

Subject: WHS PFA Newsletter 2/1/21

From: WHS Parent Faculty Association <whspfanewsletter@gmail.com>

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To: lauren.lesperance@verizon.net

Winchester High School Parent Faculty Association Newsletter February 1, 2021

To ensure continued delivery of the WHSPFA Communications, please set-up our [email address](#) as a contact/safe sender.



PRESIDENT'S NOTE



Dear Fellow WHS Families,

We know the last few days our inboxes have not been filled with the most welcome news. However, during tough times, we have always been able to rally together as a community and effect positive change. Let's continue on that path towards our shared goals of being safe, happy and healthy.

ARTS: We may not be able to go to the MFA yet, but lucky for us we can still see beautiful originals! Don't miss our mini art exhibit by our very talented WHS Senior Honor Art students in the Arts and Music section.

SPORTS: This frigid air does not stop WHS! Still playing hard are our WHS Basketball, varsity and JV hockey, Alpine Ski, and Nordic Teams . G-O WHS! We are cheering you on in spirit! Please read below for more details.

ACADEMICS: CONGRATUALTIONS WHS! Our school has "earned the College Board's AP® Computer Science Female Diversity Award for expanding young women's access to AP Computer Science Principles (CSP). This honor recognizes the outstanding work our school is doing to engage more female students in computer science." **YOU GO GIRLS!!!**

SPECIAL DELIVERY: While the weather might keep most of us bundled inside, our awesome parent volunteers and some of their kids (*Danielle Adams, Pam Balfanz, Michelle Blumsack, Karen Caputo, Meredith Chamberlain, Leanne Christmas, Laura Colella, Kerry Curran, Deborah DePeter, Sarah Girotti, Caroline Kinsbourne, Yogita Miharia, Ann Mikula, Maria O'Connor, Lori Sirignano, Adrienne Spignesi, Tricia Syed, Anne Walsh and Ali Wilson*)

braved the cold to deliver special sweet packages for our Seniors—just in time for "National Hot Chocolate Day"! Thank you ladies for helping make this happen and delivering to 370 students! The surprise for seniors contained a school-colored cup, hot cocoa, chocolate peppermint covered spoon with marshmallows (*special thank you to Adrienne Spignesi for making the delicious spoons & Senior labels and Maria O'Connor for packing!*) and a "Top 21 Class of 2021 Bucket List", made with love from the WHS Admin and PFA, with our hope that our seniors can reflect on the many possible adventures ahead of them before graduating!

We hope this letter warms you up a bit—especially given the wintry week ahead!

Ps Today, is the last day for the mascot survey: What should the NEW WHS mascot and name be? This survey will close at Midnight.

Warmly,

Mai Harrison & Abbie DiMatteo

Your WHS PFA Co-Presidents



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

--Margaret Mead



The WHS Masked Staffer Week 19

1. **What high school did you go to?** *Winchester*
2. **What was your favorite subject in high school?** *Physics with Mr. Smith*
3. **What sport and/or extracurricular were you involved in high school?** *I played soccer, softball and basketball. Basketball was my favorite.*
4. **What is one of your hidden talents?** *Not much about me is hidden, I am a pretty open book :)*
5. **Favorite Movie/Book/Band/Food?** *Movie -Armageddon, Book - I Am the Cheese, Band - Jimmy Buffet, Food- ice cream*
6. **Is there a quote or saying that you live your life by?** *" There is so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us that it hardly behoves any of us to talk about the rest of us." Mrs. Shugrue my 8th grade math teacher at McCall*
- 7.

*****Remember to read through the end of the newsletter and find out the identity of our WHS Masked Staffer! *****

WHS IMPORTANT DATES - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

TUE 2/2 - School Committee Meeting at 9:30 AM [Zoom link](#) Passcode: 601850

MON-FRI 2/15 to 2/19 - School Vacation

WHS School Calendar

The Winchester School Committee approved the [monthly calendars](#) for February through June 2021

School Committee Office Hours

School Committee will be offering office hours via Zoom webinar. Please join us with your questions on schools / district policy at this informal conversation. Please note that as this is a public meeting, we cannot answer questions on individual students.

