

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

*Daniel Starr, Ed.D.*

We are into our second year of the **Gemini Program** in conjunction with Finger Lakes Community College. This is a program where we align our course curriculum with a comparable course from the college. The students who want to get college credit for it pay a reduced tuition rate (\$90 instead of \$270 for a 3-hour course), and then must get an 80 for a final grade in the class. Students are expected to purchase the textbooks for classes that begin January 25.

The following Gemini courses are offered for second semester enrollment:  
**Pre Calculus** – a full-year course for WHS, but the second half (the spring semester) is available for Gemini credit.

**English 12** – a full-year course for WHS, and each semester is available for Gemini credit

**Intro to Child Care** – this is the second semester course that aligns with the child psychology class Mrs. Wilkins taught the first semester.

**Sociology** – a one-semester course for both WHS and FLCC.

**BA/BCA** – a full-year course for WHS, and each semester is available for Gemini credit.

**Micro Computing** – a one-semester course for both WHS and FLCC.

**Data Structures** – a one-semester course for both WHS and FLCC.

US History is a full-year course for WHS, but only the first semester was available for Gemini credit. This is also a Regents course and we want to ensure that the Gemini curriculum aligns with the requirements from the State Education Department.

Listed below are **student enrollment requirements for Gemini participation.**

1. 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students
2. Students must have a “B” (as defined as 80-89%) or better overall GPA – exceptions for balance will be considered.
3. All placement into the Gemini program will be based on recommendations from the High School faculty and guidance counselors and should include successful completion of Course III for math, and ELA or the Comprehensive English exam for English.
4. Students must have a written recommendation from the school principal and guidance director advocating their participating – single list.
5. No student can take more than 3 courses per semester.
6. Students must meet the prerequisites as stated in the college catalog.
7. Any request for enrollment exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis by the College Academic Vice President.

If you have any questions about whether participation in a Gemini course is the right thing for your 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade son or daughter, please contact the Counseling Office at 589-9624.

**Need information on college planning and financial aid? Join us for a “Night on the Web”**

*Call and sign up NOW!*

On **Thursday, January 24, at 7:00 p.m.**, the Counseling Office will be offering an **opportunity to become familiar with websites that can help parents and students gather information about college planning, financial aid, and scholarships.** There is so much available on the Internet that is free and we would like to familiarize you with a sampling of helpful sites.

This will be an **interactive workshop** that will have good information for parents of high school students at all grade levels. We will be **meeting in the computer lab**, room 39. Since we want everyone to work on their own computers, **call the Counseling Office (589-9624) by January 23 to reserve a spot.**

*See you there!*

## REMINDER...

The district web site contains a great deal of information. You can access it at: <http://www.williamson-central.k12.ny.us>

E-mail is a good means by which to contact me at school. My e-mail address is: [dstarr@wfmil.williamson-central.k12.ny.us](mailto:dstarr@wfmil.williamson-central.k12.ny.us)

Did you know your student must submit a **Computer Use Agreement** with parent and student signatures in order to access the computer network? If your student cannot access the network at school, the necessary paperwork is available in the High School Main Office.



## LIFE'S GREATEST LESSONS

The issue of Character Education has gained prominence across the United States in recent years. It became part of the S.A.V.E. legislation in NYS last summer. At the heart of any character education initiative is the issue of values and how to teach them. The values we teach our children are an integral part of their upbringing and one of the most important things we do as parents. When we impart values as a part of their formal education in school, there typically is the issue of whether the school is teaching religion.

Such is the case in the High School with a book entitled Life's Greatest Lessons, by Dr. Hal Urban. Dr. Urban presents 20 lessons or ideals that he has grown to believe are the most important things we should teach our children.

He quotes the Bible and discusses his own spirituality. He mentions Buddha and Gandhi and Ben Franklin. He also paraphrases St. Paul. He states that having faith is one of the cornerstones he found important – calling for a balance between physical, intellectual, and spiritual health.

Teaching religion in a public school can be an explosive issue, as the Constitution demands a separation of church and state. However, the Constitution does not forbid the mention of God or even a description of the Bible, or the Koran, or the Torah, or the teachings

of Hinduism. It does forbid the promotion of one faith as superior to the others.

The ideas Urban presents represent a great deal of common sense. But they are the ideas of one man, with which we can agree or disagree. Some people have argued that his book does not belong in the High School because it teaches or promotes religion. Urban promotes the need for faith as it helped him in his life. He also tells the reader that he or she must determine their own beliefs, whether they agree with his own or not.

