

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

PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ APRIL 2009

For up to date info visit our website at www.whspfa.org

This newsletter was funded entirely by the Winchester Parent Faculty Association. No public funds were expended for the cost of its production or distribution.

From the Office of Principal Tom Gwin

21st Century Skills

In November, the Massachusetts Board of Education released a white paper on 21st century skills. The report, *School Reform in the New Millennium: Preparing All Children for 21st Century Success*, was prepared by a task force including leaders from the state legislature, education sector, and business and technology industries. The task force developed a set of recommendations for integrating 21st century skills into the state's K-12 curriculum frameworks. The website below presents a memo on the report from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Mitchell Chester and a link to the white paper: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/boe/docs/1108/item1.html>

According to the report, 21st century skills include thinking strategically and creatively, using technology to solve problems, working collaboratively, and communicating effectively. They also include financial and business literacy, global awareness, and innovation. Schools have the daunting task of preparing students for future jobs that currently do not exist. In a rapidly changing world, employers want workers who are well-versed in these 21st century skills.

Recently, President Obama praised the high standards of the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks and MCAS exams, saying they are a model for the entire country. Massachusetts students score at the top of the NAEP (National Assessment of Education Assessment) in relation to other states and the international TIMSS (Trends in Individual Math and Science Study) in relation to other countries. However the report reminds us that beyond the state's success in academic achievement, we need to begin to integrate 21st century skills in a systematic way. In the report, the Chair of the task force, Gerald Chertavian writes, "Despite our record of success, it is time to reinvent our schools from top to bottom to meet the economic and educational demands for the 21st century." In the February 24th Boston Globe, Chair of the Massachusetts Board of Education Maura Banta wrote, "Our role now as policy makers, educators, business leaders, and parents is to provide students with the best of both worlds: a strong and challenging academic curriculum, and a full infusion of the 21st century skills students will need to succeed outside of school."

As the high school, department directors and school administrators are reviewing the white paper and will examine what we currently do and where we may go in relation to 21st century skills. Stay tuned.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering Math) Talent Pipeline Initiative

The Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) oversees the STEM Talent Pipeline Initiative, a project to increase the number of students majoring in STEM related careers so that the country can meet the growing demand for science, technology, engineering, and math related employment. WHS has a STEM committee looking at the same issue and developing recommendations for guiding students into STEM related majors and careers. We are interested in the potential of WHS parents in STEM related jobs for providing career presentations and/or unpaid internships for students. If you are in a STEM related career and think you can help us out with a career presentation or student internship, please email me at tgwin@winchester.k12.ma.us.

Seniors/ Senior Parents Meeting on Thursday, April 30, 7:30 pm

A very important meeting for seniors and their parents will be held in the WHS auditorium on Thursday, April 30 at 7:30 pm. At the meeting we will review the procedures for graduation, the prom, and other senior events. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

MESSAGES FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

TARDINESS TO SCHOOL: A parent must excuse students who are tardy to school with a note or telephone call explaining the tardiness on the same day as the late arrival. Whether being excused by note or telephone call a late arriving student must report to the Main Office, where the student will scan their identification card and receive a pass to class. If a student misses a quiz or test, or fails to turn in a paper or project, due to an excused tardiness he/she must see the teacher the same day and take the test or quiz or turn in the paper or project after school that day or by arrangement with the teacher.

ACTIVITIES ATTENDANCE POLICY: To participate in a sport, extracurricular activity, or other school events such as dances, the student must attend all scheduled classes that are assigned on the day of the practice, game or event that is to be held. Chronic attendance problems may result in removal from a team or activity. Tardiness or dismissal will only be accepted under rare circumstances and must be cleared through the administration prior to the tardiness or dismissal. If the event is held on a weekend or a holiday, the above statements will hold true for the school day preceding the weekend or holiday.

MESSAGE FROM SRO ANTHONY RUSSO

Students should not park in the visitor parking spaces that are located in the front driveway of the school. Parking ticket violations have been issued and will continue to be issued. Students who do not park in the student designated areas and/or do not use good judgment in operating and parking their vehicles will be denied the privilege of bringing a vehicle onto school property.

