

**Around the Courtyard**

Williams Middle School  
410 Williams St., Longmeadow, MA 01106  
May, 2010



WILLIAMS MIDDLE  
SCHOOL

MAY 2010  
NEWSLETTER

## Upcoming School Events

May 18 MCAS—Science & Technology, Session #1  
May 19 MCAS—Science & Technology, Session #2  
May 20 & 21 MCAS Make-Up Exams  
May 23-25 Gr. 8 Gettysburg Trip  
May 25 Gr. 5 Step-Up Day  
May 27 Grade 5 Parent Night – 7:00 p.m.  
WMS Art Show (evening)

May 31` No School – Memorial Day  
June 2 Gr. 6 Concert  
Jazz Band Tour (Gr. 6-8)  
Gr. 7 Field Trip – New York City Ellis Island

June 3 Longmeadow High School Graduation  
June 3-5 Gr. 8 Quebec Trip  
June 8 Gr. 8 Career Tech. Field Trip (8:35-10:30 a.m.)  
June 9 Gr. 7 & 8 Concert – 7:00 p.m.  
June 10 Field Day  
June 11 Field Day (rain date)  
June 14 Gr. 6 Social Studies Fair (9:00-10:00 a.m.)  
June 16 Gr. 6 Roller skating (12:00-3:00 p.m.)  
June 17 Gr. 7 Roller skating (10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.)  
Gr. 8 Roller skating (9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.)  
Grade 8 Dinner Dance/Graduation – 6:15 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

June 18 Grade 8 Picnic (Bliss Park)  
June 21 Awards Ceremony and Last Day of School!  
**11:30 a.m. dismissal**

## In this issue:

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## **FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK**

It is hard to believe we are sending out our final newsletter for the 2009-2010 school year. This year has moved at a very rapid pace and, with June just around the corner, we are already looking ahead to next year. In that vein, I am also sending this newsletter out to all of our incoming grade 6 families. We look forward to your current fifth graders joining us in the fall and encourage you to read through our newsletter to get a sense of some of the things we do here, and to check out the summer reading list for our incoming grade 6 students.

I met with some of you on Monday evening, May 10<sup>th</sup> to share information about cyberbullying. I was very happy with the turnout considering the many meetings, games and classes most families are involved with on a nightly basis in the spring. There were also many of you who could not attend for these and other reasons. I would like to share a resource with you. The Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC) provided my training and much of the data presented Monday night. Based at Bridgewater State College, MARC is a leader in the area of bullying prevention, cyberbullying education and prevention, and violence prevention. They have a website which contains some great information. One real advantage the other night was the opportunity for those in attendance to share their own experiences, ask questions and to hear from other parents. While this opportunity is not available on line, this website will provide much of the information we discussed. The address is: <http://webhost.bridgew.edu/marc/> With new bullying legislation now signed into law, there will be more education to come for both parents and our students when school opens in the fall.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank one of our long-time teachers here who will be retiring in June. Donna Grimaldi is completing her 36<sup>th</sup> year teaching in Longmeadow and many of your children, and a number of our parents, have had the experience and pleasure of having Mrs. Grimaldi as their teacher. In all of my years in education, encompassing 29 years and four districts, I have worked with only a small number of teachers who have taught for more than 30 years. Of those, I have not known one who has been so driven and stayed so true to continuous growth and professional development right to the end of such a stellar and lengthy teaching career. Mrs. Grimaldi has been an amazing leader and mentor for so many for so long. I am very excited for her as she begins the next chapter of her life – I am quite sure it will continue to be one filled with continued growth, expanding boundaries and will very likely include teaching of some kind. On behalf of all of our faculty and staff here at Williams and throughout the district, I want to publicly thank Mrs. Grimaldi for her many years of service to her students and the community and congratulate her on the amazing legacy she leaves for the rest of us to follow.

Finally, thank you for your continued support of our students, faculty and staff. I continue to feel very fortunate to be working in a school system and community that truly values education and educators. I wish you all a very restful summer.

