



The Bear Facts

Volume 1, Issue 1

Winnisquam Regional High School

September 2009

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

Hello from the Administration

Welcome to Fall! It is amazing to think that summer is over, especially with all of the wonderful weather we have been having. It promises to be a fantastic weekend for Homecoming. We are looking forward to a bonfire Friday, September 25, 2009, for the first time in a few years...weather permitting...not too dry or wet! Our sports teams are off to a strong start, and it is exciting to speculate on how well we may do. Congratulations to Coach Lavin as we cheer him on for his 300th win here at WRHS as Varsity Girls Field Hockey Coach. This is no small feat, and we are most proud of his dedication and accomplishments.

Administration continues to assess the safety here at school, and welcome students and community members to use our facility daily. We are gathering data on who is here at what times and how we can make our building easily accessible, but ensure that everyone is accounted for and safe. It is most important to me that all community members feel welcome at all times, and that we continue to work together to arrive at reasonable solutions to the challenges that face us in our ever-changing society. Please contact me if you wish to be involved in this effort. As mentioned in my last letter home, breakfast continues to be served at 7:20AM, with a Grab 'N Go available until 8:00AM, which can be eaten in class. Nutrition is of utmost importance in order for our students to be engaged in learning.

The school's website is currently being overhauled as the District's work to consistently offer information to the community. Please visit our website soon and often as we continue to offer more information. The option of On-line grade books has been updated and fine-tuned. Teachers are making their best efforts to update routinely so you can have accurate information and play proactive role in our student's academic success. You should notice that you can now view your student's attendance by clicking on the attendance tab when accessing grades. We will continue to provide more

information as these options become available to us, and we support your two-way communication between home and school.

As administration and I work with the staff and students we will keep you updated on important issues, changes, and accomplishments. If you have any concerns, questions or comments please stop by or contact us at the main office we will be pleased to meet with you and help in any way possible. We are looking forward to working closely with the entire community and greatly appreciate the warm welcome that we have received.

We have awesome students here at WRHS, and it is an honor to work with you as families. Administration is dedicated to continuing to make progress in all areas and grow with you as a community and look forward to meeting you soon!

Respectfully,
Dr. Ronna Cadarette
Principal

-OPEN HOUSE -
Wednesday, September 30th
Enjoy a free pasta dinner starting at 5:00!
5:00 to 7:00 pm
WRHS Cafetorium

PSAT TESTING
Freshman, Sophomore and Juniors
Wednesday, October 14th

SENIOR YEARBOOK PICTURES,
WRITE-UPS and CANDIDS
Due October 16th

News from the Guidance Office

Winnisquam students and parents participated in a successful College Overview night. The New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF) out of Concord provided information on college searches, applications, and essays. Last year, College Night was attended by thirty-five students and parents, but this year we had fifty-nine students and parents! It was great to see such interest in college planning, and we look forward to continuing to assist our students and families in the application process. The next parent night for seniors will be January 6th @ 6:30 pm in the Media Center and will focus on financial aid. All are welcome.

Library Media Center

The WRHS Library Media Center opened and welcomed the Class of 2013. Freshmen came to the LMC in the first two weeks of school and learned the policies, procedures, and expectations of the library. Students learned about the various research opportunities, the locations of materials and participated in a Library Scavenger Hunt. They should all now know (--Where is Walt Whitman wandering in the aisles of Dewey!)

Our faculty and staff shared their summer reading and recommendations. We have a bulletin board that shows what everyone read this summer in their leisure time and what they might recommend! Many students have been seen looking at who read what! There is still time to add something else!

The LMC has become busier with students and faculty selecting books and magazines for Mentoring on Tuesday and Thursday. We are all participating in Sustained Silent Reading and many are really enjoying this short time to put everything else away and relax for a few minutes with a book. It is encouraging to see so many participating and recommending titles for a friend.

It is exciting that the LMC now has three different databases to use as additional resources. We have available for students and faculty News bank; a news and periodical resource, Facts on File; a science and contemporary issues resource and Marshall Cavendish; a resource for American History and Government. Passwords and logins are available from the library staff. Students are also able to use these resources at home. Our new books are displayed in the library in the curved window when you first enter the LMC. Come in and browse, and see what's new! Look for us on-line soon.

