

Behind the Wall



ALL EYES ON PRINCIPAL JM AS HE ADDRESSES WCS

By: Hudson Stephens

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- Meyer delivers back to school address
- High Schoolers conduct annual elections
- A look into our 2017 soccer teams
- New faculty at WCS
- Interview with 2017-18 foreign exchange student



This 2017 issue of *Behind the Wall* provides readers with an exclusive message from Principal Meyer in regards to the 2017-2018 school year.

Students of Westport Central School:

Welcome Back! The opening of a new school year is always an exciting time. There are inevitably some faculty and staff changes, some program changes, some new equipment, and an army of teachers and students with a fresh start who have made the commitment that this year will be better than last year. We have experienced all of these changes for the start of our 2017-18 school year.

Our new staff includes: Interim Superintendent A. Paul Scott; Social Studies teacher Erin Barton; Guidance Counselor Tracey Cross-Baker; English teacher Sarah DeLong; Director of Buildings and Grounds Randy DeZalia; School Psychologist Kellie Porter; Physical Education Teacher David Snyder; Elementary Special Education Teacher

Marie Williams; Speech Teacher Emily Zurschmit; and part-time Counselor Ollie Bickell. Please take the time to introduce yourself to these people.

We have a brand new reading program, "Wonders," being used at the elementary level. Our 7th and 8th grade classes have started in with Project Based Learning in their Social Studies and English classes. This is including the deployment of 42 new student Chromebooks that will be used during these classes. We are bringing back Col-

lege For Every Student to focus a bit more on post-high school plans. The CFES team will be visible over the next few months. Student participation is essential to the success of this program. Ms. Fiegl and Mrs. Lackey will be working on a school wide STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) initiative. The first STEM project has already been announced and your participation is encouraged. I plan to participate in all of these contests.

Continued (See page 2)



“Our student involvement is one of the many reasons that this school is as successful as it is.”

Mr. Meyer's Address (continued)

Become involved with these new initiatives. Contribute something to the WCS school community on a regular basis. Our student involvement is one of the many reasons that this school is as successful as it is. Challenge yourself academically. This doesn't necessarily mean to simply work harder. It means to try new courses, approach topics from different points of view, take the honors class or the AP class if it is appropriate, and bring your best effort to school with you each day. We are fortunate enough to have an extremely talented group of

educators in our building. It is up to you to take full advantage of your time spent with them. Any contribution that you make, challenge that you accept, different point of view that you take, and effort that you put in will further prepare you for life after high school. Whether you are thinking college, military, or employment, you will be more prepared than if you do not do these things.

I wish you all the best of luck in 2017-18 and look forward to seeing what you can accomplish in this academic year!

Sincerely,
Mr. Meyer
K-12 Principal

This thorough address from principal Joshua Meyer gives our BTW readers a little bit of inspiration and incentive heading into the new year. As the longest running and most iconic school paper at WCS, we would like to thank our most dedicated readers for their unwavering support and anticipation toward each issue we release. We will do our best to provide all of our students and faculty with the latest news of relevance and importance each month of the 2017-18 school year.

Primterview

By: Peter Vaiciulis

The latest foreign exchange student to walk the halls of Westport Central Schools is none other than Teerakan Fangsuwannarak of Thailand, though you may know her as Prim. If you haven't already gotten to know Prim, fear not. Below is a transcript of an interview I conducted with Prim herself:

Peter: “So, what's your story?”

Prim: “I come from Thailand, this is my story: my mom and my dad are assistant [doctorate professors] in the university and I have one older sister, she's a senior.”

“So, tell me about your background, where did you grow up, childhood interests, or former jobs?”

“[I am] from Thailand, Nakhon Ratchasima.”

“[I like to] read novels; love stories, Harry Potter. And listen to songs; k-pop”

“No.”

“What brought you to Westport?”

“I was interested in the Chulalongkorn University, and since it has international programs, I needed to learn English”

“What do you think we will

be able to look back upon; in a hypothetical future interview? What do you hope to have achieved?”

