

WHITE OAK

ACORN

A Monthly Newsletter for the White Oak School Community

January 2012

Picture Make-up Day

We were very thrilled to have student portraits delivered before the holidays despite rescheduling from the October storm. If you missed out or would like a portrait retaken, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25th is picture make-up day.

If your child was out on the original date, their picture will be taken on the 25th and your check will be submitted on that date.

If your child did not have a portrait taken and you would like an order form, please call Ms. Knapik at Ext. 201.



JUST CLICK TO HELP!

Dear Parents and White Oak Community-

Citgo offers a program called FUELING GOOD. HELPING TO CHANGE THE WORLD MILE AFTER MILE. They are giving thousands of gallons of gas to charitable organizations in our 27-state area. With every gallon, good is powering the engine of change. IT'S YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, AND THEN SOME. Please go to the following link starting January 12th, and vote for White Oak School. Visit and vote often. Thank you!

<http://www.fuelinggood.com/rewardinggood?id=1012807>

CLASS NEWS!

Middle School News

Advisors: Mr. Marshall & Mr. McGovern

The Middle School's fundraiser of See's Chocolate was a great success with Colby C., John D., and Matt J. leading the way in sales. Many thanks to all who bought chocolate! We are in the process of planning a class trip to Mass MOCA in January and other class trips later in the spring.



9th Grade News

Advisors: Ms. Luff & Mrs. O'Connor

See advisors for class information.

10th Grade News

Advisors: Mr. Schindel & Mrs. Carey

The tenth grade class would like to thank everyone who supported the Hillside Pizza our fundraiser. The class was able raise a good amount of money towards the class fund. In January, the class can look forward to a "Welcome to the New Year" class dinner. Look for more information to come. We hope everyone had a Happy Holiday and New Years!

There will be a Dress Down Day on Friday, January 27th to benefit the 10th Grade Class. For a donation of \$2.00 students may wear jeans, sneakers, and appropriate t-shirts. **NO HOODIES, SWEATPANTS, OR RIPPED JEANS!**



11th Grade News

Advisor: Mrs. Gibson

See advisor for class information!

12th Grade News

Advisors: Mrs. Sherry & Mrs. Dombrowski

December was a busy and productive month! The seniors visited Jessie's house on December 16, 2001 to donate toys to young homeless children and then had a holiday dinner at Osaka. See Brandene Gagnon's entry for more info!

The seniors met during lunchtime to send out various letters to businesses asking for donations for their Senior Raffle in February. A BIG thanks to Mrs. Ricco and Mrs. Ross for their help so far!

MARK YOUR CALANDERS!

The senior raffle is scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2011. This is a fundraiser to raise money for senior events such as the senior picnic, prom, and class trip.

WATCH YOUR E-MAIL FOR THE OFFICIAL PRIZE LIST AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO BUY TICKETS! FANTASTIC PRIZES!!!!

Lastly, the senior class is asking that if you know of someone who would like to donate a prize for the raffle please contact Mrs. Dombrowski or Mrs. Sherry for details.

Community Service News!

Helping Hands:

Throughout the month of January, the Helping Hands Club will be collecting non-perishable food items to donate to local food pantries with the help of the White Oak Community. We will collect these items until January 30th. Please consider sending your child to school with any canned, dried, or other non-perishable foods. Thank you so very much for all your donations!



Senior visit to Jessie's house

By: Brandene Gagnon

On December 15, 2011, several seniors went to Jessie's House to deliver the toys we've been collecting, and were given a tour of the house. Jessie's House is a program center for Human Development, which serves over 4,000 families in Massachusetts and Connecticut with 1,000 human service professionals and 45 programs. It all started with a generous, kind woman in Hampshire County named Jessie Benoit. Jessie owned Red Lion Diner, and she would let the homeless stay and eat as long as they didn't cause any trouble. When local cops or professional caregivers needed to send a homeless person to a safe place, they would send them to Jessie. That's how Jessie's House started – as a family shelter.