It has received a great deal of attention from the Board of Education, as they strive to ensure that it does not teach or promote one religion over another. Other issues of this newsletter have alerted readers to the gist of the book, as well as information available on our web site. That information is still there for all to see.

In addition to this publicity, I hosted an evening for parents to meet with me to discuss it and have invited phone calls with questions. The Board of Education was invited to attend a meeting of

our House Planning Team to learn how the teachers in the building viewed this book.

I have asked the English Department to devote several lessons to the values that Urban presents. Some argue that the students need to see these values modeled by the adults and other students around them. This is true. There is also value in the reading and writing about them, as it gives students time to reflect on their values and express their feelings.

Most of the students who enter this building have a solid ethical foundation. They are teenagers, however, and that means they challenge everything around them. We see this as parents and we see it as educators. Thus, the opportunity to ponder their values and decide what is right and wrong is valuable. From the principal's perspective, I can deal with the behavior and assign consequences, but it would be far better to address the values that underlie the character of the students in our school. □



## **Ski Club...**

will have trips to Brantling January 4, 11, 18, 25, and February 1. Buses will leave the High School about 3:45 p.m. Students are to bring equipment to the High School and Mr. Scott will direct you as to where it should be stored during the day.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Only parents, according to school rules, are allowed to pick up students at Brantling after signing your child out with an advisor.

## **PSAT SCORES DELAYED**

We have been notified by PSAT/NMSQT that our PSAT answer sheets from the October testing may be amongst quarantined mail being held at one of the closed postal facilities as part of the federal government's investigations into tainted letters. We usually receive test results in December, however, we are not sure when the mail will be released, the tests scored, and the results sent to us. In a memo from the Educational Testing Service, they were hoping to have everything complete by the end of January.

We will keep you updated on this situation. If you have any questions, please call the Counseling Office at 589-9624.

**Happy New Year to all of you!** I am beginning to screen the 10<sup>th</sup> grade students this month. For those who have not had a required physical exam yet this school year, I will be scheduling them to receive one on Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. It will be with Mary Jo Lockwood, CNP from Williamson Medical Center. She has been doing physicals for us for a number of years. If you have any questions, please contact me at the Health Office (589-9625).

## **LIBRARIES CHANGE LIVES...**

Almost every person of achievement credits reading and the library for a role in his/her success. There are countless others whose lives have changed and flourished because of the assistance provided by libraries and librarians. In school, college, public and special libraries across the nation, librarians play a unique role in ensuring the public's right to know and empowering people from all walks of life to lead better lives. They include:

- the homeless man in Boston who spent all his time in the library studying how to become a writer. Today, he is a published, self-supporting freelance journalist.
- the little girl who spent all her free time in an East Toledo branch library, reading to escape from an impoverished home and the burden of caring for her mentally ill mother. Today Gloria Steinem, well-known author and feminist, says: "I am entirely a product of libraries. You have made me what I am today."

It happens every day. Libraries and librarians change lives, shape lives, even save lives. Here are more stories of some whose names you may recognize.



**As a young man** unable to afford college, award-winning science fiction author Ray Bradbury, says he educated himself at the Los Angeles Downtown Library, "attending" three or four days a week and "graduating" when he was 28. "I went through every room educating myself in a shallow manner, in philosophy and psychology, but in a deeper manner in the history of poetry, short stories, novels from every country, and especially essays. When I speak with students I tell them, 'it's no use going to school if the library is not your final goal'."

**As a young boy** growing up during the Depression in Edinburgh, Scotland, actor Sean Connery left school at age 12 to help support his family. A few years later, while appearing in his first theater production, an American friend gave him a list of recommended reading. Connery considers the act a turning point that led to his future success: "I spent the rest of the tour in libraries . . . it's the books, the reading that can change one's life. I'm the living evidence."

**"As a child,** my number one best friend was the librarian at my grade school. I actually believed all those books belonged to her," says author/humorist Erma Bombeck. When the librarian warned that some books were too old for her, Bombeck claimed they were for her mother. "I have never regretted my dishonesty."

**Looking back on his childhood,** actor/director Robert Redford recalls weekly visits to the library with his parents as a major influence. ". . .the library had a greater impact on me than I ever knew . . . I would go to the children's area and read Rafael Sabatini and Greek mythologies . . . I fell in love with reading. I would take a book out, take it home, and it would be my book until the next Wednesday night."