“I wanna do all of my checklist in America, and take the SAT. I wanna see snow, I wanna try snowboarding and bowling.”

“What questions do you have for me?”

“Why are you so quiet in Mathematics?”

“...”

If you couldn't glean from the transcript, Prim is really quite the character. From the thorough conversation we had, it seemed to me she is already enjoying her time in the States, and looks forward to the opportunities and experiences that are yet to come.



Teerakan Fangsuwannarak (Prim)

Meet the New Teachers

By: Maggie Ploufe

Ritually, the season of fall brings cool weather, colorful leaves and kids anticipating their leap into the new school year. For Westport Central School it brought seven bright, fresh faces through our doors and into our classrooms, all of whom are eager to learn more about the students and fellow staff. For those of you who don't know some of these teachers very well yet, here are some messages from the new teachers just for you!!

Did you know that our new social studies teacher Ms. Barton, is a professional ski instructor? Ms. Barton spent several years of her childhood skiing at Gore Mountain, although she says that her favorite place she's skied was Arapaho Basin in Colorado. A big part of why she chose to take a teaching job at Westport was to stay close to home and her family in Long Lake, and to enjoy the hominess of the Adirondacks. Upon arriving here and teaching numerous classes a day, she said that what sets Westport apart from other schools is the tight knit family aspect of the students who are always looking out for each other, along with the work ethic and the students' drive. Her goal this year is to learn more about this area and to get to know each of her students better. "Thank you for embracing me in Westport and I hope to have a great year together!" says Ms. Barton

"I'm an adrenaline junky," says our spunky, new English teacher Mrs. Delong. Not only is Mrs. Delong a passionate, driven English teacher, you can also find her train hopping, sky diving, para-surfing, para-gliding, and doing anything that involves an adrenaline rush. Along with the beautiful placement of our school in the Adirondacks, Mrs. Delong loves the comradery of our school, and is grateful for the kindness and welcoming nature of the students and teachers at Westport. She is also happy that the class sizes are smaller, in that it is a better opportunity to get to

know her students better! One of her big goals this year is to implement peer teaching in the classroom, such as having kids present mini-lessons to classmates, as a way to help them more effectively synthesize information. "Pray to God, but row away from the rocks," is her favorite quote by Hunter S. Thompson, and it is her life motto.

Did you know that Mrs. Porter, our new school psychologist, is a forty-sixer? Along with her love for the Adirondacks and kids, she loves to spend her time sailing and making stain glass art. The moment she knew that this was the right job for her was during her interview. "The interview was so fun and relaxing, and that's when I realized that I wanted this job!" She absolutely loves coming to work, and often says to herself, "Can I get up yet?" Mrs. Porter especially loves the friendly atmosphere of Westport and the comfy, antique vibes. "The people here seem closer and are more connected than most other schools," says Mrs. Porter. One of her big goals this year is to meet all of the students and staff, and eventually know us all by name. "I want to be able to meet and greet kids and teachers over the year, and I want students to know that they can come see me anytime!" Says Mrs. Porter enthusiastically. Personally, I would highly recommend taking a trip down to visit her room because it is the most fun, beautifully decorated room in the entire school!

Mrs. Tracey Cross-Baker, our new guidance counselor, is thrilled to be joining our team of staff and students at Westport. "I think it is a gift to be able to share this journey with not only high school students but with elementary students as well." Mrs. Cross-Baker is a retired dancer, and attended Ticonderoga high school where she was the school mascot. She is thankful to the people at Westport for being so generous, welcoming, and friendly upon her arrival. The staff are "absolutely wonderful to work with!" says Mrs. Cross-Baker. Her goal

for this year is to bring back the "College for Every Student" program, which is based on mentoring, service, and leadership skill development, and possibly revamp Peer 2 Peer. "My door is (almost) always open, and there is always candy on my table!" says Mrs. Cross-Baker.

