

BEHIND THE WALL



LADY EAGLES LEAD MVAC ENTERING FEBRUARY

BY: HUDSON STEPHENS



It seems that another successful season is underway for the lady eagles, who for the second straight year find themselves atop their conference and nearly unbeaten at 12-1. Their only loss ironically comes from Crown Point, who experienced their 1st win against our previously unbeaten varsity girls in a mid-december division match-up. Freshman Rachel Storey leads all scorers with 13.3 points per game and 10.3 rebounds, while eighth grader Abbey Schwoebel is close behind with 9.9 ppg. The team is youthful with only two

seniors, Kaeli Brack and Cassidy Roy, and yet they are more than likely to make another deep run into sectionals having already separated themselves from most of the class D competition. In an interview with first-year starter Abbey Schwoebel, she pinpointed what's made them so successful this season. "We're good at looking for open passes and taking it to the basket. Also we play great defense." When asked about coach Hokey McKinley, who is returning this year after having taken several off, Abbey confirmed that he is definitely

a big part of the winning formula. "Hokey is amazing. He's a super dynamic coach who pushes us to our limits and ignites a fire in us. We're extremely lucky to have him." Returning starter and captain Rachel Storey elaborated further on this sentiment; "Hokey has been a big part of our improvement and made us a much better team. I like him a lot." She also commented on her hopes for the remainder of the season, "I think we have a lot of potential. We should come out on top of our division and then be competitive at sectionals. The goal is to get back to the section finals and hopefully win this year." Rachel and her teammates, Kaeli Brack, Cassidy Roy, Maggie Plouffe, Annette Stephens, Ella King, Skylar Bisselle, and Abby Schwoebel, will look to win the 20th and final Section VII girls basketball title for Westport Central in the coming weeks.

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Special points of interest:

- Lady Eagles proving dominant in MVAC
- Student parking needs work
- Who's gotten in where
- Westport students headed back to spelling bee regionals
- What we students want to see in the upcoming merged district
- Meet the entire Behind the Wall staff



BOYS BUILDING, STRUGGLING IN MVAC NORTH

BY: ANNETTE STEPHENS

Starting off the season without their full squad, the boys varsity basketball team had a bit of a slow start in their league but picked up some key wins against southern division teams. Coming into the second half of the season with a full bench, the team is looking to rebound and live up to their potential. Lead by

veteran coaching duo Ike Tyler and Barry Morrison, and senior captains Hudson Stephens and Will Napper the boys have a plethora of experience, with only one player new to the team. Junior guard Blake Liberi leads the team in points with an average 17.5 points per game, followed by Stephens with 9.8. Senior

Edward Nesbitt expressed that "with our hardship in the first half of the season finding motivation within ourselves as a team will be important in the second half." The boys are looking to improve heading into sectionals and compete in a more even class D field.

STUDENT PARKING

BY: JEREMY ROSSI

Juniors and Seniors of Westport Central are at the time in their lives where they can drive. Some students enact this privilege by choosing to drive to school instead of riding the bus or going with a parent. Students who drive park along the right side of Sisco Street right before the turn into school. This tradition of sorts has become known as “student parking.”

Student parking, however, has a few kinks that need to be worked out according to students. The biggest issues come with winter season. Due to parking on the side of the road, the line of cars can sometimes get pretty lengthy, making for an extremely cold, long walk.

Students have expressed some frustration with this, especially when parents or temporary parkers take up the spaces closer to school, just for five minutes in the morning.

Winter weather also has an

effect on student parking. When it snows, students’ cars are parked right where all of the snow gets plowed. When there is a warm up, the snow melts, and this water runs down the street because it’s on a hill, making the sidewalk and parking spaces incredibly icy. I’ve personally fallen multiple times, and just this year have seen three 3 cars stuck because they were parked on ice. Alyssa Scoresome, a frequent driver, said “I have fallen almost every day,” due to icy conditions. A simple fix for this could just be to sand the sidewalk. This would greatly help promote safety for anyone using that sidewalk on Sisco Street, not just student drivers.

