

WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL
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PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ JANUARY 2009

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

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From the Office of Principal Tom Gwin

Happy New Year! I hope that 2009 brings the best to all of you. The school year continues to fly along as the first semester ends on January 23, and mid year exams will take place during the week of January 19th. Exams will be given from Tuesday, January 20th to Friday, January 23rd. Students will be dismissed at the end of the second exam each day.

During the December release day, the faculty experienced a different kind of professional development. Students facilitated small group discussions among the staff concerning improving the school climate and sense of community. As you've read in past newsletters, twenty-four students have experienced three days of leadership development training and are trained to run Climate Change (school climate that is) workshops with students. The group calls itself SURF (Student Union for Receptive Fellowship) and they led a workshop with 65 students in on November 7th. The next challenge for SURF was leading an abbreviated version of the workshop with the high school faculty during the December 11th release day. It was important for the staff to experience this kind of workshop because of the tremendous turnover in the faculty during the last three years due primarily to the retirement of a large cohort of teachers that had started in the early 1970s. More than 50% of the faculty has been at WHS less than three years and they needed the opportunity to get to know each other better and engage in small group discussions. Tabitha May-Tolub, the consultant who has been working with the SURF students, led the faculty through a number of "icebreaker" exercises. Then the students took over, facilitating small group discussions. At the end of the day, both teachers and students agreed that this experience had been very worthwhile and the day had been rewarding. The SURF students will run another Climate Change workshop for students on Friday, February 27th. In the past workshops, students were nominated by teachers. However for February 27th, parents can nominate their own children. Please send me an email if you would like your son or daughter to participate. Be aware they will miss classes for the entire day and be responsible for all work missed. Thank you to WFEE for providing the funding for this project.

Principal Drop-in: This month, principal drop-in will take place on Wednesday, January 7th (5:30-7 pm), the same night as the PFA meeting.

Mid-Year Exam Schedule

Tuesday, January 20:	7:45-8:40 8:45-9:40 9:45-11:15	C Block class (Day 7) D Block class (Day 7) A Block Exam
Wednesday, January 21:	7:45-9:15 9:30-11:00	B Block Exam C Block Exam
Thursday, January 22:	7:45-9:15 9:30-11:00	D Block Exam E Block Exam
Friday, January 23:	7:45-9:15 9:30-11:00	F block Exam G Block Exam

CLASS NEWS

News from the CLASS OF 2011

WOW What Spirit!! On the early release in December we had the annual pizza lunch in the cafeteria. Thanks to everyone who came and/or donated something. The raffle prizes were great! Who won the Chia pet?? How about the antlers with the blinking nose? Everyone had a lot of fun and several people signed up for committees. In the coming weeks be looking for class activities to be announced such as Skating on Frog Pond or a Bruins game. If your sophomore would like to help but could not come to the lunch, they should see Ms. Kangas or Ms. Rees. Most of the class meetings are on Wednesdays after school. We have a great class with a lot of spirit! GO SACHEMS

From the PFA Co-President Caren Connelly, caren.connelly@gmail.com

Winter is setting in with a vengeance. As I write this, we are waiting for 6-12 inches of snow, more on Sunday and lots left to do before the winter break. Hopefully, when you read this we will all be refreshed by a little time off with friends and family. Keeping up with school news as the year rolls on can be challenging. The monthly PFA meetings are the perfect time to check in and find out what is happening at WHS. Did you know a group of WHS students are well on their way to converting a pick up truck to an electric vehicle? What is being taught in the science department and why? Answers to these questions and more provided at upcoming PFA meetings!

The coming months are also the perfect time to encourage your students to become more involved in the community. Connect & Commit, Winchester's service learning program, and the Winchester Youth Center both provide our children a way to educate themselves about the larger world and grow as leaders. Best wishes for happiness in 2009!

The next PFA meeting is January 7th, 7:30pm in the school library. Please join us!



