

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

**PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ JUNE 2009**

**For up to date info visit our website at [www.whspfa.org](http://www.whspfa.org)**

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**From the Office of Principal Tom Gwin**

It's hard for me to believe that the end of the school year is near and the summer is in sight. The year has simply flown by. The school climate feels positive and full of energy, spirit and fun as we enter June.

Congratulations to the students of the Class of 2009 as they move on from the Winchester Public Schools. The seniors will finish with their prom cruising on the Odyssey in Boston Harbor on June 3, a luau at Borggaard Beach on June 4 (6:30 pm), graduation rehearsal/senior luncheon on June 5 (10:30 am- the gym), graduation on Sunday, June 7 (2 pm- the gym), and the all-night graduation party (9:30 pm, June 7, McCall). Please note that the required reception for the seniors and parents before the prom will be held in the WHS cafeteria this year beginning at 6 pm. The promenade will begin at 6:30 pm on the right side of the high school. I am very proud of our seniors as they achieved academically, artistically, and athletically, committed themselves to service in the community, and modeled the characteristics of responsibility, integrity, dignity and excellence for the underclassmen. I would also like to thank the senior parents for all of their support.

Final exams for the rest of the students will take place on Tuesday- Friday, June 16-19. Students will complete a mini-schedule of all of their classes on Monday, June 22. Here is the schedule:

**Final Exam Schedule- 9th, 10th, 11th Graders**

Tuesday, June 16

7:45-9:15 am- G block

9:30-11:00 am- F block

Wednesday, June 17

7:45-9:15 am- E block

9:30-11:00 am- D block

Thursday, June 18

7:45-9:15 am- C block

9:30-11:00 am- B block

Friday, June 19

7:45-9:15 am- A block

9:30-11:00 am- Makeups/Conflicts

Monday, June 22

Minischedule with all periods

Our school policy states that students take their exams during the regularly scheduled exam period. If, because of extenuating circumstances, students cannot take an exam during the scheduled time, they are asked to take their exam later in the summer. Teachers leave the exams in the office and the school administration will proctor the exam. We're here all summer. Taking final exams early to accommodate vacation, camp or travel plans is, unfortunately, not possible.

**MESSAGES FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS**

**Dismissals from school:** Students who are to be dismissed from school must be excused with an explanatory note or telephone call from a parent to the Registrar in the Main Office **PRIOR TO THE DISMISSAL. A NOTE AFTER THE FACT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Any student who leaves school grounds without following the dismissal policy is subject to school suspension.

**Report cards:** Report cards contain course grades, attendance records, a summary of course credits, teacher comments and course levels. Most report cards are emailed home others are mailed home. The last report card however, if all obligations are not met, is held in the Main Office.

**Dress Code:** A student's personal appearance should not disrupt the orderly conduct of school business or the education process. With the warm weather upon us we must remind students that inappropriate dress is not allowed. The torso must be covered and strapless tops are not allowed. Inappropriate dress may result in a student being asked to change clothing, cover up, as well as parental contact. Administration and staff will decide if specific clothing is inappropriate.

**CLASS NEWS**

**News from the Class of 2011**

Thank you to everyone who came and supported our class in the hilarious event "Are You Smarter Than a 10th Grader?!" The auditorium was packed! Our mission as a class is to promote class unity, school spirit and raise money. That event accomplished all three! The teachers and students who participated had the whole audience laughing. Also during the event, a 50/50 raffle was held and money was raised for the *Italian Children's Home*. Thank you again to everyone who made this event so successful! We had a good turnout at the Youth Service Day. Watch your email for the final event of the year...A bar-b-que! We have a terrific class. The kids are great! Thanks to all the parents who encourage your kids to get involved and participate. Enjoy the Spring! GO SACHEMS!

## Attention Junior Class!

We are pleased to announce our second annual **Class of 2010 Pizza Party**, which will be held on June 9<sup>th</sup> during both lunches! Stop by the front courtyard during both lunches for some free pizza and drinks, to celebrate our upcoming senior year! We hope to see you there!

