

# JANUARY UPDATE

## MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



### JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS FOR WWS FAMILIES

#### MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

#### >>> IT'S SNOW EASY FEAT

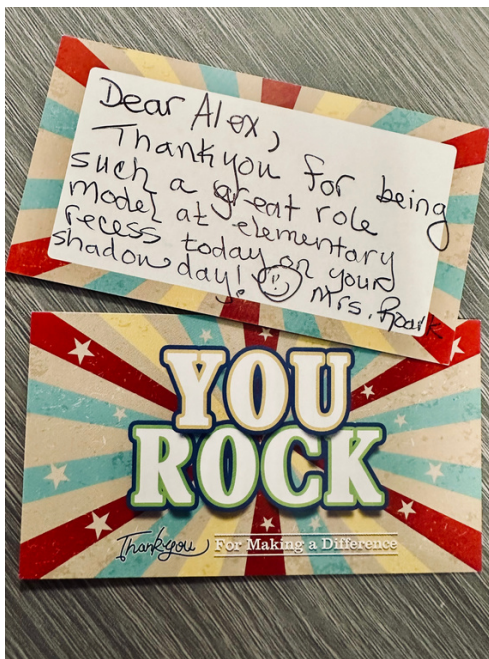
New at Windham Woods School this year, Snow Sports has become a part of the Middle School program, including 42 students. Those participants have advanced their skills remarkably quickly, building confidence in ways that can translate to increased confidence and engagement in the classroom. I am excited to share updates on mid-winter happenings around the Middle School, including Snow Sports and our Project Based Learning Days, which both end on Feb 1.

- Jeremy Robbins



## ➤➤ POSITIVE REWARDS

Our Dean of Students Mrs. Urton has started a Middle School-wide positive rewards system, in which students receive a card when teachers recognize them for positive behaviors. Teachers collect the cards, and they are entered into a raffle. The winner's Advisory has earned a Chick-fil-A lunch, and individual students will receive prizes and recognition throughout the year. Congrats to Avery C, the January winner!



## ➤➤ MS SHADOW PROGRAM

Upper School students and teachers welcomed 8th graders in a program that allowed students to experience part of a day in the upper school. The objective of the shadow program was to illustrate the distinctions between the Upper School and Middle School programs for incoming students, fostering increased familiarity and excitement for the transition to 9th grade among the student body.



## DESTINATION IMAGINATION <<<

The 4th session of Flex has begun, and students in the Destination Imagination group are working together to design and building a device to launch a bean bag.



## ➤➤ PODCAST RECORDING IN MRS. GLEASON'S CLASS

As part of their Language Arts and Humanities class project on cyber-bullying, students are working with parent Joy Arcolano, Assistant Professor of Theater at Boston Conservatory at Berklee. Stay tuned for more updates!

## ➤➤ FROM THE WWSPA



RED SOX GROUPS

**WINDHAM WOODS  
SCHOOL DAY AT  
FENWAY PARK**

Click on the [link](#) to reserve

## ➤➤➤ PBL DAYS SNAPSHOTS



## ➤➤➤ PIZZA LUNCH FEB. 1!

All students on campus for PBL Day 5 will have a special pizza party during lunch, which they can enjoy in addition to their regular lunch. Options will be provided for students with dietary restrictions.

# >>> MOUNTAIN SNAPSHOTS





## »» SKI LEVELS

Ski Levels are an important way for students to approach the sport safely, building key skills and gaining confidence.

**Green** – Have never skied before. This level will acquaint you with equipment, snow terrain and basic balance drills on snow with and without skis on. Introduce a straight glide in a balanced stance while sliding down a soft terrain incline. Introduce Wedge position muscle movements that will assist with slowing down and stopping with two skis.

**Green Plus** - Have tried skiing but need more training of basic skills. Has been on snow skiing but wants a refresher and a simple “start over” introduction. Practice basic wedge turning. Wedge turns at varying shapes. Learn to ride surface lift “Magic Carpet” in the beginner area.

**White** - Learn skills to enhance wedge turns and learn to ride the chair lift. Practice with wedge on steeper green circle or easy blue square trails. Begin matching skis at bottom of turn in short and long radius turn shape. Introduce skating on flats. Work on skills that will assist with matching skis earlier in the turn.

**Yellow** – Develop skills to match skis on blue trails. Work toward matching skis above the fall line on easy and advanced blue square terrain. Poles are introduced and begin to assist with the rhythm and flow of turns. Develop more flexing and extending to enhance bending the ski. Introduce upper and lower body separation.

**Blue** – Practice parallel skiing and improving edge use. Can match skis above the fall line. More body movements down the hill are practiced which will encourage early edge management/engagement. Learn to initiate turns with a correctly timed pole swing/touch on the snow. Develop a separation of upper and lower body. Learn speed control with a round skidded arc. Can perform hockey stops and side slipping skills.

**Black** – Carving on advanced Blue and easy Black trails. Carving on most black trails. Work on turning the legs under the upper body. Short, Medium and long radius turn shape. Practice skill blends on all terrain and variable conditions.

**Orange** – Freestyle, terrain park features. Must be Level Blue or Above. Skier must be at or above a “BLUE +” level skier. Free ski the entire mountain in a safe manner, controlling speed. Go over safety protocol in the park. Mogul and glade skiing.



### **Sledding**

WWS supplies a variety of sleds for recess use. Students are also welcome to bring their own sleds in from home, although this is not necessary for sledding. In order to sled, all students must be properly dressed in winter gear including snow pants.

### **Skating**

WWS is lucky enough to have our own pond for outdoor skating and walking. The thickness of the ice is checked daily to ensure skating/walking safety. It is difficult to predict the thickness of the ice day to day so it is recommended that students bring in skates and helmets to keep at school so that they have access to them in the event that the pond is safe for skating.

In order to skate, all students **MUST** be wearing a fastened helmet. Some of our students prefer walking, or making ice angels, on the ice. These students are able to access a section of the pond, designated for them. These students must have shoes that have traction on them and helmets are strongly recommended. Due to the slippery nature of the icy pond, we are not able to allow shoes with no traction on the pond. All pond use is highly supervised by teachers. Pond days are rare but truly a gift to us when they occur.

## >>> LIBRARY CARDS

All WWS students will be receiving Windham Public Library cards so that they can access digital resources to support a greater level of research and audiobooks. Middle School families are requested to complete [this registration form](#) and return it to your student's advisor by 3/15/24 to receive a library card when Windham librarians visit during Literacy Week in April. A paper copy will be sent home with students as well. We look forward with partnering with our local library to increase access to resources!



## >>> FROST TRAIL

The Upper School is excited to offer the Frost Trail program during the upcoming 24 - 25 school year and beyond. WWS recognizes that there are numerous avenues students may explore after graduation. The Frost Trail offers a program of studies for those students who intend to choose a direct-to-career, 2-year college path, or other non-collegiate post-graduate opportunities. A [parent presentation](#) was recorded and emailed home on January 25th. If you are interested in learning more about the Frost Trail, please watch that presentation and email [kvicente@windhamwoods.org](mailto:kvicente@windhamwoods.org) with any questions. You may access the slides that accompanied the presentation [here](#).



## UPCOMING EVENTS



|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| PBL/Snow Sports Day 5         | Feb 1     |
| Staff Development - No School | Feb 9     |
| “Fancy February” Dress Up Day | Feb 13    |
| February Break - No School    | Feb 19-23 |
| End of Trimester 2            | March 1   |
| Winter Stroll Family Event    | March 2   |
| Pat’s Peak Bonus Day          | March 9   |