

Windover High School Newsletter October 2009



IT HAS BEEN A GOOD START TO
THE NEW YEAR!

The first of month of school has been going well. We have installed a lot of new technology in every academic classroom in order to make the learning more fun for the students and easier for the teachers. It is my hope that every student will take full advantage of the improvements we have put into place.

We have a new teacher this year. Angela Salinas has joined our staff as the new Social Studies teacher. She will also be an addition to our Special Education Staff. Angela did her undergraduate work at Western Michigan and is currently working on a certification in Special Education from Saginaw Valley State University.

Next Wednesday, October 14th, is considered to be a mixed blessing to a number of our students: on that day we will be holding our Open House and **Parent/Teacher Conferences**. Classes will be held in the morning, and students will be dismissed at 12:25pm. Conferences will begin at 2:30pm and continue until 6:30pm. **Please call the office and reserve a time to visit each of the teachers.**

I strongly encourage every parent to attend the conferences and share information about your child with the teachers.

At 5:30 pm on October 21st, there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Science room here at Windover. For the past year Nancy Vossen, our Science teacher, has worked with the American Chemical Society to develop a curriculum and revamp the Science classroom in order to better teach Chemistry to our students. Please join us and learn more about the work that Nancy is doing.

Nancy's work was recognized when she was one of only five teachers nationwide who received a Salutes to Excellence award from the American Chemical Society in 2009.

Sincerely,

Greg Armstead, Interim Principal

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

October:

- 9th – Staff Only (no students)
- 14th – Parent/ Teacher Conferences
- 21st – Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Science Department.

November:

- 26th – 27th Thanksgiving Break
- 30th – Staff Only (no students)

December:

- 21st – Jan. 1st Christmas Break

From Carol Berger, School Counselor:



We are almost half way through the first trimester of school this year! Please remember students can earn 2 ½ credits each trimester. This allows students to earn 7 ½ credits each year. It takes 22 credits to graduate.

Also, especially if you are a senior, please remember that the Windover staff selects students each year to award scholarships and monetary awards to. These awards and scholarships are presented at graduation each year. Last year the staff awarded over \$5000.

Most of the awards are for students who intend to go to college after high

school. Several of the awards are given for other reasons. Both Jack Freeman and Doug Thering give an Enterpriser of the Year award. These awards are given to students who have done an exceptional job in either the graphic arts and screen printing class or the culinary arts class. The Bulldog of the Year award is given to a student who has been an exceptional student.

In considering who to give awards to the staff looks at how much effort a person has put into their school work, attendance, and his/her contributions to the Windover community. One of the best contributions a student can make is to be respectful of other students and to work hard in class each day.

To apply for Windover scholarships please complete the one page application available in the counseling office. It is also possible to apply for scholarships outside of Windover. Please ask me about this if you are considering going to college after high school.

I will be meeting with seniors intending to go to college next year to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To receive financial aid to attend college students must complete this form. Part of the form must also be completed by a parent. Please keep copies of your tax return from 2009 if your student will be in college next year. Information from this form tax returns is required to complete the FAFSA. Please call me if you have any questions about this.

Larry Lage, Volunteer Extraordinaire



Larry will be back in November!!! For those of you who don't know Larry, here is a little bit of background about this wonderful man who volunteers countless hours of his time to help Windover staff and students. He will be here most days unless he is delivering Meals on Wheels or driving seniors wherever they need to go.

Larry was born 83 years ago in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He went to a high school that was on Western Michigan University's campus. He graduated from Western Michigan University with a teaching degree in 1949. He then taught high school for 46 years!!! In college he majored in social science and math and minored in chemistry.

Larry took time off from college to serve in World War II. He served as a U.S. Marine fighting in the South Pacific. His service came to an end when he was wounded on the island of Okinawa.

After the war Larry went back to college and carried on with his life. He was a door to door salesman for a year before he began his long career in education.

When you meet Larry it is hard to believe he is 83. He says what kept him young was working with teenagers all those years. Why does he volunteer so much of his time? "My whole purpose in being at Windover is to do whatever I can to be helpful. I believe Windover and places like Windover are the real hope for a better tomorrow."

We at Windover are super grateful for Larry's time and dedication.

From Noel LaJoice



This has been a great start to a new year. There have not been many complaints from the bus drivers (this is a good thing). Students should all take the time to get to know the bus driver's name. They work very hard, and the bus system is important to Windover.

