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# THE SPECIAL TEAM GAZETTE

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### Computer Applications

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### Art

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### Library

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### Life Management

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### Language Spanish

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### Physical Education

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### Technology Education

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## Library

April has been a busy month of research for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade in the library.

Both 7 East and 7 West completed a persuasive paper incorporating research to support their ideas and arguments. Students worked through the entire research process from topic to final paper. They are experts in using NoodleTools to help organize their research and cite both print and electronic sources correctly. Students linked their work in NoodleTools to GoogleDocs to complete their papers. Simultaneously, Music exploratory students are working on researching influential 20<sup>th</sup> century musicians and bands. Their final product will be a Glog. A Glog is an interactive, multimedia, web-based poster in which students can add photos, graphics, videos, and audio files to share their research. Also, Health Exploratory students are working in groups researching different types of drugs. They will present a PowerPoint or poster to their classmates.

Summer reading is coming up quickly. Keep your eyes out for the list and assignment on the John Winthrop website.

Our web site is

[www.jwjhs.reg4.k12.ct.us](http://www.jwjhs.reg4.k12.ct.us).

Please visit us!



## Spanish

**7th Grade:** We have just created a family album describing our “padres, hermanos, tíos, primos, abuelos, animales domesticos, etc” using either pictures of our real family or famous people. It was a lot of fun. To be able to do this project we had to learn how to describe people and things as well as what everyone, including ourselves, has and their age using the verb “tener”. Now that we have finished our family albums we will continue to discuss the verb “tener” and learn how to describe the rooms in a house. Our next adventure will be a lot of fun creating; shopping for a vacation home through a Web Quest on [glencoe.com](http://glencoe.com) and then building our own dream home and then sharing it with the class.

**8th grade:** After learning how to navigate ourselves around an airport, we are moving onto the train station. We will be able to purchase a train ticket and request information about the departure and arrival, etc. we will also talk about more past events, as we did in chapter nine. This expands on the material we have learned in chapters nine, ten, and eleven.



## Health Exploratory

### Health Exploratory:

Mr. Tredwell's health class is beginning a unit on drugs and alcohol. Students will be assigned a specific drug and, working in small groups with a guiding rubric, complete research in the library to gain information to share with the rest of the class in regards to their drug. Class presentation of material will be accompanied by a visual presentation as well.

Mrs Waterbury's students will be studying a unit on Growth and Development, leading into discussion of grooming and hygiene. Due to the physical changes we see during this adolescent period of growth, students must make adaptations in the way they take care of themselves. Topics such as caring for the skin, in regards to acne, protecting your skin from the sun, body odor, dental care, posture, and scoliosis will be discussed.



### Physical Education:

Both 7th and 8th grade students are currently participating in spring fitness testing.

We are using the President's Challenge Fitness test battery.

Students should prepare the same way they did in the fall for the CT Fitness Assessment. Get plenty of rest, stay well-hydrated and eat a good breakfast. Students who qualify will be awarded the National or Presidential certificate of achievement for their efforts.

Following the spring testing, we will hopefully be able to get outside for the remainder of the school year.

Classes may include sports such as Soccer or Ultimate Frisbee along with other cooperative outside activities



### Jazz Ensemble

Jazz Ensemble is looking forward to an exciting

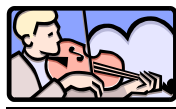
performance at our Spring Concert on Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. We hope you will join us to hear a mix of jazz styles and classic tunes like "Peter Gunn," "Minnie the Moocher," and the great bebop tune, "Birdland." In addition to our concert, we have two other upcoming performances. On Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, we are performing for the Essex Little League Opening Day Ceremonies. We will also be performing at Sixth Grade Night on Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> for the incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders and their families!

### Exploratory Music

Students are in the middle of their project about "influential" musicians. This will culminate in a research project on a musician or band of their choice. They are currently creating a digital poster (or Glog), which allows them to upload text boxes, pictures, and audio/video clips. We look forward to their presentations!

