



School Website:
www.wilmette39.org/wjhs/
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(847)256-2853

To submit info to be published in *HIGHLIGHTS*, please email Katie Hauser at wjshighlights@gmail.com by Tuesday evening.

WJHS highlights

Important Dates:

Monday March 8th 7:30 HM/JH Band-O-Rama , Regina Auditorium

A big THANK YOU to all students and parents who helped to make the *Helping Hands for Haiti* week a success - and a special thank you to *Homers Ice Cream* for donating the ice cream for the ice cream sale.

Don't miss the next FAN presentation: William Damon: *Cultivating Your Child's Moral Compass: Empathy, Ethics and the Path to Purpose*. **Tuesday, February 23, 2010, 7:00 p.m.**, Misner Auditorium, Central School, 620 Greenwood Ave., Glencoe, IL. Dr. Damon has spent decades researching, lecturing and writing on moral and character development through the lifespan with a focus on children and adolescents and what helps them thrive and flourish. For more information, visit <http://fan-ntts.ntnow.org>.

ATTENTION SOCIAL DANCERS: Given the cancellation of Social Dance on Feb. 9, we have scheduled a make-up session for Tuesday, March 2. Our next Social Dance session will be on Tuesday, February 23. *On Tuesday, March 2 we will host our parent's night and we hope you all can make it!*

8th Grade Graduation DVD: Keep those photos coming! We will be accepting photos until May 1st so take your cameras to all the 8th grade events and into the cafeteria for lunch duty. Email photos to Lisa Aiken at lbaiken@mac.com.

Serve in the Cafeteria before it is too late. Openings in February for Monday, Tues. and Wed. Openings in March for Monday, Tues. and Friday. Email Mary Lyman at mommymare@aol.com

Volunteer Opportunities: It's time to start planning for next year! Looking for volunteer opportunities? Want to stay involved at the Junior High? The PTO is starting to look for parents to fill PTO Board positions for next year. If you think you might be interested in a Board position, please contact Mary Foster at foster735@comcast.net or Carrie Armour at cbarmour@comcast.net.

Hockey! Chicago Wolves! Special D39 Educational Foundation ticket prices for Sunday, February 28, 3 pm game. A portion of each ticket sold with the Foundation order form will benefit D39 schools. Download ticket order forms at www.d39foundation.org and turn them into the Foundation mailbox at the MEC before the end of the day on Thursday, February 25th. Tickets will be held at Allstate Arena's will call window.

Youth Connection News:

Annie is the WJHS Spring Musical and will be March 19th & 20th at 7:30pm and 21st at 2pm. Look on the hot link on WJHS website for more info.

Save The Date! Saturday May 22, 7:30pm. This is the new date for YC's Band Night Benefit. More details to follow for this fun parent's night out. For any and all YC info, go to www.youthconnectionwilmette.org.

I have been having some email sending issues. I apologize if you receive more than one copy of this email.

Good Afternoon Parents,

What a wonderful week we have had at WJHS! Over the past couple of months, I have been making an effort to be in classrooms more often and be more visible to students and staff. In my schedule, I have blocked out one hour each day to tour classrooms and observe the wonderful work that is taking place in our school. While I like to think that I always had my finger on the pulse of the school, I am really feeling more connected to your great kids and our fantastic teachers. I have seen kids discovering in science classes, creating in our arts classes, making connections in math, analyzing in reading class, and expressing themselves in interesting ways in writing class. Additionally, kudos to our world language teachers who are giving our kids a truly one-of-a-kind language experience and to our PE teachers who are cultivating the next "fit generation". Over the next few months, I look forward to getting to know your child better and to learning and growing along with them. I encourage you to have regular conversations with your child about what they are studying in school and the experiences they are having. Thanks again for your continued partnership.

Have a great weekend,
Dave

Mix It Up Day: Today at 8th grade lunch we tried something a little different. Our health teacher, Ms. Borelli, organized a mix-it-up day in the cafeteria. As students entered the cafeteria, they were greeted by a staff member who handed them a colored card. They then had to sit at a table with the corresponding color. The thinking behind a mix-it-up day is that for one day the kids sit with someone new and get new and different social experiences. As I walked around the cafeteria, I noticed kids sitting with new groups and having interesting conversations. These types of experiences that put kids outside their social comfort zone are extremely important. It allows them to interact with those they normally wouldn't. It gives kids the freedom and the social permission to truly mix it up. 8th grade parents, please talk with your kids about their mix-it-up experience.

