



WINchester School

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Jim Lewis, Superintendent
Pam Bigelow, Principal

April 10, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Please remember there is no school tomorrow as we have teacher parent conferences scheduled all day. Of course many teachers will also be meeting with parents next week, but for folks who are usually tied up during the evening, tomorrow is a perfect opportunity for you to meet with your child's teachers if you haven't already done so. We designate an entire day for parents to meet with teachers because we know how important it is to be on the "same page" regarding your child's success. The research clearly indicates that most of the best-performing schools in the world are successful because of parent involvement. Just sitting with your child reading a book, or reviewing the day's work, or practicing skills, not only reinforces those skills but sends a clear message to your child that education is important! Probably one of the greatest gifts you can give your child!

Another way to promote educational proficiency is to promote the love of reading. Starting tonight and continuing throughout next week, the Scholastic Book Fair will be taking place in the school's library. All students will have an opportunity to visit the book fair and collect ideas on the offerings. You also are welcome to come by to look at and purchase books from the fair. Each year Scholastic offers us some very nice deals on very popular books. I hope you get the chance to take advantage of this opportunity.

Related to working with your child, we officially have made it easier for you! The MobyMax log-in screen and passwords have been distributed to all students. MobyMax is that online system which helps children learn math, reading, vocabulary, and of course my favorite, fact computation! Imagine even just one child playing MobyMax educational games instead of a violent video game! Your child's teachers already have the usernames and passwords and are aware of the system. *But the magic is you!* Please encourage your child to get on the system and investigate. There are even games to play with time earned for the games by completing lessons. Your child may never tell you he or she is bored again. The website is simply www.MobyMax.com. If you haven't already done so, check out their homepage and let me know what you think.

Tonight, between 5:30 and 8:00 there is one more chance for you to meet the candidates for the principal position for next year. We have three candidates for the position. One will come in at 5:30, the second at 6:30 and the third at 7:30. The candidates will offer a review of what they noticed and learned from their day-long visit here a couple weeks ago. After the presentations, the Principal Search Committee will get together and prepare their final recommendation for the school board next Thursday, April 17th. Please help me thank and congratulate the Principal Search Committee for working diligently at this since the end of December!

I need to remind all parents of students in grades 3, 4, and 5 that multiplication kickball is about to play its last game of the year next Tuesday. That seemed to go by very fast! Each year kickball begins right after February vacation and continues to April vacation. After the April vacation we are expecting nicer weather and children should be outside during nice weather. I can tell you I am very impressed with the computation mastery the students have been demonstrating. No doubt, this will translate into higher math performance in the future. I always thought computation should be a larger component on some of the high-stakes tests we give in this country.

The “Night of the Arts” was a huge success last evening. If you were there you saw the rock chorus, an originally choreographed presentation from the cheer squad and a performance of *The Battle of Sherman and Servi*. The students took pride in presenting their performances to the audience. I want to thank everyone who came out last night. Regarding the play, Mr. Piscitello’s and Ms. Violette’s middle school music classes are designed so students have an opportunity to learn how a musical is prepared from beginning to end. We even had some Winchester students who attend high school come back and give them a hand.

Related to performances, students were entertained by the Hampstead Player’s performance of *The Wizard of Oz* today. Such a classic tale that almost all of us have memorized. The Hampstead players did a nice job and the students seemed to enjoy it. Please share your own knowledge of *The Wizard of Oz* with your child. It’s always amazing how many nuances children pick up on.

Related to talent, we are coming to the end of time when we can accept acts into the PTA’s annual talent show. Please ask your child if he or she would like to be in the show. Even if your child does not know what to do, we have some songs and dance routines they can use. We always ask frequently around this time if someone (adult or child) wants to be in the show. Invariably, there is one who decides too late that he or she wants to be in it. We want to avoid any disappointments if we can. *FYI, the PTA will meet this approaching Monday evening, April 14 at 6:00 p.m.*

Last call for you to be a big winner in our Easter Basket Raffle! We have a beautiful Easter Basket with a full Easter dinner up for raffle! Imagine not having to buy an entire dinner! Tickets are only \$5.00 each and every dime goes to the playground fund! Talk about a win/win. To participate in the raffle just call us here at school. The drawing will be April 18th, the last day before spring vacation.

We did get one suggestion for the name of our new cotton candy machine, “Pinky Dinky Goo Candy.” Not bad. Any other thoughts out there?

I hope to see you around the school tomorrow.

Jim Lewis

Puzzler: Max decided to go to the Old Cats Home to visit Uncle Gunther. Uncle Gunther may not be as spry as he once was, but this cat can still cough up a hair ball with the best of them. For cats, every one year of human life is equivalent to approximately seven years of cat life. That is, a cat that is two human years old is about 14 cat years old. If Uncle Gunther is 105 cat years old, how many human years old is he?

Answer to last week’s puzzler: Gobbles rides 2.8 miles *farther* each day than Max. Congratulations to Danielle M., Jennifer L., Erica L., Robert L., Rhyann H., Xander R., Mary C., Caiden H., Natasha F., Shelly M., Robbie H., Jamiyah H., Abigail S., Brianna S., Sean F., Johnathan D., Caitlyn S., Emmett D., Dakota J., and Grace W. for submitting the correct answer and earning a Max Buck, of which ten can be exchanged for a free bag of popcorn (think Talent Show).

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