

**Winchester High School
Parent Faculty Association Newsletter
January 3, 2022**

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE



Dear WHS Families,

Happy 2022! We hope that everyone had a fun, restful and safe break! We look forward to 2022 being a year of kindness and patience as we enter another year of uncertainty. With our wonderful WHS community, we know that bright days are on the horizon! Welcome back, we are looking forward to a seeing you!



Congratulations to the WHS winter sports teams for their great performances during school vacation week! Did you know that many of the WHS sports can be watched on WinCam!? Follow Winchester Athletics on Twitter (@Winch_Athletics) for updates and details.

Check out the fun photo from the Girls Hockey game against Burlington. (The girls have started their season with a record of 4-0!) Don't forget to send student activity photos to whspfanewsletter@gmail.com. We love sharing the great things our students are doing!

We received many thoughtful notes of appreciation from WHS teachers and staff for not only the holiday breakfast donations but your support throughout the fall as well- such a wonderful way to start 2022!!

As always, please reach out with any ideas or questions!
(whspfa@gmail.com)

Happy New Year,
Abbie DiMatteo & Brenda Mandile, *Co-Chairs*

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." – Margaret Mead

THE MASKED WHS STAFFER Week #17!



1. What high school did you go to? **Greely High School, Cumberland, Maine**
2. What was your favorite subject in high school? **French and Art**
3. What sport and/or extracurricular were you involved in high school? **Swim team, Yearbook, Class Government**
4. What is one of your hidden talents? **I love to create with my hands**
5. Favorite Movie/Book/Band/Food? **Sound of Music, Le Petit Prince, U2, Mexican**
6. Is there a quote or saying that you live your life by? **Work hard, Be nice**

*Don't forget to scroll all the way down to find out who this is!



WINNER of the WHS Gnome Naming Contest!

Our masked staffer this week also was the winner of our WHS Gnome Naming Contest! We had two nameless gnomes in our office that needed a name -- so of course who better than our own WHS Staff and Students to try to name them-- after many submissions the winning names were: **Winnie and Chester!!!** Get it "Win-chester"!?!? So clever and it was our Masked staffer of the week who won!

WHS IMPORTANT DATES - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

[Click here for District School Calendar](#)

MON 1/17 - No School

MON 1/24 - Quarter 3 begins

TUE 1/25 - Early Release

COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear Winchester Students and Families,

We hope you had a wonderful break and a Happy New Year!

We expect some challenges over the next few weeks with the increase in COVID-19 cases in our community. We should all be proud of how we have worked together to keep each other as safe as possible. Still, as a school community, we need to stay vigilant as we once again deal with rising COVID-19 cases within Winchester and across the Commonwealth.

Since the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, we have maintained and strengthened those layered mitigation strategies that we know work, both from

medical experts and from our own experience. Additionally, our nurses, administration, teachers, and staff have done a tremendous job keeping the safety and health of students and staff at the heart of all that we have done. In addition to universal masking, we made some decisions earlier this year that have allowed us to keep everyone in school and learning, including:

- Physical distancing as practicable in classrooms and learning spaces;
- Through the Town of Winchester Facilities Department, continued to ensure the proper operation and maintenance of our HVAC systems, enhancing air exchange and purification with HEPA filtration units in the majority of our buildings;
- Utilizing multiple spaces for serving lunches, including gymnasiums and other large spaces so that we can maximize distancing when students are most vulnerable for transmission: when their masks are off;
- Getting our students outside whenever possible, including allowing all WHS students to participate in an open campus environment at lunch;
- Communication with you with new tools, such as ParentSquare, our [COVID](#) and [Test and Stay](#) website content, and our [COVID-19 Dashboard](#).
- Scheduled all public and large group meetings remotely
- Conduct all large staff meetings remotely in January;

New this year, thanks to the incredible work of our school nurses and Town Health Department:

- Implementation of the State's Test and Stay program, which has saved HUNDREDS of students HUNDREDS of days of school;
- Utilization of regular surveillance testing for those students and families who have given us their consent to test regularly to help manage COVID-19 transmission and given us valuable data for mitigation adjustments. This testing will once again be in full effect beginning tomorrow.

