



Beyond the Ordinary

Established 1998

January 22, 2009

Annual Giving and Headmaster's Challenge Update

Thank you to all who have supported the Annual Fund and Headmaster's Challenge, even during difficult financial times. To date, 46% of our families have given to the Annual Giving Campaign and we have raised over \$7,000—37% of our goal! We hope that all families will support the Campaign. Remember, every dollar counts!

Please see the attached Thermometers that show our progress. Thank you for your gifts!

Student Re-Enrollment Contracts Out Soon

Believe it or not, it's almost time! Parents will be receiving 2009-2010 Re-Enrollment Contracts the beginning of February, which need to be returned by February 28. Remember, although students are guaranteed acceptance, all parents must sign an annual agreement. Look for more information in February!

Afterschool Program Update

All new programs begin next week. It's not too late to sign up. We continue with middle school basketball, and now have Grades 2-4 basketball (Wed., no fee), Pottery for grades 3-8 (Thurs, \$40), and knitting for grades 2-8 (Wed., \$36). If you need another sign-up sheet, contact Carol.

Upcoming Events

1/27	2 nd Trimester Mid-Term
1/27	JISP
1/28	Middle School Field Trip
1/28	MS Bball game @ Maple St
2/3	No JISP-Full Day School
2/11	PAB 8:45 am Library
2/13	1/2 Day-11:55 Dismissal
2/16-2/20	No School Winter Break

JISP News

We've had beautiful weather for JISP! The kids and volunteers are having a great time. Please remember to bring home your child's equipment and gear at the end of the day. Attention volunteers: There are **free JISP days** available beginning at 12:00 unless noted otherwise: **At Stratton:** Sun. 2/8, Mon. 3/2 (All Day), Tues. 3/3 (All Day), Sun. 3/22, and Sun. 4/5. **At Bromley:** Sun. 1/25 (All Day), and Sun. 3/1 (All Day).

New School Email

We apologize for our school email problems of late. The Mountain School was recently informed that WCSU was closing their email server down and moving to a new address, therefore creating the need to find a new server of our own.

We are pleased to report that we have created a new server for the school through Learning Networks (First Class) using our school name. All staff members can now be reached by using their first initial and last name @themountainschool.org. For example,

Daren M. Houck, Headmaster
Carol A. Stachelek, Office Manager

The Mountain School at Winhall

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Mr. Houck can be reached at dhouck@themountainschool.org.

Please be sure to update our information in your contact folders. We apologize for any inconvenience!

Survey Participation Request

Greetings Mountain School Families! As we embark on this New Year, the Trustees and administration are in the process of articulating short- and long-range planning goals. Here's how you can help.

You and all our current families, and families from more than 4,000 other private schools across the country, are being asked to participate in a very brief national research survey being conducted by Independent School Management (ISM), the largest private school consulting firm in the U.S. The survey data will enable ISM to project trends that will aid us in our planning.

ISM has 25 years experience surveying school constituencies, and absolutely guarantees the anonymity of your responses. The participating schools will be provided with summary data only. The online survey on ISM's Web site should take you no more than 3 minutes to complete. When you are ready to begin, please go to: <http://surveys.ism-inc.com/surveys/ParentReenrollmentResearch/>

The survey closes on January 26th, so your quick response is appreciated. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful participation.

7/8 Teacher Hiring Update

The interview team has been hard at work. Reviewing over 100 resumes from all over the world, the committee has found many qualified and experienced middle school teachers.

The Mountain School's reputation and creative program is attracting quality candidates from literally all over the world.

After completing an exhaustive phase one of the first 25 resumes and initial interviews, we have found four excellent candidates to begin the second round process. These candidates hail from Reno, NV, Scottsdale, AZ, New York, NY and Jordan (yes, the country!). Over the next few weeks, applicants will be coming to do a teaching interview with the 7/8 classroom.

On February 6, the committee (Mr. Houck, Ms. Spence, Mrs. Houck, Paul, Ms. Tutsch and Laura Gianotti) will be traveling to the Carney, Sandoe & Associates Boston Forum to interview another 15-20 candidates from all over the world. Be sure to tell the committee thanks and let them know how much you appreciate their time commitment!

Student Newspaper

The Student Senate will soon be creating a student-run newspaper. This paper will be published the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, opposite of the school paper. The articles, artwork, and publishing will all be done by students. If you are a parent that would like to volunteer during recess one or two days a week to help, please let Mr. Houck know. We hope to have our first issue out on February 12.

The Mountain School at Winhall

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Library News

We have a lot of new books that children are very excited about. Our Lending Library has been very well received. Thank you, parents, for allowing this to happen. It really is very helpful. I am encouraging parents to look for notices that come home regarding **OVERDUE BOOKS**. If you could ask your children if they have gotten one, that would be very helpful. We now have a new policy... if books have not been returned and are very overdue, students will not be able to check new books out until the old ones are returned. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at school. Stay warm and enjoy the winter weather.

Spanish News:

La oración de español del mes de enero.
The Spanish sentence of January

Español: Me encanta ver como caen los copos de nieve y de la turbulencia que provocan sobre mi encontrando su lugar en el espacio esto me recuerda la navidad.



Inglés: I love to watch the snowflakes drift down and swirl around me, all finding their place. I love this because when the fragile snowflakes tickle my nose it reminds me of Christmas.

Casey Apps 7th grade

Box Tops For Education

Did you know you can earn box tops points for our school while shopping on-line? Go to www.btfе.com and register. Make sure you select our school! Click on the Marketplace tab to see all the stores that your already buy from.

Price Chopper Points

Do you shop at Price Chopper? Please help MSW earn points for educational equipment. See the attached Shopper Sign-Up sheet for information and to register your AdvantEdge Card. Thank you for your support!

Winter Clothing

Please remember to send in your children with appropriate winter clothing to wear for outside recess: boots, gloves, hats, etc. These things are also needed for outside PE! Thank you.



Thank you to the Cyr family for their donation of a 10X10 storage space for our School!

Procedures for public participation at Board meetings:

Individuals wishing to address the Board must contact the Board Chair at least 3 days in advance of the Board meeting. The contact should include the subject of the presentation and the approximate time needed to speak. Board meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month.

The Mountain School Board of Trustees:

Debbie Peretz, Chair * Betsy Wadsworth, Vice Chair
* Thom McMahon, Treasurer * Robin Apps, Secretary
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