Chris Collins, Principal

## **Grade 6 News**

On Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 to 10:00 am, the sixth grade will hold their second annual Social Studies Fair. This is a culminating activity for the units we've been currently studying, Greece and Rome. Students will work in groups, on a topic of their choosing, and research the similarities and differences of these two very important civilizations. Much of the work will be done in school, but some assignments will have to be completed at home. More information will be sent home to parents as we get closer to the date. We hope to see you there!

## **Grade 7 News**

### **ELA**

In our 7<sup>th</sup> grade English classes, we have just completed a very extensive unit on Poetry. Students have learned all about poetic forms, figurative language and sound devices. Their final assessments are a multiple-choice test and the creation of their own poem demonstrating their understanding of these concepts.

To conclude the year, we have two concepts to explore. First, we will look at the nonfiction genre of biography and autobiography. We also will be creating a multi-media project that explores persuasive techniques. As an independent book, students will be reading The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton and we will be modeling how to create two-column journal notes. Moving into eighth grade, students will be expected to read two summer reading books, The Revealers by Doug Wilhelm and a book of their choice. They will be required to create two-column journal notes for The Revealers. In September, they will create a special project to demonstrate their understanding of their independent novel.

We have enjoyed working with your students in English class this year.

Pam Cangemi

Anita Kimball

### **Science**

We have started to grow our *Brassica rapa* plants, and will continue to sketch and measure until the beginning of June. Keep an ear out for when our flowers bloom. You may have heard some buzz about bee sticks....we will use them to pollinate the open flowers. We are also in our fourth book, Bacteria to Plants. In the coming weeks we will look at LIVE specimens under the microscope, always exciting to see.

## Grade 8 News

### **ELA**

In all of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade English classes, we are excited about our interdisciplinary unit on the Civil War and the novel, The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara. ELA and Social Studies teachers have been learning and planning together for several months to create a rich, meaningful integrated unit. Reading, listening, discussing, viewing, writing, and creating are all verbs to describe the active learning taking place in our classrooms. The novel is ripe with English topics to explore such as theme, sensory language, characterization, vocabulary, etc. We encourage you to read the book yourself. We're confident you'll enjoy it and it will provide a wonderful way to open up rich sharing conversations with your child about what they have been learning this year.

To conclude our year together, we will be talking about transitions to high school, specifically by talking about their required summer reading and modeling how to create the two-column journals that they are responsible for.

We have enjoyed working with this very talented group of readers, writers, listeners and speakers this year.

Heather Aveyard  
Lorraine Kaylor  
Anita Kimball

### **Science**

Several of our 8th grade students now have bragging rights for the furthest or fastest balloon racer on their team! For the Balloon Racer lab, we reviewed Newton's Laws of Motion, drag, thrust and propulsion in preparation for the Science and Technology/Engineering MCAS later this month. Right now, we are talking about energy sources and conversions. We will also be moving into our fourth book, Astronomy. Discussions about why Pluto is no longer a planet will follow!

### **History Classes**

Our eighth grade classes are all engaged in a new and exciting activity this year. The Civil War has come alive at Williams Middle School. All of our students are reading the historical novel, *The Killer Angels*, in both their history and English classes. This is a new approach that allows us to teach the Battle of Gettysburg in a more authentic manner. In addition to reading the book, we are also viewing the companion movie, *Gettysburg*, in our history classes. The hallways at school have been transformed into Union and Confederate camps and our classrooms are filled with new vocabulary words on the walls. Please ask your eighth graders about this battle. They are experts!

## Grade 8 Summer Reading List (current 7<sup>th</sup> graders)

### Required Book            The Revealers    Wilhelm

You must read one book from the following list, or a novel of your choice, in addition to the required book above.