*Marcia Dionne
Library Media Instructor*

Winnisquam FFA Reaches Out

On September 17th, U.S. Army Veteran Bob Blanchard, accompanied by social worker consultant James Mazzuchelli, attended the Winnisquam FFA chapter meeting to speak to students about their involvement with the NH Veterans' Home. Blanchard, who considers himself an "aggie", made it clear that visits from ag students are welcomed by the Veterans, and they look forward to the interaction with young people. He especially enjoys meeting students who have an agricultural connection.

Mazzuchelli, who specializes in intergenerational programming, spoke about plans for activities between vets and ag students. Each month, one ag class will visit the Vets' Home to do a project with the residents. The Natural Resources class is in charge of the September project, which is creating pine cone bird feeders. October will find Horticulture students painting pumpkins with the vets, while two projects are in the works for November.

In addition to the classes' projects, FFA members will visit the Home one afternoon a month to play board games, cards and Wii with the residents. Blanchard and Mazzuchelli expressed their pleasure at the proposed interactions between veterans and students, while students showed their appreciation to Blanchard for his service to our country with respectful applause.

Community outreach has long been a focus for the Winnisquam FFA Chapter. Each monthly meeting this year will feature a guest speaker who represents one of the Chapter's community partners. At October's meeting we will hear from Gail Lyman, Director of the Franklin Community Action Program. Future speakers will include representatives from the Concord-Merrimack SPCS, and Tilton-Northfield Rotary Club.



Pictured are Bob Blanchard (seated) and James Mazzuchelli of the Veterans' Home

WRHS Open House September 30th

The WRHS Open House will be on Wednesday September 30th. All parents of 9th -12th graders, as well as community members, are welcome to attend. The evening's program will begin with a free pasta dinner at 5:00. Please join the staff at 5:30 pm in the cafetorium. The program continues with a self tour of the building and an opportunity to meet your student's teachers and to see displays of student work. Open House is a great opportunity for parents and community members to meet teachers and building administration as well as ask questions regarding curriculum programming and extra curricular opportunities. If you plan to join us for dinner please see the Open House insert for RSVP information.

Homecoming and Spirit Week 2009

During the week of September 24-28, WRHS celebrated Spirit Week. Each day of Spirit Week the four classes participate in theme days. The class which has the most students who participate (based on percentage of the class) receive the most points. On Friday, we held a Pep Rally. At the Pep Rally, all students who participate in clubs, activities and sports teams are recognized for the tremendous time and effort they give each year to Winnisquam Regional High School. At the end of the Pep Rally, points are totaled for the entire week's events and the students finish with a class versus class tug-of-war! On Saturday, Homecoming begins at 9 AM and continues all day with different sporting events and class fundraisers. Spirit Week concludes with the Homecoming Dance held in the cafetorium from 7- 10 pm, during which the Homecoming King and Queen are crowned.



Yearbooks

The 2009-2010 school yearbook is on sale now for \$35. This year's keepsake will be filled with all the great memories of the school year. The yearbook is being sold during school lunch or contact the main office. \$20 reserves your yearbook

WRHS Volunteers Wanted

We encourage your involvement in your student's education. Therefore, we are offering Volunteer Screening at Open House. PTSO will have a station set up, along with a representative from Tilton Police Department to do finger printing well in advance of any field trips this year. If you have already done this and been approved, you do not need to do it again. The fee is \$25.25. We encourage you to do this early so you can attend events with your students, and we truly need your support.



State Scholars

Our students continue to shine throughout the area. It was reported last week at our State Scholars Meeting that our high school is number one in participation for the Running Start Program through Lakes Region Community College. This is a wonderful opportunity for high school students to graduate with college coursework already completed at a minimal cost. State Scholars continues to be a phenomenal opportunity to promote academic excellence.

Please contact our guidance department for further information at 286-3998.

NWEA MAP Testing

NWEA MAP testing is a computer based data driven test used to reflect student's current abilities and skills in the areas of mathematics reading and language. The test provides immediate feed back to both educators and students. The test is given three times a year Fall Winter, and Spring. The test results allow teachers to compare student strengths and weaknesses in specific academic areas and to review student growth over an academic year. The data then can be used as a driving force behind curriculum development, skill review and the creation of daily lessons. All ninth and tenth grade students have recently completed the fall testing.

