Paper (Any color for photocopying and lined paper)
- Red Pens
- Scotch Tape
- Staplers
- White Board Markers
- White Out.

\*\*\*They DO NOT take pencils.

There will be a donations box outside of the main office below the Connect & Commit Bulletin Board. Any donation you can make will be greatly appreciated. To find more information, visit <http://www.elhogar.org>

Best,  
 Kristen Ritchie  
 Program Director  
 781-721-7020 x1999  
 Connectandcommit@gmail.com

## The Guide



### *A Monthly Newsletter from the* **WHS Guidance Department** **September 2011**

#### News

As we welcome in the new school year, we are also welcoming new staff to the Guidance Department. Elizabeth Wilson and Charlotte Pichette have joined the department as Guidance Administrative Assistants. Suzanne Ontso will be substituting for Jaime Roberts through January 2012 while Ms. Roberts tends to the new addition in her family—a baby girl! Please stop by guidance to meet new staff!

#### **2011-2012** **Guidance Counselor Assignments**

Listed below are the counselor assignments, by grade, for the 2011-12 school year. While every

effort is made to keep the same counselor assignment throughout the four years of high school, occasionally changes must be made to insure an equitable distribution of students among the counselors. Please contact Sherri Lewis-Sholler, Director of Guidance, if you have any questions regarding your son or daughter's counselor assignment.

#### **Grade 12: Class of 2012**

A – Cosgrove:	Ms. Roberts/Ontso
Covino - Gootkind:	Ms. Lewis-Sholler
Grassi - Huff:	Mrs. Smith
Hughes – M. Miller:	Mrs. Raneri
P. Miller - Seigel:	Mrs. Johnson
Silverman – Z:	Mr. Burke

**Grade 11: Class of 2013**

A – Cleary:	Ms. Roberts/Ontso
Clemson - Foley:	Ms. Lewis-Sholler
Franco - Holland:	Mrs. Smith
Hopp – Mel:	Mrs. Raneri
Mer - San:	Mrs. Johnson
Sav – Z:	Mr. Burke

**GRADE 10: Class of 2014**

A – Cung:	Mrs. Roberts/Ontso
Currie – Gotham:	Ms. Lewis-Sholler
Gr – Kirk:	Mrs. Smith
Klein – Nvule:	Mrs. Raneri
O – Silva:	Mrs. Johnson
Sk – Z:	Mr. Burke

**GRADE 09: Class of 2015**

A – Conn	Ms. Roberts/Ontso
Cono – Fak	Ms. Lewis-Sholler
Fal– Gou	Mrs. Smith
Gov – Mars	Mrs. Raneri
Mart – Ric	Mrs. Johnson
Rid – Z	Mr. Burke

**Senior Parent College Workshops  
September 27 at 7 PM in the auditorium**

The workshop is a follow-up to the Early College Planning Workshop offered in January 2011 that began the college search process. The senior parent workshop outlines the specifics of the college application process. Seniors are invited to accompany their parents to this informative evening presentation.

**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.

**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.

**Fall College Fair Dates**

**NEACAC (New England Association for College Admission Counseling) College Fair:** Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at the Shriners Auditorium in Wilmington, 6:30 – 8:30 PM.

**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.

**2011 PSAT Date is 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.** The cost of the exam is \$25.00. Registration information will be posted by September 19. Please note the **OFFICIAL** College Board PSAT is only given once a year.

**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.

For the latest information about the PSAT/NMSQT and the SAT, go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

**NOTE:** Students with a documented disability who have an IEP or a 504 Plan that allows them extended time or other accommodations on school-based tests, who would like to apply for approval from the College Board to receive those accommodations on the PSAT, must complete the required SSD Form immediately, if they have not already done so. Please contact your guidance counselor for additional information. Without receipt of written approval from the College Board, students will not be allowed accommodations on the PSAT.

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



## **Winchester Youth Center**

458R Main Street

Winchester MA 01890

781-721-0906

[www.wincyc.com](http://www.wincyc.com)

[wincchesteryouthcenter@gmail.com](mailto:wincchesteryouthcenter@gmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/pages/Winchester-Youth-Center](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Winchester-Youth-Center)

**The WYC offers something for everyone, we invite all WHS students to come check us out and find out how you can get involved.**

*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*

### **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](mailto:wincchesteryouthcenter@gmail.com) for more information on any of these programs.**

### **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. This group is open to any WHS student who has natural leadership skills and the desire to further develop them. Anyone interested in joining this awesome group is invited to stop by the WYC for more information.