Alexander	<u>The High King</u>
Blais	<u>In These Girls, Hope Is a Muscle</u>
Brooks	<u>Sword of Shannara</u>
Callahan	<u>Adrift: Seventy-Six Days Lost at Sea</u>
Carter	<u>Bull Catcher</u>
Childress	<u>Rainbow Jordan</u>
Courtenay	<u>The Power of One</u>
Dessen	<u>That Summer</u>
Jiang	<u>Red Scarf Girl</u>
King	<u>Firestarter</u>
Krakauer	<u>Into Thin Air</u>
Krakauer	<u>Into the Wild</u>
L'Engle	<u>Arm of the Starfish</u>
Levenkorn	<u>The Best Little Girl in the World</u>
McKinley	<u>Rose Daughter</u>
Myers	<u>Fallen Angels</u>
Myers	<u>The Keeping Room</u>
Peck	<u>A Year Down Yonder</u>
Rinaldi	<u>Cast Two Shadows</u>
Rinaldi	<u>A Break with Charity</u>
Spinnelli	<u>Wringer</u>
Tillage	<u>Leon's Story</u>
Tingle	<u>Edge of the Sword</u>
Yolen/Harris	<u>Girl in a Cage</u>
Whelan	<u>Homeless Bird</u>

## Grade 7 Summer Reading List (current 6<sup>th</sup> graders)

### Required Book

### Freak the Mighty

### Philbrick

You must read one (1) book off the following list in addition to the required novel:

Armstrong	<u>Souder</u>
Avi	<u>The Man Who Was Poe</u>
Balliett	<u>Chasing Vermeer</u>
Bruchac	<u>Code Talker</u>
Christie	<u>Nemesis</u>
Cooper	<u>The Grey King</u>
Corbett	<u>12 Again</u>
Creech	<u>Walk Two Moons</u>
Cushman	<u>Catherine, Called Birdie</u>
DuPrau	<u>The City of Ember</u>
Fleischman	<u>Escape: The Story of the Great Houdini</u>
Goodall	<u>My Life with the Chimpanzees</u>
Haddix	<u>Running Out of Time</u>
Halam	<u>Dr. Franklin's Island</u>
Hesse	<u>Out of the Dust</u>
Kadohata	<u>Weedflower</u>
Lester	<u>Day of Tears</u>
Levine	<u>Fairest</u>
Lord	<u>A Night to Remember</u>
Lupica	<u>The Big Field</u>
Mazer	<u>Boy at War</u>
Myers	<u>Sunrise Over Fallujah</u>
Patterson	<u>Jacob Have I Loved</u>
Rinaldi	<u>The Quilt Trilogy: A Stitch in Time</u>
Rinaldi	<u>In My Father's House</u>
Rinaldi	<u>Millicent's Gift</u>
Rylant	<u>Missing May</u>
Smith	<u>Peak</u>
Smith	<u>Twelve Rounds to Glory: The Story of Muhammad Ali</u>
Spinelli	<u>Maniac Magee</u>
Stevenson	<u>Treasure Island</u>
Taylor	<u>Let the Circle Be Unbroken</u>

## Grade 6 Summer Reading List (current 5<sup>th</sup> graders)

### Required Book: **Hiaasen**      **Hoot**

You must read one book from the following list in addition to the required novel.

<u>After the Dancing Days</u>	Rostowski
<u>Rascal</u>	North
<u>The Ballard of Lucy Whipple</u>	Cushman
<u>The Watsons Go to Birmingham</u>	Curtis
<u>Missing May</u>	Rylant
<u>Banner in the Sky</u>	Ullman
<u>The Dark Is Rising</u>	Cooper
<u>Incident at Hawks Hill</u>	Eckert
<u>The Miracle Worker</u>	Gibson
<u>The Cay</u>	Taylor
<u>Blue Heron</u>	Avi
<u>Megan's Island</u>	Roberts
<u>Maniac Magee</u>	Spinelli
<u>The Barn</u>	Avi
<u>The Midwife's Apprentice</u>	Cushman
<u>Holes</u>	Sachar
<u>A Long Way from Chicago</u>	Peck

### Art News

COME ONE, COME ALL!! It is time for the Williams Middle School All Student Art Show. It will happen in the cafeteria on Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm. There will be free cookies, cupcakes, brownies, Italian ices, drinks as well as the live band – Border Line. There will be an art-making table for everyone who is inspired to create. Come support the students. It will be a great night!