February 3, 2021

7:00-8:00 PM

[ZOOM LINK](#) to Office Hours

Webinar ID: 838 6665 3671

Passcode: 368770

Wish Project Drive

As we kick off 2021, we are once again going to be organizing a toiletry drive, including items such as deodorant, toothpaste, and many more. This drive is one organized for the [Wish Project](#), a lovely program that provides families in need with basic necessities. A collection bin will be placed outside the main office for any donations.

Thank you all for being so generous!

School Lunches

Did you know that the USDA has approves **FREE** breakfast and lunch for **ALL** students for schools on the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program for the 20-21 school year!

This means that **ALL** students will have access to nutritious meals at **NO COST** to parents. Meals are approved to be served both **IN PERSON** and for **PICK UP**. Students attending school in person are eligible to pick up breakfast and lunch daily at **NO CHARGE** (1 breakfast and 1 lunch).

To be added to the list of pick up meals, please contact [Trina Scotti](#), foodservice general manager. Please include the number of students and which cohort they are in. You will then be sent a confirmation email with details on where and when to pick up meals.

Please note that ala carte or 2nd meal purchases will be charged to the student's lunch account.

SATs Update

As you may have heard, CollegeBoard is [discontinuing the SAT Subject Test](#) as well as the optional Essay portion of the SAT.

We recognize that some of our students have already signed up for these tests at WHS in March, May or June. All refunds/future notifications will be coming through CollegeBoard.

You can access this information on your CollegeBoard portal as well.

WHS SPORTS

We Want to Hear From You!

If you have scores from games and pictures of WHS athletes [please email them to us!](#)

All team schedules can be found at [WHS Team Schedules](#)
Use [this link](#) for updated information regarding Winter Sports

The **WHS Girls Basketball** team lost a tough battle to Arlington on Saturday with a final score of 46-43. The game went right down to the wire and WHS put in a great team effort, particularly by freshman **Emily Collins**.



WHS Girls Varsity Hockey Team



WHS Girls JV Hockey Team

It was a beautiful day for the **WHS Alpine Ski Team** slalom race at Nashoba Valley on Thursday, January 28. The Omega league allowed eight girls and eight boys to compete. The WHS Alpine Ski Team did well! For the WHS girls: 56 girls competed in the league race. Captain **Michaela Eichel** led the team finishing in 5th place overall in the Omega league. **Grace Preston** finished in 15th place which would normally qualify her for States. However, the State competition is canceled this year due to Covid-19. Captain **Maddie Taylor**, who is one of the team's top skiers, straddled a gate so did not complete the race. **Helena Schmitt** finished 21st, Captain **Charmie Galvin** finished 28th, **Brooke Moloney-Kolenberg** finished in 29th, **Caty Jones** finished 31st and **Emma Slatalla** finished in 44th place.

For the WHS boys: 63 racers competed in the Omega league competition. Leading the WHS boys was freshman **Liam Carlin** who finished in 15th place, which in a normal year would qualify him for the State competition. **Niko Fortier** finished 26th, **Henry Duplessis** finished 29th, freshman **Cody Paigen** finished 30th, Captain **Eric Huang** finished 36th, **Iain Kimpton** finished 39th, **Max Durand-Morris** finished in 41st and **Thomas Centurelli** finished in 43rd.

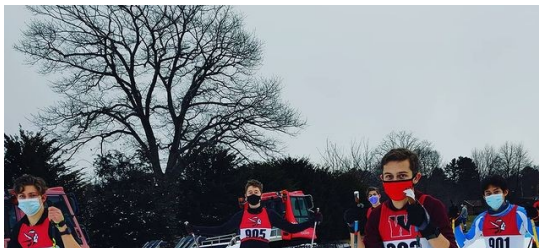


Freshman Liam Carlin



Captain and senior Michaela Eichel

Congratulations to the **WHS Boys Nordic Team** for taking 1st place in the fourth Mass Bay West League race! WHS had 4 skiers in the top 10 of 78 skiers. **Aidan Kimberley** and **Alex Cumming** took 1st and 2nd place in league for the third time this season, followed by **George Gilmer-7**, **Evan Edler-9** and **Tucker Johnsen-20**.





Aidan Kimberley, George Gilmer, Evan Edler and Alex Cumming ready to race.



James Wheaton on the race course.

