

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

**PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ OCTOBER 2010**  
**For up to date info visit our website at [www.whspfa.org](http://www.whspfa.org)**

**FROM THE OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL TOM GWIN**

After two weeks in school, we're in full stride at WHS. Students and teachers have settled into the daily routines as we move into October, cooler weather, and hopefully an exciting season for the Patriots. School enrollment is at 1,098 students, up slightly from last year. Next year we are projected to be at about 1100 students. Enrollment is projected to increase dramatically between 2012 and 2015 as the enrollment bubble in the later elementary grades and middle school reaches the high school.

**Focus on the Future:** The WHS strategic plan process will continue through the Fall. A second Community/Parent Focus Group session will take place on Thursday, October 7 in the WHS cafeteria from 7-8:30 pm. I encourage WHS parents to attend this session. Parents and students will also be able to provide feedback about WHS through an online survey beginning on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for more information.

**Student Flu Shots:** A combined H1N1/seasonal flu vaccine will be available to WHS students in late October. Information from our School Nurse is contained elsewhere in this newsletter, and you will receive detailed information about this vaccine soon via U.S. Mail.

**MCAS Results:** 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students should have received 2010 MCAS results in the mail by the time you read this newsletter. Juniors will receive Math and English Language Arts scores, sophomores will receive Biology scores and freshmen will receive their eighth grade scores. Currently passing the Math, English and Science MCAS exams is a graduation requirement.

Congratulations to the English Department! According to the Boston Globe Rankings, Winchester High was number 1 in the state for the 2010 MCAS English Language Arts exam based on the percentage of students who scored Advanced. In ELA, 64% of our students (they are the current 11th graders) scored Advanced, 97% scored Advanced or Proficient, and 100% of the students passed.

The Math and Science departments scored very well also. In mathematics, 79% of students (again, the current 11th graders) scored Advanced, 95% scored Advanced or Proficient, and all students passed with one exception. In science (biology), 41% of the students (current 10th graders) scored Advanced, 94% scored Advanced or Proficient, and all but two students passed. The Globe only published the top 5 schools in each area so we don't know where we rank in mathematics and science yet.

Here are our results from the past 10 years. Please note that the 10<sup>th</sup> grade science MCAS exam became official in 2008.

**MATHEMATICS**

<b>GRADE</b>				<b>NEEDS</b>	
<b>10</b>	<b>ADVANCED</b>	<b>PROFICIENT</b>		<b>IMPROVEMENT</b>	<b>FAILING</b>
2010	79%	16%		4%	0%
2009	78%	14%		7%	1%
2008	70%	21%		7%	1%
2007	74%	20%		5%	0%
2006	69%	19%		11%	1%
2005	66%	25%		7%	2%
2004	68%	16%		15%	2%
2003	54%	23%		18%	5%
2002	47%	27%		22%	4%
2001	42%	37%		17%	4%

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

<b>GRADE</b>				<b>NEEDS</b>	
<b>10</b>	<b>ADVANCED</b>	<b>PROFICIENT</b>		<b>IMPROVEMENT</b>	<b>FAILING</b>
2010	64%	27%		4%	0%
2009	67%	31%		4%	1%
2008	62%	34%		6%	1%
2007	62%	56%		3%	1%
2006	37%	36%		7%	0%
2005	56%	36%		7%	1%
2004	54%	35%		10%	0%
2003	44%	42%		12%	2%
2002	43%	43%		14%	0%
2001	35%	47%		15%	3%

**BIOLOGY**

<b>GRADE</b>				<b>NEEDS</b>	
<b>10</b>	<b>ADVANCED</b>	<b>PROFICIENT</b>		<b>IMPROVEMENT</b>	<b>FAILING</b>
2010	41%	53%		6%	0%
2009	41%	42%		16%	1%
2008	31%	56%		10%	3%

**MESSAGES FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS**

**Edline:** Please be sure that you have activated your Edline accounts. The most up-to-date WHS information and the daily announcements are on Edline. If you should need assistance in setting up your account please contact the main office at the high school.