Lastly, we would like to wish everyone in the Class of 2009 GOOD LUCK as they graduate and transition into the next stage of their lives. We enjoyed our time with them and they will be missed!

Matt Marotta	Neil Erikson	Michael Kalfopoulos	Nina Krane
Class President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer

## PFA

### From the Co-President, Carol Cashion

As we race headlong toward the end of the school year, I wanted to pause to extend my thanks to the many parents who supported the work of the PFA this year. 370 WHS families answered our call for support through the Direct Appeal, donating an impressive and much appreciated total of \$34,500. How did we spend the money? In addition to supporting a range of annual programs and activities for students and parents throughout the year, we awarded \$25,000 in PFA Grants. We were delighted to be able to say "yes" to twenty-nine applications from teachers, advisors and administrators. A sampling of grants: we purchased five Smart Boards and five hundred cups of hot chocolate, supported the Math Team and the Environmental Club, funded additional two-way safety radios and helped with the renovation of the guidance lounge area. In tough financial times, your generosity was undiminished and made a substantial contribution to maintaining the quality of all our programs at Winchester High School. We are so grateful.

As importantly, I want to thank those of you who contributed something even more valuable, your time. Attendance at meetings this year was excellent (and, I hope, worthwhile!) and our board and committee members did great work, which made Caren's job and mine, well, pretty easy, and for that we are very grateful indeed!

Wishing you a fun and restful summer,

### WHS Parent Faculty Association 2009-2010 Board

It is not too late to get involved! We are looking for volunteers for a few remaining positions to be officially nominated at the June PFA meeting for next year's board. Please contact Karen Erikson ([Karenerikson@comcast.net](mailto:Karenerikson@comcast.net)) if you are interested in volunteering to be part of the 2009-2010 PFA Board at the High School. There are many board positions available for the upcoming year. The list of board positions can be found on the PFA website (<http://www.whspfa.org>) under "PFA Board 2008-2009". Being part of the PFA Board is a great way to volunteer at the High School. We hope you will consider being part of it.

## The Guide



## A Monthly Newsletter from the WHS Guidance Department

### Summer Mailing to the Class of 2010

A mailing will be sent to next year's seniors in July that will include an unofficial transcript with the student's grade point average (GPA) based upon six semesters. It will also include a list of important dates and deadlines. Juniors who have not yet established a **Naviance** account should do so as soon as possible so they may have access to the college planning tools that this web-based service offers. In addition, parents and students should complete the *Parent Brag Sheet* and *Counselor Form* on **Naviance** no later than June 22.

### Final Transcripts for Seniors

The Guidance Department's annual **Graduation Survey** conducted on **Naviance**, asked seniors to indicate to which college or post-secondary institution they wanted their final transcript sent. The Guidance Department is aware that plans do change. A number of seniors have paid a deposit to one college to hold a space for next fall, but have chosen to remain on a waiting list at a second college. Graduates are asked to notify the Guidance Office **immediately** if they wish to change the college to which their final transcript will be sent. Final transcripts are sent to colleges by the end of June.

**Gentle Reminder:** Seniors who have not yet paid their transcript fees, should make payment as soon as possible.

### Transcripts to Private Schools

During the course of the academic year, some underclassmen have requested that their transcripts be sent to other high schools to which they are applying. When an underclassman has made a final decision to leave Winchester High School to attend another secondary institution, he/she must notify the Guidance Department, provide the name and address of the school, and request that a final transcript be sent to the receiving school. Without a written request, signed by a parent, neither the transcript nor any other records will be sent.