Today, Jessie's House provides shelter, food, education, job assistance, and case management to homeless families. Those who are accepted to Jessie's House are adults between the ages of 18-21 that have families. The house we went into was a six family home, with a living room, dining room, kitchen, ONE bathroom, and six bedrooms. Each family has one bedroom for the parents and children to share. They also have an indoor playroom for the kids, as well as a playground. They have a bus for transportation to get to local stores or to their jobs. After going through the house and seeing what the families went through, it made me realize and appreciate the fact that there are generous people like Jessie that make a difference. :)

STUDENT NEWS

Another Great Adventure

By:Jonah Pava

Sunday December 18th I ventured out into Giants Stadium for my first football game ever. Who would of thought such an easy trip would turn out to be such a hassle. I was looking forward to this epic game between the Washington Red Skins and the New York Giants all year. This was my first football game ever and I could not wait to see all the excitement. My dad and I had never been late to a sporting event in my entire life until this very eventful day. My dad and I were scheduled to leave Manhattan at 11 o'clock for a game time at 1 o'clock. All looked well until suddenly we started to see bumper-to-bumper traffic. It took us a good hour to get to the Lincoln Tunnel and by then the time was 12. One hour left to get to the stadium. Then my dad turned his head and saw that the tunnel was blocked off. There was no other way for us to drive to the Meadowlands. After we saw this, my dad reached the conclusion that it would be better if we took the train from Penn Station to Giants Stadium. This was supposed to be a brilliant idea but it went horribly wrong. Before we went down to Penn Station, we had to search for a parking space. This is usually not hard to do at all; however, all of the lots were filled and cars were lined up to get into them. So we had to look for an empty parking lot. Finally we found one. Unfortunately the time was now 12:15 p.m. My dad and I started to sprint towards Penn Station, which is located on 34th Street. We were parked on 38th Street. By the time we finally got to the station I decided to quickly glance at my watch to see the time. It is exactly 12:30 p.m. After we bought the tickets, the train worker told us that we were 4 minutes late. The train had already left. The next one would arrive at 1:07 p.m. This would make us very late to the game. I assumed that all was lost and I would be two and half quarters late until my dad came up with an excellent plan, taking a taxi. At this point my dad started going up to random people in the train station and asked them if they would like to split a taxi ride to Giant's Stadium. Luckily, we found someone to join us. We all rushed outside got a ride in less then 5 minutes. Before we knew it we were on our way. The time is now 12:35p.m. and amazingly we were sitting in a taxi already halfway there. It was a miracle!!! The ride only took a half an hour, so we had five minutes to spare. All we had to do is walk up to our seats. We had somehow miraculously made it to the game. And as it turned out it was an amazing game. The Giants lost which means that their playoff hopes are down the drain dramatically. They now have only a small chance of making the playoffs. The final score of the game was Red Skins 23 Giants 10. It was just what I wanted. The Giants had been defeated. It appears that the football gods were on my side that day. Not only did I make it to the game on time but my hated team the Giants lost.



White Oak Opens the Season with Close Games in December

-By Kyle Feeney

The White Oak basketball team has played their first four games. The team is one and three going into vacation. In the first game, White Oak played Swift River and played well but came up a little short. The final score of the game was 42-35 Swift River. The second game against Academy at Charlemont was back and forth with White Oak coming out on top with the win 37-29. This game showed what White Oak is capable of. In the third game against Buxton, White Oak came out slow in the first half going down 26-12. In the second half backed by some clutch threes by Kyle Feeney, the team began to play with some energy. White Oak ended up losing the game 55-28. In the fourth game in December, White Oak played Great Barrington Waldorf High School. White Oak played a solid first quarter of the game, taking an early lead. However, White Oak lost their focus on the defensive end and ended up losing a close game 37-31. After the holiday break, White Oak will play a number of games in January. Please come and support the team at the next home game. Check the website for the team's schedule!

BRIGHT NIGHTS

By: Clara D.

On Friday, December 9th, the Girls' Club took a trip to dinner and bright Nights in Forest Park. The students who went on this trip were Kate C., Victoria V., Clara D., and Liz L. The teachers that went were Mrs. S. Chalero, Mrs. Gibson, and Mrs. O'Connor. We went to a restaurant in Longmeadow called Grapevine. It is an Italian pizza place that serves not only pizza but other kinds of food. After we went to Grapevine we went to Bright Nights in Forest Park to see all the beautiful Christmas lights. Thank you Mrs. S. Chalero, Mrs. Gibson, and Mrs. O'Connor for taking all of us.