**Reminder to all parents/guardians and students:** If you have not done so already please return the blue colored information sheet into the main office. This paperwork is one of the most important documents the school has on file for every student. Please keep this information up-to-date.

**Visitors:** All visitors to the high school, including parents, must check in and sign a Visitors Log in the Main Office. All visitors must wear a visitor's name tag. Individuals who do not attend Winchester High School or are not on official business but are on the school grounds or in the school building will be treated as trespassers. This offense is a violation of the General Laws of the Commonwealth and carries a fine and/or imprisonment. Police will be notified.

**Cell Phones:** Students are not allowed to use a cell phone during the time that school is in session. All cell phones must be turned off. A student in violation of this policy will have his/her cell phone taken away and sent to an administrator. A parent must then meet with an Administrator to pick up the phone.

**Seniors:** Cap and gown measurements will take place on Thursday, October 28, 2010 during both lunches. Measurements will be taken in the "RED" stairwell by the student parking lot. The cost will be \$17.00 dollars. Checks should be made payable to Winchester High School with the student's name and the words Cap & Gown notated on the memo line. All outfits come with a souvenir tassel in June. Extra tassels will be available to purchase on that day for an additional four dollars. Students will also be asked to verify their name for the printing of their diplomas. They should check the spelling and the set up ~ i.e. John J. Smith vs. John James Smith. Students will be asked to initial their name or make the change/s on the sheet.

## **PFA NEWS**

### **FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS**

We had our first Parent's Association meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Our goal for these meetings is to keep parents informed about what is going on at the High School by raising issues important to the parent community. One way we do that is by having regular communication with Mr. Gwin before and after our monthly meetings, as well as his input at the meetings, and by having guest speakers to address specific issues. In September Principal Gwin discussed the "Focus on the Future" initiative and the new anti-bullying policy. "Focus on the Future" is a strategic plan "focused" on 21<sup>st</sup> century skills which the faculty and staff at the High School are very excited about. Athletic Director Brian Carroll will be speaking at the PFA meeting on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm and we hope you will come to hear what he has to say about athletics at the High School.

*Ann Hibbard and Martha Sampson*

### ***AWAKEN YOUR CHILDREN! – THE PFA GRANTS PROGRAM***

What do the auto shop, honors English, the Spanish exchange program and the Multi-Media lab have in common? They each had a champion for children – one who imagined new and different possibilities for unleashing potential in our children, and who took the initiative to apply for and receive a grant from the Parent Faculty Association (PFA) to realize their vision.

Teacher and poet Robert Frost once said, "I am not a teacher but an awakener." The grants program run by the PFA supports these "Awakeners" in our high school -- teachers and leaders with the initiative and commitment to support or challenge our children in new and engaging ways, who need supplemental funding to realize their goals.

Last year, the PFA distributed over \$24,000 in grants, accounting for more than two-thirds of the moneys raised by the Association's Direct Appeal program. The grants covered thirty-two wide-ranging initiatives, providing support for teachers, organizations, and leaders in our High School who needed

academic supplies, equipment, curriculum or enrichment expenditures not covered by the school budget.

Each year, we receive requests from teachers and organizations through a grant application process. These applications are reviewed and prioritized by the Grants Co-Chairs with the PFA Executive Committee and the WHS Administration. A final list of recommendations is then presented and voted upon at our Parent Faculty Association meetings.

**So parents, please participate in the Direct Appeal! It has a direct benefit in wakening the potential of our high school children -- and it's a lot easier than getting them out of bed!**

*Brenda Reishus and Carol Savage, Co-Chairs for Grants*

## GENERAL SCHOOL NEWS

### MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

In collaboration with the Winchester Board of Health we will be offering a voluntary FluMist clinic at Winchester High School in late October 2010. Soon you will be receiving a packet of information via US mail regarding the vaccine program. Included in the packet are the Vaccine Information Sheet (VIS) and a permission form. For your convenience and for clarity the forms have been color coded. Please read the information carefully and return the appropriate permission form with a \$10.00 check (checks only) made payable to the Winchester Board of Health. Students must be pre-registered and pre-paid in order to participate in the program. All forms must be returned no later than October 8, 2010 to the Winchester Board of Health, 71 Mount Vernon Street, Winchester, MA 01890. Questions? Please e-mail the Winchester Board of Health: [flu@winchester.us](mailto:flu@winchester.us).