### Space Still Available on College Campuses

Current seniors or past graduates who may have postponed the college application process for a variety of reasons should know that it's not too late to apply to college for next fall. The National Association for College Admission Counseling's web site allows prospective applicants to use the *Space Availability Survey* to find colleges and universities throughout the U.S. that still have spaces available for qualified students in their Fall 2009 freshman and/or transfer classes. Many colleges and universities still have openings for next September. In Massachusetts, University of Massachusetts Lowell is among some of the colleges that still have openings for freshmen. Survey results may be viewed at: [www.nacacnet.org](http://www.nacacnet.org).

### Summer School Information

The Guidance Office has been receiving information from summer school programs that Winchester High School students have attended in past years.

Summer schools that have notified the Guidance Department of their schedules and programs are:

- **Northeast Metro Tech**

Dates: Session 1: July 6 – July 17

Session 2: July 20 – July 31

Time: 7:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Address: 100 Hemlock Road, Wakefield, MA

Tuition: 42 hour course is \$260;

84 hour course is \$520.

Registration: May be made by mail, fax, online or in person. Tuition must be paid in full prior to the first class.

Contact by phone: 781-246-0810

FAX: 781-246-2976.

Website: [www.neadulthood.com](http://www.neadulthood.com).

- **Belmont Hill Summer School**

Dates: June 25 – August 6

Three-week intensive programs: June 25 – July 17; or July 20 – August 6

Six Week Program: June 25 – August 6

Place: Belmont Hill School

350 Prospect St., Belmont, MA 02478

Tuition: Varies, depending upon sessions: \$550- \$1100

Registration: Now through **June 6** (requires \$100 non-refundable deposit). Full payment must accompany all registrations received after **June 6**. Phone: (617) 993-5215

Registration available online at:

<http://www.belmont-hill.org/summer>.

- **Minuteman Summer School**

Dates: Monday, July 6 - Friday, July 31

8:30 – 11:30 AM; 12:00 – 3:00 PM.

Place: Minuteman Technical High School

758 Marrett Rd., Lexington, MA 02421

Tuition: varies by course. Contact summer school office: (781) 861-7150 email: [summerschool@minuteman.org](mailto:summerschool@minuteman.org). Online registrations at

[www.minuteman.org](http://www.minuteman.org).

**REMINDER:** Students who need summer remedial work to receive credit for a course they have failed during the year must receive **prior written approval** before enrolling in any summer school course. Approval forms are available in the Guidance Office. *Any student considering summer school, whether for remediation or for enrichment*, should refer to the *Summer School Policy* in the Course of Studies booklet.

#### **Internship Program: Women In Technology**

BAE Systems in Lexington is planning to continue its very successful Women in Technology Program that it implemented for the first time in Massachusetts this year. The program allows high school-aged women who have an aptitude in math and science the opportunity to explore careers in various engineering disciplines. It also provides mentorship to those young women in hopes of encouraging them to pursue a technical career. The program plan calls for sessions to be held once a week for 16 weeks, from 1:30-3:30 PM. The WHS senior who took part in the program this year had the opportunity to rotate through Electrical, Mechanical, Software, Microwave, Signal Processing and Manufacturing. Students leave school in time to be in Lexington by 1:30 each Wednesday afternoon, and must provide their own transportation. Any female students in the classes of 2010 or 2011 who may be interested in applying for this internship opportunity should contact Sherri Lewis-Sholler immediately.

#### **Summer Volunteer Opportunities**

Volunteer opportunities are a key way for high school and college students to gain experience and try out career paths. Here are a few websites that provide details on volunteering:

Corporation for National & Community Service [www.cns.gov](http://www.cns.gov) Volunteering in America [www.volunteeringinamerica.gov](http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov)

Additionally, information on volunteer opportunities with federal environmental agencies can be found at [www.volunteer.gov/gov](http://www.volunteer.gov/gov)

**Johnson & Wales Career Exploration 2009** for entering high school juniors & seniors. Three day sets in June, July and August 2009. A student can spend time at Johnson & Wales this summer exploring a variety of possible careers: Accounting, Baking & Pastry Arts, Business, Culinary Arts, Equine Studies, Fashion, Finance, Hospitality (H), Legal Studies, Technology (T), Sports (S) Entertainment (E)/Event Management (EM).