We all had so much fun!





MAX'S MOVIE REVIEWS



*Each month, 11th grader Max Cardillo will provide a review of the latest box office blockbusters and busts!

A Christmas Story : Rated PG, 94 minutes

- * Drama/Comedy; Nostalgic Christmas holiday movie of life in Indiana in the late 1930's
- * Main characters: Ralphie, a young boy who wants a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. His mom is an average mom of that era, and very caring and protective of her family. His dad hates the neighbors' (the Bumpases) dog and little brother Randy who doesn't ever want to eat. His mother makes him eat like a pig at the table just so he will eat his cereal.
- * First we see Ralphie looking at the ads for the Red Ryder BB gun. He cuts out the ad and puts it into one of his parent's books so they will see it. In one scene, Ralphie's friend Flick gets his tongue stuck on a cold metal pole outside. The fire truck has to come to rescue him.
- * Next we see his dad gets a package from a contest he won, the package says "Fragile" which he says it like fra-gil-ee. He gets a lamp that looks like a leg. He loves it, his mom hates it. He puts it right in front of the window for everyone to see.
- * Their car breaks down when they are looking for the perfect Christmas tree. Ralphie and his dad fix it, and Ralphie swears. Ralphie has to wash his mouth out with soap when he gets home, and go straight to bed.
- * Ralphie gets into a fight with the neighborhood bully, Scut, and Ralphie beats him up. His mother sees what happens and gets very mad at him.
- Ralphie and his brother go to the Department store to see Santa and when Ralphie tells Santa what he wants, Santa yells to him "You'll shoot your eye out kid". That's what everyone tells Ralphie: like his mother, teacher and everyone else he tells he wants a Red Ryder BB gun.
- * Finally its Christmas morning and everyone is really happy because of all the gifts they get except Ralphie who got a pink bunny pajama with feet from his Aunt. His mother makes him try it on and he looks silly, though his mother loves it. His father had put the new Red Ryder BB gun in the corner of the room and gave it to Ralphie after he opened his other gifts. He was so excited he tried it outside and the gun recoiled and knocked his glasses off, then he stepped on them. It was like "shooting his eye out". He told his mother that a ball of ice fell on his eye.
- * The theme of this movie was that if you want something bad enough you may just get it, especially if you keep talking about it.
- * In my opinion everyone should see this movie on Christmas because it's a great movie and it is on 24 hours on TBS, so you should watch it next year.



- Make sure you check the White Oak School web site for the latest news! This includes up-coming college field trip information from the Career Counseling office, the updated sports schedules, the lunch menu, and inclement weather information! Go to www.whiteoakschool.org!
- Don't forget to collect Box Tops For Education! Go to www.boxtops4education.com to see the complete list of products that have box tops on the packaging. Clip box tops and earn cash for our school! Submit Box Tops to Mrs. Lynch!



*** FRIDAY, January 27th WILL BE A DRESS DOWN DAY TO BENEFIT THE 10th GRADE CLASS. FOR A \$2 DONATION, STUDENTS MAY WEAR JEANS, SNEAKERS, AND AN APPROPRIATE T-SHIRT. NO HOODIES, SWEATPANTS, OR RIPPED JEANS. DRESS DOWN DAYS ARE OPTIONAL.**



The White Oak Players

Present

The WIZARD OF OZ

February 10 - 12, 2012

Friday - Sunday 7:30 p.m.

Advanced Ticket Sale Prices

Reserved 1st - 3rd Row Center seats \$12.00

Adult general seating \$8.00

Student general seating \$6.00

Tickets prices at the door

ALL SEATS \$10.00

Advanced Tickets

Circle Friday Saturday Sunday

Reserved Center Seat tickets # _____ @ \$12.00 total _____

General seats # _____ @ \$8.00 total \$ _____

Student seats # _____ @ \$6.00 total \$ _____

Total Amount due \$ _____

Make checks payable to White Oak School