Did you know that Mrs. Zurschmitz is a yoga teacher? Along with teaching yoga, one of her hobbies is also running, and in fact ran her first marathon this year! Mrs. Zurschmitz is thrilled to be our new speech therapist and loves the location of our school as well, as it is close to her home and family. Her goal by the end of the year is to get her office and schedule organized, along with getting to meet as many students as she can here at Westport. "Thank you to all of the students and staff for welcoming me at school, and feel free to stop in anytime to say hi!" says Mrs. Zurschmitz.

Ever since Mrs. Williams, our new special Ed teacher, was a small child she had her heart set on being a teacher. She loves the small school community of Westport and is thrilled to have this job. She describes it as "Living the dream!" She loves that our school has smaller classes in which lessons are more individualized and we can work more closely together. Her main goal for this year is to introduce and share her knowledge of technology and implement that into classrooms. In this, students can further engage in their studies and potentially get better results in school. Mrs. Williams says, "thank you to everyone for being so nice, kind, and welcoming!"

Finally, taking on not one, not two, but THREE different positions is our new teacher Mr. Snyder. His classes include Phys-Ed, Career and Financial Management, and Health. Aside from teaching, one of his biggest passions is playing rugby. Mr. Snyder grew up playing rugby in Saranac Lake, NY and still plays on multiple different teams! "I'll probably be playing until I'm dead," says Mr. Snyder. So far, he enjoys the close-knit culture of Westport and is happy that pretty much everyone knows each other and gets along.

Appointments and Disappointment

By: Annette Stephens

September is a time of student politics within the walls of Westport Central. The halls come alive with gossip about the elections in each class. Students from different classes inquire who the president is, who lost to whom, and how the winners and losers feel about the election. This year's elections have drawn to a close and we have all the details.

Class of 2021

The freshman election, usually one of the most exciting, was fairly quiet this year. As far as the interviewee Kaleb Petit could tell me, there were no major surprises, upheavals or controversial moments. While we couldn't find the excitement we were looking for from Kaleb, we found it in other places. There ended up being a whopping five presidential candidates, but Tomasi Vaiciulis came out on top. The Vice President, following in her older sister's footsteps is Kassidy Brack. Brack, apparently had no desire to be president and is content with being second in command. Kaleb Petit informed me that several people ran for Vice President, searching for a title without responsibility; however, classmate Bailey Lynch questions whether that was the motive behind running. Solomon Fair, Leanna Cos-

tin, and Lauren Gough all ran for treasurer, but in the end, the class seems to trust Solomon the most with their finances. Secretary appeared to be an undesired position, as Tori Cole was the only nominee, and she has expressed an indifferent attitude towards her position. The Student Council representatives are Kaleb Petit and Ella King. Both King and Petit were surprised by the win, and Petit even asked me what Student Council was.

Class of 2020

The sophomore class, while sometimes viewed as dysfunctional, is preparing for a power year this year with new players in many of their cabinet positions. Annette Stephens is the new president, climbing the ranks from last year's status of V.P.. Arlo Halloran is the new Vice President, previously president but uninterested in holding the position. McKenzie Stephens was nominated for a reappearance as treasurer, but somberly had to reject the nomination due to a leave of absence. The vital job has been passed to Maggie Plouffe who was unanimously deemed worthy of the task, and is very excited and eager to take on the job. When asked whether she wanted to be treasurer again

next year, or if she was prepared to hand the position back over to Stephens, she stated that she would go, "wherever the current took her." Due to his impressive past performances writing the minutes for the sophomore class, Blake Liberi was re-elected secretary and has accepted the responsibility. Student Council members remained the same with Lawrence Lobdell and Matt Pribble representing the class. Trent Clark ran for each position, nominated again and again by Liberi, but was unsuccessful in attaining a title. His absence of success could be partly because his classmates thought he was joking, which was true until we reached Student Council, where it turned out he was serious, but could not get a second on Liberi's nomination.