NEXT YEAR'S SCHOOL CALENDAR

The School Committee has voted to begin the 2009/2010 school year for students on Tuesday September 1. Since Labor Day falls late this year (on September 7), an earlier start will allow the last day of school to fall earlier in June. This option was supported by a majority of parents responding to the School Department's survey. September 1 will be an early release day for all grades. September 2 will be an early release day for elementary students; September 3 will be a full day for all levels, and there will be no school on September 4 to allow families a long Labor Day weekend.

CLASS NEWS

CLASS OF 2010 FUNDRAISER:

MAD MONEY COMING IN MAY! The Junior Class will be selling raffle tickets during the month of April for their **MAY MAD MONEY MONDAY GIVEAWAY**. The cost per ticket is \$5.00. Every Monday in May a raffle ticket will be drawn and the winner will receive \$100.00 CASH. There are 4 chances to win and a winning ticket will go back in the draw. The drawing dates are May 4th, May 11th, May 18th and May 25th. Winners will be notified by phone. Bonus: The person who sells the most tickets will win \$100.00 CASH. Detailed information will be mailed to all students of the Class of 2010. For ticket information contact Matt Marotta at marotta.r@comcast.net.

Message from the Senior Class

The senior class is excited for an eventful spring.

On Sunday March 29th at 7 p.m. the seventh annual Mr. WHS competition will take place in the high school auditorium. The contestants will be Yuri Kolchinski, Wayne Peterson, Evan Patrick Robertson, Robert Busher, Carl Ricke, and Davis VanOpdorp. MCs Charlie Tirella and Jack Fallon will host. Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased one week prior to the show at Book Ends or the night of the show at the door.

Also, there will be a class dinner on Thursday April 30th in the cafeteria. This will be a great opportunity for parents and students to catch up on next year's plans for school and the event will be our final major fundraiser. There will be a parents' meeting in the auditorium after the dinner to discuss Senior Week.

As May and June are quickly approaching, we will keep you updated on the final events of senior year.

Junior Class Gift

The Class of 2010 is pleased to announce our donation of 4 comfortable reading chairs to the Winchester High School Library, as part of our Junior Class Gift. We realize that the library is a place that is used and cherished by all, and we are happy to be able to improve it's environment. Enjoy the comfort...compliments of the Class of 2010!

Matt Marotta, Class of 2010 President

MUSIC NEWS

You're invited! **SPRING ACAPELLA FEST! Saturday, April 4th at 7:30 PM**

SPRING ACAPELLA FEST at Winchester Town Hall featuring the WHS Octets, Chamber Singers, and guest collegiate ensembles the Harvard Veritones (with Octets alum Josh Feblowitz), the MIT Logarithms. and the Skidmore Dynamics (with Octet Alum Alex Greaves).

Tickets may be purchased in advance at BookEnds or at the door on the evening of the performance. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$8 for Senior citizens and children and \$30 for families.

BENEFIT PERFORMANCE OF "CINDERELLA"

Winchester Cooperative Theatre will hold a benefit performance of "Cinderella" on Tuesday, March 24, at 4:00 pm at the McCall auditorium. Proceeds from this performance will **benefit the Friends of Music Winchester High School Band Uniform Fund**. Special guest appearance before the performance by the WHS OCTETS (many of whom are alums of the Cooperative Theatre program).

The current Winchester High School band uniforms have been worn by the members of Winchester's marching band **for more than 25 years**. Friends of Music is raising funds to retire the current uniforms and replace them with uniforms that can be worn by our marching bands for the next 30 years.

So, come enjoy a special performance of "Cinderella", with a guest appearance by the Octets, and help support the Winchester High School marching band.

Tickets are \$15.00 and will be sold at the door, or can be reserved by emailing Anne Marie Hill at hill.davis@comcast.net, include in the subject: "Benefit Show". For more information call 781-721-2364.

PFA

2009-2010 WHS PFA Board

The nomination process has begun to fill the 2009-2010 Parent Faculty Association Board. The PFA Board is made up of parents of students from all four classes at the high school. There are many volunteer positions available. If you are interested in finding out more about joining the PFA Board, please contact Karen Erikson at Karenerikson@comcast.net or 781.729.7249.