*Betty Britt, R.N.*

### FROM THE CAFETERIA

The High School "POS" ("Point of Sale" system) is a computerized system which students may use to pre-pay for their food without the need for cash. Money is deposited into a student's account, and these stored amounts are available for purchases. **Students may also purchase food with cash.**

There are two ways of depositing money into your child's account. You or your student may deposit funds (cash or check payable to Winchester School Lunch Program) every weekday from 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. Alternatively, you may use the online payment system, **payforit.net**. To set up an online account you need a valid email address, a credit card, and your student's identification number. **There is a 5.75% fee for online transactions.**

To sign up for an account, go to [payforit.net](http://payforit.net), click on "Sign Up for an Account" in the box on the upper right, and follow the instructions. The site has a FAQ section to answer your questions. If you have any additional questions, you may contact the Food Service Office at 781-721-7033.

**WHS PFA DIRECT APPEAL / 2010-2011**

The WHS Parent Faculty Association's Direct Appeal is now underway for the 2010-2011 school year! Funds raised through the Direct Appeal will enable the PFA to benefit all students and teachers at WHS by covering the cost of many important programs and supplies not included in the High School budget. . Recent grants have been provided to update textbooks, upgrade technology tools, and fund extra-curricular student activities. Your contribution is an important source of funding for WHS, and benefits your children! Although a contribution of any amount is very much appreciated, we ask that each family consider making a one-time contribution for this school year of \$75.00 or more. **Early contributions are encouraged to help us plan for this year's needs; please consider a contribution to the Direct Appeal today!** For additional information, please contact Joanne O'Donnell at [pfodonnell@verizon.net](mailto:pfodonnell@verizon.net).

**Thank you for your consideration, and your donation!**

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!**

## The Guide

### *A Monthly Newsletter from the*



### **WHS Guidance Department October 2010**

#### **Senior Parent Financial Aid Night October 5 at 7:00 pm**

A representative from MEFA will be presenting information on financial aid for senior parents and students. This information session is designed to help plan and assist in the decision making process as students are completing their college applications. Seniors are invited to accompany their parents to this informative evening presentation.

#### **Middlesex League College Fair on October 19<sup>th</sup>**

Students and parents from Winchester High School are invited to attend the Middlesex League College Fair co-sponsored by the WHS Guidance Department in cooperation with the Guidance Departments at several other Middlesex League high schools. The College Night will be held at the Shriners Auditorium on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Representatives from more than two hundred colleges will be in attendance to speak with students and parents and provide admissions information. Directions to the Shriners Auditorium: Take exit 39 off Route 93N. Bear right off exit and take the first left at the Fordham Road traffic lights. Shriners Auditorium is at the end of Fordham Road.

#### **ADDITIONAL COLLEGE FAIRS/SPECIAL INTEREST COLLEGE FAIRS & PROGRAMS**

**NEACAC (New England Association for College Admission Counseling) College Fair:** Sunday, October 3, 2010 at Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill, MA, 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

#### **Performing & Visual Arts College Fair**

For students interested in pursuing a program of study in the area of performing or visual arts, the National Association of College Admission Counseling (N.A.C.A.C.) is sponsoring a Performing & Visual Arts College Fair where attendees can learn about educational opportunities, admissions and financial aid, portfolio days, audition and entrance requirements from representatives of educational institutions with specialized programs in the visual and performing arts. The program will be held on Wednesday, November 3, 2010 at The Boston Center for the Arts. For additional information, directions, and a list of colleges attending, go to the website **[www.nacacnet.org](http://www.nacacnet.org)**

#### **Helpful Suggestions for Attending a College Fair:**

Planning ahead can make attendance at a college fair a much more productive experience. Some easy-to-use suggestions include:

- Identify the colleges you definitely want to visit.
- Prepare a list of questions to ask.
- Bring mailing labels if you have them to save time when filling out cards.
- Bring a pad and pen.
- Only pick up brochures you really need and want.
- Do a computer search ahead of time to find colleges that meet your criteria.