Winchester Preschool

Sarah Casey
781 -721 -7015
scasey@winchester.k12.ma.us

Winchester Public Schools
Lynch Elementary School

The Winchester Public School Preschool is sponsoring an Open House
Winchester Preschool
Lynch Elementary School
Wednesday, January 14, 2009
9:30 - 10:30 AM and 7:00-8:00 PM**

Snow date: Wednesday, January 28, 2009, same times as above.
**Appointments needed for 9:30-10:30 Open House
For more information, call 781-721-7015

The Guide



*A Monthly Newsletter from the
WHS Guidance Department
January 2009*

Junior Parent Night Scheduled for January 20, 2009

The Guidance Department's Early College Planning Night for parents of juniors has been scheduled for Tuesday evening, January 20, 2009, at 7:00 P.M. The program will be held in the auditorium and will feature speakers David Hautanen, Director of Admissions and Recruitment, Northeastern University, and Walker Coppedge, Associate Director of Enrollment, Tufts University. The admissions professionals will describe the admissions process from the colleges' perspective. Guidance Director Sherri Lewis-Sholler will discuss how to get started on the college selection process, with an emphasis on how to begin the college search, what to look for when visiting colleges, and a suggested schedule for college admissions testing. The Early College Planning Night is the first in a series of workshops designed to equip parents with as much information as possible about the college process. Juniors are encouraged to attend this workshop with their parents.

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A second Financial Aide Night will be held for parents of juniors on January 27, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the auditorium. A representative from College Funding Services will present information about various ways to finance your child's college education. Senior parents are also welcome to attend.

Guidance Morning Program for Sophomore Parents on PSAT

A morning workshop will be held on January 21, 2009 at 9:00 AM, for parents of sophomores. The program-- "What does your PSAT score mean?" will be presented by Sherry Brass, Director of Pre-College Programs, Boston Area, Kaplan Test Prep & Admissions. It will be held in the cafeteria. Following this workshop, guidance counselors will review a schedule for further testing in high school. Parents who plan on attending this informal meeting should reserve a space by contacting Guidance Director Sherri Lewis-Sholler via email at slewissholler@winchester.12.ma.us

SENIORS WHO APPLIED EARLY ACTION/EARLY DECISION

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

Phillips Andover Academy Summer Opportunities Fair

Sunday, February 8, 2009

The 19th annual 2009 Summer Opportunities Annual Fair will take place on Sunday, February 8, 2009 in the Case Memorial Cage, located off Route 28 near the intersection of Salem Street on the Phillips Academy campus in Andover, Massachusetts.

The fair will be open to the public from noon to 2 p.m. From 11 a.m. to noon the fair will be open exclusively for Phillips Academy students. Admission is free and the facility is wheelchair-accessible. This event is sponsored by the Phillips Academy Summer Opportunities Office and the Parents of Students of Phillips Academy (PSPA).

Representatives from more than 80 local, national and international summer opportunities programs, as well as interim year programs, will be available to talk with interested students and their families. This unique fair offers a wide range of programs that focus on interim year, academic enrichment, outdoor adventure, international homestay, travel, internships, community service, camps, arts, sports and more for middle school and high school students.

For more information, call the Summer Opportunities Office at 978-749-4480 or visit www.andover.edu/summerops/fair.

COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY

College Goal Sunday is a volunteer-driven effort to provide free assistance to students and families in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA). The program is supported and administered by a volunteer committee comprised of members of the Massachusetts Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (MASFAA). College Goal Sunday workshops will be held at 17 locations across the state. Students and their parents should bring completed 2008 or 2007 Federal tax returns, W2 statements and other 2008 or 2007 income and benefits information, current bank statements, untaxed income (Social Security, Welfare, Veterans Benefits records, etc.), drivers license and alien registration card, if applicable. This information is helpful, but not required. For additional information, or to register for one of the locations, call (877) 4-CGS-MAS or go to:

www.masscollegegoalsunday.org

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**Joint Admissions Programs at
Middlesex Community College**