Class of 2019

The juniors seem to be content with their class officers, as president, V.P., and treasurer have remained the same for the past two years and counting. They held a full election and third year president Hudson Stephens was contested by Kaeli Brack. While Stephens has held his position as president since he was a freshman, Brack has held hers as



*Senior Class President
Hannah Schwoebel*

vice president as well. Treasurer has also remained constant with math enthusiast Will Napper. To get inside the junior's election, I interviewed Kaiden Sears. Throughout his time spent in high school, Sears had not held a title for his class, but has always searched for one. Last year Sears and Jeremy Rossi ran for Student Council and were not successful. This year, Kaiden and Jeremy ran again, and while Sears faced failure once again, Rossi was successful in obtaining a Student Council position alongside Melissa Place. Sears feels "pretty \$#!%" about losing the election and is going to work harder to campaign next year, going all out with "Kaiden" posters. At first when Kaiden was asked how he felt about running and losing, he told me that simply finishing the race was considered winning. Kaiden took the term "run" quite literally and was referring to cross country. New to the junior's cabinet is secretary Peter Vaiciulis. Success as a secretary is expected from him considering his expert penmanship.

Class of 2018

The senior class had an extremely uneventful election, in the sense that one didn't occur. While the idea of not

hosting an election could be controversial, the class is happy as clams with the officers they had last year. Since 2015 the idea of an epic senior trip has been in their heads, and with a killer combination of committed individuals and hard work, that goal is within reach. Four out of the six officers have been controlled by the same girls since their freshman year. In 2014, Lizzie Stephens was elected treasurer, Ellie Storey was elected Vice President, and Malynda Lobdell and Abby Mero were elected Student Council representatives. Although an election has not yet been held, Mero and Lobdell will be seeking presidential roles this year in Student Council. If Abby or Malynda are successful in their rise to the top, a third representative will be needed from the senior class. This role will be filled by past president Riley Martin. Taylor Gough is entering her second year as secretary, and while most of the other secretaries aren't too enthusiastic about the job, Gough says she enjoys it. Hannah Schwoebel is entering her second year as president, and shared some words about her class. Schwoebel was left speechless when asked what she was going to do with her presidential

power in her thirteenth and final year at WCS. She recovered by explaining how her title as president didn't mean much since her class works together very well, and when it comes to class matters, everyone is equal. A touching statement describing the comradery of their small but mighty class.

By the time classes reach high school in Westport, most of the students have been together for nine years. Throughout those nine years, a bond is formed that is similar to the bond that siblings share. This is a very special feature of Westport Central, and makes election day all the more exciting. You get serious for a little while and figure out how you are going to succeed. This year's high school students have accomplished that and now will focus on creating a healthy, thriving ecosystem.

"This year's elections have drawn to a close and we have all the details."

2017 Boys Varsity Soccer

By: Blake Liberi

KEY:

(C) = Captain

(R) = Rookie

Bold = Westport

Non-Bold = E-Town/Lewis

COACH:

Evan George

CAPTAINS:

Mike Dedam - Senior - Midfielder

Trey McLean - Senior - Striker

Jeremy Rossi - Junior - Defender

Hudson Stephens - Junior - Midfielder

ROSTER:

Carter Smith - GK - Senior

Mike Dedam (C) - MF - Senior

Trey McLean (C) - ST - Senior

Dominic Thompson (R) - ST - Senior

Hudson Stephens (C) - MF - Junior

Jeremy Rossi (C) - D - Junior

Will Napper - D - Junior

Christopher Jones (R) - MF - Junior

Jeremiah Johnson (R) - MF - Junior

Keegan Sewell (R) - MF - Junior

Peter Vaiciulis - MF/GK - Junior

Lucas Spilling (R) - D - Sophomore

Matthew Pribble - MF/D - Sophomore

McKenzie Stephens - MF - Sophomore

Blake Liberi - ST - Sophomore

Arlo Halloran (R) - MF - Sophomore

Odin Kohler (R) - MF - Sophomore

Aidan DeMuro (R) - MF - Sophomore

Ethan Graham (R) - ST - Freshman

Gavin Spilling (R) - D/MF - Freshman

Coming into this season with a very new look, the Boys' varsity will look to grow upon this coming year. With Paul Buehler stepping down as Head Coach, Evan George will take his place. George looks to play with skill and tactics, more than the emotion-based work ethic of Buehler, and is training the team with purpose. The Griffins will be taking on a 3-5-2 formation, as this Griffins' team looks to be more midfield-minded this year, and looking to get the ball upfield. In net, going into his Senior year, Carter Smith, who made 106 saves and 3 shutouts last year, will make his final hurrah in showing his skills in

