



# Windsor Middle School KNIGHT NEWS

November/December, 2016

*All dates and times are subject to change. Please see our website for most current details.*

- 11/2 Golden Ticket Day
- 11/8 Election Day
- 11/10 Marking Period ends
- 11/11 Veterans Day (NO SCHOOL)
- 11/15 Board of Education meeting, HS
- 11/23-25 Thanksgiving Recess (NO SCHOOL)
- 12/1 Student Council Conference, VMS
- 12/6 Board of Education meeting, HS
- 12/8 Band and Chorus (Grades 7 and 8) Concert, 7 PM
- 12/15 All-Stars Ceremony (Grade 6), 8 AM
- 12/15 Band and Chorus (Grade 6) Concert, 7 PM
- 12/20 Board of Education meeting, HS
- 12/23-1/2 Winter Recess (NO SCHOOL)

*The mission of the Windsor Central School District is to create a stimulating environment where students are independent learners and grow to become successful citizens. This environment is created by a challenging, integrated curriculum delivered by a caring and competent staff.*

## From the desk of Mr. Strahley

It seems as though school has just started, and yet we are turning the calendar to November already! It has been a busy and productive Fall, and we will continue to build on this momentum over the next few months.

As we are approaching the end of the first marking period, we are scheduling our first "Golden Ticket" event. The "Golden Ticket" is a merit based system used in the Middle School which enables us to reward students who are on track in all measures and assist those who need additional support. We carve out time during the school day for this intervention after our 6-week interim reports are released and prior to the close of the marking period in an effort to find success for all. Students who earn a "Golden Ticket" attend a rewarding event (approximately 2 hours) each marking period. Students who have not reached the established criteria are given specific, targeted instruction to help them reach their goal for the next marking period. We hope to be able to reach all students through this endeavor.

The end of October also concludes our Fall Modified sports season. Windsor Middle School is proud of our many teams, the number of participants in each of them, and the success of our student athletes on and off the playing fields. Our Modified Boys Soccer team, for example, had a fantastic season, earning a 12-1-1 record while fielding the largest squad on their schedule and representing the Windsor community with distinction in sportsmanship and character. Our Winter sports are about to begin, and we are anxious to see all of our individuals and teams compete and conduct themselves reputably.

Homecoming was just one of the wonderful events our students participated in this fall. We sent two teams of students to the Engineering Day at BOCES, as well as another strong group of students to the area's Yes Leads! Program. Our Spirit Week showed our school pride, and our Fill the Bus demonstrated our connection to community. We will continue to offer enriching opportunities for our students throughout the year.

To assist me in hearing from all "customers", I have the privilege each month of eating lunch with a randomly selected group of students in each grade. These luncheons offer me an opportunity to discuss with the students all topics related to the school. Their voice matters to the school and to me. Their insight is helpful, and their overwhelming satisfaction with the school and all we offer them is rewarding.

Lastly, I'd like to mention that our last Superintendent's Conference Day was a day of renewal and learning for our staff as we were visited by Ken Williams, a renowned writer and speaker on Professional Learning Communities. Through his work, we reflected on our mission and focus. He rejuvenated our commitment to serving every child in our continued efforts to find success for all. Our staff is second to none, and I am proud to be a part of a district and school building as dedicated to this notion as here in Windsor.

Thank you for your continued support of your child's education and all we do for them. This is a busy place filled with academic challenges and opportunities for personal growth. We welcome ongoing communication with you. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr. Youngs.

# Guidance Office News—Mrs. White

Happy Fall to all of you! We have had a busy and exciting start to the school year here in the guidance office! Now that we have gotten into a nice routine here at the middle school, I will be going into 8<sup>th</sup> grade advisories and doing college and career ready activities. Most of these will be based on the students discovering what their likes/dislikes are, as well as learning their strengths and weaknesses. I look forward to getting to know the kids better through these activities and helping them develop a sense of who they are and what they want to become as adults. Be sure to ask your children about what we have been discussing. The time between now and graduation goes fast, so it will be here before you know it!