WHS PFA Direct Appeal / 2008-2009

It's not too late to give as we are still short of our budget for the year! And, with the town-wide budget freeze, the PFA funding to support activities and supplement the WHS budget is ever more important! If you have already given to this year's WHS PFA Direct Appeal – thank you! If you haven't yet contributed, please consider doing so now, if you are able, to help us balance our budget for the year. Your generous contributions are used to continue to cover the cost of many important programs and supplies for WHS students and teachers not included in the WHS budget, by providing grants to academic departments and the school library, and to support many extracurricular, enrichment, and support programs for students. Although a contribution of any amount is truly appreciated, the PFA asks that each family consider making a one-time donation for this school year of \$75.00 or more. As always, you can contribute by mailing a check made payable to WHS PFA to Joanne O'Donnell, 9 Pierrepont Road, Winchester, MA 01890. For additional information, please contact Joanne O'Donnell at pfodonnell@verizon.net. Thank you!

Name of WHS Student(s) _____

Grade(s) _____

Amount of Contribution \$75 _____ \$100 _____ \$125 _____ Other _____

Please make checks payable to the WHS PFA and send to **Joanne O'Donnell, 9 Pierrepont Road, Winchester, MA 01890. Thank you!**

From PFA Co-President, Carol Cashion

If there are still snow banks in the WHS parking lot, can it really spring? I don't see much evidence yet in my yard (I knew I should have planted those bulbs...) but our rapidly-filling family calendar is a sure sign. Between now and the end of June, WHS students and parents will be extremely busy with games, tests, performances, projects, awards nights, and dances – and that's all before Senior Week hits! It's an exciting time, but it can be hard to keep track of all those moving pieces. Use the PFA website to help. Go to www.whspfa.org and click on "PFA Online E-Calendar" for a listing of April events (except athletics). Check out the District Calendar (<http://mail.winchester.k12.ma.us/schoolcalendar>) for musical and other events for May and June and don't miss the special one page calendar of Senior Week events, included in this newsletter. Spend 10 minutes filling in your calendar and then sit back and enjoy the spring sun (finally!).

Spring also brings the start of our nominating process for next year's PFA Board. We are lucky to have Karen Erikson spear-heading this annual talent search for us again this year. Our website has a listing of board titles. If you'd like to learn more about any of the positions in the PFA or know that you would like to serve next year in some capacity, please contact Karen at Karenerikson@comcast.net or call her at (781) 729-7249.

The Guide



A Monthly Newsletter from the WHS Guidance Department APRIL 2009

Course Selection for 2009-2010

Guidance Counselors will be meeting with students individually during the first couple of weeks in April to review course selections for the 2009-2010 school year. During this time we have dedicated to meeting with students, no other appointments will be available. At the conclusion of each meeting, students will be given a print out of their potential courses for the upcoming school year.

SENIORS

As you receive decision letters from colleges, please inform your guidance counselor of your status at schools to which you applied

Making the Final Decision on College

For juniors, the college search is just beginning. However, for this year's Class of 2009, the question of where to attend college and how to make the final choice of which school to attend may yet remain unanswered. Here are some tips for seniors (and their parents) who may be trying to decide between two or more colleges:

- Review your original criteria to see why you originally chose to apply to each college. See if those criteria have changed over the course of your senior year.
- Consider how far from home you actually want to be. What seemed to be a good distance in September may seem too far away, now that going away to college is looming ever closer.
- Compare offers of financial aid to determine which college is more affordable and whether the family's finances have changed during the year. This might have to be the deciding factor.
- If you truly cannot decide between colleges, revisit them, attend freshman survey courses in your field of interest, eat all of your meals in the dining hall, and hang out in the student union to see if you would feel at home there.
- If you are interested in sports, meet with the coach of your sport and talk to players.

In the end, if all other factors seem comparable, seniors need to trust their instincts. Students and parents need to know that there is no one "perfect college". Every college will have advantages and drawbacks. It is important to make that final decision and then make the most of a wonderful opportunity!

