Subject: WHS PFA Newsletter 3/1/21

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

Date: 3/1/2021, 6:35 AM

To: lauren.lesperance@verizon.net

Winchester High School Parent Faculty Association Newsletter March 1, 2021

To ensure continued delivery of the WHSPFA Communications, please set-up our <u>email address</u> as a contact/safe sender.



PRESIDENT'S NOTE



Exploring the World of Science



Happy Monday March 1st WHS Families, Staff, Alums and Friends! We hope you had a great weekend!

We are so happy to **CONGRATULATE** so many of our **AWESOME** WHS students in this week's newsletter!

Congratulations to our Winchester Science Olympiad Team!

Congratulations Harvard Model Congress Club!

Congratulations to our WHS Musicians!

Congrats to our WHS Basketball Jr/Sr. Captains!

Congrats to our WHS Hockey Puck Profile for this week! (A must read—warms your heart!)

You are probably thinking: whom specifically are you congratulating and why? – well, gosh, that's why you need to read our newsletter to find out more details! Enjoy!

In terms of upcoming events this week—we've got you covered again for Family Fun and Learning!

- Winchester Together: Find #Commonwealth Benches, Between Monday, March 1st and Monday, March 8th, take photos of yourself and friends/family sitting on these 12 benches around town and you may win a \$20 gift card! (see details below). This is an event even your TEENS will love!
- School Committee Meeting: Tuesday, March 2nd at 9:30am
- WFEE Bee in a Bag: Not too late! <u>Buy one now</u> and still get delivery this Wednesday, March 3rd! Family fun! Great gifts too! Play on your own time!
- Parent to Parent Wednesday, March 3rd at 7pm. Successful Sleep Strategies for children (and parents) with Dr. Dennis Rosen
- We also have many WHS Clubs and organizations helping others
 -please take a moment to check them out! (The WHS Purple Club, The WHS Fells Club, The One Wish Project, The Wish Project, & The Winchester Intergenerational (IG) Leadership Team and more!)

Lastly, we had great feedback about our Trivia Questions, so to celebrate WFEE's Bee in Bag this week we are continuing some fun questions for you to practice!

Q1: What Country Has The Most Vending Machines Per Capita? Q2: What Was The First Toy To Be Advertised On Television?

Q:3 With What Did The Ancient Romans Dye Their Hair?

Have a TERRIFIC week all!

ANSWERS:

Q1: **Japan** (Manufacturers lend vending machines free of charge that's why it skyrocketed in Japan. Anyone can install vending machines as long as permissions were already acquired.)

Q2: **Mr. Potato Head** (It was first advertised on April 30, 1952. This will come as a surprise to many who are too young to remember Mr. Potato Head.)

Q3: **Bird poop** (This is a funny fact to know and one that perhaps not everyone will believe. They also used leeches mixed with vinegar to dye their hair black.)

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 22

- What high school did you go to?
 McComb High School in McComb, MS
- 2. What was your favorite subject in high school? Probably English
- 3. What sport and/or extracurricular were you involved in high school? Baseball
- 4. What is one of your hidden talents? Cooking
- Favorite Movie/Book/Band/Food? The Godfather / One Hundred Years of Solitude



/ Anderson Paak / Gumbo

6. Is there a quote or saying that you live your life by? "Would I rather be feared or loved? Easy – both. I want people to be afraid of how much they love me." -Michael Scot

**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 3/2 - School Committee Meeting - **Zoom Link** - details below

WED 3/10 - NO SCHOOL - Professional Day

WHS School Calendar

The Winchester School Committee approved the monthly calendars for February through June 2021

Winchester is planning and preparing for a full in-person return to school in the fall, here is the approved

2021-2022 Calendar for planning purposes.

Congratulations SciOly!

We'd like to give a big congratulations to the **Winchester Science Olympiad team** for placing **first** in the regional competition for the second year in a row!

We are so proud of everyone on the team, who, in spite of having to go completely virtual on such short notice, managed to help us prevail once again.

Congratulations Harvard Model Congress Club!

Congrats for competing virtually in the 36th annual Harvard Model Congress Boston conference! All delegates showed excellent participation and debate skills.

Congratulations to **Kaitlyn Donato** and **Sarine Meguerditchian** for both winning awards!

