

Winthrop Express



162 FIRST STREET, MELROSE, MA 02176

MAIN OFFICE - TERRY GREENBERG (781) 979--2280

SAVE A CHILD - ABSENTEE LINE (781) 979—2282

A Message from Ms. Davis

Dates to Remember:

March 16
Dinosaur the Musical
Gd 2 (CA&S)

March 17
Paul Revere
Historical
Presentation Gd 3
(CA&S)

March 22
Lego Club

March 27
Trivia Bee

April 2
No School

April 5
Lego Club

April 7
PTO Meeting

April 8
Dinner Out at
Dockside Restaurant

April 9
Academic Day

April 19-23
April Vacation

April 26
Lego Club

Soon we will begin our MCAS testing. While MCAS test results are important measures of academic progress for students, their families and the school, it is important to keep these assessments in proper perspective. Please do not over emphasize this one assessment with your child. MCAS is a measure, but not the only measure of your child. Children should not be stressed out about taking the MCAS assessments. The information generated by the MCAS assessment can be informative to you and useful to the school and school system. The results help identify academic strengths and needs on an individual, school, and district level. We use the MCAS tests to help us provide a better education for your children.

In order to help insure that the MCAS captures a true image of

your children's current academic progress, it is important that every student comes to school ready and relaxed, as they should every school day. Your child's level of comfort is helped by arriving at school on time, focused, and well-rested. Absences require make-up sessions that cannot duplicate the classroom environment. Assure your children, that while the MCAS assessments can be a challenge, they are well prepared and that they can do a good job. Remind them that MCAS scores are not used for report card grades and do not determine whether or not they are promoted at the end of the year. The scores will be reported to you, so let them know that you want them to give their best effort. As educators and parents, we

know that good teaching brings good results. There are always ways to improve what we do in education. The MCAS results help focus our attention on what we need to do to improve and help us determine in which areas our meager resources are targeted.

The staff and I would like to share the testing dates for each grade with you again as we ask your support in getting your child ready to perform at his/her best. Also, please be advised that we will begin our testing sessions shortly after students settle in, so let's be on time! We also request you send your child to school with an extra good, sharpened, #2 pencil and a magic rub eraser for use during testing sessions. Once a testing session has begun no one may interrupt the classroom until the session is completed as per the state guidelines.

MCAS Schedule

Grade 3

Tuesday, April 6th - Reading Session 1

Wednesday, April 7th - Reading Session 2

Grade 4

Tuesday, March 23rd - ELA Long Composition Sessions 1 & 2

Wednesday, March 31st - ELA Language & Literature Session 1

Thursday, April 1st - ELA Language & Literature Session 2

*Wednesday, April 7th - MAKE UP - ELA Long Composition Sessions 1

*(only for fourth grade students not tested on Tuesday, March 23rd)

Grade 5

Wednesday, March 24th - ELA Language & Literature Session 1

Thursday, March 25th - ELA Language & Literature Session 2

REMINDER:

THE BOSTON LYRIC
 OPERA WILL BE
 PRESENTING ROSSINI'S
 THE BARBER OF
 SEVILLE AT THE MELROSE
 MIDDLE SCHOOL
 AUDITORIUM ON SUNDAY,
 MARCH 14TH AT 1:30 AND
 3:30 PM. TICKETS ARE
 \$14 FOR CHILDREN AND
 \$20 FOR ADULTS.
BLO.ORG/BARBER_TICKETS
 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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 A BIG THANK YOU GOES OUT
 TO THE GRAY FAMILY FOR
 DONATING A COMPUTER
 TABLE AND FLAT SCREEN
 MONITOR TO THE LIBRARY!

Science Fair Committee Forming!

The Science Fair has made the PTO funding target list! We want to get moving quickly to make this a reality this Spring! Any parents or teachers interested in joining the Science Fair Committee, please email Kelly Sikkema at mksikkema@comcast.net. This will be an after school event run by parent volunteers with teacher input.



Memorial Day 2010 by Erin Gibson

Dear Winthrop families,

We are excited once again to honor our Nation's heroes by marching in this year's **Melrose Memorial Day Parade, Sunday, May 30th.**

We are in need of volunteers to help with assembly ideas to inspire our students about Memorial Day, craft ideas for our students to make and wear while they march, and volunteers to help behind the scenes on parade day.