And we are grateful to all of you, who have taken the MOST IMPORTANT step in helping us stay healthy: keeping your students home when they have been symptomatic. Our success is yours, and now we need each other more than ever!

As we return tomorrow, we face some expected challenges with the rise COVID-19 positive cases; however, our administrators are working hard to

ensure that we have the coverage we need to keep our students safe and learning. Please stay in touch with your building principal and remain alert for any updates from us over the coming days.

Finally, please see the updated [quarantine and isolation guidelines](#). We will continue to work with families through these new CDC changes, as they are complicated.

Please remember to monitor your student(s) for symptoms and keep your student(s) home if they show any symptoms or are not feeling well ([Daily Symptom Checker](#)).

Best wishes, and stay healthy!

Reminders from the Winchester Health Department:



Feeling sick?
Gathering with others?
Visiting anyone at high risk?

TEST FOR COVID-19!
If positive: notify your close contacts and stay home!

*Take personal responsibility.
Protect our community.*

Keep informed: www.winchester.us/covid



Important tools to limit the spread of COVID, and especially important to protect vulnerable members of our community:

- GET A BOOSTER SHOT IF QUALIFY!
- WEAR A MASK: effective way to stop the spread of COVID.
 - It is strongly advised that everyone wear masks indoors in public settings.
- STAY HOME IF SICK: Stay away from others and if test positive, notify your close contacts.
- TEST: Before gathering with friends and family, traveling, or if you have symptoms. Go to an official testing site or take a home test.

(Note: Home tests have limitations. For school attendance purposes, official testing site results are required when students/staff are showing symptoms of COVID-19).

We all need to remain vigilant. Take personal responsibility.
Protect our community.

www.winchester.us/COVID

IMPORTANT STUDENT PARKING INFORMATION

Students are reminded that they are ONLY to park in the student parking lot. Any students parked on Skillings Road in teacher spots, in any of the teacher lots, or anywhere else not designated as student parking, are subject to ticketing and potential loss of their parking permit.

As a reminder, juniors and seniors wishing to park in the student lot must complete this [online form](#) to register for a parking pass.

TARDY PROCEDURE

As a reminder, it is expected that students are **in class ready to learn** when the 8:30 AM bell rings. Students should aim to arrive at school no later than 8:25, so that they have time to travel to their class. Students unexcused tardy to school are prohibited from participating in extracurricular activities (including athletics) on that day. Excessive tardiness places a student at a great disadvantage and disrupts the learning environment.

Any student with 6 or more unexcused tardies (please see the [school handbook](#) for what constitutes an excused absence or tardy) in a quarter may lose their ability to access our open campus during that day's lunch block, or receive an afternoon or morning detention for each successive tardy. If the tardiness continues or the student fails to report for their assigned quiet lunch or detention then progressive disciplinary action will occur.

VOCATIONAL PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY

Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School will again be offering a free Saturday Exploratory program open to all students in

participating towns. The 4-week program is offered in 3 sessions (January, February and March) and students have the option of participating in all 3.

Programs include automotive technology, carpentry, cosmetology, culinary arts, dental assisting, CAD, design, electrical, fabrication, plumbing and robotics.

Information and a full list of programs are available on the [Guidance website](#) under [News](#) along with a program application.

WHS SPORTS

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Winter Sports started this week!
If you have scores from games and pictures of WHS athletes in action

[please email them to us!](#)

All team schedules can be found at [WHS Team Schedules](#)



Watch games live on the public channel,
and streamed [live online](#)

Please [email us](#) pictures and updates for Winter Sports!

ALPINE SKI

THINK SNOW!

BOYS BASKETBALL

The boys beat Masconomet 71-57, during the 1st Annual Bob Bigelow Classic. Pienaar 25 points, Hu 15 points and Sughrue 9 points.



BOYS HOCKEY

Please send us pictures and team updates!

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The girls team record is now 6-1 after they beat Malden Catholic 51-43. So. Emily Collins had 18 points and 13 rebounds and took home MVP of the Bob Bigelow Tourney. Emily was also recognized as a player to watch this season by the Boston Herald. Sr. Captain Carmen Kelcourse got 10 points and made the All Tourney team along with So. Katie Kavanaugh.