**As a struggling young actor,** Harrison Ford supported his family by doing carpentry he taught himself from library books. Today, he says the mastery of carpentry taught him discipline that improved his approach to acting. And he still enjoys carpentry as an avocation.

**An African-American youngster** in the Detroit inner city was taunted by his schoolmates as "dumb". But his mother had faith in him. Among other things, she insisted that he borrow two books from the library each week and turn in a book report. Gradually, he began to develop an interest in reading, especially about science. His vocabulary and reading comprehension improved. He received a college scholarship and, at age 33, was appointed director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins. You may recognize him as Benjamin Carson, the skilled surgeon in the widely publicized surgery that successfully separated Siamese twins joined at the head.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday, January 21 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – NO SCHOOL**

**Tuesday, January 22-Thursday, January 24 – MID-TERM EXAMS**

**Friday, January 25 – 3<sup>rd</sup> MARKING PERIOD BEGINS**

**Tuesday, February 12 – Parent Conference Day** (dismissal at 11:25 a.m.)

**Monday, February 18-Friday, February 22 – Presidents' Week Recess**

**Saturday, March 9 – WCS K-12 Learning Fair at Middle School from 1-4 p.m.**

If you have not reserved your copy of yearbook, the price for "The Log 2002" is now \$35.00. Checks should be made payable to "The Log 2002."

Publication of the  
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PO BOX 900  
WILLIAMSON, NY 14589

**MID-TERM  
EXAM SCHEDULE  
INSIDE**

# Mid-Term Exam Schedule

## January 2002

Morning session — 8:00-11:00 A.M.

	<u>Tuesday</u> January 22	<u>Wednesday</u> January 23	<u>Thursday</u> January 24
<b>Regents:</b>	RCT Writing Chemistry Physics Global Studies	RCT Math Comp English (session one)	RCT Science Comp English (session two)
<b>Local:</b>	<b><i>English 9-12</i></b>	<b><i>Social Studies 9-12</i></b>	<b><i>Sciences (including AP)</i></b>

Afternoon session — Noon-3:00 P.M.

	<u>Tuesday</u> January 22	<u>Wednesday</u> January 23	<u>Thursday</u> January 24
<b>Regents:</b>	Intro to Occupations US History & Gov't. Course I Course II Mathematics A	RCT Global Studies Living Environment	RCT US History & Gov't. French Spanish Physical setting/Earth Science
<b>Local:</b>	<b><i>Driver Education</i></b>	<b><i>Foreign Language</i></b>	<b><i>Math (all except those who took Math A on 1/22/02)</i></b>

**The only transportation to school** will be provided by the regular morning bus run.

Buses will depart:

Tuesday:	10:15 a.m.	Noon	2:22 p.m.	3:10 p.m.
Wednesday:	10:15 a.m.	Noon	2:22 p.m.	3:10 p.m.
Thursday:	10:15 a.m.	Noon	2:22 p.m.	3:10 p.m.

Lunches will be served between 11:00 a.m.-Noon

Williamson Senior High School  
**January 2002**

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
		<b>1</b> NO SCHOOL  NEW YEAR'S DAY	<b>2</b> A	<b>3</b> B	<b>4</b> C  Ski Club leaves at 3:30 p.m. from H.S.	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> D  "FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION NIGHT" - 7:00 p.m. (High School Library)	<b>8</b> E	<b>9</b> F  Board of Education Meeting - 7:30 p.m.	<b>10</b> A	<b>11</b> B  Ski Club leaves at 3:30 p.m. from H.S.	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> C	<b>15</b> D	<b>16</b> E	<b>17</b> F	<b>18</b> A  Ski Club leaves at 3:30 p.m. from H.S.	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> NO SCHOOL  MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> END OF 20 WEEKS	<b>25</b> A  3 <sup>rd</sup> MARKING PERIOD BEGINS  Ski Club leaves at 3:30 p.m. from H.S.	<b>26</b>
<b>MD-TERM EXAMS &amp; REGENTS EXAMS</b>						
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> B	<b>29</b> C  NHS Dinner for new Inductees (cafeteria)	<b>30</b> D  Board of Education Meeting - 7:30 p.m.	<b>31</b> E  Searching the Web for College Planning 7-9:00 p.m.(room 39)		