School Committee Meeting

When: Mar 2, 2021 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: School Committee Remote Meeting

Click here to join the webinar

Passcode: 972629

- Call to Order
- Student Report
- Public Comment
- Reports and Discussion Items
 - DCFCs (Direct Current Fast Chargers) Presentation: Ruth Trimarchi
 - FY22 Budget Update: Enrollment Projections
 - COVID-19 District Update
- Action Items
 - Vote to Approve: Interim Superintendent Contract
 - Vote to Approve: Mascot/Logo
 - Vote to Appoint: Curriculum Subcommittee Membership
 - Approval of Minutes
- Chair Report
- Superintendent Report
- Future Agenda Items
 - School Choice Public Hearing
 - K-5 Literacy Review Update
 - Superintendent 2020-2021 Evaluation
 - School Transportation E. School Handbooks
- Next Meeting Dates:
 - Tue March 16th 6:00 PM
 - Tue April 6th 9:30 AM
 - Tue April 27th 6:00 PM
- Adjournment

WHS COVID-19 Pool Testing Sign -Up

Dear WHS students and families,

Thank you for your continued partnership during this most challenging school year. We are excited to announce that we will be rolling out a **free voluntary COVID-19 pooled testing pilot program for students and staff at Winchester High School during the month of March.** Participants have the opportunity to be tested each week. We will begin with the Senior class and phase in teachers, Juniors, Sophomores and Freshman. We have been working closely with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Winchester Health Department to make this happen. We are thrilled to be working with <u>Project Beacon</u>, a social benefit organization focused on helping to increase the capacity, availability, accessibility, and affordability of COVID-19 testing in Massachusetts.

What is pooled testing and why is it important?

Pooled testing combines multiple nasal test swabs from individuals into a

"pool" group, then the pool is tested for COVID-19 in a laboratory setting. This approach increases the number of swabs that can be tested at one time and significantly brings down the cost of testing.

 Pooled testing is one more layer of protection that helps quickly detect, trace, and isolate COVID-19 positive individuals, ultimately helping lower the risk of transmission in our community.

This program is voluntary but your participation is encouraged! The more people who participate, the more effective this program will be.

How will it work at WHS?

- Participants will take a non-invasive shallow nasal swab and nurses will be available to provide support if needed. This will take place on Tuesdays for Cohort A and Thursdays for Cohort B.
- This is not for symptomatic testing. If your student has any of <u>these</u>
 <u>COVID-19 symptoms</u> they should not attend school or participate in pooled testing.
- Test results will be confidential and will only be seen by WHS
 nurses. Individual positive cases will be managed by the Winchester
 Health Department and are required to be reported to the Massachusetts
 Department of Public Health.
 - If the result of the pool is negative: all individuals are presumed to not have COVID-19, and you will not be contacted.
 - If the result of the pool is positive: all individuals in the pool will be notified by the Winchester High School Health Office and they must be retested individually. Individual follow up testing will be offered at the High School expeditiously after results are received. Students in a positive pool cannot return to school until the follow up testing is complete and we have identified a positive individual. The way the pooled testing days are scheduled, hybrid students should not miss any in-person days. Details on this process can be found here

How can your student participate?

To be included in the Pooled Testing Program, your student must have a profile created in Project Beacon, which includes signing an electronic consent form, covering both the pooled testing and retesting if needed.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER AND FOR MORE INFORMATION

Note: Students may not participate if they have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days

At Winchester High School we are extremely grateful to our committed staff and families that continue to show great flexibility, compassion and resilience as we navigate through this school year. While we may be in different boats, we are all still in the same storm together.

If you have questions regarding the COVID-19 Pooled Testing Program not

answered here, please email whscovidtesting@winchesterps.org.

Thank you, Principal Dennis Mahoney and the WHS Covid-19 Pool Testing Team

"Starting the Conversation: College and Your Mental Health" Webinar

Monday, March 8th from 7:00-8:30 PM

The webinar's panel of college administrators and a recent college graduate who experienced mental health challenges in college encourage transition age families to start conversations about mental health before students leave home. It is prudent to understand privacy laws, what can be communicated by college administrations, and that colleges differ in supports.

Students, parents/guardians welcome. Presented by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Central Middlesex. Co-sponsored by the Acton-Boxborough United Way and the Mystic Valley Behavioral Health Coalition.

Attendees must **register in advance** for this webinar.