**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." All WHS students are invited to help identify the issues that are of most concern to Winchester teens and develop plans to spread awareness. Contact us or stop by the WYC anytime for more information.

**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](http://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.**

**SCAVENGER HUNT**

We are organizing a town-wide scavenger hunt this Fall. 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**

On Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> 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**

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 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Winchester Town Hall Auditorium. If you are interested in registering your band, contact the WYC or email us at [rock4youth@gmail.com](mailto: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**

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 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 including 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 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.

### **WYC CRAFTS & JEWELRY**

The Peer Leaders and members of the WYC create original crafts and jewelry that are on display in the WYC and can be purchased Monday-Friday from 2:00-5:00 pm. The proceeds from all jewelry sales benefit the WYC and our youth development programs. Check out our website for upcoming craft party dates.

### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

For the past 6 years the Peer Leaders have participated in a week-long service-learning project with Habitat for Humanity to help build homes for needy families. During April vacation we will travel to another area of the country to participate in our 7<sup>th</sup> annual week-long service trip. The Peer Leaders will be running a variety of events throughout the fall and winter in an effort to fundraise 100% of the expenses for our trip. Please contact us if you would like to make a donation toward this amazing service-learning experience.

### **WINCHESTER YOUTH SERVICE DAY**

In the spring the WYC and Connect & Commit will co-sponsor the eighth annual Youth Service Day in Winchester. Hundreds of teens will be given the opportunity to participate in service projects all over town including park clean-ups, planting and beautification projects, Aberjona clean-up, collecting non-perishable foods, sending packages to our troops, and more. This amazing community service event is open to all middle and high school students. We will also be searching for adults who are interested in volunteering with the students and additional service projects that we can put on our list. Please contact us at 781-721-0906 or [winchesteryouthcenter@gmail.com](mailto:winchesteryouthcenter@gmail.com) if you would like to get involved.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### NEWS FROM WFEE

COMING TO WHS..... Did you know that the Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence (WFEE) has given nearly \$30,000 in grants to WHS for the coming school year? That means:

- 12 new computers for the physics lab to run, graph and analyze data. Teachers believe it will bring them to a new level of technology-based instruction;
- iPads, music notation software and applications for the hundreds of WHS students who are studying music theory, jazz improvisation and composition. Nine iPads plus two desktop computers will equal a new way to study music at WHS;
- WHS students participating in the Robotics Club will learn more about engineering as they design, build and use 30 pound battling robots in national competitions;
- A nationally known author will present to WHS students during Authorfest, the town wide celebration of children's literature in April;
- Funding for professional development will send WHS Social Studies teachers to a national conference plus provide the opportunity for other teachers to return to the classroom, studying with professors at top colleges and universities in the Boston area.

If you would like to learn more about WFEE grants please visit our website at [www.wfee.org](http://www.wfee.org). Thank you to the many WHS parents who contribute to WFEE! Your gifts support creativity in the classroom, giving your children access to the best in American education.

### WINCAM IS LOOKING FOR YOUR HELP!

In an effort to cover as many Winchester High School sporting events this coming year as possible WinCam is asking for your support. There are simply too many sports for their small staff to cover. With help from the WHS community we will be able to broadcast most sporting events. Parents, high school students and grandparents are welcome!

If you can volunteer, you will come to WinCAM and receive some quick useful training. You will become a WinCAM member able to take classes for free and check out equipment. You do not need to be a camera master to be a camera operator; we can have you ready for the field within one training session! The equipment is not overly confusing or difficult to set up. Your responsibility would be to cover as many Home games as possible for your chosen sport. If you are interested or know someone that might be, or if you have any questions, please send an email to: [jarocca@wincam.org](mailto:jarocca@wincam.org).

### PARENT TO PARENT PRESENTS:

**The Parents We Mean to Be: Raising Happy and Successful Children of Character  
Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>**

These days many parents can become overly focused on their children's happiness and achievements, but this intense focus -- and the constant praising that goes with it -- can imperil a deeper development of children's moral qualities. What kinds of achievement pressure are constructive and what kinds are destructive? How can we raise children who are happy, high-achieving and moral? What are the key moral capacities and how can we develop them in our children?