The cold weather will soon be here, so it's time to start digging out the warm clothes. It may get a bit cool while waiting for the bus in the morning.

Blood Drive

On Tuesday, October 20th, from 9:00am – 3:00pm Windover will be holding a blood drive. The Michigan Community Blood Center conducts this blood drive for us. They are a wonderful program and lots of students donate blood for this good cause. Anyone is welcome to come donate!

Past blood drives have been very successful. For the last three school years we have had enough people donate (30 or more each time) that we have been able to award a student a \$500 scholarship to college each year. Thank you Michigan Community Blood Center! Parents, relatives and community members are welcome to come to Windover on the 20th to donate blood. People must be at least 17 years old and have a picture ID to donate. Please call Noel LaJoyce at 832-0852 if you have any questions about this.

From Amanda Miller, ELA and Special Education Teacher



Greetings from the English and Special Education Department! I am delighted to be able to report that

your students have been hard at work during this first month back to school. Currently, I am teaching five distinct English classes, one of which is entitled Writing Workshop. In addition to the standard, literature-based course, I am offering this writing intensive class for students who enjoy or need additional instruction in writing.

Each of your students has been provided with a year-at-a-glance syllabus that outlines the exciting literature selections and writing requirements included in their rigorous schedules. Please ask your students to see their syllabus and to tell you about the reading and writing assignments that they are involved with. Additional information and copies of this material will be available at Parent Teacher Conferences on the afternoon of October 14th.

Research as well as common sense tells us that the only way to improve reading skills is to read, read, and read some more! I encourage you to let your student and other children observe you reading newspapers, internet articles, books, magazines, instructions, cookbooks, or whatever. Communicate to your students that reading is a valuable way to spend time and that being a skilled reader has many benefits. Maybe you want to, as a family, read a book for which there is a movie being released. One good and easy choice would be the 1963 classic, "Where the Wild Things Are" by Maurice Sendak. This movie, directed by Spike Jonze and produced, in part, by Tom Hanks, combines live action,

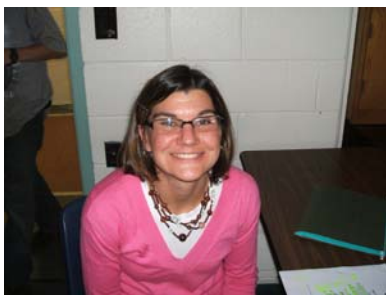
suitmation, and animatronics. Another interesting choice would be the novel by Alice Sebold, "The Lovely Bones," which is due out in movie form in December.

From Rod Huyett, Math Teacher



In the Math Department this year, I have begun teaching a Business Math course that has been very successful. We have so far learned about commission, wage plans and taxes. The concepts we have yet to cover are interesting and cover a wide range of real life topics that I hope the students will utilize in the future.

From Nancy Vossen, Science Teacher

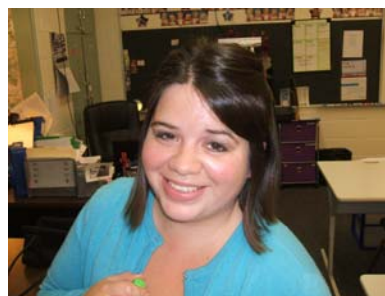


I am looking forward to another great year of Science at Windover High School! Currently, students have the opportunity to take Chemistry I and Anatomy for science credit or elective credit. Each trimester we will be offering different subjects

within the core area of science. Biology I and II, Chemistry I and II, and Environmental Studies will all be offered before the end of the 2009-2010 school year.

For the past year the American Chemical Society has been working with Windover High School as we transitioned into teaching the Michigan Merit Chemistry Curriculum. On Wednesday, October 21, 2009, we will display all the changes that have taken place in the science room with a ribbon cutting ceremony, beginning at 5:30pm. Please join us to hear more about the partnership we have with American Chemical Society, Bay Arenac Community High School and Omni Adult and Alternative Education Community School. You will also have an opportunity to meet the individuals from our community who helped facilitate the process. All science students attending Windover High School will benefit from the changes that have been made in the last year.