net. Starting in the back, leading the defense, and frankly, the entire team, is Junior, Jeremy Rossi, who is coming off last season earning All-Division second team, and is accompanied by Will Napper, Junior, and Lucas Spilling, Sophomore.

In the midfield, two captains, Mike Dedam, Senior, and Hudson Stephens, Junior, lead the middle with Stephens also earning All-Division second team and scoring 5 goals last season. They are joined by McKenzie Stephens, Sophomore, and Matthew Pribble, Sophomore. The Griffins' squad comes with a plethora of wingers, who will be started

by Peter Vaiciulis, Junior, and Arlo Halloran, Sophomore. For the Griffins' up front, it has always been known for its speed, as Joel Morris, League MVP and All-State 4th team, has shown, and will be replaced with Trey McLean, Senior, and Blake Liberi, Sophomore, who put in 4 goals last season. As this team prepares for 14 games this season, it will be interesting how this very young team pans out in Division II, having to face 2 powerhouses in Chazy and NAC.



Junior Peter Vaiciulis soars through the air against Willsboro

2017 Girls Varsity Soccer

By: Blake Liberi

This season the Girls' varsity team is hoping for a Section Championship, as many returning players have set their eyes on winning the section. Once the Boys' varsity took a trip to the State Finals, they knew it would be their turn to take that same trip. Starting in net, going into her 3rd year as starting goalie, is Malynnda Lobdell, who ended last year with 128 saves. Leading the defense, earning All-Division 1st-team last year, is Hannah Schwoebel, Senior, along with Ellie Storey, Senior, who earned All-Division 2nd-team last year. They are joined by Annette Stephens, Sophomore, and, her sister, Lizzie Stephens, Senior.

The midfield is lead by none other than Taylor Gough, Senior, who earned All-State 4th-team, All-Division 1st-team, and got 2nd in goals last season with 19, along with getting 2nd in points with 41. 8th grader Rachel Storey joins her in the midfield, along with Abby Mero, Senior, and LeAnna Costin, Freshman. Up top, we have Maggie Ploufe, Sophomore, and Anna Burdo, Freshman, who are looking to put in many goals this season. For the Girls' varsity, it is looking like they are going to have a very productive season, and hoping some trophies will follow.

KEY:

(C) = Captain

(R) = Rookie

Bold = Westport

Non-Bold = E-Town/Lewis

COACH:

Aubrey Pulsifer - Head Coach

Brad Rascoe - Assistant Coach

CAPTAINS:

Taylor Gough - Senior - Midfielder

Ellie Storey - Senior - Defender

Hannah Schwoebel - Senior - Defender

ROSTER:

Malynnda Lobdell - GK - Senior

Taylor Gough (C) - MF - Senior

Ellie Storey (C) - D - Senior

Hannah Schwoebel (C) - D - Senior

Abigail Mero - MF - Senior

Kaleigh Lamotte (R) - ST - Senior

Lizzie Stephens - MF/D - Senior

Maggie Ploufe - ST - Sophomore

Annette Stephens - D - Sophomore

Anna Burdo - ST - Freshman

Sarah Chandler (R) - ST - Freshman

LeAnna Costin (R) - MF - Freshman

Brianna Cornwright (R) - D - Freshman

Ella King (R) - MF - Freshman

Rachel Storey (R) - MF - 8th



Senior Goal Keeper Malynnda Lobdell registers a shut out against Moriah