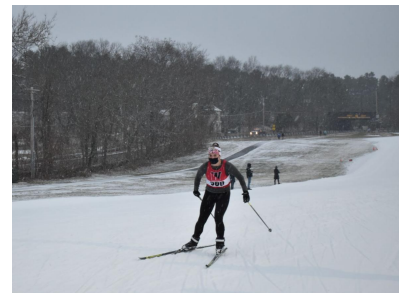


Nordic skiers Thomas Calnan, Justin Girotti, Andrew Buck, Will Burke and Tucker Johnson.

The **WHS Girls Nordic Team** had a strong showing in the fourth Mass Bay West League race taking 2nd place with 8 skiers in the top 20 of 96 skiers. Scoring for the team were seniors **Caitlin Wiseman-6**, **Katie Lew-8**, **Amelia Murray-10**, and sophomores **Sophia Lubin-14** and **Hannah Cumming-15**.



Hannah Cumming competing on the race course.



Sofia Arnet ascends the final hill.

WHS Boys Hockey ties with Arlington High School 2-2. Michael Cashell and

Angelo Mario scored for Winchester.

[Puck Profile](#): Getting to know senior captain Joey Falso



Any students interested in playing **Girls Lacrosse** this Spring who missed the December sign up meeting should complete this [form](#).

Any students interested in playing **Boys Lacrosse** this Spring Season, [please fill out this google form](#)

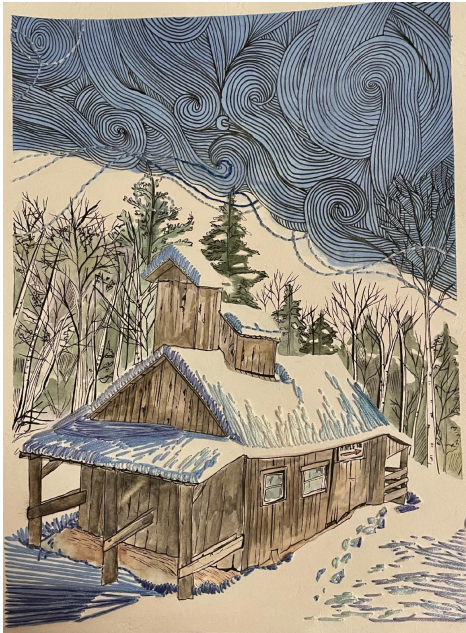
WHS ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

See below for updates & events for Arts, Music & Theater

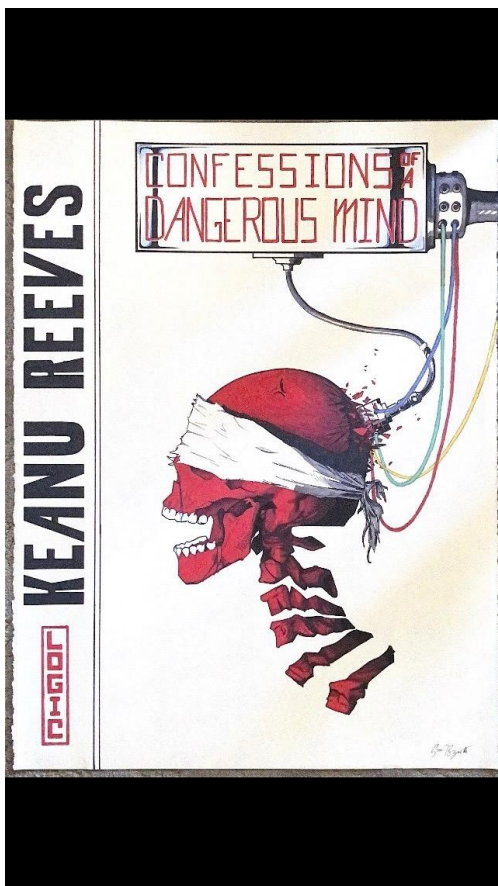
Check out these amazing works from some our Senior Honors Art students



Amelia Murray



Katie Lew



Steve Rozmanith



Ailish Dixon

WHS CLUBS & GROUPS

Click here for a [list](#) of WHS Clubs and Organizations
See below for current club news, upcoming meetings & events



Latin Club

Recently, the Latin club did its part to show its appreciation to the front line workers at Winchester Hospital. As we all know the staff at the Winchester Hospital has been at the forefront of the fight against the virus since last Spring. They have shown extraordinary courage and care during these unprecedented times. Community members recognized their efforts and showered hospital staff with meals, snacks, flowers, gift cards, and more. The Latin Club did its part and delivered water bottles to the frontline workers. They were distributed to the front-line workers when they received their Covid vaccine in their conference center which was set up to administer the vaccines. The gesture was much appreciated and welcomed.

