



The Bear Facts

Volume 1, Issue 5

Winnisquam Regional High School

January 2010

“Look for up-to-date school and sports information on our website: www.wrsdsau59.org/WRHS”

Hello from the Administration

It is so exciting to think that our students have completed half of the 2009-2010 school year. My time at the high school continues to be most rewarding. It's my goal to learn the names of six more students each day. Some days that happens, others it does not. Regardless, I have the best intentions of connecting with students individually as often as possible. We have incredibly friendly, warm, and talented students in our school. It is a pleasure to watch them grow as individuals and make academic progress throughout the year.

There are countless challenges that we face with each passing year of adulthood, but I can't help but realize these obstacles pale in comparison at times to the complications of our youth in the 21st Century. It is said that our greatest strength can be our great weakness. I see many examples of this as we encounter the benefits and demands of technology. It is with immediacy that we can contact one another and expect to be contacted via email, instant messaging, and texting. However, at times we can overlook the relationships that are only built through direct human contact. It is far easier to accurately read the intent behind a person's words when you are looking them in the eyes. It is far harder to hide behind the mask of anonymity in an email or letter when you are speaking face to face. Yet, these are the personal interactions that build credibility, relationships, and allow us to share in our humanity. We, our students, and our peers make mistakes, errors in judgment and varying choices that one another may not agree with. This is what brings us the richness of variety.

The high school is working hard to implement the use of technology in our classroom instruction as outlined in this newsletter. We are reaching out daily with communication technology in our family emails. The website reflects an abundance of information that helps us be transparent in our interactions as a school community. MMS electronic grade books allows for 24 hour access to student progress. Yet all of these tools are flawed without the input and effort of humans to post,

update, and create this data. I do not want us to lose the beauty of personal connections as we build relationships with one another and our youth.

Take the opportunity to join the PTISO, support FFA, State Scholars, Math Team, Drama Club, Chem Free, sporting events, or any other extra curricular. There are real live human beings there willing to engage with you in person and work toward the common good of our school. As an administration, we have been privileged to hold numerous conversations with many families. All of our schedules are tight. We are all very busy, but if you call and ask for an appointment, write an email, and leave a phone number, I will be happy to speak or meet with you and build a partnership to support our students and the school district. Take advantage of all that technology has to offer, yet balance it with personal connections and make time for one another. It is a privilege to be here and build relationships with our students, you as parents, and the outstanding professional staff.

Sincerely,
Dr. Ronna Cadarette, *Principal*

High School Upcoming Grading Schedule

January 28th - Semester 2 Begins

February 3rd - Qtr. 2 Grades Close

COLLEGE NIGHT FOR JUNIORS

**Wednesday, February 10th at 6:30 pm
in Media Center**

UPCOMING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

PTISO Meeting	Feb. 3	6-7:30 PM
Junior College Night	Feb. 10	6:30-8 PM
Winter Carnival Dance	Feb. 19	7-11 PM
Winter Vacation - No School	Feb. 22-26	

Job Shadow Day February 2, 2010

Job Shadow Day is an opportunity for students to explore a career by shadowing someone in that field for a day or part of a day. In that time, students get to see and experience first-hand what that occupation does on a day-to-day basis. Students can learn about training, required skills and knowledge, opportunities for growth, and all the “pros and cons” of their chosen occupation. We are excited for our students to explore careers at Delta Dental, Franklin Hospital, Marriott, AutoServe, and Franklin Savings Bank. Space is limited and students are encouraged to sign up early and return all permission forms to the Main Office by Wednesday, January 27th. Having first hand experience will better prepare our students to make decisions regarding their future.

Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO)

We are a dedicated group of parents, faculty, and students, and we would love to add your name to the list of volunteers or see you at a monthly meeting. If we can get every Winnisquam Regional High School parent to commit just 2 Hours to helping out, we can do amazing things for our kids and our school.

Will you please take the 2 Hour Involvement Pledge? Last year we started using a program called “2 Hour Power” that emphasizes that all help, any help, makes a huge difference for schools. It was such a success that we are continuing with it this year. The research is so clear that kids at schools with a broad base of involved parents perform markedly better on all kinds of key school measures.

New Traffic Pattern

Taking into account the growing safety concerns, there will be a new morning and afterschool traffic pattern as of January 1st. Working with the Tilton Police, Middle and High School Administration, parents, and school custodial staff the new traffic pattern will ease the confusion for parents dropping-off and picking-up their student.

There is now a designated drop-off and pick-up area located at the “Crescent” at the side front of the building off West Main Street. Parents will drop-off or pick-up their student and exit via West Main Street. Additionally, all students who drive to school will now enter from the West Main Street entrance near the Student Parking Lot and exit from the campus that way as well. Parents and students who drop-off or pick-up Middle School students may do so at the Middle School locations and exit by the Student Parking Lot via West Main Street. Your attention to this as well as respecting the designated bus lanes which are in effect from 7:00 am to 8:00 am and 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm is greatly appreciated.