Also, thank you to all of the parents who have donated food, paper goods, and their time to the art show and art program. I could not do this without you!

Ms. Metzner

## Music Notes

**By Daniel Albert, Julia Kay, and Michael Smith**

As a reminder, here are the remaining concert dates for the year:

- Wednesday, June 2 – Sixth Grade Concert, 7:00 PM
- Wednesday, June 9 – Seventh and Eighth Grade Spring Concert, 7:00 PM

We had an outstanding 2009 - 2010 school year full of successful rehearsals and community performances. All of us in the music department look forward to building upon this year's success with the generous support of parents and the community, returning students, and the incoming sixth graders.

Parents, please be on the lookout for important paperwork during the opening days of school, including necessary equipment and books for Band and Orchestra, as well as concert dates for the year. Please remember to mark concert dates in your family calendars as soon as possible to avoid conflicts. Expect auditions for Ensemble 7:45 (an auditioned eighth grade vocal ensemble that meets before school) and Jazz Ensemble (an auditioned sixth through eighth grade instrumental ensemble that includes saxophones, flutes, clarinets, trumpets, trombones, guitar, piano, bass, and drum set and meets after school) to take place during the third and fourth weeks in September. Audition music for these groups will be distributed during the opening days of school.

For more information regarding Band, a musical ensemble that meets during the school day and includes woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments, please contact Mr. Daniel Albert at [dalbert@longmeadow.k12.ma.us](mailto:dalbert@longmeadow.k12.ma.us). For more information regarding Orchestra, a musical ensemble that meets during the school day and includes the violin, viola, cello, and bass, please contact Ms. Julia Kay at [jkay@longmeadow.k12.ma.us](mailto:jkay@longmeadow.k12.ma.us).

Band students can look forward to next year's Longmeadow Band Festival, a performance that features all bands throughout the Longmeadow Public Schools. Seventh and eighth grade band students can also look forward to traveling to UMass Amherst in October for the annual Multibands matinee concert, an event that features all of the music ensembles on campus, including the famous Minuteman Marching Band. More information regarding both events will be distributed in the fall.

We would like to thank all of the students and their families for helping to put on a great show at Symphony Hall. It was a massive effort that would not have been possible without the support of the whole Williams' community. While there will not be a Symphony Hall concert next March, next year promises to be exciting as enrollment in both Men's and Women's Chorus will both be at record highs!

Enjoy the summer! We look forward to making great music with Williams' students this fall.

## **Foreign Language**

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Your child will be using the En Español or Discovering French textbook series from McDougal Littell in Spanish/French class next year. There is a workbook that accompanies the textbook for additional practice. Our budget will not allow us to purchase workbooks for personal student use; thus, their answers will need to be written on a separate piece of paper. The workbook is sold with laminated vocabulary and grammar reference sheets.

We would like to offer you the opportunity to purchase a personal copy of the workbook for your child; however, be assured that there is no obligation to do so. The same workbook will be used for homework and class work in both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. If you choose to purchase the workbook for your child, please send a check payable to Williams MS for \$16.00 by June 1st so that we can order the workbooks for the start of school in September. If you choose not to purchase the workbook, your child will be issued a workbook (without the laminated reference sheets), and he/she will write the answers on a separate piece of paper as noted. If you have any questions, please contact Anna Gelinat at 565-4260.

Thank you,

Foreign Language Teachers  
Anna Gelinat  
Clarisse Lizotte

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Please return with payment by June 1, 2010.

My child \_\_\_\_\_ will be taking Spanish / French  
(circle one)  
and would like to purchase a workbook to use in 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

I have enclosed cash / check (payable to Williams MS) for \$16.00.

## **French/Spanish**

With the end of the year approaching, the eighth grade students are anticipating their trip to Québec City and their performance projects. The trip is a fun way of absorbing more culture, using their French, and spending time with friends. The projects showcase the considerable talents of our students here at Williams.

It has been a busy but successful year!

Eighth grade students enjoyed a trivia contest, the Mexican Hat Dance and a maraca relay to celebrate Cinco de Mayo.