For additional suggestions, students or parents may ask for a College Fair sheet from their guidance counselor.

**FALL COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES'  
VISITS TO THE WHS GUIDANCE  
OFFICE**

*WHS guidance counselors believe it is an essential part of the college search process for senior and junior students to meet with college representatives.* In an effort to promote this contact between students and college admissions personnel, colleges have been invited to come to the Guidance Office Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons at 2:15 p.m. The number of colleges on these afternoons will be limited to three. Please check the list on Naviance for days and times colleges will visit WHS. These visits allow for a great deal of personal interaction between admissions personnel and students.

**Annual “Academy/ROTC Night” at Danversport Yacht Club, Danvers MA at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, November 3, 2010.**

Military personnel will be present at 6:30 pm through 9:00 pm to answer questions. The program will start at 7:00pm. Representatives from the service academies, The Citadel, Maine Maritime Academy, the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy, Massachusetts Maritime Academy & New York State Maritime Academy, Norwich University, Valley Forge Military Institute, and the Virginia Military Institute. All ROTC Programs and representatives of area Congressional officials will be present to meet with prospective students and their parents. Should a student be considering attending a military academy, attendance at this program will be most helpful. For more detailed information contact: Capt. Ed Bryant, USNIA, at 978-356-5453 or Email [captecb@aol.com](mailto:captecb@aol.com)

**2010 PSAT Date is Saturday, October 16**

The PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) will be administered at WHS on Saturday, October 16. **This is the only date the test will be given at WHS.**

**Test Day Information:**

On the day of the test (10/16/10) students should bring \$25 (check made out to WHS or cash), 2 pencils, and a calculator.

Students should arrive between 7:15am and 8:00 am through the courtyard by the cafe as doors close sharply at 8:00. No admittance will be allowed after 8 am. Once the test starts, it will be 3 hours long (unless you have pre-approved extended time). No one is allowed to leave before the entire classroom finishes the test.

**Why take the PSAT/NMSQT?** The PSAT is the qualifying test that students (usually juniors) must take to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) competitions for college scholarships that will be awarded in 2011. Information about NMSC programs, entry requirements, and scholarships can be found in the 2010 PSAT/NMSQT Student Bulletin that will be provided to students when they register for the test. Other reasons sophomores and juniors may want to take the PSAT are:

- To get feedback about critical academic skills.
- To seek information from colleges.

**SAT Fee Waiver Service**

During the 2010 – 2011 academic year, CollegeBoard will again offer a fee waiver service to assist students for whom the payment of fees for the SAT Reasoning Test and the SAT Subject Tests presents a serious barrier to testing and applying for college admission. To be eligible for a fee waiver, a student must apply through his/her guidance counselor and must meet financial eligibility guidelines such as participation in the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program or household income eligibility guidelines which your guidance counselor will share with you. Only students in grades 11 and 12 are eligible for fee waivers. Eligible students may receive up to a total of four fee waivers (two for the SAT, two for Subject Tests). The fee waivers do not cover standby or late fees and may be used in online or mail-in registrations. Students who qualify for fee waivers may also qualify for up to four college application fee waivers. Parents who would like to learn more about fee waivers are encouraged to contact their child's guidance counselor.

***Keep up with the latest information:  
Visit the WHS Guidance Website!***

## CONNECT AND COMMIT

### **Special Event—Condoleezza Rice Comes to Winchester!**

On Wednesday, Oct. 27 at 7pm, Connect & Commit welcomes Condoleezza Rice for an evening of dialogue. The former Secretary of State will be speaking at the McCall School Auditorium in Winchester. Dr. Rice's visit is a fundraiser for Connect & Commit. She will be on a book tour for her first autobiographical work, "Extraordinary, Ordinary People," a story about her parents and the impact they have had on her life, from growing up in the segregated South to becoming the 66<sup>th</sup> US Secretary of State.