Another improvement that can be made for student parking and driver safety is a clear middle line in the parking area of the main entrance of the school. In the morning people are always driving nonchalantly in and out of our

school’s main parking lot, and I’m worried about being hit crossing the driveway to the main doors. Will Napper has also said, “I proceed with caution in the morning because of drivers.” In the afternoons with kids walking everywhere and parents picking them up, driving is god awful, and those lines could help bring some clarifications. Making a clear indication of a NO PARKING NO STOPPING zone right by the brick wall of the entrance of the school, is critical. Almost every day at 3:00 someone is parked beside the brick wall blocking visibility.

With there being a major lack of space, “student parking” at our small school is hard. For the most part it serves its purpose very well; however if we could just work out some of these little kinks, we could further maximize parking for students to be safe and organized when coming and leaving school.

“I have fallen almost every day”

- Alyssa Scoresome



A snowy, bleak day in student parking

COLLEGE TEA

BY: MAGGIE PLOUFE

As usual, Christmas break is a time for college students to return home and reunite with their families and loved ones. This year WCS 9-12 students were fortunate enough to visit with some alumni who gathered to create a panel of wisdom and advice for our college bound upperclassmen. Included in the panel were two of last year's graduates Lizzie Stephens and Abby Mero, along with college sophomores Chloe Mitchell and Sienna Fleury. Lizzie is continuing her studies at Hobar and William Smith, Abby is attending the University of Springfield, Chloe Mitchell is at Saint Lawrence University, and Sienna Fleury at Elmira College.

They answered a multitude of questions regarding college life and shared what things worked for them and what didn't. Such as adjusting to residential life, managing time

for homework and classes, laundry, food, and overall how to prepare for college and how to make that transition easier. "I liked it because I think it gave a really in depth perspective of what life is actually like for the people in college right now, as opposed to older teachers and parents telling us about college," says WCS sophomore Ella King, "It gave me new insight that I haven't heard before."

For the seniors, their tireless hours of writing college essays, applying to different colleges, applying for scholarships, acquiring letters of recommendation, touring colleges, taking SAT's and ACT's, and perfecting a transcript are coming to a close, as important decision-making deadlines approach. Some seniors have already been accepted to their top choice schools while others are waiting to hear from the schools

where they have applied.

The students who have been accepted to schools as of this article's publication are;

Kristina Keech: Culinary Institute of America, Paul Smith's College, Siena College, Russell Sage, SUNY Adirondack, North Country Community College, SUNY Canton, and Alfred University.

Alexa Doherty: University of Denver.

Melissa Place: Cazenovia College.

Kaeli Brack: St. Michael's College.

Will Napper: St. Lawrence University.

Jeremy Rossi: SUNY Delhi.

Owen Pierce: SUNY Canton

"For the seniors, their tireless hours of writing college essays, applying to different colleges, applying for scholarships, acquiring letters of recommendation, touring colleges, taking SAT's and ACT's, and perfecting a transcript are coming to a close

THE LESSONS WE LEARN

BY: EDWARD NESBITT

School teaches a lesson for everyone and many people of different backgrounds. We should really embrace such a privilege to have and to the people that give us the ability to express their interests and knowledge to us and continue our growth. I don't know why I still type articles that say this is why school is good or how to handle stress or anything. For me it's comforting to explain or say how you don't have to be alone or stressed over anything because now is one of the best times in your life. You don't have to worry about paying bills or maintaining a job, all you have to do is learn and think for yourself and grow to be the person you and all the people in school think you should be. Life only gets harder or so a lot of peo-

ple say but it's all on you and how you choose to overcome obstacles and pushing yourself. See school helps you push yourself and gain the experience and knowledge to grow and adapt to things in life better and easier. A great thing about school is the ability to play sports and make friends and grow out of your comfort zone. I honestly went from hating school and having little friends to enjoying school. Reasons why I do now is because I've made more friends and developed an easier bond with teachers, plus playing sports really helped with my growth and helped me out of my really shy phase. But keeping up and never changing your values and having a great relationship with teachers and

newly formed friends really helps with the struggle and worry about not fitting in. School helps with fitting in and we should all embrace changes to our school and all the honor and skills it gives through our life and how development of new relations and beginnings start in a place that many hate but then enjoy.