GIRLS HOCKEY

Girls Hockey Seniors

Fiona O'Flynn, Julia Lobello, Devon Krayner and Maggie Fortin



GIRLS LACROSSE

Girls interested in playing lacrosse this spring should attend a brief meeting on **Wednesday, January 5th in LG1 from 8:15-8:30 AM**. Important season updates will be shared.

Winchester Recreation will be offering an 8 week winter lacrosse clinic series for girls on **Sunday nights 1/9 - 3/20**.

[More Info & Register](#)

GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING

Congrats to the following Seniors for being named as All-Scholastic and League All-Stars for the Fall Season!!

Tabitha Chen-Fiske - Diving

She went undefeated this season, winning the Middlesex League, North sectional and Div 2 State Diving Title. A two-time NISCA All-American Diver, she is a 13-time USA Diving Junior National Championship qualifier in 1-meter, 3-meter and platform events.

Charlotte Kaduson - 500 Free

A Middlesex League All-Conference performer and two-time All-Star, she won the 500 Free at both the North Sectional and Div 2 State tournaments. She will continue her swimming career at Sacred Heart University.

GYMNASTICS

Please send us pictures and team updates!

INDOOR TRACK & FIELD



Girls ran a solid race last week but lost to Arlington.
No worries, there's always the next meet!



Boys ran hard last week and won against Arlington! Keep it up!

NORDIC SKI

and THINK MORE SNOW!

SWIMMING

The boys had a good start to their season. They lost to Belmont and Reading, but had some great times and fast swims! It's amazing to make Sectional and State Cuts in the first 2 meets of the season!

BELMONT MEET

Sectional Cut - 200 Medley Relay

Jason Clark, Jayson Yen, Allen Huseinovic & Ethan Guo

State Cut - 200 IM

Jayson Yen

State Cut - 100 Breast

Jayson Yen

READING MEET

State Cut - 200 Medley Relay

Jason Clark, Jayson Yen, Allen Huseinovic & Ethan Guo

State Cut - 200 IM

Jayson Yen

State Cut - 100 Breast
Jayson Yen

WRESTLING

On December 23rd Winchester beat Wilmington with pins by Elias Kourafalos, Joey Testa, PJ Reid and Ethan Cobbold.

Winchester Wrestling competed at the George Bossi Lowell Holiday Tournament at the Tsongas Arena on December 27th & 28th. Elias Kourafalos, Jadd Farra and Ethan Cobbold advanced to day 2.

On December 30th Tri-meet Winchester beat Watertown with pins by Brian Claxton, Elias Kourafalos, Joey Testa, PJ Reid, Ethan Cobbold and Jadd Farra. Final score was 45-21.

Winchester also beat Northbridge with pins by Andrew Sim, Riccardo Siciliano, Anthony Donlon, Elias Kourafalos and PJ Reid. Win by Jadd Farra. Final score was 51-21.

Congrats to newly named captain Jadd Farra!

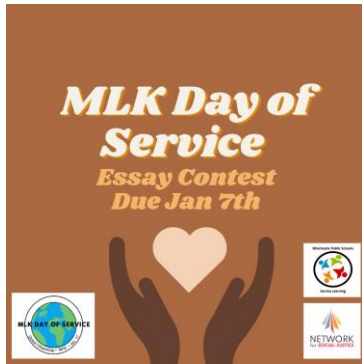


WHS ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Check here for information about Arts, Music & Theater

WHS CLUBS & GROUPS

Click here for a [list](#) of WHS Clubs and Organizations
Check this section for current club news, meetings & events



CALLING ALL CLUBS!

An exciting MLK Day of Service is in the works for January 17 at Winchester High School and we want you to be a part of it! This year's theme is Global Citizenship and we invite a diverse group of organizations to participate in a huge service-learning fair. Do your part for our community, and possibly win \$250 for a non-profit that is important to you.

All Winchester High School Clubs are invited to have a booth or room in the cafeteria to help spread awareness on MLK.

The essay contest deadline is **January 7th**.

Please email Ms. Edenhofner for more details about participating in the essay contest, volunteering at the MLK Day of Service, or to find out more information about the day's events click [here](#).