The Joint Admissions Program at Middlesex Community College allows students to earn their Associate Degree at Middlesex in one of the 25 possible Joint Admissions majors. Students who graduate with a 2.5 cumulative grade point average are guaranteed admission to a participating Massachusetts state college, the University of Massachusetts or Suffolk University. (Massachusetts College of Art and Massachusetts Maritime Academy do not participate at this time.) Students who wish to attend Suffolk must sign a participation form prior to earning 30 credits. (This is not required for students who plan to attend a state college or university.) Participation in the Joint Admissions Program simplifies the transfer process, since there is no need to fill out another application or pay an application fee. This allows a smooth transition into the bachelor's degree program. Students may decide not to participate in Joint Admissions as there are many other transfer options available, but if they fulfill the Joint Admissions requirements, they know there will be a space waiting for them at their choice of a participating state college, UMass campus, or Suffolk University. To learn more about Joint Admissions, call: 1-800-818-3434, or go to www.middlesex.mass.edu.

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Tufts University Adventures in Veterinary Medicine Summer Program

Applications for admission to the Summer 2009 Adventures in Veterinary Medicine (AVM) program are now being accepted. Two-week sessions for high school students are offered in July and August. The program includes lectures, demonstrations, panel discussions, admissions advice, case studies and rotations through various clinics at Tufts University's Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, North Grafton, Massachusetts, located about 40 minutes west of Boston. AVM offers a unique, close-up exploration of the realities and opportunities of a career in veterinary medicine. Interested students may learn more about the program at the program's website www.tufts.edu/vet/AVM. Applications may be submitted online or printed out and mailed in. For questions, call 508-839-7962.

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IMPORTANT: Notice to College-bound Seniors and their Parents:

If a college notifies you that something is missing from your admissions file, check with the Guidance Office about the date the materials were sent. Remember, colleges manage thousands of pieces of information. Recording and filing them can take weeks. Ask someone to physically check your file, not just the computerized database.

**Winchester Scholarship Foundation Applications
are available in the Guidance Department. Applications are due to Karen Roberts, WSF Chairperson, no
later than May 15, 2009.**

Best Wishes for 2009!

Current Service Opportunities Through Connect & Commit

Mondays and Tuesdays, January 6th to April 14th

Muraco and Lynch Tutoring, 2:30-3:30 and 2:50-3:50

Students from WHS will spend one hour each week working one-on-one with a child at either the Muraco or Lynch schools. You will be providing tutoring and mentorship to the students that you work with. This is a regular commitment and the children count on the tutors to be there with them each week so please make sure that you have the time to devote.

Saturday, January 17th 11am-1:30pm

Rosie's Place, 889 Harrison Ave. Boston

Rosie's Place is a sanctuary for poor and homeless women. Volunteers will prepare and serve lunch to dozens of women and children. Permission slips must be turned in to Ms Ritchie by Tuesday January 13th.

Tuesday January 13th 6-7:30pm

Stress Relief Meeting- WHS Library

Connect & Commit knows that many students begin to feel stressed around midterm exams. We have planned a fun and relaxing place for you to come and enjoy yourself while learning great ways to manage and relieve your stress. Everything from yoga and meditation techniques to massage and healthy laughter will be provided.

Saturday, January 24th

Greater Boston Food Bank- 99 Atkins St. Boston

Volunteer with your friends to help inspect, sort and repack food donations. The food is redistributed to over 600 hunger-relief agencies throughout eastern Massachusetts. More than 83,000 people benefit each week from the work of the volunteers at the Greater Boston Food Bank. Permission Slips must be turned into Ms. Ritchie by Tuesday January 20th.

**Contact Ms. Ritchie with any questions about the information above: 781-721-7020 x1999, kritchie@winchester.k12.ma.us or visit her office in the WHS library.



