

Good Morning Parents,

The state of affairs both locally and globally has made many of us reflect on what is truly important to us. I have been blown away by the generosity of our teachers and staff in respect to the loss of Mr. Orduno and the tragic earthquake in Haiti. It is a sad fact that sometimes it takes a catastrophic event to make us stop and look around and realize how much we have to be thankful for. As you reflect, I challenge you to "pay it forward" and find ways to help one another and those around you. As you know, we have set up a fund to help the Orduno family through the next few weeks and months. If you are able to donate, please log on to our school website (www.wilmette39.org/wjhs) or drop off a donation to any North Shore Community Bank location. Additionally, we will be sponsoring some events to contribute to earthquake relief.

These events include awareness and fund collections during lunch periods, donating a portion of the funds from our Student vs. Staff basketball game, and the inaugural WJHS vs MM (Marie Murphy) staff basketball game. Again, I would encourage you to reflect on just how lucky we are.

Have a great weekend,
Dave

Talking to your Kids About Sex (TODAY) - If you are able, please join us **today** from 1-2:30 in the WJHS auditorium to hear Deborah Roffman talk to parents about speaking with your tween/teen about sex. I am sure that you will find this to be an informative and useful presentation.

Book Club - If you haven't yet RSVP'd for our parent book club, it's not too late. On 1/28 from 1-2:30 we will be discussing Dr. Michael Osit's *Generation Text: Raising Well Adjusted Kids in an Age of Instant Everything*. We are fortunate to be able to Skype with the author, so you will be able to get answers to your questions straight from the horse's mouth. If you haven't read the book, it is available on Audible and through iTunes (\$17.95). Even if you are unable to read the book, I would encourage you to attend this great meeting.

Early Release - On 1/29 the district will observe an early release schedule for students. The school day at WJHS will begin at 8:00 AM and students will be dismissed at 10:55. As we have in the past, the students will spend half the day in an assembly and half the day working on team with core teachers. Our January assembly will be gender specific and will focus on bullying, building strong relationships, and how to get along with others. Boys will have a male speaker and will be in our auditorium. Our girls will have a female speaker and will be across the street in the Regina auditorium. On 2/2 we will host gender-specific parent presentations. Parents of sons will work with our male presenter and vice-versa for our parents of girls. Please mark your calendars and remember to discuss these assemblies with your child.

WJHS vs MM (Marie Murphy) Basketball Game - On March 5th, the powerhouse known as the WJHS staff will take on the staff of Marie Murphy Middle School. This will be a "friendly" game that includes entertainment for students, halftime raffles, and games. The event will take place at Marie Murphy school in Wilmette and we will provide a shuttle bus to the school. The game will begin at 4:00 and students can be picked up from Marie Murphy at 5:30. We will have 100 tickets to pre-sell during lunch periods. Ticket prices are \$5 for students and \$10 for adults. Proceeds will benefit the Juan Orduno Memorial Fund (local), The New Trier Food

Pantry (Township), and Haiti earthquake relief (global). This will be a great time for your kids.
Please encourage them to attend.