Come to Connect and Commit's annual Escape the School Event next Wednesday, February 3rd from 1-3 pm! Pick a team of up to 5 people and put your knowledge to the test by figuring out clues posted around town, including some Winchester History Trivia! The team that completes the most clues in the fastest time will get to choose a charity of their choice that all the entrance fees will be donated to! Sign up [here](#)!

Join the Winchester Farmers Market Club to get involved with the local market! We will be offering volunteering opportunities in the spring and summer. Please fill out [this form](#) to sign up if you are interested in attending our monthly zoom calls. All are welcome, and we hope to see you there!

WHS's student council and class officers have been working hard this past year to start the first-ever **WHS Senate** tackle anti-racism efforts. Follow [WHS Senate](#) on Instagram to stay updated on what they are working on!

Are you looking for volunteer opportunities and a great way to give back to the community? Then try the **WHS Fells Club**! We are planning on meeting once a month and doing volunteer work in the Fells such as clearing trails of brush, trash, and fallen trees. We are also working to adopt a section of the Fells for our club to maintain! Another main priority is raising awareness about invasive species and helping to preserve native plants and animals. Fill out the form

[here](#) if you are interested, hope to see you soon!

Click [here](#) to subscribe to Winchester High's student-produced newspaper **the Red & Black**.

CLASS OF 2021 NEWS

The Winchester Scholarship Foundation applications for the academic year 2021-2022 are currently available in the Guidance Department as well as online in Naviance

Applications for the Joseph M. Murphy III Scholarship are now available in the Athletic Office, the guidance office and on Naviance. They can be picked up during school hours any day during the week.

When requested, we will share your student's name and contact information with the branches of the military unless you choose to opt out of this. Families wishing to opt out must complete this [google form](#).

If you can believe it, it is already time to order your cap and gown!
The cost is **\$15.50** and all students will be wearing red.
The order comes with one 2021 tassel.

Get online and [order now!](#)

CLASS OF 2022 NEWS

Check this section for updates about the Class of 2022

CLASS OF 2023 NEWS

Check this section for updates about the Class of 2023

CLASS OF 2024 NEWS

Check this section for updates about the Class of 2024

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.

From The Winchester Health Department:

Phase 2 of the state's vaccination plan will begin on February 1st starting with anyone 75 years and older. Winchester is part of the Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition with Melrose, Malden, Medford, Wakefield, and Stoneham. ELIGIBLE Winchester residents may receive their vaccine at clinics listed in those towns and at other designated sites throughout the state NOW by going to mimmunizations.org. If you have a parent, family friend or neighbor in the 75 plus category, please help them register. If they need additional assistance, have them call the Jenks Center at (781) 721-7136. The Winchester Health Department plans to vaccinate the most vulnerable and home bound residents when supply is available. For more information go to winchester.us/vaccine. TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE COVID HISTORY!

CRUSH COVID

Don't miss your SHOT to save lives
www.winchester.us/VACCINE

**TOGETHER WE CAN
MAKE COVID HISTORY**

#winchestervaccinates



**Help Your Teens and Tweens
Safely Navigate Social Media**
with Elizabeth Englewood, PhD



parenttoparentwinchester.org

WITH ELIZABETH ENGLANDER, PhD



Dr. Englander, founder and director of the Massachusetts Center for Aggression Reduction Center, and a nationally recognized expert on cyberbullying, will share her research on teenage cell phone use.

Learn how to:

- talk to your child about sexting
- respond to cyberbullying
- provide guidelines for healthy cell phone use

She will also discuss the pandemic's impact on children's mental health and social relationships as well as the consequences of increased screen time.

Register in advance [here!](#) After registering, you will receive an email containing information about joining the webinar.