Johnson & Wales Career Exploration will run:

**June 26 – 28:** Culinary Track 1/Baking & Pastry Arts Track 1

**July 10 - 12:** Culinary Arts Track 1 & 2, Baking, Pastry Arts Track 1

**July 17 -19:** Accounting & Finance, Business, Equine Studies, Fashion, Legal Studies, and Hospitality

**July 24 -26:** Business, Technology, Hospitality, Sports Entertainment & Events Mgmt., Fashion **July 31 to Aug. 2** - Culinary Arts, Baking, Pastry Arts, Track 1 & 2 Baking & Pastry Arts

Culinary Arts costs are \$195 per course, all Business courses are \$95 per course.

For an application form or to obtain greater detail contact Johnson & Wales, Providence, RI at 1-800-342-5598 or [www.jwu.edu](http://www.jwu.edu)

**Brown University, Providence, RI, Summer College Fair.** Thursday, July 9, 2009 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. The Office of Summer Studies has invited over one hundred and fifty selective and very selective colleges and universities to participate. Among those invited are: Amherst College, Bates College, Bennington College, Boston College, Boston University, Bowdoin College, Brandeis University, College of William & Mary, Colby College, Columbia University, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Duke University, Georgetown University, George Washington University, Harvard University, Middlebury College, Oberlin College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute., University of Vermont, Wesleyan University, and Yale University.

*The Guidance Department wishes a safe, enjoyable and restful summer to all!*

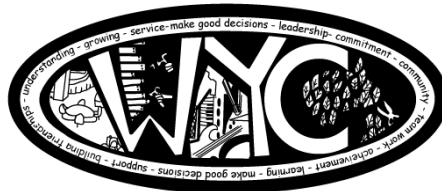
## CONNECT AND COMMIT

The 2008-2009 school year was a huge success for Connect & Commit. Nearly 600 students, teachers and parents participated in service-learning activities both in the classroom and through the Connect & Commit club. With over 45 projects including fundraisers, one-time service opportunities, and curriculum-based service-learning, the Winchester community has been more involved in service than ever before. This year saw the birth of some fantastic new projects including a World War I inspired Victory Garden at the high school, a trip to Heifer International's Farm to learn about their world-wide sustainable farming practices, and students researching and creating a "greener" classroom. The students involved in the Connect & Commit club planned the first annual Thanksgiving Drive collecting several truckloads of donated items from food and clothes to eye glasses and cell phones. These items were then distributed to a dozen local charitable organizations in need of those goods.

Many of Connect & Commit's signature events also continued to be a success this year including a Blood Drive which collected 51 pints of Blood, the Pennies for Patients fundraiser which through some healthy classroom competition generated over \$700 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Desserts for Doctors, a delicious dessert auction which raised nearly \$800 for Partners in Health, and finally Youth Service Day. Collaborating with the Winchester Youth Center, the students put together more than a dozen cleanup and painting projects all over Winchester which brought together 150 young people in a day of service to their community.

Both in the classroom and after school in the Connect & Commit club, students have been active and engaged learning about topics like poverty, the environment, and global health and have taken action to find solutions to these problems through service, fundraisers and generating awareness among their peers. It has been a privilege to work with such passionate students and teachers and I can't wait to see what we can accomplish together in the 2009-2010 school year.

In Service,  
Kristen Ritchie, Program Director, Connect & Commit



Winchester Youth Center, 458R Main Street, Winchester MA 01890, 781-721-0906,  
[www.wincyc.com](http://www.wincyc.com)

### WHS BLOOD DRIVE

**Thanks so much to all of the students who participated in the  
Blood Drive on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>  
Sponsored by the Winchester Youth Center and Connect & Commit  
More than 50 pints of blood were collected!**

### WINCHESTER YOUTH SERVICE DAY

Thanks to all of the WHS students who participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Winchester Youth Service Day on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>!  
More than 150 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders completed clean-up and beautification projects at 15 different sites all over town!  
Thanks also to the WHS PFA, McCall Parents' Association, and Winchester Co-operative Bank for their generous support of this awesome event!