REMINDER

Winchester Scholarship Foundation Applications are due May 15th

Boston University College of Engineering's 19th Annual Design Competition will be held on Sunday May 31, 2009 at Boston University. The Design Competition involves teams of two students, both of whom must be high school freshmen, sophomores, or juniors at the time of competition. Each team will design and build a vehicle that will, under its own power, move and perform tasks within a set time period. A registration fee of \$25 must be submitted no later than May 1, 2009. For details call (671) 353-6447 *Suggestion: Because of the popularity of this competition potential contestants should apply as early as possible*

The Harvard Athena Conference

The Athena Conference is a leadership conference held on the Harvard University Campus that is planned and led by Harvard undergraduates for high school women in Boston and Cambridge-area schools. Its goal is to empower and engage attendees in activism and awareness of women's issues through a daylong conference that includes a guest speaker, workshops, a self-defense class, and a coffeehouse. Register at: <http://tinyurl.com/athena-registration> or email athenaconference09@gmail.com

NACAC COLLEGE FAIR Boston Convention and Exhibition Center Exhibit Hall C 415 Summer Street, South Boston, MA 02210, 617/954-2000

Fair Hours: Tuesday, April 7, 2009 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 8, 2009 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Need More General Information? E-mail collegefairs@nacacnet.org or info@nacacnet.org

American Legion Student Trooper Training Summer Program

The American Legion, in cooperation with the Massachusetts State Police, sponsors the Student Trooper Program. The program consisting of a one-week, live-in class at The Massachusetts State Police Recruit Training Academy in New Braintree, MA, is intended to provide male and female high school students, 15–17 years old, the opportunity to consider law enforcement as a potential career choice. Two classes are scheduled: July 13 -17, 2009; and July 27 – July 31, 2009. Each class will be an extensive law enforcement career-training program patterned after the State Police Recruit Training. The program is not intended to be a summer camp and is not designed for troubled teenagers. Discipline is strict with vigorous physical training, reveille at 5:30 a.m. and “lights out” at 10:00 p.m. Students attend classes each day on topics such as motor vehicle law and investigative techniques. Applications may be obtained from any American Legion or high school and must be authorized by an American Legion Post. Deadline for applications is May, 15, 2009. Sponsorship fee is \$250.00. For further information, contact: Mr. Bill McCarthy, 781-316-3166 or email: wmccarthy@town.arlington.ma.us.

2009 STEM Discovery Program At Wentworth Institute of Technology

The STEM Discovery Program is a 3-week program at Wentworth Institute of Technology offering a course of study in the science and engineering fields to Boston-area high school juniors and seniors. Through a combination of class work, laboratory experiments, and exposure to working professionals, students will have an opportunity to explore their interests in a variety of scientific and technical fields. Course material will include:

- Bioinformatics
- Biomedical Engineering
- Civil Engineering Technology
- Electrical Engineering Technology
- Mechanical Engineering Technology

Classes will be held Monday through Friday at Wentworth Institute of Technology, 550 Huntington Ave., Boston. Two sessions are planned. Session 1 is scheduled for June 22-July 17th with no classes the week of July 4th. Session 2 is scheduled for July 20th–August 7th. Cost of attendance is \$1,000 which includes the cost of all classroom, study and laboratory materials, and lunch each day. For more information, go to: www.wit.edu/em/summer.

Summer Study Programs at Tufts

Tufts University, Medford, MA is offering four academic study options in their Summer Study Program. The options—Writing; Ethics and Global Citizenship; Health Science Honors Program; and the College for Juniors Program—allow highly-motivated high school juniors and seniors to challenge themselves by taking Tufts University courses for college credit or personal growth. In addition to the four programs mentioned above, Tufts Summit offers high school students with at least two years of French a program in the French Alps which will allow them to sharpen their language skills and deepen their understanding of French culture. Students will stay with selected families, enabling them to cultivate new friendships, experience daily life and practice their French. For more information about any of the Tufts Summer Study Programs, students may pick up a brochure in the Guidance Office or call 617-627-3454. The websites to visit are: ase.tufts.edu/frenchalps, and/or ase.tufts.edu/summer.