Thursday, February 4 7:30 PM on Zoom



All Parent to Parent Programs Are Free and Open to the Public

[LINK](#) to register for Help Navigate Social Media

February Events at Winchester Community Music School

Flute Master Class with Brook Ferguson – Audience Welcome on Zoom – Sunday, February 7, 3:00 – 4:30 PM

Please join WCMS for a master class with [Brook Ferguson](#), principal flutist of the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, former fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center, and founder of Denver's Bel Canto Flute Academy. Several students will perform pieces they are currently working on, and receive valuable insights and thoughtful feedback from Brook. All are welcome to view the master class on Zoom as part of the audience – [register online](#) (\$5 fee) and the link will be sent shortly before the event. For more information, visit www.winchestermusic.org or call 781-721-2950.

Junior District Auditions Workshop – Saturday, February 27, 2:00 – 3:30 PM

For middle and junior high school students trying out for the MMEA Junior District Festival. This workshop hosted by Winchester Community Music School will provide a wealth of information about the audition process including how to prepare, manage nerves, and develop presentation skills. Students will divide into vocal and instrument groups to perform for adjudicators and receive constructive feedback on their solos and scales. Held live on Zoom; \$25 per participant. Open to all; you do not need to be enrolled at WCMS to participate. Register online by February 22 or call 781-721-2950 for more information.

DISRUPTING RACISM LEARNING SERIES

This 3 part series is designed to build a learning circle of diverse community members committed to diving deeper into racial justice theory and its practice

- Mapping our personal anti-racism journeys
- Discussing the intersection of key concepts and overarching frameworks
- Identifying practical tools to interrupt racism

7-9pm Tuesday Evenings
February 9th, 23th & March 9th

To register visit: https://disrupting_racism-nfsjsci.eventbrite.com
With questions lnorwich@nfsj.org

NETWORK
for **SOCIAL JUSTICE**
Educate • Engage • Activate



SCI Social Capital Inc.®



“Thought is the seed of action.”

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Join the Conversation!
An Open Forum on Racial Equity & Authenticity
 A Virtual Workshop Hosted by
Cyndi Weekes Bradley

Thursday, February 25
7 p.m.
[**REGISTER HERE**](#)

We want Winchester to be a town where everyone feels welcome. Are we already there? Are we close? Do we have a long way to go?

Whatever you think, let’s talk!

****Open to all ages - we recommend that children under 15 attend with an adult.***



Ms. Weekes Bradley is an educator with over 20 years of school-based experience within teaching and leadership, spanning from early childhood through post-secondary education. She enjoys using her lived experiences to create open spaces for productive discourse and actions that move communities closer to their goal of embedded racial and culturally inclusive practices.



winchestercoalition@gmail.com

LINK to register for Forum on Racial Equity & Authenticity





Registration is open for Kids' Corner's Summer Program!

Did you know that Kids' Corner offers multiple exciting, full day programs during the summer? We offer our beloved **Kids' Corner Summer Program (grades K-5)** and our adventurous **KC Xtreme** for middle school students (**completed grades 6-8**).

Kids' Corner's Summer Program upholds the same safe, engaging, caring and values-driven environment, coupled with a fun-loving, learning-filled atmosphere that has been central to the Kids' Corner Out-of-School Time Program for over 30 years. We intend on having some fun, enriching experiences on site and we hope to relaunch our awesome field trips in 2021.

Please see more information: [HERE](#)



When School Ends, The Need For Lunch Does Not
Winchester Got Lunch provides healthy lunches for Winchester families during times when school is not in session -- summer, school vacations and during the pandemic.

DONATE HERE

Donations will provide gift cards for families during February & April vacations and summer food delivery

- **\$25 feeds a child for one**





- week
- \$50 feeds a child for two weeks
- \$250 feeds a child for the entire summer!



Winchester Got Lunch is a community partnership with Winchester Public Schools, businesses, faith-based organizations, civic groups and community members

winchestergotlunch.org

DONATE HERE **Winchester Got Lunch**



Winchester Together is a community based initiative of coordinated events and acts of kindness that offer hope and positivity to all generations of Winchester residents and our local essential workers. The goal of Winchester Together is to coordinate a series of events and acts of kindness to address the isolation and pandemic fatigue that many residents of Winchester are now experiencing. We act as a communication hub for residents and wish to promote safe activities that all generations of Winchester residents can enjoy and find purpose in.