It will be an honor to have Dr. Rice in Winchester for this community event (the only one of its kind for Dr. Rice in the Boston area); we plan to provide her with a warm welcome and a full house. Last fall, Connect & Commit brought Madeleine Albright to Winchester, and is pleased to be able to host Dr. Rice. Connect & Commit has been active in the Winchester Public Schools for six years. A combination of community donations and public support provide funding for the program. **Tickets** are \$85 and include a copy of Rice's book. They may be purchased at Book Ends in Winchester or at [www.bookendswinchester.com](http://www.bookendswinchester.com).

### **Volunteer Opportunities & Events**

**Saturday Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>- GINN Playground's Fall Festival** 10am-1pm, GINN Playground. 2-4 Volunteers are needed to do face painting of very simple designs. This event is a fundraiser for the GINN Playground Restoration Project.

**Sunday Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>- Lynch Elementary School Walk for SMA** (Time TBD), Lynch School. 10-20 volunteers are needed to help the fifth graders of Lynch as they host this event in honor of a fellow student. Fifth graders will man most of the activities, but volunteers are needed to assist/ supervise them, be safety monitors along the walk's route and help with set-up for the event.

**Saturday Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> & Sunday Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>- Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk** There are several volunteer opportunities at this event over both days. The American Cancer Society needs nearly 1,000 volunteers to make this event possible. Most critical volunteer needs include set-up for the event on Saturday and route monitors on Sunday.

**Wednesday Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>- Condoleezza Rice** 7-9pm, McCall Auditorium. This fantastic event is a fundraiser for the Connect & Commit program. Several volunteers are needed to assist with set-up, welcoming guests, passing out books, managing the evening's book signing and other tasks as needed. Volunteers will have a thorough orientation before the event so as to be familiar with their tasks.

**Date TBD- Winchester Community Service Fair-** The Winchester Youth Center and Connect & Commit will be teaming up to bring together local organizations who have opportunities for young people to volunteer. Students will be able to come to the high school cafeteria and talk to representatives from a variety of different organizations.

### **Ongoing Service**

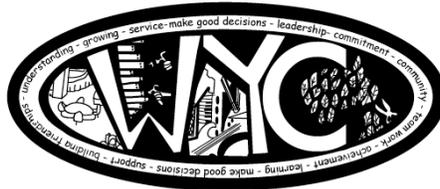
**TOPSoccer** Sundays 1-2pm at Lynch Front Filed Sept 19<sup>th</sup>-Oct 31<sup>st</sup> (excluding Columbus Day weekend) Volunteer to work with kids aged 6-19<sup>th</sup> who live with a mental or physical disability. As a volunteer you will "buddy up" and work one-on-one with a TOPS athlete to provide guidance and support as well as practicing technique and playing in games. Most importantly you will have the opportunity to share a Popsicle and some happy conversation at the end of each session.

**World Challenge Expedition Trip to Ecuador-** In the summer of 2011, a group of students from Winchester will be traveling to Ecuador for three weeks of hiking, service, leadership development and overall adventure. If you are interested in becoming a part of this expedition, please contact Miss. Ritchie or Mr. Fleming. [kritchie@winchester.k12.ma.us](mailto:kritchie@winchester.k12.ma.us), [jfleming@winchester.k12.ma.us](mailto:jfleming@winchester.k12.ma.us) or visit [www.wcexpeditions.com](http://www.wcexpeditions.com) for more information. It's not too late to join the team!

**GINN Playground Restoration Project-** the group organizing the fundraising for this project would like help selling custom Winchester Sachems Vineyard Vines totes and ties, likely at sporting events and other town events and gatherings. Two Volunteers will be needed at each event. More information to come, contact Miss Ritchie if you are interested in helping.

**The Connect and 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, which is in the library of the high school. 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](mailto:kritchie@winchester.k12.ma.us) or phone 781-721-7020 x1999.