Gap Year Opportunities Fair

More than twenty agencies that offer gap year programs will be exhibitors at a Gap Year Opportunities Fair to be held on Sunday, April 5, 2009 from 1:00-4:00 p.m., at Noble & Greenough School’s Arts Center Lobby, 10 Campus Drive, Dedham, MA 02026. The fair is open to high school students and their families and is free of charge. A *Gap Year* is defined as “...a post-secondary opportunity for self-exploration and personal growth, leading to clearer direction and motivation for college studies. A gap year may include travel, cultural immersion, directed study, service, internship opportunities or other experiences.” For further information, visit: www.ciee.org

Comparing Financial Aid Packages

Colleges typically arrive at financial aid packages by subtracting the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) listed on the Student Aid Report (SAR) from the total cost of attendance to determine the student’s financial need. The award letter notifies students of the total amount and type(s) of aid the school is offering. To compare offers, see *Award Analyzer* on www.EducationPlanner.org. This tool helps students compare award packages from different schools.

Connect & Commit Service Club Meets Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30pm in the WHS Library

You can sign up for the opportunities listed below at the weekly meetings or in the Connect and Commit office. If you have questions about Connect and Commit, visit Kristen Ritchie, Program Director, in the Connect and Commit Office, or contact Kristen via email kritchie@winchester.k12.ma.us or via phone 781-721-7020 x1999.

One Time Opportunities

Saturday April 4th 9-11am, Lowell Wish Project, 49 Marshall Rd. Lowell, (10 Slots)

The Lowell Wish Project helps agencies all over Massachusetts and parts of New Hampshire supply their clients with essential household items as well as childcare essentials. Help the Wish Project sort and prepare their donations for dispersal.

IMEC 1-4pm 1600 Osgood St. North Andover

Volunteer to organize, clean and package medical equipment for IMEC. IMEC is a non-profit, volunteer-based, organization whose mission is to provide doctors in developing countries with quality medical equipment to improve health care for the poor. For the past 14 years, IMEC has worked with over sixty other humanitarian organizations to revitalize hundreds of existing, impoverished hospitals with donated surplus medical equipment and supplies that are organized into complete medical departments, delivering them to over seventy countries around the world.

April 27th-May 2nd EnKa Yard Sale

Help staff the annual yard sale for a few hours after school. Sign up for specific dates and times will be available soon in the Connect & Commit office.

Thursday, April 30th 9am-3pm Blood Drive, MGH Blood Mobile in the Winchester High School Parking Lot

Blood donation will be done by appointment. You must be 16 or older to donate blood. Appointments will last 15 minutes and are available all day. Anyone is welcome. You must sign up in the Connect & Commit office where you will receive a waiver that must be signed and returned before you can be scheduled for an appointment.

Saturday May 9th 10am-2pm Winchester Youth Service Day

Connect & Commit is working with the Winchester Youth Center to bring together hundreds of Winchester young people in a day of service. More information to come!

Friday May 14th -17th EnKa Book Fair

Volunteers are needed on the 14th and 17th to help prepare for and then break down after the Fair. Sign up sheets with specific times will be available in the Connect & Commit office.

Saturday May 16th Mary Cummings Park

Time is to be determined, but volunteers will help the friends of Mary Cummings Park to maintain the existing paths, create new trails and help remove debris that has collected in the park during the winter months. Help prepare the park for residents to enjoy during the summer months!

Epilepsy Foundation Walk -10am

Form a team and raise money to participate in the 2.5 mile walk along the Artisan River or volunteer to help the foundation set up for the event, help direct people along the route and serve food at the celebration BBQ.

Saturday May 23rd 10am-12pm (includes lunch) Community Servings, 18 Marberry Terrace Jamaica Plain

Help prepare and package meals to be delivered throughout the week to patients with severe and terminal illnesses. The service is truly rewarding and at the end of the day you get to sample your work, I promise you it's a delicious experience!!

Friday-Saturday May 29th-30th Relay for Life

Connect & Commit is putting together a team to participate in Woburn's Relay for Life. Volunteers will trade shifts walking around the track continuously for 24hours in this exciting and community-building fundraiser for cancer research. Chaperones are needed as well. *This is an overnight commitment*

Saturday, May 30th 6:30pm WFEE Education Celebration

Assist WFEE with their annual education celebration by helping to serve food, direct traffic and various other tasks as needed.