Come join us! Let's honor those who have paid the ultimate price for our country. If you are interested in lending a helping hand in this important occasion, please contact Erin Gibson (eringibz@gmail.com).

Imagine that...

Saturday March 13, 2nd - 12th grade students from Winthrop and other Melrose schools will be performing a dress rehearsal of their "solution" to a team challenge as part of the **Destination Imagination** (DI) program. DI is an international teamwork and problem-solving program for kids age 5 and up. Melrose DI teams formed last fall and have been solving several "instant challenges" each week that require the team to collectively use reasoning, math, building, acting, and other skills in a fun setting. The team has also been working toward solving a larger challenge that culminates in a regional DI competition on March 20th at Beverly High School. Parents work as team managers but cannot interfere or help in any way - teams must derive and present solutions entirely using their own ideas and abilities. The rehearsal presentations will be held on March 13, 12:00 to 3:30 pm at the Lincoln School. Each team has only 10 minutes to present, with the youngest kids beginning first. If you think your kids might be interested in DI for next fall, visit www.melrosedi.com

PTO News



The Ninth Annual Melrose **Adult Trivia Bee** to benefit the Bridge will be held Saturday March 27th at 7PM at Memorial Hall. Clare Gibson and Jim Yeaton (5th Grade Teacher) have volunteered to be on the Winthrop Wasps, leaving one more spot to fill. If you have a need to show off your trivia knowledge to the whole community, join up. Contact Clare at Clare.Gibson@lahey.org for more information about being on the team.

Keep in mind that everyone is invited to watch – it's a fun night out with food, cash bar, raffles and other entertainment. For more information go to www.melroseschools.com/bridge/triviabee/index.cfm



The **Annual Winthrop Golf Tournament** will be held Friday May 21 with a 1:30 PM Shotgun start at Mt. Hood. Keep your eyes open for our website dedicated specifically to the Golf Tournament! We are looking for donations for raffles and auction items. This year we will have raffle baskets sponsored by each grade with the following themes:

- K- Gardening
- 1- Fitness
- 2- Relaxation/Beauty
- 3- Movie night
- 4- Beach/pool
- 5- UnWined,...

Room Parents will be coordinating donations. Please contact Kelly Rosnov at keldawros@yahoo.com.



It's time to start planning for **School Spirit Day**, which will be Thursday, June 10th this year. Volunteers are needed for both the field games portion of the day and for the barbeque. Please contact Ann McCarthy at Winthrop@lehmanmccarthy.com if you are interested in volunteering.

In addition, there is a need for a co-leader for the day to handle either the field games portion of the day or the barbeque. On-the-job training is provided!!!! No special skills necessary! Please contact Ann McCarthy at Winthrop@lehmanmccarthy.com if you are interested in keeping her from trying to be in both places at once! Thanks for all the help in advance.

The PTO Needs You!



The PTO has a number of openings that are important to the proper functioning of the organization. Filling these positions is important to helping us serve our children and families.

Secretary
Photographer/Publicity
Event Committee Chairperson & Committee Members

We also have opportunities on the new **Communication Committee** to help manage e-mail, news and contributions to the Winthrop Express. Remember, more hands makes lighter work for all, so please consider helping out!

What's New at the PTO:

Through the efforts of parent volunteers and teachers, the Winthrop PTO has been the beneficiary of numerous years of successful fund raising. Many parents know the PTO has accumulated this money into a sizable nest egg. Last year the PTO established a Target List of prioritized spending items to act as a guide to funnel this money to specific projects. This past summer the PTO used this money to improve the All Purpose room, including sanding and sealing the floors, painting the walls and other improvements. This year, we used the funds to purchase a school subscription to Discovery Education's Streaming Media Service, a teaching tool requested by the Winthrop faculty. This winter the PTO established a new target list for 2010 through the Target List process. Faculty and parents submitted suggestions for inclusion on the new list. The Target List committee reviewed submissions to clarify any questions and assembled them into format for discussion and voting at the next PTO meeting. At the February PTO meeting, a large gathering of faculty and parents voted a new prioritized list for the Winthrop PTO funds. A brief discussion of these items follows.

Subscription Services-Faculty requested subscriptions to a number of online educational resources that provide help with developing lesson plans and enhancing existing curriculum. These services included renewal of Discovery Education's United Streaming, Brain Pop and Brain Pop Jr. Enchanted Learning and ABCHelper.