**Winchester Youth Center**, 458R Main Street, Winchester MA 01890, 781-721-0906,  
[winchesteryouthcenter@gmail.com](mailto:winchesteryouthcenter@gmail.com), [www.wynec.com](http://www.wynec.com)

**It's our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary**  
**The WYC has been in its current space at McCall for 10 years**  
**Come celebrate with us!**

If you are a teenager who wants: to do something good for others... something fun to do after school... cool events and activities to attend... to spread the word about important issues... to be a role model to others... to give something back to the community... to learn more about yourself and what you're capable of... ..then the WYC is the place for you! The WYC offers something for everyone, come check us out and find out how you can get involved. Go to [www.wynec.com](http://www.wynec.com) for more information.

## **LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS**

### **Peer Leadership Program**

The WYC Peer Leaders are a group of Winchester High School students who are committed to their community and serving as role models for all Winchester teens. The Peer Leaders meet on Monday evenings to work on further developing their leadership, communication, interpersonal, and decision-making skills; plan for upcoming projects; and have a lot of fun. They staff the Drop-in Center after school and serve as Project Leaders for all of the WYC's service-learning projects including all of our special events and community service projects. This group is open to any WHS student who has natural leadership skills and the desire to further develop them. Anyone interested in joining this awesome group is welcome to contact the WYC for more information.

**SSA: Students Spreading Awareness**

SSA is the WYC's peer education group for Winchester High School students. The mission of this group is "to inspire positive change in our world and provide opportunities for students to become active in the community. We identify issues of concern that we feel our peers are underinformed about and spread awareness in unique and interactive ways." Throughout this school year we'll be focusing our efforts on both middle school and high school issues including body image, alcohol and drug abuse, stress, bullying, and more. Anyone interested in joining this group should contact the WYC for more information.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Throughout the year the WYC runs a ton of different special events in an effort to provide WHS students with great alcohol & drug-free alternatives. It's all part of the Peer Leaders' commitment to help their peers make good decisions! Check out our website to learn about all of our special events and mark your calendars for all the things you won't want to miss.**

**Scavenger Hunt**

Are you looking for something fun to do? We are organizing a town-wide scavenger hunt on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Select 3-5 of your quickest, smartest, stealthiest, most adventurous friends and enter your team in this super fun challenge. Teams must have a team name, costumes, and a digital camera. Trophies, medals, and other prizes will be awarded to the most cunning, most creative, and best teams. Check out our website to find out more or stop by the WYC to enter.

**WYC Halloween Costume Party Coffee House**

On Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-11:00pm the Peer Leaders will transform the WYC into a Halloween-themed Coffee House. All attendees are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes and get into the Halloween spirit! There will be a contest for the best costumes and prizes will be awarded to the winners. As always, the Coffee House will feature live music and delicious homemade treats, frappes, and coffee drinks. The Coffee House is open to high school students only. Admission is \$5. All proceeds will benefit the Peer Leaders' Habitat for Humanity trip.

**Rock for Youth**

Each year the WYC sponsors a Battle of the Bands for local high school rock stars. The first of three rounds will take place on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-11:00pm in the Winchester Town Hall Auditorium. If you are interested in registering your band, contact the WYC or email us at rock4youth@gmail.com. If you have friends in a band or just like to listen to great, live music be there to select the bands that will move on to Round 2. Admission is \$10 and each audience member receives one ballot to vote for their favorite bands. As with all WYC events, no outside drinks are allowed and students are not allowed to re-enter. Proceeds from Rock for Youth benefit the Harrison Chadwick Youth Service Award Scholarships.

**SERVICE PROJECTS**

Throughout the year the WYC Peer Leaders coordinate and participate in a huge variety of community service projects. The Peer Leaders are committed to making a positive difference in the world and encouraging others to do the same. If you're interested in doing something good for our community, stop by the WYC and find out how you can get involved. Please check out our website for a complete description of our service efforts.