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities:

Connect & Commit is doing something a bit different for the month of April. As a club we are focusing on the issue of global health. As a club we will be specifically be looking at the efforts of the organization Partners In Health. We will be viewing a video showcasing the organizations efforts in countries like Haiti as well as discussing current articles, and reading the book *Mountains Beyond Mountains* which details the experiences of Paul Farmer the founder of PIH. On Thursday **May 7th, we will be hosting Desserts for Doctors:** a fundraiser to benefit PIH. We encourage you to join us not only at the fundraiser, but also along our journey as we learn more about the organization and the tremendous contribution they are making to global health.



Winchester Youth Center 458R Main Street, 781-721-0906, www.winyc.com

TOWN-WIDE SCAVENGER HUNT, Saturday, April 4th. Sign-up your team of 3-5 people @ the WYC. Teams must have a team name, costumes, and a digital camera. Prizes will be awarded. Contact the WYC for more info.

WHS BLOOD DRIVE, Thursday, April 30th: 9:00-3:30, Email whsblooddrive09@gmail.com to sign up for a time to donate blood. Sponsored by the Winchester Youth Center and Connect & Commit

WINCHESTER YOUTH SERVICE DAY, Sponsored by the Winchester Youth Center and Connect & Commit, Saturday, May 9th
A day to celebrate community service and clean up sports fields, clean up our parks, beautify our schools, be apart of a great cause!
All WHS students are encouraged to participate!! Stop by the WYC to register. Everyone who signs-up by May 1st will receive a Youth Service Day t-shirt

We are also searching for adult volunteers and additional service projects that we can put on our list, please contact the WYC at 781-721-0906

SUPPORT THE WYC PEER LEADERS' APRIL VACATION HABITAT FOR HUMANITY TRIP

During April vacation 20 of the WYC Peer Leaders will be participating in our 4th annual Habitat for Humanity trip. We will be traveling to the Eastern Shore of Virginia to complete a week-long service-learning experience of building homes for families in need. We are currently working toward fundraising 100% of the expenses for our trip including a \$2300 donation to the Habitat affiliate and Habitat for Humanity International. Please contact us if you would like to make a donation toward this amazing service-learning experience. Proceeds from all of the following fundraising efforts will benefit our trip:

Raffle tickets - Buy your \$15 tickets for the chance to win: iPod Touch, GPS Navigation System, \$100 iTunes Gift Card
The drawing will be held on April 5th. Contact the WYC for more information

Dump Runs - Let us take care of your trash on Saturday, March 21st We are currently selling \$10 dump run vouchers. Contact the WYC for more information

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS: Join SSA, the WYC's Peer Education group!

We meet on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:00. In April we will meet on the 7th and 14th. We are currently focusing our attention on the issues of driving under the influence of alcohol and other drugs, sexual health, body image, and hunger. Come to a meeting to learn more and find out how you can help spread awareness about these important issues.

SCHOOL RELATED NEWS AND EVENTS

PARENT CONVERSATIONS IN APRILMONDAY, APRIL 13 - 9AM

CONFERENCE ROOM, MAIN OFFICE, WHS, COME FOR LIVELY CONVERSATION AND TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR TEENAGER'S LIFE!!! COFFEE AND GOODIES SERVED

SPECIAL EDUCATION PAC EVENTS

April 2, 2009: Landmark School Outreach Specialist- Adam Hickey, McCall Library 7-9pm

Landmark School is the largest, most comprehensive school in the U.S., positively changing the lives of students with language-based learning disabilities, such as dyslexia. Adam Hickey will address reading instruction.

Parenting Book Group

Please join us for the final meeting of this school year of the Parent to Parent and Winchester Public Library book group, on **April 30 at 7:30 p.m.** in the meeting room of the Library. We are looking forward to discussing *Nineteen Minutes*, a novel by best-selling author Jodi Picoult. This page-turner about a school shooting was chosen for the final book group meeting because of the profound parenting issues raised throughout. Some of the topics we expect to discuss include: how do we really get to know our children; how can we be resources for them when they struggle with life's challenges; how do we deal with the inevitable ways in which our children do not fulfill our expectations and/or dreams; and how do we create a caring community of children and adults that is different from the one Picoult portrays. We do not expect that all in attendance will have finished the book; our goal is to offer an opportunity to informally discuss, parent-to-parent, the issues that are raised. The book will be available at the Circulation Desk of the Library, and can be purchased at Book Ends, where you will receive a 20% discount if you mention the book group. For more information, contact Parent to Parent at parenttoparentwinchester.org.