Winchester Youth Center
458R Main Street
Winchester MA 01890
781-721-0906
www.winyc.com

The Winchester Youth Center (WYC) is committed to fostering leadership skills and a long-term commitment to community service through healthy social and experiential-learning activities for teens.

**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 Wake County, North Carolina to complete a week-long service-learning experience 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:

Dump Runs

Let us take care of your trash on Saturdays, January 17th and March 21st

We are currently selling \$20 dump run vouchers for the two dates
Contact the WYC for more information

Raffle tickets

Buy your \$15 tickets for the chance to win:
iPod Touch, GPS Navigation System, \$100 iTunes Gift Card
Drawing: April 5th
Contact the WYC for more information

WYC COFFEE HOUSE

Friday, January 30th
8:00-11:00

Featuring live music, delicious homemade desserts, frappes, and coffee drinks
\$5 admission

High school students only

As with all WYC events, there is no re-entry and outside drinks are not allowed

Proceeds will benefit the WYC Peer Leaders' April vacation Habitat for Humanity trip

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

Join SSA, the WYC's Peer Education group!

We meet on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:00. In January we will meet on the 13th and 27th. We are currently focusing our attention on the issues of body image, drinking & driving, hunger & homelessness, and sexual health. Come to a meeting to learn more and find out how you can help spread awareness about these important issues.

SERVICE PROJECTS

If you're interested in doing something good for our community, stop by the WYC and find out how you can get involved.

Lowell Wish Project: Jeans & Sweatshirts, Pots & Pans, and Baby Items

The Lowell Wish Project provides emergency, basic, and seasonal goods to low income families in the Merrimack Valley. The Peer Leaders volunteer several times throughout the year sorting and organizing donated items are collecting a wide variety of greatly needed items including new/lightly used pots & pans, jeans for school-aged children, clothing and other gear for babies. We respectfully request that all items be in new/lightly used condition. Please bring your donations to the WYC any day between 2:00-6:00pm.

Hands Across the Water: Books For South Africa Project

The Peer Leaders and Little Brothers & Sisters assist the Hands Across the Water Project by collecting childrens' books at the WYC and going to the collection bin on a weekly basis to help sort and pack the books to be sent to villages in South Africa. Please contact the WYC if you have books that you would like to donate.

Animal Rescue League: Collection of Dog & Cat Toys and Cotton Towels

The Animal Rescue League of Boston is a non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing domesticated animals and wildlife from suffering, cruelty, abandonment, and neglect. The Peer Leaders are collecting clean cotton bath towels and new dog & cat toys to donate to their 3 local shelters. Please bring your donations to the WYC any day between 2:00-6:00pm.

Woburn Council of Social Concern food collection

The WYC Peer Leaders and Little Brothers & Sisters collect non-perishable food for the Woburn Council of Social Concern's food pantry. Please bring your donations to the WYC any day between 2:00-6:00pm.

SCHOOL RELATED NEWS AND EVENTS

Come Learn More About the **Dandelion Project - Wednesday, January 7th** in the Social Studies Open Area, at 2:15

The Dandelion Project is planning its fourth trip to China next June. This service learning trip has taken WHS students to China for 12 days right after school ends on the 18th of June to July 2nd. Students spend one week of their trip in a school outside of Beijing called the Dandelion School.

This school was created by Hong Zheng four and one half years ago for the express purpose of providing an education to the children of migrant workers living in the Beijing area. WHS students work at the school for a week, living right with their Chinese students and teaching these middle schoolers English every morning. Activities are planned for each afternoon to give the Winchester students Chinese cultural experiences such as learning Tai Chi or making dumplings.

The remainder of the trip gives students an opportunity to see the sites of Beijing, including the Forbidden City, The Summer Palace and the Great Wall. In addition, students take an overnight train to visit the ancient capital city of Xian on the Silk Road where they get to see the Terra Cotta warriors from the Qin Dynasty and visit The Great Mosque and Wild Goose Pagoda.

