



WINchester School

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Jim Lewis, Superintendent
Pam Bigelow, Principal

June 6, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Today is the penultimate Friday of the school year, which means your son or daughter should be showing his or her best efforts of the year right now. There is still time to make sure grades are the highest they can be. Your dedicated staff has agreed to provide this town with quality education right until the last day of the school year! "It's not over until it's over" and the teachers are working hard to encourage your child to "finish strong!"

If you were at the school Tuesday night, you would likely agree that a great time was had by all. Tuesday was the "Night of Fun and Learning." We learned about Internet safety from the Winchester Police Department, Title One services from Mrs. Harrison, and we were awed by illusionist Jason Purdy. The weather was warm, but the Kona Ice truck helped take humidity out of the air. It was a great night for the family to be together and learn together. This school prides itself on offering family-based programs and activities. Please continue to be a part of something very, very good!

Related to very, very good, we are ready to crown the champions of our Box Tops For Education contest. Congratulations to Mrs. Marsh's class who submitted 1,558 box tops! Also please help me thank Mrs. Balk's class who submitted 1,180, and Mrs. Stone's class for submitting 972 Box Tops For Education! As you know by now, we can cash in the box tops for funding our playground and other student-related activities. Please keep them coming! They are helping us pay for a brand new playground at zero tax dollars!

Related to the playground, I am hoping I can write the words "we did it" in the first line of next week's newsletter. We are almost at the end of the interest-free period for paying off the playground. We still have \$990.00 to submit by June 30th. We're going to be close.

And related to success, the Abacus Award dinner is scheduled for this approaching Wednesday evening, June 11th. The Abacus Award acknowledges all the students who have had perfect attendance (or very near to perfect attendance) throughout the school year. Attendance plays a key role in student performance both academically and socially. We understand getting children to school each and every day is often not an easy task, and we want to help families who do accomplish that feat celebrate. Also, as I included last week, please check out the link to <http://www.boostup.org/>. It is a great interactive website that further explains the importance of attendance in school.

Immediately following the Abacus dinner, please feel free to join us for a nice little "Meet and Greet" for next year's PK-5 principal, Mrs. Lisa Spencer. Even if you are not part of the Abacus Award dinner, you are certainly welcome to join us for dessert. The Meet and Greet will begin about 6:15.

Our good friend and talented psychologist Dr. Bill Slammon will be moving on to a new school next year. Dr. Slammon has dedicated 13 years of his professional life to the WINchester School. His skills have had a tremendously positive effect on so many of our students, and we cannot possibly thank him enough for all he has done. Dr. Slammon has also volunteered frequently in various activities around the school, including "That Band." We certainly shall miss him and hope he knows he is always welcome to come visit us at any time.

This is the time of the school year when a lot of students go on field trips. Occasionally, some folks will express they do not see the value of field trips. However, please know that any field trip destination that the students visit is designed to reinforce the instruction the child has received in the classroom. Of course books contain a lot of information and the majority of adults have learned mostly from books. However, in the year 2014, we understand that a complete education must encompass more than books. In fact, today most people get more information from the Internet than they do from books! (These are truly fascinating times. In only one generation we have seen a huge change in the way we teach and in the way we live.) However, as interactive as the Internet can be, it simply cannot replace the experience of being in the exact location of an event or process. I offer an example: I think we would all agree reading about an airplane takeoff is interesting, and seeing it on the internet or TV is even more informative, but actually being at the airport where all your senses are communicating to you all at once, is the most effective means of experiencing what an airplane take off is all about.

Please don't forget to send in any past due library books or lunch account funds. If you are not sure if your child still has a book signed out please call Mr. Bowks at the school, extension 527; and if you would like to know your child's current lunch bill balance please call Mrs. Whitcomb at extension 225.

Have a pleasant weekend.

Jim Lewis

Puzzler: Max and Gobbles are very patriotic. They realize that exactly 70 years ago today the Allies landed on the beaches of Normandy, otherwise known as D-Day. Using this information what year was the invasion?

Answer to last week's puzzler: This was a great puzzler! There was a choice and the answer was based on opinion. To fly, Max and Gobbles would pay \$178.00, and to drive they would only pay \$56. However if they drove it would take more than six hours to get to Quebec, and if they flew it would take less than an hour to get there. The student response was based on what they would value more: time versus money. And the answers were pretty evenly split. Ultimately I just want the students to understand the importance of math and its applicability, which the students certainly seemed to understand. Congratulations to Zach M., Dakota J., Jacob P., Sabrina M., Dakota G., Robbie H., Patrick M., Tyler D., Gabe W., one with no name, Claudia N., Brandon D., Andrew D., Stevie B., Mary C., Alexander R., Abigail S., Kayden F., Brianna S., Sean F., Shelley M., Natasha F., Kaitlyn S., Jaden P., Caiden H., and Roy S., who submitted accurate mathematics in order to come to an opinion! This was a piece right out of the Common Core and I am very proud of them!

Local School taxes: The more your children read, the less your town needs.