Student Volunteer Opportunity

The Winchester Intergenerational (IG) Leadership Team is looking for high school students who want to get involved in developing fun, community based activities designed to bring together community members who span a wide range of ages. Building meaningful connections in our community will promote the well-being of everyone, and in the midst of the COVID pandemic, this is true now more than ever.

Our group is one team within the IG Leadership Team, funded by a Cummings grant, and our focus is on Performing Arts and Entertainment as a way to foster interconnectedness. Due to social distancing restrictions, we are tabling many of our performing arts project ideas until we can safely bring people together in the same physical spaces or venues. In the meantime, we have a project in the works for this spring, involving the community showing of a movie related to sustainable, local farming, followed by discussions related to the successes and challenges involved.

Our goal is to host follow up activities and discussions including members of local farms, organizations and/or Winchester family owned businesses who will share their experiences. We're in the early stages and are open to new ideas and directions.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact us as soon as possible! **Rebecca Watson** or **Melissa Jackson**

SATs Update

March 13th SATs at Winchester High School have been CANCELLED.

For this school year, WHS will not be offering Saturday School Day Testing for the SATs. We have notified College Board of this, and hopefully this will be reflected on the College Board website as well.

The SATs will be held for current Juniors at WHS on **March 24th**. You must complete this form to register. Any registrations or payments that have been made to CollegeBoard for March, May or June cannot be transferred to the March 24th date.

If you do not sign up on the google form, you will **NOT** be admitted to the test.

Any questions can be directed to **Melissa Lutchen**, SAT coordinator.

One Wish Project Drive

I'm hosting a toy drive for the One Wish Project during the months of February and March. The toys collected during this drive will be given as birthday gifts to homeless children living in the area.

I would love it if you could donate any unused/unopened toys for kids of any age. There will be a box to drop off toys in front of the main office.

If you would prefer to have your toys picked up at your home please email me

The Wish Project Drive

Once again we are 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 <u>Trina Scotti</u>, 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.

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

Spring will be here before we know it. Until then, Winchester DPW continues to impress with their hard work clearing fields for this season's athletes.





Congrats to Junior Captain

Philip Sughrue for being named
Middlesex League Co-MVP!

Philip had a huge part of leading
the team to the league title and
will be ready for an even better
Senior season.





Big Congrats to the other Middlesex League boys basketball All-Stars Senior Captain **Sean Gogolin** and Junior **Quinten Pienaar**







Puck Profile:
Winchester Senior forward
Sammy Vozzella!

*Please note last week clarification, the WHS Boys Hockey were co tournament champions with Belmont. The last game against Reading wasn't a tournament game.

It is not too late to sign up for the **Indoor Track & Field Season**.

Do not hesitate- go to **Family Id** to register now!

If you have any questions please contact **Coach Cacciapuoti**

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

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students for their selection to the 2021 Massachusetts Music Educators Association All State Festival.

Students were selected through a rigorous audition process, involving hundreds of students, that began in the Fall at a regional district level.

Students will be participating in workshops with renowned conductors and recording their parts for a digital performance. Bravo!

Will Caron - Voice

Jihyun Kang - Violin

Juliette Loschen - Timpani (Percussion)

Olivia Ma - Violin

Mark Martisrosian - Trumpet

Jennifer Wu - Violin

Mary Costello Director of Music Winchester Public Schools

WHS CLUBS & GROUPS

Click here for a <u>list</u> of WHS Clubs and Organizations See below for current club news, upcoming meetings & events

The WHS Purple Club will be selling ribbons Monday, March 1st through Friday, March 5th outside WHS from 9:00-9:30 AM.

Ribbons will be sold at **\$2 for 1 and \$5 for 3**For remote students, **email** for the opportunity to buy!

FOOD LOVERS!! Join **Masterclass Cooking Club** in a spring cooking series with the famed Chef Barbara Lynch!

Starting from the very basics, we'll work our way through Italian cooking until we are pros at the end of the school year.

Classes meet every other Tuesday at 4:30 PM, starting March 2nd.

If you are interested, please sign up here. Get ready for some delicious cooking!!

The WHS Fells Club is holding a contactless bottle drive fundraiser to raise money for equipment to clean up the Fells!

If you are interested in helping us collect bottles and cans please fill out this google form here before **Wednesday March 10th**.