**WHS Community Service Fair**

On Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup> the WYC and Connect & Commit are co-sponsoring a community service fair in the WHS cafeteria. The Fair will feature representatives from local organizations such as Winchester

Hospital, En Ka Society, Winchester Rotary, TOPS Soccer, the Jenks Center, Mission of Deeds, Lowell Wish Project, and City Year. All WHS are encouraged to attend! Check our website and listen to announcements for more details.

### **WYC Jewels**

The Peer Leaders have created beautiful jewelry made of glass beads, hemp, recycled materials and more. All of our hand-crafted jewelry is on display in the WYC and can be purchased Monday-Friday from 2:00-5:00 pm. The proceeds from all jewelry sales go to benefit the WYC and our youth development programs. Check out our website for upcoming jewelry party dates.

### **Making Strides Against Breast Cancer**

The Peer Leaders are organizing a team to participate in the annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Boston on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please check out our website or contact us at the WYC to find out how you can join our team and/or make a donation to this tremendous cause for the American Cancer Society.

### **Lowell Wish Project**

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. Currently we 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 during the week of October 4-8.

### **Halloween Window Painting**

The WYC sponsors and organizes this town-wide annual event for children in collaboration with the Winchester Recreation Department. Participants are given the opportunity to paint the the windows of participating downtown businesses with a Halloween theme on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Peer Leaders set it all up and will be in their Halloween costumes to encourage the children and present medals to all participants.

### **Halloween Horribles Parade**

The WYC, Winchester Recreation Department, and Family Action Network are co-sponsoring the second annual Halloween Horribles Parade and Party for kids on Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Children of all ages are invited to meet behind the Public Library at 10am for a costume parade to Winchester Common and then go trick-or-treating at many downtown businesses. Next we will head over to the Town Hall Auditorium for a Halloween Party featuring games, crafts, and music. WYC Peer Leaders will be in their costumes to help lead the parade and then organize games and crafts for everyone at the party!

### **Habitat for Humanity**

For 5 years the Peer Leaders have participated in a week-long service-learning project with Habitat for Humanity to help build homes for needy families. During April vacation we will travel to a different area of the country to participate in our sixth annual week-long service trip. Throughout the fall and winter, the Peer Leaders will be running a variety of events in an effort to fundraise 100% of the expenses for our trip in April. Please contact us if you would like to make a donation toward this amazing service-learning experience.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### WFEE NEWS

Thanks to a 2010 WFEE grant, WHS social studies teachers will be attending a national conference in November aimed at helping students use their knowledge of history to envision the future. Connect and Commit Director Kristen Ritchie will be joining the teachers to help plan future senior focus projects that incorporate service learning into student work. For more information on how WFEE is helping Winchester's public schools visit [www.wfee.org](http://www.wfee.org) or contact the WFEE office at (781) 756-8020, [info@wfee.org](mailto:info@wfee.org).

### THE WALK FOR A CURE FOR SMA

**Sunday, October 3, 1:30 to 4:00 pm (Registration begins at 12:30)  
Lynch Elementary School**

The Lynch School 5th graders, for their community service project, are hosting a walk in honor of a fellow student. Please join them on this 2 mile walk. Following the walk there will be a raffle, silent auction, refreshments and games. For more information, or to sign up, go to [www.fsma.org/lynchwalkforcure](http://www.fsma.org/lynchwalkforcure).

### WINCHESTER SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

*For up to date schedules, times and locations please visit our calendar at [www.winspecialedpac.com](http://www.winspecialedpac.com)*

#### **October 2010: Basic Rights Workshop**

Whether you are a seasoned special education parent or just starting out, this workshop will provide you with a thorough introduction to your rights and responsibilities under the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (recently updated), Massachusetts's special education law, and the No Child Left Behind Act. Learn how to be an effective partner with your school, understand the special education eligibility process, and monitor the educational progress of your child. This workshop is co-sponsored by the towns of Winchester, Arlington and Medford.