I also wanted to let you all know that we are fortunate to have Nick Matyas join our Windsor team! He will be working with many of our students through Liberty Partnership. He has already begun a mod 11 club (along with volunteers from Binghamton University) and will start coming in to the school to host lunch groups with many of our kids. Nick comes to us with a wealth of experience working with young people in many different capacities. He is a great addition to our team here at Windsor!

One final thing I would like to share with you is that a representative from SUNY Broome will be coming into 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA classes just before winter break to discuss things such as exciting opportunities for learning in college classrooms, the financial advantage a college education can often provide students, and the impact that their grades and extracurricular involvement make on getting accepted into college.

If you have any questions, concerns or thoughts you would like to share regarding your child, feel free to contact me at any time. I can be reached at 655-8226 or at [awhite@windsor-csd.org](mailto:awhite@windsor-csd.org).

## Middle School Directory

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Guidance Counselor

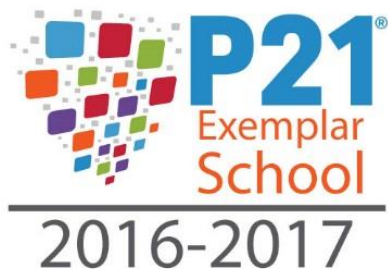
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# A Message from Mr. Youngs

The school year is well on its way after a great start. The students seem to be settling in and getting use to their schedules and flow of the school. Our Mod 11 program has been going on for about a month now and we are seeing many of our students attending Clubs. I wanted to remind all parents and guardians that students sign up for clubs on a daily basis. If a student signs up for a club, they will always have an opportunity to use the phone in the main office to contact their parent or guardian to let them know that they will be staying after. They may only use their cell phone if they ask to come to the main office to use it as opposed to using it in the classroom or hallway. Getting students to be more engaged and connected to our school is a primary focus of this extended day program, and we thank you for your continued support in encouraging your child to participate in Mod 11.

Our Olweus kick-off was a huge success. Students were able to continue with the Manny Scott message while really focusing on the positive culture that we have here at the middle school. Continuing with culture, I have had the pleasure to see many positive relationships being built and continuing to grow through our Advisory program. Last month, Advisories met with their Partner Advisory for the first time. The purpose of Partner Advisories is to pair up groups of students from two different grade levels to build on our school-wide culture of acceptance and connectedness. This is intentionally arranged in that manner to allow our students the opportunity to interact with students they normally do not see. We have also incorporated "Gym Mix Up" during Advisory time, where several Advisories from different grade levels come together for team building activities with Mr. Bennett. It is something new to our program this year, and we think it has added to our morning routines. Our Advisories also collected canned and non-perishable food items for the "Fill the Bus" campaign. It was gratifying to see our Student Council members organizing the boxes of our donations and adding them to the collection on the bus. Your donations were greatly appreciated. This month in Advisory, our students will be writing letters to Veterans and will also begin to explore Science Fair ideas. December will also be filled with enriching opportunities for our students, including holiday activities.

As always, do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.



## Windsor Central School District

1191 NY Route 79  
Windsor, NY 13865

### Board of Education

Peter Nowacki, President  
Margo Kibbler, Vice President  
Stephen Feehan  
Gina Calisi  
Carin Shaffer  
Kathy Swezey  
Kevin Truman

### Administration

Jason Andrews, Superintendent  
Scott Beattie, Asst. Superintendent  
Andrew Fiorentino, Asst. Superintendent

*"Collaborative teams are the engines that drive the organization's efforts to achieve its mission of high levels of learning for all students."*

*~Ken Williams*

# Christmas Pancake Breakfast!

Saturday, December 3rd | 8:00 - 11:00 | Bell Elementary

Come enjoy a hot breakfast before the  
Kirkwood Hometown Christmas Festivities!

**Adults: \$6 - Children 5 and under: \$3**



**Menu Includes:**  
Pancakes, Sausage, Fruit  
Coffee, Hot Cocoa  
Orange Juice

All proceeds will benefit the Windsor Central School District  
Heart Walk Team and the American Heart Association!

**Walk-ins welcome!**  
**RSVP: [khrehor@windsor-csd.org](mailto:khrehor@windsor-csd.org)**