DRIVES

MLK DAY of Service and LA COLABORATIVA

Please support MLK Day of Service and La Colaborativa by donating the requested food and baby supplies listed below. A drop off box will be located at the entrance to WHS through January 17th, the MLK Day of Service. All items will be distributed to under-resourced, local families by La Colaborativa.

Needed items include: rice, beans, pasta, tomato sauce, oil, sugar, maseca, grains, cereal, diapers, baby wipes, and feminine hygiene products.

CLASS OF 2022 NEWS

SENDING GRADE REPORTS TO COLLEGES

Seniors wishing to have Q1 grades sent to schools must complete the [Q1 Grade request Form](#).

Please note:

Naviance no longer allows report cards to be sent to individual schools so students making requests for grades need to be aware that they will be sent to all schools that the student applies to regardless of when they apply (but will never download to any schools until an application is submitted).

Requests are processed in the order in which they were received.
Mid Year Averages for all classes are automatically shared to all schools which students apply to (no request needed).

See your counselor directly with any questions.

FINANCIAL AID FOR COLLEGE

Students who are thinking of attending college in the fall need to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be eligible for federal, state, and local financial aid. Winter break can be a good time to finish the FAFSA. Please see the following links for helpful [events](#) and [resources](#), such as those posted at www.mass.gov/financialaid.

CLASS OF 2023 NEWS

Check here for the latest 2023 class news

CLASS OF 2024 NEWS

Check here for the latest 2024 class news

CLASS OF 2025 NEWS

Check here for the latest 2025 class news

NEWS AROUND TOWN

The WHS PFA does not specifically endorse events and organizations and shares information on events and activities that may be of interest to the WHS community as a courtesy for informational purposes.



Troop 507 Christmas Tree Pick Up

Order your tree pick-up [online!](#)

Pickup Date: Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022

How Much: \$20 per tree

Order Deadline: 11:59 PM, Monday, Jan. 3, 2022

Referring Scout: {Scout Name}

Please remove all decorations

Have your tree curbside by 7:00 AM

Trees will be collected by 4:00 PM on Jan. 8th

Pickups only available in Winchester.

[Click Here to Request Tree Pick Up](#)

WINCHESTER BASKETBALL

Saturday Night Hoops is Back! Music, Pizza, Friends, Fun & Hoops!!

Register now for Saturday Night Hoops, a fun, recreational basketball program at Winchester High School (WHS) that is open to all Winchester residents (boys and girls) in grades 9 through 12 regardless of where they attend high school.

The program will be held on six (6) consecutive Saturdays from 8:30-10:30 PM, starting January 8, 2022 and ending on February 12, 2022.

The program provides friendly competition with games each week and playoffs on the last night. Covid-19 protocols for public schools apply indoors at WHS. That means ALL participants - players, coaches, etc. **MUST** wear masks at all times when they enter the building. The Covid-19 policy for the Winchester Basketball Association (WBA) is found **here**.

We recommend that players bring an extra mask to all events. In addition, if you have any of the symptoms discussed in the WBA Covid-19 policy, please stay home.

Players can either join as a team with friends and/or players will be divided into evenly matched teams that will play together. All players will receive Saturday Night Hoop T-shirts and enjoy music and pizza each Saturday.

Come join a team or help put one together with friends.
Online Registration is open until **January 6, 2022.**



An Evening With The Superintendent



Please join us for a discussion with Winchester Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank Hackett, who will provide an informal and interactive forum for parents and caregivers to hear about a wide range of topics and issues in the schools.

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

[Click Here to Submit Questions](#)

Thursday, January 13th
7:00PM
Zoom Meeting

educate
encourage
empower

parenttoparentwinchester.org

All Programs Are Free and Open to the Public

[SUBMIT QUESTIONS HERE](#)

[REGISTER HERE](#)

MLK Day of Community Service

Monday, January 17, 2022

When: 10am-1pm

Where: Winchester High School

To find out more about family programming and the student essay contest:



<https://sites.google.com/winchesters.org/win-mlk-day-of-service/home>



In collaboration with Service Learning at WPS and Network for Social Justice

Visit MLK Day of Service website

WHSPFA | 80 Skillings Road, Winchester, MA 01890

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