#### **November 8, 2010: Ross Greene 7-8:30pm**

Dr. Ross Greene is a world renowned Harvard professor and the originator of the Collaborative Problem Solving approach, and author of the recently released book, "Last at School: Why Our Most Vulnerable, At-Risk Kids Still Fall Through The Cracks and How We Can Help Them." His topic will be "Collaborative Problem Solving: Teaching, Parenting & Treating Challenging Kids". This workshop presents a new model of psychosocial treatment called Collaborative Problem Solving. Participants in this workshop will leave with an understanding of the underpinnings of the CPS model and practical assessment and intervention tools that can be brought back to and used in school and at home.

### ABC FUNDRAISER

The annual A Better Chance (ABC) fall event will be on Saturday, October 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Sons of Italy on Swanton Street. This year's theme will be a hoedown complete with food, auctions and even a mechanical bull! Tickets to the fundraiser are available online at [www.winchesterabc.org/fallevnt.php](http://www.winchesterabc.org/fallevnt.php) or at Book Ends in Winchester Center.

## WINCHESTER READS

Winchester Reads invites everyone to hear author Andrew Bridge on Thursday evening, October 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the McCall Middle School auditorium. Bridge is the author of Hope's Boy, a memoir about his life growing up in foster care. He lives in Los Angeles, and is currently the Director of The Child Welfare Initiative. Hope's Boy is available at the Winchester Public Library and Book Ends. The program is free. Winchester Reads is sponsored by the John and Mary Murphy Foundation and is a collaborative effort of the Friends of the Winchester Public Library, the Winchester Schools, the Multicultural Network, Book Ends, and many enthusiastic volunteers.

## PARENT TO PARENT BOOK GROUP

Ever wonder if your kids have too much of a good thing...cell phones, credit cards, computers, cars? Every worry whether things are too easy for them or whether they shoulder the expectations and responsibilities necessary to develop strong character? Come explore these issues with other parents as we discuss the book, "Too Much of a Good Thing: Raising Children of Character in an Indulgent Age," by local author Dan Kindlon, Ph.D. Using both empirical and anecdotal evidence, Dr. Kindlon sounds a wake-up call for parents raising children in a self-indulgent world. He explains the rationale between being a good parent first and good friend second and offers concrete advice on raising children of conscience and character. Join us on Tuesday, October 19th, at 7:00pm in the Library Meeting Room for a lively and informative discussion. Books are available through the library and through Book Ends. Books will also be available for purchase the night of the meeting. Please visit our website for information on additional programs: [www.parenttoparentwinchester.org](http://www.parenttoparentwinchester.org)

## BOY SCOUTING IN WINCHESTER

Welcome to boy scouting for the 2010-2011 school year! We want to introduce you to the scouting organizations in Winchester and suggest that you join us. Scouting offers elements not provided in other youth programs. Leadership, self-reliance, adventure and skill building are attributes of the scouting experience. Visit a Troop meeting and speak with us and see if it's right for you/your son. BOY SCOUTS are for boys grades 6 through 12. There are two Boy Scout Troops in town.

### **Troop 503**

Paul Masi, Scoutmaster ([paul\\_masi@brookline.k12.ma.us](mailto:paul_masi@brookline.k12.ma.us)) 781-729-5604  
Meets weekly on Tuesdays 7:30PM – 8:30PM at First Congregational Church

### **Troop 507**

Chris Rogers, Scoutmaster ([boyscouts507@gmail.com](mailto:boyscouts507@gmail.com)) 781-724-9565  
Meets weekly on Mondays 6:45PM – 8:15PM at Crawford Memorial Church

Highlights from last year at both Troops include hiking, biking, rafting, kayaking, canoeing, tubing, skiing, snowshoeing, and cooking. 503 backpacked this summer in Yosemite National Park in California, and 507 was at the National Jamboree in Virginia. Both troops have operated in town for a long time and have had a high number of Eagle scouts. So call or drop by and see what scouting has to offer!

## WINTON CLUB YARD SALE!

Don't Miss Out! Come find that "treasure" you've been hunting for at The Winton Club Yard Sale on Saturday, October 2, 2010 - 9:00 AM to Noon at 34 Rangeley Road in Winchester. All sales benefit Winchester Hospital!