Seventh grade parents - Please make sure your child keeps their French or Spanish workbook at the end of this year. We will be using them in class again next year.

6th grade parents - If your child is taking French or Spanish next year, you will have an opportunity to order a workbook for use in class and at home. Order forms are attached to this newsletter and are due back by June 1st.

### **Math News**

Math News

The results are in from the 2010 New England Math League Contest. Williams M.S. placed first in the region of Hampden, Hampshire Counties in both the 7th and 8th grade. Additionally, in 8th grade WMS placed 24 out of 120 schools in N.E.

Our top scorers were:

#### **8th grade:**

1<sup>st</sup> - John Overstreet

2<sup>nd</sup> - Efrat Armon  
Michael Mueller

3<sup>rd</sup> - Kimberly Nguyen  
Michelle George  
Emily Flahive

#### **7th grade:**

1<sup>st</sup> - Michael Chen

2<sup>nd</sup> - Michael Anfang  
Dare Odutola

3<sup>rd</sup> - Ben Correira  
Youngsun Lee

Congratulations to these students and all who participated!

### **Field Day**

Captains are busy preparing for Field Day, Thursday June 10<sup>th</sup>. T-shirts have been ordered. There will be a few extra available that day, first-come, first-served, if your child forgot to order one. We are still looking for parent volunteers to help set up and clean up from the relay races. If you are available that day from about 9-11, contact Anna Gelinis for details.

## **Drama Club**

Drama Club's sixth year was a wonderful success this year!!! Forty-five students participated in two performances of "Murder at the Goon Show" by Douglas Winters. On Friday night April 9<sup>th</sup> over 250 family and friends came for our opening night, then the following Friday there was a full house for our school performance in the afternoon. Several staff expressed their delight in the performance, saying, "This was the best they had seen".

We raised over \$900.00 with ticket sales and the intermission bake sale. That money, along with a donation from PAC and a LEEF grant, is allowing us to significantly upgrade the lighting in the auditorium. Please take some time to notice the improvements and thank PAC and LEEF for the contributions. The upgrade will continue each year as we continue to raise money for that effort.

A big round of applause to all the parents and staff that helped make this such a successful year!! Past Drama Club members even came from the high school to help out. To everyone - THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

Next year is the seventh year!!! Keep your eyes and ears open in September for announcements of our first meeting. Have a wonderful summer; see you all in the fall.

Mrs. Lawson

## **Student Advisory Council**

We collected over 50 phones for the Samsung "March to a Million" contest. You'll be happy to know that they also accepted the chargers for recycling. Thanks to everyone who donated!

Our next project involves the non-profit organization "Link to Libraries". From May 10<sup>th</sup> to May 24<sup>th</sup>, we will be collecting new and gently used books for distribution to those less fortunate. Religious books and textbooks will not be accepted. However, children's picture books and chapter books up to grade seven are welcome. Please place all donations in the labeled boxes in the cafeteria.

## **Notes from the Nurse**

2009 Summer Health & Safety Tips!

Summer is quickly approaching! Summer is time for having fun and making memories, but it is also a great time to talk about safety. Below are some tips for staying safe and being active this summer.

### **Physical Activity:**

Summer is a great time to try new and different ways to be active. Experiment with different activities; but make safety a priority. Try rock climbing, swimming, biking, hiking, water skiing and more.

### **Hydration & Heat Exhaustion:**

·Stay hydrated throughout the day when you are active outside in the sun. Keep a water bottle with you and drink from it often.

**Preventing Sunburns:**

When outside, be sure to use sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of 15 or higher and reapply every two hours.

**Water Safety:**

Never swim alone.

When boating, make sure to use a life vest at all times.

Always swim in places where there is a lifeguard present and make sure you always swim with at least one friend.

**Biking Safety:**

Make sure your bike helmet is properly fitted.

You should always wear a helmet and other protective gear.

Make sure your helmet is worn properly. A helmet should be worn so that it is level on the head, not tipped forward or backward. The strap should be securely fastened, and you should not be able to move the helmet in any direction.

**Hiking Safety:**

When hiking, stay with your group at all times.