37 vs 39: On March 5th, WJHS will take on Marie Murphy school in a staff vs staff basketball game. This event is open only to current WJHS and Marie Murphy students and is sure to be a great time for all. We will offer a shuttle bus to Marie Murphy school (2921 Illinois Rd., Wilmette, IL 60091) and students can be picked up at Marie Murphy at 5:30. This event will include halftime entertainment and fantastic raffles. Tickets will go on sale next week during lunch periods for \$5. We will also sell raffle tickets for \$1. This event benefits the Juan Orduno Memorial Fund, The NT township food pantry, and Haiti relief efforts.

Food Drive: Once again, our annual food drive was a great success! We collected over 10,000 cans for the Evanston Food Pantry and the Orduno Family. Given the current economic situation, the food pantry was at dangerously low levels. One of the workers at the pantry asked how many schools it took us to raise this number of cans and another was brought to tears by the sight of the stocked pantry. Attached to this email are before and after photos of the pantry. Thank you!

ISAT: Remember that ISAT testing is right around the corner. We will be testing our students in the mornings from March 1st through the 4th. The ISAT is an annual test that is based on the state's learning standards. Please do everything possible to ensure that your child is in school and on time. If a student arrives during a testing session, he/she will have to wait until the end of the session and make the test up the following week. Thanks for your support.

Orduno Fund: I would like to send a sincere thank you to all of our families that donated to the Juan Orduno Memorial Fund. As a community we raised over \$20,000 for this very needy family. It gives me goose bumps when I think about your generosity and how much this will help Juan's widow and three young children. It is times like these that make me truly thankful to be part of such a wonderful community.

The Scoop...

...February 2010

Dear District 39 Families,

With the flurry of letters that were sent home surrounding the H1N1 issue, I took a short break from sending out the Scoop. I'm happy to get back on track. I will, as before, use this as a way to give you periodic updates about "goings on" in District 39.

Snow was the big story last week and I am pleased to report we "weathered" the storm pretty well. Much to the chagrin of many students, we kept schools open. Thanks to the hard work of our maintenance crew, the snow was cleared quickly. And, thanks to our transportation department, our buses got our students safely to and from school, if a little more slowly than usual. And I see students out at recess enjoying the snow!

Our schools are busy places this winter. I am proud to see our District's response to the earthquake in Haiti. Thanks to the generosity of McKenzie parents Kim and Scott Holstein, delicious chocolate-covered pretzels have been donated and are being sold in all schools, and here at the MEC, to raise funds for Haiti. Each school has also added their own plan of support, keeping an element of service in mind.

Highcrest held an all-school read-a-thon; Romona, McKenzie, and Harper are collecting shoes for donation; Central is collecting stuffed animals to send Hugs for Haiti; Romona and Central are also encouraging students do chores at home/neighborhood and donate the money earned; WJHS had a designated day for students to bring lunch from home, and then donate their lunch money; on March 5, the WJHS faculty will take to the basketball court in a fundraiser against their counterparts at Marie Murphy - tip-off will be at 5:30 p.m.; proceeds from the annual WJHS faculty-student basketball game on April 23 will go to the Haiti relief fund. To date, District 39 has raised more than \$60,000 for the American Red Cross! We don't yet have a count on the shoes, but more than 1,100 stuffed animals will be heading to kids in Haiti thanks to D39 families!

District finances continue to be an important area for all of us to watch. Through belt-tightening measures, we were able to essentially balance our budget this year. However, District 39 continues to face external factors, over which we have no control. While we have more students and increased demands for services, we lack any revenue growth to offset the costs. Illinois owes all public schools promised funds that have not yet been paid; predictions of further cuts in State funding only add to our future budget concerns. We are just beginning to work on projections for the 2010-11 school year and will keep you informed. You will read more about this in the upcoming **39 exPRESS** newsletter.

I'd like to close on a happier note. This is a different kind of year for our Community Review Committee (CRC). Their efforts are focusing entirely on drafting a new strategic plan for District 39. Based on last year's CRC report, we are embracing 21st Century teaching and learning; this will be the foundation for our next strategic plan. District 39 continues to march forward, and rest-assured we will remain as a lighthouse school system not only in Illinois, but also in the nation. I look forward to CRC's recommendations in June and to a new strategic plan to guide our District at the start of the next school year.

Thank you for the support you give our schools and your children. I look forward to hearing from you with any comments, suggestions, concerns, or thoughts and am always available by email (lechnerr@wilmette39.org) or phone (847-256-2450 x 6030).

Your partner in education,