Next, we will review our African unit and study how African music has impacted American genres. We will learn about slave songs and spirituals and how they evolved into the blues and eventually, jazz. Students will soon be working on composing their own blues song!

### Band and Chorus



#### Band

Both 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band had a very exciting day at Valley for Band Day! We enjoyed rehearsing with the high school students and getting to know them through many fun activities. The day culminated in an evening concert. We are looking forward to our spring concert

on Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. The bands will perform pieces from Band Day as well as some new tunes. You will hear a traditional march, a classical favorite, and a famous family's theme song, to name a few! All students are reminded about concert attire for the spring concert. This can be found in the JW Music Handbook that was distributed at the beginning of the school year.

The attire for the Deep River Memorial Day Parade can be found there as well. We have an additional parade performance on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> for the Chester Hose Company's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Students are reminded that if they are unable to march with us, they need to provide Mrs. Traver with a note signed by a parent/guardian. We look forward to seeing you at our concert and the parades!



#### Chorus

Both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade chorus are anxiously awaiting the spring concert on Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. We are excited to perform and both choruses have been working on their expression to make our performance more meaningful for the audience. Soon, there will be auditions for solos in some of the concert pieces. Eighth grade chorus has been working on forward vowels, and phrasing, along with gaining an understanding of music of the Sephardic culture. Seventh grade chorus is working on balance between all three parts of our chorus: soprano, alto, and baritone. Both choruses have been fine-tuning their ability to sing a cappella (without accompaniment). All students are reminded about concert attire for the spring concert. This can be found in the JW Music Handbook that was distributed at the beginning of the school year.



## Computer Exploratory

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are currently completing a unit in Microsoft Excel. They have learned formatting, sorting, and are now learning functions and formulas. They have also learned how to create charts from their data. We have been exploring the world of banking by keeping track of a fictitious checking account. The students are also looking forward to starting their credit card project. Each student will receive a (fictitious) Visa gold card with a \$5000 spending limit. They will be allowed to spend up to their card's limit but be unable to pay off more than \$100 a month. They will write formulas to calculate their monthly interest and will see the impact of their frivolous spending over time.



## Applied Computers

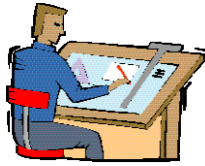
The students are very excited to start the new unit on Adobe Flash CS4. Flash is a professional grade animation design program, used to create web animations, that requires a lot of planning and linear thinking. I am already seeing some fabulous and creative results as the students persevere through the frustrations of learning a new program. Flash allows the students to take their knowledge of graphic design to the next level in creating multi-layered images with movement over time to use on their web pages.



## Technology Education Exploratory

Students have just finished learning about the material we call wood. They have been introduced to some hand tools and have just been tested on the safe use of a Scroll Saw. They are working hard to make a wood working project that they chose to build.

## Technology Education Elective



Students are completing their objects in motion unit as we speak. We will be racing cars soon. We are starting to learn about structures. Students will be learning about bridges and how they work. They will work in teams to create a Truss style bridge which we will then destructive test. Students will then calculate their designs efficiency.



## French

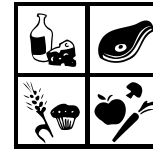
**French I:** On va faire des magasins! The 8th grade French students are learning about clothing in their current unit. They are identifying the items of clothing that should be worn during formal or casual occasions, as well as what people wear at different times of the year, and in different climates. The 8th graders have also learned that the department store is a French invention. Department stores, particularly the flagship stores of French department store chains in Paris, still hold a very important role in French culture and fashion. The department store buildings are works of art themselves!

**French 7:** The 7th graders are in the middle of a unit about the family and housing. They are currently in the middle of completing a family album project. Students may either use their own relatives, or make them up, in order to complete their albums. Following this project, students will be working in groups to construct their own dream houses, and then they will have to act as real estate agents to present them to the class for purchasing. Each class will vote on what they think is the best house, and then the four finalists will enter a contest where all four seventh grade French classes will vote on the best house.



## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Life Management Exploratory

Work continues on the construction of individual bags. It is a tremendous exercise in patience and teamwork as there are ten machines and more than double the amount of students in each class. Students are refining their small motor skills each and every day producing a one-of-a-kind project which you may see at the Arts & Learning Expo on May 17<sup>th</sup> – mark your calendars now! We will soon move on the Safety & Sanitation in the kitchen. **Please contact me should your child have any food allergies.**



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Life Management

Armed with a wealth of nutritional information, students are now reviewing the food safety and sanitation knowledge they obtained last year as well as reinforcing the proper measuring techniques. We will be in the kitchen for most of the remainder of the year except for a brief break to create a quick sewing project. **Please contact me should your child have any food allergies.**



## Art

This month in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade art we are working with clay. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are making their animal seed pots which upon completion will be raku fired outside. They are very excited. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are working on their art with a voice unit and will be making statements about things they feel strongly about in 3-d and relief ceramic and mixed media sculptures.

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On display in the Artists' Walk Gallery we have the first annual student photography exhibit. Approximately 20 students are working with me independently on the basics of photography. If you have a chance, come by and see their fabulous work. We will also be getting the Doodle for Google results later on this month so keep your fingers crossed. On the night of the 18<sup>th</sup> is the Arts and Learning Expo so please come down to see the beautiful work our students have been doing.



## ACT News

### Advisory Connection Team

ACT GOAL OF THE MONTH:  
CITIZENSHIP

"No one is born a good citizen; no nation is born a democracy. Rather, both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime." --Kofi Annan

"It is not always the same thing to be a good man and a good citizen." -- Aristotle

"...we all have an obligation as citizens of this earth to leave the world a healthier, cleaner, and better place for our children and future generations." -- Blythe Danner

"I have no country to fight for: my country is the earth, and I am a citizen of the world." --Eugene V. Debs



### Young Scholars: With Ms. Nidz

Young Scholars:

On Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 37 teams from around Connecticut came to JW to compete in a regional debate competition. This year's resolve dealt with abolishing the double jeopardy

clause of the 5<sup>th</sup> amendment. John Winthrop entered six teams and three of those teams won both of their affirmative and negative debates, thus moving on to the next round of debate on Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, at Poulson Middle School. Team moving on were: Annie Brown and Christina Mitchel, Lexi MacNeil and Abby Monaco, and Charlotte Boland and Isabella Reynolds.

The mini-boat painted by JW art students will be set in the ocean off Cape Hatteras around May 12<sup>th</sup>. To track "The Charger" go to: <http://ww.nefsc.noaa.gov/drifter>. The GPS unit on our boat will send location signals four times a day. We are hoping "The Charger" will pick up the "Atlantic Circle" route to Europe.

Issue #7 of the school newspaper, "The Bagel" will be out in early May. Any articles, poems, cartoons, or editorials should be brought to room #809 any time of the day.

## News from the District

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

This is the first year that the Regional School District #4 has inserted make up days for emergency closings (a.k.a "sunny" days) in to our calendar for the purpose of solidifying a date for graduation and the end of school. As we approach the potential "sunny" days, it is important for everyone to understand when school will be in session in the upcoming months. Due to Hurricane Irene, we were not in session on August 30, 31 or September 1 and 2. One Professional Development day was moved to September 6, therefore displacing a student day. As such, we missed three school days for students.

**With our new "sunny" days method, we will make up the three lost school days on April 16, May 25, and June 4, 2012. School will be in full session on those three days.** This will allow us to have 180 student days in the current school year, while maintaining a fixed graduation date for Valley Regional

High School and close school as early in June as possible.

If you would like more information on how our calendar works, please visit the link below which has an explanation of future calendar years that utilize the same "sunny" day philosophy (<http://www.region4schools.com/calendar%20explanation>).

Please contact us if you have any specific questions regarding the calendar.

Sincerely,

Ian Neviasser, Assistant Superintendent  
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