"School helps you push yourself and gain the experience and knowledge to grow and adapt to things."

THE THIRD ANNUAL SPELLING BEE: KIMBALL HEADED BACK TO REGIONALS

BY: ANNETTE STEPHENS

“The bee has grown since the first year and there are many spellers that look forward to it, study, and get butterflies in their stomach on the big day.”

On January 11, 2019, the 3rd annual Westport Spelling Bee commenced. Students from grades 3-8 took to the stage and several other students and teachers scouted out a prime viewing spot in the crowd. The bee has grown since the first year and there are many spellers that look forward to it, study, and get butterflies in their stomach on the big day. This year, however, we saw a less serious, inappropriate attitude from some of the older competitors. Some of the younger competitors that were interviewed, as well as faculty in the building, and event officials, were disturbed and offended by this “immature”

behavior. Despite this, the bee was an overall success, with good reviews from the competitors specifically. In a charismatic interview with Oona Hall (5th grade), Jane Kimball (5th grade), Claire Reynolds (5th grade), and Sofie Fiegl (6th grade), they said that even though they were two year veterans, they were still nervous for the bee and that this year’s bee seemed more difficult. As the grade level champion of 5th grade, Kimball is moving on to the Regional bee for the second year. Kimball describes the regional bee as terrifying and a boring day of getting up and “spelling words that you don’t know how to spell.” She

also shared a comical and heartwarming anecdote about her metal water bottle falling and creating an embarrassing ruckus last year. We wish Jane, as well as all the other Westport grade level champions, luck in the Regional spelling bee which will take place in Ausable on March 4th. The overall winner of the regional bee will go on to nationals.

Brecken Smith - 8th grade
Gabrielle Mazzotte - 7th grade
Charlotte Faber - 6th grade
Jane Kimball - 5th grade
Kailer Smith - 4th grade

WHAT WE WANT TO SEE IN GRIFFIN NATION

BY: LARENCE LOBDELL

“Students, regardless of age, want to see a new school building with state of the art facilities including a larger basketball court, a proper theater for plays and assemblies, a larger cafeteria, and the most requested addition; an indoor pool.”

Now that the merger of Westport Central School and Elizabethtown-Lewis Central School has passed, I asked students what they would want to see in the new school district. When I talked to the students, I posed the question as a hypothetical situation with no limits to the amount of money we could use.

High school students all shared similar answers. Some asked for more sports options like riflery, lacrosse, Nordic skiing, rugby, hockey, wrestling, and cheerleading. Some students even expressed an interest in an esports team. Students want Wi-Fi for everyone, but if not possible for all, maybe access to Wi-Fi could be a senior

privilege.

Students seem to be split on the school mascot. Some students want to lose the Griffin brand in this new school and start fresh with something new. Others want to keep the Griffin name to embrace both schools’ pasts. With the merger, the majority of students are expecting to see the long awaited “Chrome Books for Every Student” promised to be put in place for the 2017-2018 school year. With all the extra funds, I don’t see how this couldn’t happen.

Talking to elementary students, they all seemed to have big expectations wanting a 59 minute school day, no homework, a rocket ship for field trips, and of course, a

ball pit.

Students, regardless of age, want to see a new school building with state of the art facilities including a larger basketball court, a proper theater for plays and assemblies, a larger cafeteria, and the most requested addition, an indoor pool.

If any student has more input on this topic, they should feel free to leave a note or two in the suggestion box on top of the piano in the high school hallway.