Psychologist and author Richard Weissbourd, Ed.D, will describe some concrete practices at the heart of being an effective moral mentor. He will also discuss ways in which parents' own developing morality is connected to their children's developing morality. Dr. Weissbourd is a child and family psychologist, and is on the faculty of both Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and Graduate School of Education, where he directs the Human Development Program. He has advised on family policy and school reform, and is the author of two books, including the recently released *The Parents We Mean to Be*.

Please join us on Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at McCall Middle School Auditorium: 7:30 to 9:00pm, followed by book signing by the speaker. Books will be on sale by BookEnds. For more information please visit [www.parenttoparentwinchester.org](http://www.parenttoparentwinchester.org)

### **Griffin Museum of Photography Focus Awards**

**Saturday, October 1, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.**

**The Exchange Conference Center Boston Fish Pier, 212 Northern Avenue**

Don't miss the 6th annual Focus Awards on Boston's historic waterfront. An evening dedicated to recognizing the work of those who have been instrumental in building greater awareness of the photographic arts. Join us for the awards ceremony followed by wine and hors d'oeuvres from Best of Boston caterers East Meets West, while mingling with award-winning editors, curators and gallerists. For tickets and more information contact the Griffin Museum at 781-729-1158 or [photos@griffinmuseum.org](mailto:photos@griffinmuseum.org)

## **RECREATION DEPARTMENT NEWS**

### **REVOLUTION PREP ACT AND SAT PRACTICE TESTS**

**Practice SAT Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Practice ACT Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**

Get a head start on great SAT/ACT scores for your college applications! Take a practice exam and learn which areas you should target to improve. **Practice test features:**

- Full-length exam including essay
- Complete score report to identify strengths and weaknesses
- 30-minute call with a test prep specialist to review your personal report

To register for the practice exams, go to [www.revolutionprep.com](http://www.revolutionprep.com) or call (877) 738-7737. Sessions will be held at Winchester Recreation Dept, 263 Main Street. Check-in at 8:30 AM, test from 9:00-1:00. Bring two pencils and a calculator.

An educational presentation for parents will be held on September 28 from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. You will learn how to interpret your student's score report and learn general information about the differences between the ACT and SAT exams.

**NEW COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ESSAY WRITING WORKSHOP**

Instructor: Stephen Friedfeld

This course will help students and parents discover what makes admissions essays stand out -- and learn which topics make for good admissions essays (and which topics to avoid). In this two-hour interactive workshop, students will review and discuss both good and bad essays, find out what admissions officers are really looking for, and receive helpful tips for writing a strong essay. The workshop will also cover how parents can best aid their children in writing the college admissions essay. One session.

114-PD-03A                      Th. Sept. 29              \$19  
Winchester High School Skills Rd.    7:00-9:00 pm

Stephen Friedfeld was an Assistant Dean of Admissions at Cornell for four years and an Associate Dean at Princeton University for six years. He also worked as an independent college consultant for four years.

**ATTENTION! THE WHS PFA NEWSLETTER WILL NOT BE MAILED TO YOUR HOME  
UNLESS YOU REQUEST IT!**

The WHS/PFA monthly newsletter is normally sent via email. This has saved the Parent-Faculty Association thousands of dollars over the past few years and allows us to keep you informed in a much more timely fashion. In addition to the monthly newsletter, we also send out periodic electronic updates, so email is the best way to stay up-to-date. Please go to [www.whspfa.org](http://www.whspfa.org), type your email address in the "Join Our Mailing List" box, click on "Go," and follow the instructions. Be sure to sign up for the class mailing list which corresponds to the class(es) your student(s) are in. If you need any help with this process, please contact us at [whspfaneewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:whspfaneewsletter@gmail.com).

The PFA is an important and active part of Winchester High School, and we want our communications to reach all WHS families. If you do not have Internet access or if you need to have the newsletter mailed to your home for any reason, please complete the following and return it to Robin Wolf, Winchester High School PFA, 80 Skillings Road, Winchester, MA 01890. Thank you very much, and Happy Reading!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Class(es) of \_\_\_\_\_