Winchester High School Softball invites you to participate in a softball clinic designed to prepare youth players for the upcoming softball season. The clinic will focus on defensive fundamentals, hitting mechanics, and pitching. Both sessions will provide hands-on instruction and an opportunity to learn from high school and college players. This one day clinic is a fund raiser for the high school program.

Sat., March 28 at WHS Gym for Grades 3-8. Hours - 3:15 - 3:30 ---- Player Check-in and Warm-up, 3:30 - 5:30 ---- Hitting & Defensive Fundamentals, 5:30 - 6:30 ---- Pitching (participants must bring a catcher)

The Coaches: Michelle White, Winchester High School Varsity Softball Coach. Coach White was a 4-year starter for Boston University and is ranked in the Terrier Record Book. During her college career she was twice named the North Atlantic Conference Player of the Year. Coach White is in her 5th year as Head Coach at Winchester High School and is a former Babson College Assistant Coach. High School and College Players will also be there to assist Coach White with the clinic.

What to Bring: Each participant should wear practice clothing and sneakers. Bring a water bottle, glove and a bat (if you have one). Participants in the pitching clinic must bring someone to catch for them (parent would be fine). Youth players planning to catch should bring appropriate catching equipment.

Registration Information: Hitting & Defense session - \$30.00 Hitting, Defense, and Pitching sessions - \$45.00

Complete the form below and mail with your payment to: Winchester Softball, 20 Mystic Avenue, Winchester MA 01890.

Checks should be made payable to Winchester Softball. Please register by March 25th, 2009.

Questions, contact Winchester Softball at winchestersoftball@gmail.com or call 781-721-1636.

-----CONSENT/PAYMENT FORM FOR SPRING READINESS CLINIC----- The WHS Softball program thanks you for your support!

NAME: _____ GRADE: _____ ADDRESS: _____

Town/City _____ PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Winchester Softball, Winchester High School and clinic personnel shall not be held responsible for any accident, injury, medical or dental expenses incurred as a result of my daughter's participation in the above clinic. In the event of injury or illness, Winchester Softball has permission to seek necessary emergency medical treatment for my child.

SIGNATURE of Parent/Guardian: _____ INSURANCE CO: _____ POLICY #: _____

COMMUNITY NEWS

En Ka Day at Mahoney's Rocky Ledge to Be Held Wednesday, May 13th - The En Ka annual fundraiser will be held from 10 am - 5 pm on Wednesday, May 13th at Mahoney's Rocky Ledge Garden Center, 242 Cambridge Street in Winchester. Buy flowers, plants, tools, gift certificates and more. For the 27th consecutive year, Mahoney's will donate a percentage of that day's sales to the En Ka Society to help fund grants for Winchester's charitable and civic organizations. Please pay at the Main Greenhouse.

En Ka Society Seeks Book Donations - The En Ka Society, Winchester's oldest women's service organization, seeks donations of lightly-used children's and adult books to support the book sale tent at the Society's annual Street Fair, scheduled for May 15 and 16. This year's Fair is titled *I Love A Parade!* Between April 2nd and May 14th, books can be left anytime on the wooden collection pallets at the Sanborn House's Carriage House, adjacent to the Ambrose School at 27 High Street in Winchester. Look for signs saying "Book Drop Here". Books should be placed in small, easy to handle boxes. Please wrap boxes in plastic to protect the books from the elements. En Ka is particularly in need of gently read paperback fiction, mysteries, and children's books. Videos, DVDs, audiotapes and CDs in good condition are also appreciated. No text books, encyclopedias, magazines or condensed books please. No books can be accepted prior to April 2nd. All proceeds from the book sale will support En Ka's annual grants to dozens of Winchester's charitable and civic organizations. Books that remain unsold at the end of the Fair will be donated to a variety of charities. Questions, call Andrea Burbage at 781-729-9036 or Margaret O'Connor at 781-729-3725.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ENKA FAIR - Volunteers are needed for the upcoming EnKa Fair being held, Friday and Saturday, May 15 and 16. If anyone is interested, please Contact Ann Hibbard 729-0235 or Gigi Barnabei at 721 3067.