From Angela Salinas, Social Studies and Special Education Teacher



Welcome to a great year!! Hi, my name is Angela Salinas; I am the new social studies teacher that took

over for Lolita Pfeiffer this year. I am excited to be a part of the wonderful staff here at Windover this year. I am a graduate of Western Michigan University where I received my Bachelors of Arts in History. I am currently working on my special education endorsements and will have it completed by December 2009. I am also currently working on my Masters of Arts in Special Education at Saginaw Valley State University. I am married with two beautiful little girls that keep me very busy. I am very excited to be teaching here at Windover. The students have been wonderful and I am really looking forward to a great year.

From Doug Thering, Graphic Arts Teacher



Graphic Arts at Windover are back on line and accepting work. We are again printing t-shirts for the King's Daughters Christmas Closet. This job entails printing on 800 t-shirts from 2 – 4 youth sizes up to adult. These shirts are then distributed in the community. We have remodeled the classroom and have a fresh look. The students are off to a good start, but should be encouraged to maintain good attendance. I look forward to meeting parents during

the upcoming parent teacher conference.

From Jack Freeman, Culinary Arts Teacher



We have had a great start to our 2009-2010 school year here at Windover. Windover was able to purchase two smoker grills for the Culinary Arts program this year. This is allowing us to add a new dimension to our food production and to add new skills to our students' resumes. We have already grilled steaks, chicken skewers, burgers, chicken breasts, and brats as well as smoking pork picnics and pork loins. Smoked turkey breast and smoked meat loaf is also in our near future as we will continue to grill and smoke as weather permits.

One of our favorites so far has been the smoked pork loin. The day before cooking the loins were smeared in a thin layer of prepared mustard, rubbed with "BAM" (the recipe is included here), covered and refrigerated over night. The next day the pork was smoked at 225 degrees for about 3 hours to an internal temperature of 155 degrees. The meat was moist, very flavorful and enjoyed by all.

Southwest Spice, Emerald's Essence, "BAM"

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| Paprika | 5 Tbsp |
| Salt | 4 Tbsp |
| Garlic Powder | 4Tbsp |
| Black Pepper | 2 Tbsp |
| Onion Powder | 2 Tbsp |
| Cayenne Pepper | 1 Tbsp |
| Dried Oregano | 2 Tbsp |
| Dried Thyme | 2 Tbsp |

Our hopes were high in spring of this year as federal stimulus funds were made available to states for grants to improve school lunch program facilities. We thought that this would be the perfect opportunity to add the much needed walk-in cooler/freezer that our program so needed. Plans were drawn and grants were written but in the end the grant monies went to much larger school districts in the southern part of the Michigan where there was a greater need for economic stimulus. We continue to watch for other opportunities and hope we find help soon.

On another note, Greg Armstead, our principal, moved his office to a new location directly across from the school front doors. This was space formerly used by Doug Thering's Craft Design and Technology, Screen-printing and Graphic Design program. This move will allow the Culinary Arts program to use Greg's former office. The plan is to move our freezers, paper goods and dry storage to this area that is directly across the hall from the kitchen. This will help reduce noise and heat in the classroom area as well as adding much needed space in the classroom for student worktables. This will go a long way towards

improving our work and learning environment. We have some work to do before this can happen as our local health department will require that we take up the carpet that is there now and replace it with tile so that we can easily clean and sanitize that area .

As we look forward to the rest of the school year I would like to thank all those who continue to support our program and a special thanks to Terry and Carleen Moore of Moore Orchards here in Midland for their donation of four bushels of fresh apples to use in our kitchen.

From Janet and Carrie in the front office



Shots:

Please make sure that your son or daughter has up-to-date immunizations. State law requires that every student entering a new school must be current on shots. If you've received a letter stating that shots are due, please take care of this immediately, and send the updated record in to the school office. We have a November 1st deadline for compliance. Questions: please call Janet at 832-0852.

WHEN SHOULD YOU KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL?

- Temperature of 100 degrees or higher
- Sore throat, with a fever or swollen glands in the neck
- Diarrhea/vomiting (2 or more times within 24 hours)
- Rash, especially with a fever, itching or swelling
- Ear pain with fever (should be evaluated by a physician)
- Lice, scabies (may not return until treated/free of live lice & nits)
- Conjunctivitis or “pink eye”

Please call Windover before 9:00am to report you child's absence – 832-0852.

Free after school tutoring is still available!

We do offer free after school tutoring services to students that qualify. As part of the No Child Left Behind Act, we have funds set aside to provide supplemental tutoring services to our students.

If you are interested in this free program, call Greg Armstead at 989-832-0852.