If you have any questions please email **Shelagh Dixon**

Interested in public speaking, finance, or management? Then FBLA is for you!

The FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) club meets
virtually through zoom from 3:30-4:15 PM on Thursdays.

Our state-wide competition is coming up, so if you'd like to join us for it and compete in a bunch of really cool events, <u>click here</u> for more information, or you can <u>email us</u>. We hope to see you there!

Click here to subscribe to Winchester High's student-produced newspaper the Red & Black.

CLASS OF 2021 NEWS

The end of the school year is in sight!

We are hard at work planning a safe graduation for you, but we need you to do your part. About 1/3 of you have NOT yet ordered a cap and gown.

It can be done online fairly quickly. The cost is **\$15.50** and all students will be wearing red. The order comes with one 2021 tassel.

Go online and order now

Scholarship Information

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

The 2021 **Christopher N. Mitropoulos** Scholarship application is available in the guidance office and on 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.

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:

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 this site.

If you have a parent, family friend or neighbor, 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.

Click here for more information

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE COVID HISTORY!

Bee-fore You Forget:

Back from vacation and feeling bored? Don't forget this is the week to purchase your WFEE Bee in a Bag. Have some fun while supporting WFEE grants like Authorfest and the WFEE Academy. The Bee in a Bag is this year's Trivia Bee reinvented. The Bag is a keepsake canvas tote bag full of everything you need to hold the Bee at home. The bag comes with three levels of trivia questions (answers included of course!) plus kids' questions, instructions on holding your Bee at home, snacks, goodies from our sponsors, a crown for your winner and more. Members of the WFEE hive will deliver your bag to a Winchester address

on March 3rd. Sign up now to make sure you are one of the first 250 people who are guaranteed the canvas bag.



Successful Sleep Strategies for Children (and Parents) with Dr. Dennis Rosen



parenttoparentwinchester.org



- · How much sleep do children and teens really need?
- Why are some children night owls, while others can't keep their eyes open past 8:00 pm?
- How do sleep patterns interface with brain development and affect academic performance?

Dr. Dennis Rosen, author of Successful Sleep Strategies for Kids, is the Associate Medical Director of Boston Children's Hospital Sleep Center. In this talk, Dr. Rosen will answer these questions and more, and provide strategies you can use to improve the quality of your child's sleep.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER IN ADVANCE FOR THIS WEBINAR! Or visit parenttoparentwinchester.org.

Wednesday, March 3 7:00 PM Zoom Webinar

All Programs Are Free and Open to the Public.

REGISTER HERE FOR DR. DENNIS ROSEN

Looking for something fun to do with friends or family?

We've got a challenge for you!

Find #CommonwealthBenches

Between Monday, March 1st and Monday, March 8th, take photos of

yourself and friends/family sitting on these 12 benches around town.

Show your progress on social media by tagging

#CommonwealthBenches and #WinchesterTogether!

When you have all 12, **email** your photos.

The first 50 entries will receive a **\$20 gift card** to their choice of Joe's Main Street Pizza, Swanton Street Diner, or La Patisserie.

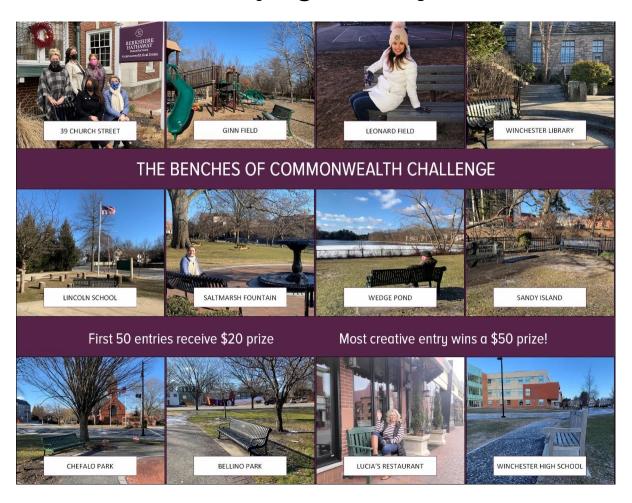
(One entry per family please.)

Most creative of the entries gets an additional \$50 prize!

The agents of Winchester's **Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Commonwealth Real Estate** are delighted to sponsor this activity and support our local restaurants!

We hope you have fun participating.