Student safety is very important and following the new traffic pattern will assist us in ensuring our school is a safe environment for us all. Please take a moment and review the new traffic pattern map on our school website www.wrsdsau59.org/WRHS. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Officer Luke Pinault, our School Resource Officer, at 286-4531 ex223.

Sincerely, Dr. Mark Christensen, *Assistant Principal*

Agricultural Education Center

Did you know that Winnisquam has a fish farm? It’s located in the ag shop, and is home to 26 tilapia, a fresh water fish whose white flesh has become a popular choice among American diners. Thirty tilapia arrived at the Ag Center in early October, and were placed in the 400-gallon tank set up by Scott Porter’s students. Unfortunately, since their arrival four of the fish met with untimely deaths after leaping from the tank. The good news is, none have died of natural causes!

The fish are cared for by students in the Environmental Science and Natural Resources classes. Daily chores include filter cleaning, feeding and water testing. Every three weeks, half of the fish are weighed and measured so students can ensure that feeding, water temperature and other factors are properly maintained for optimal growth rates. Since their arrival at Winnisquam, the tilapia have tripled in size and are currently weighing in at 80 grams and 5-6” in length.

The fish will end their time at Winnisquam in June, or at 12” in length, whichever comes first. At that time, they will make the ultimate sacrifice by giving themselves up for human consumption. It is hoped that most of the fillets will go to the food pantry at the Franklin Community Action Program, while some will be used to illustrate the farm-to-fork process for students.

Janet Rosequist, *Curriculum Leader*
WRHS Ag Center

Year Books

Yearbooks are on sale through January 31st and can be ordered either at the main office or ordering online at www.jostensyearbooks.com. A \$20 deposit is required to hold a yearbook. Seniors get a yearbook for free as part of their class dues provided that they are paid prior to January 31. Students may also customize their books by adding their name or a series of icons for a nominal cost. The price of the 2010 yearbook is \$35 if ordered by December 31st. The price goes up to \$40 after that. If you own a business and want to advertise in the yearbook contact Mr. Peter Fogg at 286-4531 x216 or pfogg@wrsdsau59.org for more information.

Technology in the English Department

The teacher stands in the front left of a darkened classroom, her students staring, rapt, as a John Malkovich and Sherilyn Fenn movie on the whiteboard.

"What's she doing?" a student blurts out.

The teacher presses a button and the actors freeze in place. "What do you mean," she asks.

"Curly's wife knows that Lenny just killed a puppy by petting it too hard. Why's she staying so close to him?"

"That's a good question," the teacher says. "What do you think?"

The silence grows as thought wars with self-consciousness in the brains of twenty freshmen, until, "Maybe she doesn't think he would hurt her."

"Or she doesn't believe him," offers another student now that the dam has broken.

"Or maybe she's just stupid," another adds, eliciting laughter. "Well," a student offers timidly. "If she stayed away from him it wouldn't be much of a story."

"A cynical, but excellent, point," the teacher says, then stares at the screen for a moment, considering. She presses another button on the remote and the award-winning actor and actress disappear from the white board, replaced by a plot diagram. "So what do you think is going to happen next?" she asks.

Suggestions fly and the teacher writes the appropriate ones on the board with a pen in no particular order around the plot diagram. "Let's continue," she says, then presses another button. Malkovich resumes petting Fenn's hair. Inevitably, Lenny does what Lenny does and *Of Mice and Men* continues.

The teacher pauses the film again, then switches back to the whiteboard. She takes her pen, circles the words "Lenny kills her," taps them, then physically moves them from the edge of the board and onto the plot diagram already in progress. "Good call," she says, nodding to the student who predicted the outcome correctly. With the press of another button the Polyvision® smart board once again makes its transition from digital white board to movie screen.

Winnisquam's English teachers have been working diligently to integrate new technology into many of their classes. At present, teachers have trained to use multimedia projectors and Polyvision® white boards, embracing this exciting new era of educational technology.

The projectors are used to present information that has been accessed or created at individual workstations, such as on the teacher's laptop computer, and then shown on a screen to the entire class. Information can be simply cut and pasted to the presentation or downloaded from any number of websites at the teacher's discretion.

The portable Polyvision® white boards can be moved from room to room, allowing teachers to manipulate and save the information on the board. Skill drills can be created with ease, information can be hidden and then accessed, movie segments can be watched and stopped permitting analysis right on top of the images, directly on the board.

Another useful piece of equipment is the document camera. This is probably one of the simplest tools that teachers have access to as it can project any piece of writing in front of the whole class for everyone to analyze. It can also be used to project pages of books for discussion in whole or small groups.