Lost and Found

It is amazing how many lost items we are accumulating already! I encourage you to look through our collection in the Nurse's Office at Open House to see if you recognize any items. We will be displaying lost and found at mid-term for one week and then donating everything to charities. This will happen every five weeks to keep our building clean and orderly. Please encourage your students to check for lost or missing items frequently in the Nurse's office.

Parent Teacher Student Organization

PTSO has been working hard to update their information on the website and reach out to the school community in a variety of ways. You and your student are always welcome to attend monthly meetings. We would like to thank them for their generous support of Homecoming Weekend as well as Open House, September 30, 2009, 5:00-6:30PM. This will include a spaghetti supper from 4:00-5:00PM in the cafeteria. All are welcome to attend and mingle with staff and the new administration.

Class Attendance Procedures

Dear Parent/Guardians:

In an effort to keep parents/guardians informed, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the procedure regarding class attendance. The emphasis is on safety and keeping parents/guardians aware of this procedure.

The chairperson of the Attendance Committee, Ms. Donna Broers, will monitor your child's attendance. If your child has four or more unexcused absences for a semester class or eight or more for a yearlong (*reminder three unexcused tardies will equal a class absence) the following action will take place.

Dr. Christensen and Ms. Broers will meet with your son/daughter to review their attendance. At that time, an attendance contract placing their attendance/credit(s) on probation and it will be reviewed at the end of the semester. This contract means they are aware of the academic consequences should they exceed the number of allowed absences. Once the student has signed the attendance contract, it will be forwarded to you for your signature and then will need to be returned to the school by the requested date.

As stated in the handbook, the consequences for exceeding the allowed number of absences will result in meeting with the Attendance Appeals Committee to review their case and one of three possible outcomes will be decided on:

1. Their credit will be reinstated.
2. They will be placed on probation for the following semester.
3. They will lose their credit.

* Please note that if they fail to appeal credit(s), they will automatically be denied for the classes in question.

It is vital that we support one another. The best way to ensure student growth is for them to be in class, actively engaged in learning. If you have any question, please refer to the student handbook or call the main office.

Sincerely,
Dr. Mark Christensen
Assistant Principal

High School Grading Schedule

10/6/09 - Qtr. 1 Progress Reports Mailed
11/13/09 - Qtr. 1 Grades Close
11/17/09 - Qtr. 1 Report Cards Mailed

ON-LINE GRADEBOOK

Parents can view their students' attendance and grades online through the WRSD website. An email address must be on file in order to access student records online. Call guidance if you have any questions at 286-3998.

UPCOMING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

Open House	Sept. 30	5-7 PM
NEW WRHS Webpage	Oct. 13	
School Board Meeting	Oct. 19	6:30 PM
Fall Concert	Oct. 29	7:00 PM
Parent Conferences	Nov. 18	4-7 PM
Harlem Rockets	Nov. 20	5-9 PM

CHEM FREE PROGRAM 2010

We are in the early stages of this year's program, but we already have big plans and events scheduled. This year's class is still voting on possible trips. We will be having WRHS Chem Free Craft Fair at WRHS on 11/21 from 9-3. Anyone crafty and interested in a table or if you have questions, please email Sonia Shaw at sshaw@wrsdsau59.org. We need your help and support!

Upcoming Home Games

- 9/28** V/Jv Volleyball - vs. Kennett 5:00/6:00
- 10/1** XC - vs. Plymouth, Laconia, Newfound 4:00
Field Hockey vs. Sanborn 4:30
- 10/2** V/Jv Soccer vs. Interlakes 4:00/5:30
- 10/3** VFootball vs. Newfound 2:30
- 10/5** JvFootball vs. Newfound 4:30
V/Jv Volleyball vs. Plymouth 5:00/6:00
- 10/6** Field Hockey vs. Somersworth 4:00
- 10/7** V/Jv Volleyball vs. Gilford 5:00/6:00
- 10/10** VFootball vs. Farmington 1:30
- 10/14** Jv Volleyball vs. Windham 4:30
- 10/15** Jv/V Volleyball vs. Fall Mtn. 5:00/6:00
- 10/17** VFootball vs. Interlakes 1:30