Science Guided Reading Library-Winthrop faculty and administration are developing a science guided reading library. It will consist numerous copies of multiple short books at each grade level that will complement the existing science curriculum.

Professional Development Specific to Inquiry Based Science Model-At the request of the Winthrop Faculty, the PTO will fund two days of professional development with an outside consultant to provide instruction specific to developing the inquiry based science model.

Paint the Nurses Office-At the request of staff and parents, we will fund to have Nurses office professionally painted.

Fund Substitute Teachers During IEP Meetings-During IEP meetings parents have been covering classes. With full support of faculty, parents and staff, the PTO has begun funding substitute teacher coverage during these times. If funding cannot be obtained through the school system, the PTO will continue to provide funding next year.

Library Books-The library will purchase a full set of books covering the US Presidents from Washington to Obama.

Science Fair-To enhance and enrich our children's experience with science in an after school setting.

January and February have been busy months for Winthrop School enrichment!

The Winthrop PTO **Creative Arts and Sciences Enrichment** arranged with our teachers, to bring some hands on science programs, a professional storyteller and live a cappella music performance to the Winthrop School community and classrooms. All visiting enrichment presenters and performers have commented on how well behaved and attentive an audience Winthrop students have been, and how insightful their questions are.

Thank you! Teachers and students forwarded thank you cards and letters to the committee, and we would like to extend their great appreciation to all Winthrop parents, who through their PTO membership contributions, have enriched their school day experience through these educational, curriculum based enrichment programs!

Still to come.....

March 16th	"Dinosaur the Musical" at Stoneham Theatre* Grade: 2
March 17th	Paul Revere House Historical classroom presentation Grade: 3
Date TBD	Lexington and Concord History,* battleground site visit <i>TBD</i> Grade: 5
May 4,5,6	US First, Robotics Science Day Camp, @ MVMMS* Grade: 5

Please visit www.melroseschools.com/winthrop for a full article describing all events, written by Arlene Frasca.

Teacher's Corner...

By Ms. Hurwitz

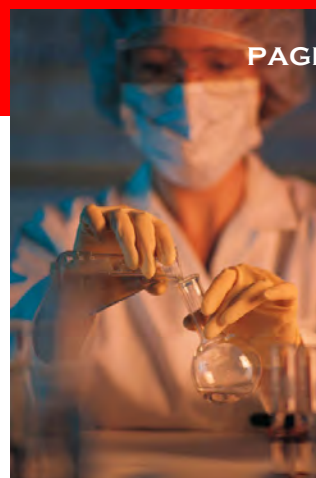
Scientists in First Grade

Every Friday the students in Ms. Hurwitz' class are involved in inquiry based science learning. Often with the help of parents, her students identify hypotheses, predict outcomes, design experiments, record results and report on findings. They have a lot of fun learning to use the tools of scientists.

This week we wanted to know if sound travels through common materials. They discovered that it does.

Each week they view a slide under the microscope and record their observations.

Together we learn by doing and solving problems.



The Winthrop PTO Gets Online!

There are some changes happening at the PTO. First, you will start seeing e-mail communication from our new e-mail account WinthropPTO@gmail.com. Our goal is to no longer use ConnectEd for PTO communication, so parents know better who the communication is coming from. Second, we will be looking to publish a school wide calendar online, as well as in the Winthrop Express, for easy reference. Third, all Winthrop PTO sponsored events will be publicized using Evite (email invitations). The PTO will try and make sure all parents are notified of events by including fliers in backpacks of families we don't have e-mail for, however the only way to ensure you get our communications is submitting your e-mail to our gmail account. All communications will be done so that e-mails are not visible to the group, and contact information will not be published without expressed consent of the families. We will be establishing two working committees to help handle these new endeavors, one to handle the technical issues and another to help manage the content and integrate it with the Winthrop Express efforts. Similar to other Melrose elementary schools, we will be limiting e-mail communications to a once a week via an e-mail blast notice. Finally, you will be seeing more information on our web site, including past issues of the Winthrop Express, organizational bylaws, treasurer reports, and the annual budget.

Submissions for next Express due April 27 for the May Issue

EMAIL SUBMISSIONS OR QUESTIONS TO
WINTRHOPEXPRESS@YAHOO.COM

HAPPY
 SPRING!



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