2019 FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Boys M/J/V/V @ Crown Point	2
3 Youth Commission Ski and Ride Program	4	5 Girls M/V @ Seton	6 12PM Dismissal Boys M/V vs. Seton Queensbury Quizbowl playoffs	7	8 Girls M/J/V/V vs. Schroon Lake Boys M/J/V/V @ Schroon Lake	9
10 Youth Commission Ski and Ride Program	11 Boys JV vs. Lake Placid	12 Girls J/V/V vs. Saranac Lake	13 Girls JV @ Peru	14 St. Valentine's Day	15	16
17	18 February Break	19 February Break	20 February Break	21 February Break	22 February Break	23
24	25	26	27	28		

MEET THE BTW CREW



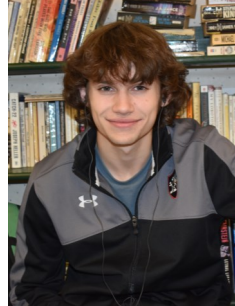
Annette Stephens (Junior)
Years on BTW: 3
Place of Birth: Plattsburgh, NY
Writing Interests: Accolades, controversial journalism, school happenings.
Future Hopes and Dreams: Wants to go into nutrition/ education, have a husband in paradise.
Favorite Article: *WCS Students Look to a Greener Future, November 2018*
Sports and Clubs: Varsity Soccer (Captain), Basketball, Track, FBLA, Quizbowl, Green Team, Yearbook (Editor), BTW (Editor), Drama Club.
Favorite Pastimes: Gardening/ Skiing/ Soccer.



Maggie Ploufe (Junior)
Years on BTW: 3
Place of Birth: Plattsburgh, NY
Writing Interests: Factual/ uplifting journalism.
Future Hopes and Dreams: Wants to go to college then do something fulfilling/ relevant that benefits other people.
Favorite Article: *Not All Sports Have Balls, October 2017.*
Sports and Clubs: Varsity Soccer (Captain), Basketball, Track, FBLA, Quizbowl, Yearbook (Secretary), BTW, Drama Club (Vice President), Class Secretary.
Favorite Pastime: Summer.



Edward Nesbitt (Senior)
Years on BTW: 1
Place of Birth: Burlington, VT
Writing Interests: Opinion pieces.
Future Hopes and Dreams: Being outside, doing what I love.
Sports and Clubs: Varsity Basketball, Baseball.
Favorite Pastime: Hunting.



Jeremy Rossi (Senior)
Years on BTW: 1
Place of Birth: Plattsburgh, NY
Writing Interests: Music.
Future Hopes and Dreams: Live a happy, positive life. Definitely spend a lot of time outdoors.
Favorite Article: *A Message from Student Council, September 2018.*
Sports and Clubs: Varsity Soccer (Captain), Student Council (President), FBLA, Model UN.
Favorite Pastime: Soccer



Lawrence Lobdell (Junior)
Years on BTW: 1
Place of Birth: Plattsburgh, NY
Writing Interests: ELW Merge articles.
Future Hopes and Dreams: Move to NYC, become a pizza delivery man, drive around on a moped, say "pizza time" when dropping off a new order. Maybe make movies, "Yeah, we'll see."
Favorite Article: *What We Want To See, January, 2019.*
Sports and Clubs: JV Basketball, Varsity Golf, Green Team, Quizbowl, Drama Club, Slideshow, Student Council (Vice President), Yearbook, Model UN.
Favorite Pastimes: Watching movies, Golf, Super Smash bros.



Hudson Stephens (Senior)
Years on BTW: 4
Place of Birth: Plattsburgh, NY
Writing Interests: Critical journalism, Opinionated articles.
Future Hopes and Dreams: Maybe go to Uni, study somewhere outside the US, create a life.
Favorite Article: *Halloween, Every Year. Don't Call Us ELWCS, December 2018*
Sports and Clubs: Varsity Soccer (Captain), Varsity Basketball (Captain), Yearbook (Editor), FBLA (Vice President), BTW (Editor), Class President, Drama Club (President).