### ROCK FOR YOUTH FINALS

**Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>  
7:00-10:00**

**Final round of the Battle of the Bands  
Town Day stage, behind the Winchester Public Library**

**Admission is free  
Ballots are \$2 each**

**Proceeds from the Rock for Youth benefit the WYC's Youth Service Scholarships and help support the WYC**

### MOVIES ON THE COMMON

Thursday nights this summer on the Town Common, Join us for an all-Pixar summer  
Feature presentations will begin at dusk,  
July 16: Monsters Inc.,  
July 30: Finding Nemo,  
August 13: Wall-E

Bring your blanket and lawn chairs and enjoy a night of family fun! Movies are free to the public  
Popcorn and drinks will be available at the WYC concession stand, all proceeds support the Winchester Youth Center

## WYC COFFEE HOUSE

Thursday nights this summer

July 9 & 23 and August 6

8:00-11:00

Featuring live bands, comedians, poets, and open mike

Delicious homemade drinks and desserts

A fun, cool place to spend a summer night!

Admission is \$5

High school and college students only

Please contact the WYC if you are interested in performing at an upcoming Coffee House

## SCHOOL RELATED NEWS AND EVENTS

### SPECIAL EDUCATION PAC EVENTS

Sunday June 21, 2009: End of Year Picnic for Families! Lincoln School Playground 1-3pm

Bring the children for an end of the year picnic. Activities, games and refreshments will be available.

**Support the Winchester Public Schools Visual Arts Program** and Win a pair of Box Seat Tickets (face value \$125 each) to the September 11, 2009 RED SOX game! The raffle tickets are \$10 each and only 200 will be sold. Tickets are available now! Contact the Winchester Friends of Art at [Winchesterfoa@hotmail.com](mailto:Winchesterfoa@hotmail.com) or at the Town Day Art Show. Thanks for your support.

**The Winchester Friends of Art invite you to the annual TOWN DAY ART SHOW** at the Town Hall on Saturday June 6, 2009 from 10am - 4pm. Enjoy a wonderful variety of student art work from each public school and see what our students are doing in their art rooms! The Winchester Friends of Art is a volunteer organization that supports and promotes the visual arts program in the Winchester Public Schools. If you are interested in helping with the art show, or want more information about the FOA, please contact [Winchesterfoa@hotmail.com](mailto:Winchesterfoa@hotmail.com).

## COMMUNITY NEWS

After thirty-seven years of teaching, **Maura Albert will be retiring** this June. Most of those years have been at **Lincoln School** but Maura also taught at **Ambrose and Lynch**. She has always cherished her time with children and would like to celebrate this occasion by reminiscing with former students and parents. An open house reception will be held in her classroom at Lincoln School on Thursday, June 11 from 3-7. Come share your memories with Ms. Albert and enjoy browsing through old class photos and projects. If you can't make it, send a note to her at Lincoln School and spread the word to other former classmates.

## WFEE NEWS

Thanks to the generosity of its many donors, WFEE will be granting nearly \$110,000 to Winchester teachers next year. Each school and each student will be touched by a WFEE grant. Here at the High School WFEE is funding:

- A second year of student leadership training through SURF;
- Inclusion of WHS in the town wide Authorfest in April;
- A second electric vehicle project;
- The purchase of Kindles to pilot a reading program;
- Software and a digital camcorder for physics students to analyze motion;
- Electronic tablets;
- Professional development opportunities for English, Music and Social Studies teachers;
- Participation for Winchester teachers in the Teachers as Scholars program, a chance for teachers to return to the classroom at some of the top universities in the country.

**WFEE grants are made possible through the donations of community members. For more information on all of next year's grants please visit our website, [www.wfee.org](http://www.wfee.org)**