Always stay on the trail.

Make sure you have the right equipment with you (shoes, proper clothing, sunscreen, water, first aid kit, flashlight, food and other essential items you might need).

Be safe and have a great summer!!

Mrs. Gartman,RN School Nurse

# WELLNESS POLICY REMINDERS

*In compliance with Section 204 of Public Law 108-265 –June 30, 2004, and recommendations by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Public Health, the Longmeadow School Committee approved a Wellness Policy on June 12, 2006. The intent of this policy is to outline the district's ongoing commitment in support of wellness in the areas of nutrition, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote health and wellness.*

## The following are reminders about the Wellness Policy

- Chartwells
  - Peanut free cookies and pizza are available
    - Ordering information: [www.longmeadow.k12.ma.us](http://www.longmeadow.k12.ma.us)
    - Click left hand side, Catering Menu
- No home-baked goods for in-school/class celebrations
- May bring in wrapped, store-bought food with ingredients listed on the package as long as they comply with the nutritional guidelines (see below)

**Nutritional Guidelines:** <http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/assets/clubs/mafjk-guidelines-revised-dec.pdf>

- Only 100% juice, water, milk will be allowed for school/classroom celebrations – no soda
- 10 grams of fat or less per snack serving
- Snack foods must be in portions of 2oz or less
- No nuts or peanuts due to the high incidence of life-threatening allergies
- No candy
- No trail mix – this contains nuts

### **\*SAFETY FIRST**

**Please read all labels regarding the equipment that food items are processed on as this may pose a significant and life-threatening impact on a student if there is failure to do so.**

### **Healthy Snack Ideas**

- Fresh fruit tray—whole, wedges, slices (*due to possible cross contamination, all fruit must be cut up at school*)
- Fresh vegetable tray (baby carrots, grape tomatoes, celery sticks, cucumber spears, red and green pepper strips, cauliflower and broccoli florets) with reduced fat ranch or yogurt-based dip (*due to possible cross contamination, all vegetables must be cut up at school*)
- String cheese, cheese cubes or slices with whole grain crackers
- Low fat pudding cups, low fat yogurt squeeze packs or cups
- Pretzels, low fat popcorn
- Animal crackers, graham crackers, oatmeal raisin cookies
- Frozen 100% fruit pops

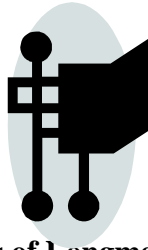
### **Non-Food Ways to Celebrate**

- Donate a book to the school library or classroom in honor of the child's birthday with a personalized gift acknowledgement plate inside
- Donate playground/physical activity equipment – jump ropes, balls etc.
- Celebrate with active games chosen by the student
- Have a dance party
- Engage students in a special art project

### **Thank you for your cooperation.**

*We are continuing to monitor the effectiveness of implementation of these guidelines. If there are significant issues with non-compliance with the District Policy, we may have to go to a no-food policy for in-school celebrations.*

**P.L.A.C.E.**



**Parents of Longmeadow Advisory  
Council for Education**

### **Our Upcoming Workshops**

Location: School Committee Room, Pupil Services, LHS (127 Grassy Gutter Road, Longmeadow, MA) RSVP: [mkfoard@comcast.net](mailto:mkfoard@comcast.net) to ensure adequate space and handouts

**May 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.: Making Daily Life Work at Home**  
**Presented by Robin Lurie-Meyerkopf of AANE, School Committee Room**

If you've ever wondered about your child's behaviors or why particular home activities are difficult, this is the course for you! Come learn how you can help your child learn to respond in a more expected and positive way using practical strategies. Some of the topics will include: emotional regulation, flexible thinking, family routines and expectations

***\*\* P.L.A.C.E. is Longmeadow's Special Education Parent Group, a volunteer organization comprised of parents challenged to make a difference in perceptions of children with special needs. We unite to promote & support an innovative educational environment where children with disabilities have equal access to educational opportunities & a school & community environment where all children are encouraged to reach their full potential. We offer informational workshops, programs, & support for parents & staff working with special needs children in our local communities.***