Winchester Together is made possible by all of the Winchester organizations, businesses, and people of action engaging in this coordinated campaign. We are grateful for all they do for our community.

[Follow us on Facebook](#) Or on Instagram: [@Winchestertogether](#)

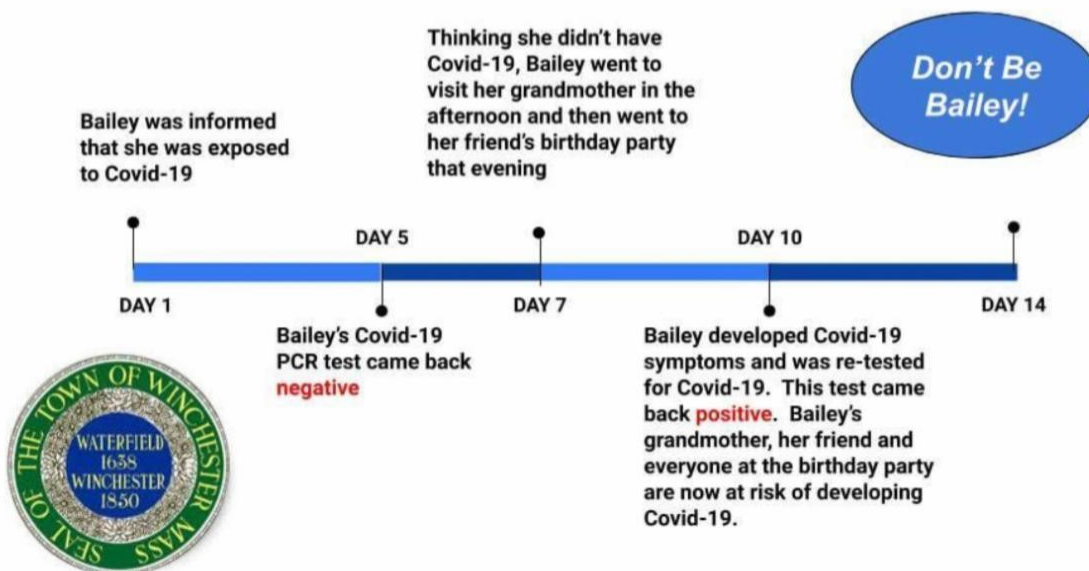
WE ARE WINCHESTER TOGETHER!

As Winchester Together is also a call for action, contact [Rich Mucci](#) or [Dot Butler](#) if you have an idea, have an event in progress to promote or wish to volunteer to engage in new project as part of this campaign.

COVID-19 Incubation Timeline

Please be aware that it can take up to 14 days after exposure to Covid-19 to become ill

If you have been exposed, please quarantine for 14 days if you can. Alternatively, you may test out of quarantine after 10 days if a) you have no symptoms, b) you take a PCR test on Day 8, c) your Day 8 PCR test is negative, and d) you continue to monitor for symptoms for the full 14 days.



ALUMNI NEWS



***Are you a WHS Senior? Are you a parent of a WHS student or alumni?
Are you a staff member of Winchester Public Schools?***

**You are invited to join the Winchester Alumni Association
Become a member [HERE](#)**

Winchester Alumni Association was launched in 2018 to support WHS alumni, staff and families in the many transitions of their lives after the 01890. Alumni who register through our [database](#) may receive information on upcoming Winchester events and volunteer opportunities, search for classmates, share news, and support current students and young alumni through networking and mentoring activities.

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for our

Alumni Spotlight Series that celebrates past WHS students now around the world or check out our website [HERE](#).



Check out our latest alumni spotlight!

Danny Taliaferro, Winchester High School class of 2010



UNMASKED: Our Marvelous Math Teacher Anna Paradis!

Thank you Mrs. Paradis for participating and helping us get to know you better!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We want to hear from you!

If you have any pictures, news, updates, we want to hear from you. **Please email us.** We would love to share with the WHS Community!

WHS PFA Direct Appeal



If you NO longer wish to receive the newsletter or you wish to change or add a new email address to your account, **please email us.**

To make a newsletter or a news blast submission, **please email us** NO LATER than 12:00 PM on Friday.

[Unsubscribe lauren.lesperance@verizon.net](#)

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