If you would like to learn more about this trip, join us on the 7th, right at the end of school or stop by the Social Studies Department and pick up an application from Mrs. Harvey or Ms. Kangas.

Parent Conversations in January!!!! Mark Your Calendar for January 26th 9 a.m., Special Visit by Brian Carroll, WHS Athletic Director, Questions? Concerns? Conversation! Conference Room, Main Office WHS, See you there!

SPECIAL EDUCATION PAC EVENTS

January 22, 2009: Elementary to Middle School Transition McCall Library 9am (snow date 1/27/09)

This transition orientation is for parents of students who are on IEPs. The program will specifically meet the informational needs of families who will or may be transitioning to the middle school in September 2009. This is for parents, not students.

January 29, 2009: Middle to High School Transition

WHS 8am (snow date 2/3/09)

This transition orientation is for parents of students who are on IEPs. The program will specifically meet the informational needs of families who will or may be transitioning from the middle school to the high school in September 2009. This is for parents, not students.

Parenting Book Group. Parent to Parent and the Winchester Public Library are offering a book group focused on a wide range of parenting issues. For the first meeting, which will be Thursday, January 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Library's meeting room, the book will be *How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk*, by Adele Faber & Elaine Mazlish. This "parenting bible" (The Boston Globe), for parents of children of all ages, offers many practical and innovative ways to solve common problems and build foundations for lasting relationships. The book will be available at Book Ends (with a 20% discount if you mention the book group), and at the Library, but you don't need to have read the entire book to join us. Our discussion will be an informal sharing of how the ideas in this book can help us face our common challenges in raising our children. Our February book is *So Sexy, So Soon*, by Jean Kilbourne and Diane Levin. Our March book is *Season of Life*, by Jeffrey Marx, and the April book, our final book of this year, is *Nineteen Minutes*, by Jodi Picoult. Look for more information and dates on our website parenttoparentwinchester.org.

Friends of Music The next meeting of Friends of Music will take place on Tuesday, January 13 at 6:00 pm in the High School Chorus room. Please join us as we review the year to date and work on plans for the rest of the year. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Melodie Wing at Szabo-wing@comcast.net.

WFEE News from Caren Connelly, WFEE Executive Director

Your donations to the Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence, WFEE, make a difference every day at Winchester High School. This year, that generosity is:

- Funding a program to develop student leaders
- Supporting the Robotics club, allowing students to master electronic engineering and compete nationally
- Backing the development of a student designed and built electric truck
- Allowing teachers to use an international library of thousands of educational video clips
- Bringing authors to WHS in support of Authorfest.

On behalf of your teachers and your children, thank you! If you have yet to donate to WFEE, please visit our website, www.wfee.org Donations are tax deductible and often eligible for employer matching money. Join us in our mission of inspiring excellence and innovation in Winchester public schools.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Greetings! Save the date!

The Winchester Multicultural Network is hosting two special events on Monday, January 19 to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Both will take place in Metcalf Hall in the Winchester Unitarian Church, corner of Main St. and Mystic Valley Parkway.

From 3:00-5:00 PM families can enjoy a display of art and writing from Winchester students, craft activities, refreshments, and the music and storytelling of Kemp Harris, teacher, musician, author and actor.

At 6:30 PM there will be an informal reception followed by remarks by Kim McLarin, currently writer-in-residence at Emerson College in Boston and host of WGBH's Basic Black, Boston's longest-running weekly television program devoted exclusively to African American themes. Ms. McLarin is also an award-winning novelist, whose books include *Taming it Down*, *Meeting of the Waters* and *Jump at the Sun*, and a former staff writer for *The New York Times*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The Greensboro News & Record* and the *Associated Press*.

Please come and celebrate King's birthday and the election of our country's first African-American president.

For more information, email office@wmcn.org or call 781-729-7100.