The students in Journalism have created and will soon begin publication of an online multimedia newspaper while a small computer writing lab is awaiting setup in one of the English classrooms. The online paper has its own place reserved for it on the school website, awaiting authorization to proceed. Students have been busy locating, analyzing, and writing copy of stories as they happen around the building and the community, as well as experimenting with incorporating video into stories as well. We anticipate the first issue going online in the very near future, followed by regular updates. You can check on the paper's progress at <http://www.wrsdsau59.org/hs/newspaper.hs.html>.

The computer writing lab will consist of six computers with internet capabilities so that teachers may send a student or two across the hallway to access information, do some word processing, or print out a document as needed, cutting down on the necessity of sending students upstairs and to other wings, taking them out of class for longer periods of time. The computers are here at the high school and will soon become our first official Writing Center.

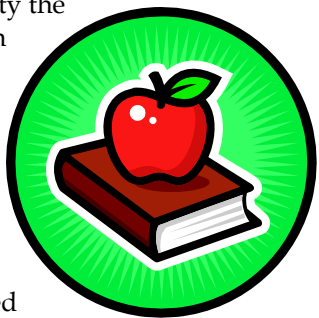
Access to the computer carts and the computer lab are now enhanced by the additional equipment provided for educating our youth. Teachers and students alike at Winnisquam welcome these changes and look forward to exploring the possibilities of these exciting new technologies.

Kathy Hamel, *Curriculum Leader*
WRHS English Department

Science Department

The science department has begun work on the shift from traditional activities and labs to Inquiry based assessments. The National Science Education Standards state that “teaching science as inquiry provides teachers with the opportunity to develop student abilities and to enrich student understanding of science. As students focus on the processes of doing investigations, they develop the ability to ask questions, investigate aspects of the world around them and use their observations to construct reasonable explanations for the questions posed.”

Traditional laboratory investigations are the first step in developing inquiry skills. These laboratory investigations are sometimes called, structured inquiry. During a structured inquiry activity the teacher provides the students with the problem the student will be investigating in the laboratory and the procedure the students will be following. The science department would like to move away from structured inquiry laboratory investigations and activities and more towards guided and open inquiry. Guided inquiry allows students to develop their own procedures for an investigation and open inquiry allows students to develop a problem to investigate and procedures.



To incorporate open inquiry into the science curriculum, the science department will be adding a science fair requirement to each course. Currently the science fair is a requirement for all Physics courses, AP and Honors Chemistry, and AP Biology; however, all students are welcome to participate. The science department will be adding courses to the science fair every year to ensure that all students demonstrate their inquiry skills for each course. This year the science fair will be held on June 3rd from 4-7 pm. Hope to see you there.

Joshua Keaton, *Curriculum Leader*
Catherine Rand, *Science Teacher*
WRHS Science

Welcome New Facilities Manager

Jeff Lamb is WRSD’s new Facilities Manager from UGL Unicco operations. Before joining Unicco, he spent 9 years as director of facilities for a K-12 district in Ohio. The last district had older school buildings which presented unique challenges in facility operations and maintenance. Jeff is certified as a facility manager and facility management professional from International Facility Management Association. He is also certified as a playground safety inspector from the National Parks and

Recreation Association. He spent 8 years in the US Navy serving aboard nuclear submarines. He is excited to be at WRSD, looking forward to working with administration and staff to improve facility operations.

Math Department

During the week of January, 25 and February, freshman and sophomores in the building are going to be taking the Measures of Academic Progress™ (MAP) test. This test is given to determine each student’s instructional level and measures their academic growth thus far in the school year in the areas of Mathematics, Language Arts and Reading.

MAP tests are unique in that they adapt to be appropriate for each student’s level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. The test will take approximately a total of about 3 hours complete. It is important that students take this test serious as it is used in the differentiation of their classroom activities as well as their placement in courses for next year. It is also important to encourage your student to get a full night’s sleep as well as a complete breakfast the day they are scheduled to take the test to ensure they are able to focus on the test.

We are truly excited to begin a new era that focuses on every child’s individual growth and achievement. Partnering to help all kids learn, parents and teachers can have a profound positive effect on the lives of our children.

For more information on resources for parents, download the Parent Toolkit at www.nwea.org >> Member Support >> Downloads >> Manuals.

Jennifer R. Haskins, *Curriculum Leader*
NWEA Proctor/TAA WRHS

<u>Upcoming Athletics</u>		
2/1	Boys JvBball vs. Sanborn	5:00
	Boys VBball vs. Sanborn	6:30
2/3	Boys JvBball vs. Moultonboro	5:00
	Boys VBball vs. Moultonboro	6:30
2/5	Girls JvBball vs. Interlakes	5:00
	Girls VBball vs. Interlakes	6:30
2/9	Girls JvBball vs. Windham	5:00
	Boys JvBball vs. Windham	6:30
2/12	Girls JvBball vs. Mascoma	5:00
	Girls VBball vs. Mascoma	6:30