Find more events on Facebook at onlinestagram **@WinchesterTogether**



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, nfsj.org

Social Capital Inc., social capital inc. org

EMAIL WITH QUESTIONS

REGISTER HERE FOR DISRUPTING RACISM

WINCHESTER YOUTH BASEBALL & SOFTBALL REGISTRATION FOR SPRING 2021

Winchester Youth Baseball and Softball (WYBS) is pleased to announce that

registration is now open for all spring programs. We offer fun, age-based instruction and games for kids from 6-15 and we have a dedicated group of parents and volunteers who are ready to make this the best season ever!

To register please visit our new website and click on the Registration tab. Registration will close on March 15th, so don't delay. The spring season traditionally begins around April vacation and ends late June. WYBS will be monitoring all related guidance relative to outdoor sports but we are planning on a "relatively normal' season.

WYBS JUNIOR JOURNALIST PROGRAM

WYBS would like to recruit a pool of "reporters" to cover games and publish game summaries this spring. Candidates interested in developing their writing skills while providing content for publication on our website and in the local news, please email Janine Kutylo. Students (middle and high school) will be trained on keeping a score book and given a template to guide them in developing the summaries. Students will also receive a small stipend for each story submitted.

WYBS JUNIOR UMPIRE PROGRAM

WYBS is seeking **boys and girls ages 13 and up** to work as Junior Umpires for boys AA and AAA leagues, and girls Intermediate Softball games during the spring 2021 season. Junior Umpires earn **\$20** per game.

All new aspiring umpires and those who have umped in the past must contact our Umpire-In-Chief by **April 1**, preferably **by email**. This program includes basic training and tips for calling the game, along with a unique perspective and great way to help your community.

WYBS SPONSORSHIP

We would like to take the opportunity to thank those who have supported WYBS in the past and who continue to be there for our boys and girls. Each year, WYBS relies on its local partners to help deliver the best product possible and we always have new opportunities for organizations or individuals who want to support our programs. To learn more about how you can help, please email us or visit for a quick, easy and secure transaction!



SNOWMAN/SCULPTURE CONTEST (OPEN TO ALL)

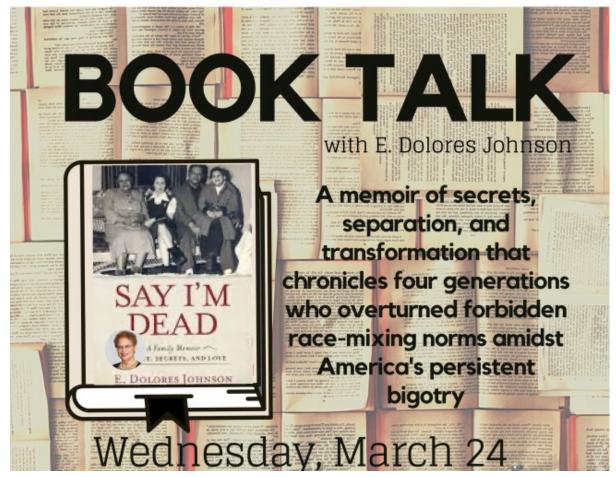
As we are spending more time at home this winter, we thought that it would be fun to challenge Winchester residents to create a snow work of art! We hope that you will brave the elements and enjoy some time outdoors creating your own unique snow sculpture! The judging panel will select winners based on originality and overall appearance.

Ages and number of participants will be considered during judging. Submit your entry with family, friends or as a neighborhood! Upon entering, please state ages and number of participants.

Judging date: March 22nd but photos may be from any time during Winter 2021.

<u>Email photos</u> - We will post all photos on our Facebook page for the community to vote! Who will be the 2021 Snow Sculpture Champion!

The Network for Social Justice proudly presents...







Pick up your copy at BookEnds or Winchester Public Library

REGISTER HERE FOR BOOK TALK

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 <u>LinkedIn</u>, <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u> 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!



Kristine (Leavitt) Mullaney Class of 1996



UNMASKED: **Our SUPER, Social Studies teacher, Kenneth Artigues!**Thank you **Mr. Artigues** 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, <u>please email us</u>
NO LATER than 12:00 PM on Friday.

WHSPFA | 80 Skillings Road, Winchester, MA 01890

<u>Unsubscribe lauren.lesperance@verizon.net</u>

<u>Update Profile | Customer Contact Data Notice</u>

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