The International Connections Committee of the Multicultural Network and the Winchester Public Library are collaborating on a Monday evening **international film series** starting Monday, January 12 at 6:30 PM in the Meeting Room of the Library. The series will begin with the film *The Visitor*. For more information, call the Winchester Public Library, 781-721-7171

A brand new production of Divine Performing Arts' Chinese New Year Spectacular is coming to Boston on January 10-11, 2009 at the Opera House (539 Washington Street).

On its 20-country tour, Divine Performing Arts is bringing the world a show that is not only beautiful and sublime but also reflects the dignity and splendor of traditional Chinese culture. The gorgeous costumes, seamless movements, masterful music, breathtaking backdrops and touching stories will take you to another world. This unique show is something that should not be missed. For more information, please go to <http://www.divineshows.com/boston> or call 1-617-848-2996 for ordering tickets.

North Suburban YMCA Winter 2009 Session

Kick off the New Year with great programs for the entire family at the North Suburban YMCA in Woburn. Registration for the Winter 2009 session starts Wednesday, December 17th. Youths have a great time with your friends playing in our new Dodgeball Extreme Class for children 7 to 10 years old or make your own jewelry for the holidays with Jammin' Jewelry (6-12 years). Choose from a variety of enrichment and sports classes like Study Skills (K to 8th grade), Elementary Spanish (K to 5th grade), Soccer (6-8 years), Boston Bruins Street Brigade (3-12 years), and Jr. Celtics Basketball (3-12 years). Winter Session classes start on Monday, January 5th. For more information about the great new programs the North Suburban YMCA is offering for the

Winter 2009 Session or if you would like to receive the Winter brochure, please call 781-935-3270 or visit www.ymcaboston.org/woburn.

The North Suburban YMCA is dedicated to improving the health of mind, spirit and body of individuals and families in our community. We welcome men and women, boys and girls of all incomes, faiths and cultures. Serving the communities of Woburn, Winchester, Burlington, and Arlington the North Suburban YMCA is the place to come this winter for fun and exciting programs. We will never turn a family away due to inability to pay.

Studio Art Classes

Small group studio classes in drawing and painting in Winchester are being offered by former Winchester High School art teacher and Director of Art, David Ardito. The Winter term of art classes at the Sanborn Cultural Center on High Street in Winchester will start January 6, 2009 and will run through March, 2009. **There will also be a Spring term to be announced at a later date.** There will be a total of 10 class meetings in each term and classes are held on Tuesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Class size will be limited to 6 students. Instruction will include **drawing and painting from the live model** with an emphasis on the development of observational drawing and painting skills and also on expressive drawing and painting techniques. There will also be opportunities for students to develop their **creative portfolios for college admission** and instruction will include portfolio assessment and counseling. Classes are offered on a first come, first serve basis and juniors and seniors will receive priority over underclassmen.

David Ardito is an artist with thirty-five years art teaching experience at the secondary level, most recently for nineteen years at Winchester High School. He was the K-12 Director of Art for Winchester Public Schools for nineteen years and is currently a Visiting Associate Professor in the Art Education Department at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston.

For David Ardito's resume, a registration form and for more information about fees and curriculum please email David at vdpa@yahoo.com or david.ardito@massart.edu or call 781 910 7119.

Come to the Cabaret

The Winton Club is holding its 88th annual Cabaret to Benefit Winchester Hospital. The show runs from January 27-31, 2009 at Winchester Town Hall. This year's theme is "*Seasons of Love*", which should be fun for all as 12 "Calendar Girls" guide us down a romantic but bumpy musical path of love during a year of traditional Winchester events such as; First Day of School, Prom Night, Town Day, EnKa Fair, and Concerts on the Common to name a few. We'll encounter school boy crushes, budding romance, obsession, heart-ache, and of course—eternal love. You don't want to miss it! For ticket information call - 781-729-1757 or go to www.wintonclub.com/cabaret