



## BEHIND THE WALL

# SCHWOEBEL HITS 1,000

By: Annette Stephens

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- Hannah Schwobel hits her 1,000th point
- *Wake Up Westport* airs 2017-18 pilot
- The Westport skating rink reopens
- Clubs at Westport Central
- What to wear to basketball games
- Learn about the CFES committee at WCS

On December 27, 2017, Westport's Hannah Schwobel joined the prestigious list of basketball players who have reached one thousand points in high school basketball. On a cold snowy day, during the fourth quarter of a dreary game against the Moriah Vikings, the game was halted as Hannah put in a layup that allowed her to reach her goal. Schwobel had a hard time finding words to describe the feeling, but finally settled on

feeling relieved, and extremely proud of herself. Coach, Brad Rascoe, shared the feeling of relief and was excited for her. Schwobel felt the pressure piled on in the last couple of weeks as she crept closer and closer to the thousand point basket, and it affected her playing. Rascoe said, "I told her to relax and play her game, which was easier said than done." Now that Schwobel is back on track, and playing her game, she is setting a lofty goal by desir-



## Wake Up Westport Airs Pilot

By: Hudson Stephens



A still of Anchorman Lawrence Lobdell

On December 22nd, 2017 the *Wake Up Westport* crew released their first episode, or as they are calling it, their pilot. After a moderately successful 2016-17 season, during which former English teacher Mr. Ryan Campagna and his senior class managed to produce almost weekly episodes of *Wake Up Westport*, the news show was handed to Mrs. Tonya Lackey and her video production class for the 2017-18

school year. Despite a two person class, which is considered small even for Westport, Mrs. Lackey decided to undertake and continue the newsroom project mostly due to a written obligation she made while applying for the grant which provided the news show with its equipment. Mrs. Lackey said she was awarded a 2,500 dollar grant to purchase equipment for a media literary project, which ended up being *Wake Up Westport*. She says that Peter Vaiciulis and Matthew Pribble have done a great job and that she's happy with the pilot.

In an interview with Director/



## Schwoebel Hits 1000 (continued)

By: Annette Stephens

ing to put another blue banner on our gym wall. She noted that reaching her long time thousand point goal, took a lot of hard work over the years, and it could not have been done without the support of her teammates.

Schwoebel is now unofficially the thirteenth Westport player, and eighth Lady Eagle to join the thousand-point club. She is also the third athlete that Rascoe has

coached to get one thousand points. Schwoebel started her tally in eighth grade, scoring 148 points, and the numbers grew each year from there. After a big junior year, scoring 311 points, she only needed 115 points her senior year to achieve the award. As it stands right now, it is looking like 8th grader Rachel Storey will be the next Eagle to attain a spot in the club. As of January ninth, Storey had 102

points. If she continues to score at this rate, she will be on the fast track to scoring one thousand points in high school. Both Schwoebel and Storey were vital members to their teams in eighth grade; it appears that playing five years of varsity is crucial to joining the thousand-point club. Schwoebel has made her family, team and town proud, with her name now grouped with those of Westport basketball

## Wake Up Westport Airs Pilot (continued)

By: Hudson Stephens

Editor and Chief, Peter Vaiciulis, it was made clear that the goal of *Wake Up Westport* is to give the people a voice and to let them be heard. Vaiciulis wants to spread news in a “nonconventional” way and give information to people who don’t like to read. In regards to the lengthy time period taken to produce their first episode, Vaiciulis explained that initially, he and Cameraman/ Editor, Matthew Pribble, were only supposed to do the filming and editing, in other words, the technological work. Unable to find help in writing scripts, he and Pribble took on the entire project with the single addition of Anchorman Lawrence Lobdell, who he praised as a “Great TV persona,” and encouraged us to check out Lobdell’s Youtube channel @LawrenceLobdell. Vaiciulis says that the crew also spent the first couple of

months learning how to use the equipment, and deciding what they wanted to accomplish as a news production team. In the future, we are told to expect episodes as often as once a month. The production rate differs from last year’s weekly releases, as this year’s episodes are much longer, and composed by a much smaller team.

The 2017-18 *Wake Up Westport* Pilot was a great first effort, and exhibits many elements crucial to any news show. The crew managed to keep it informative as well as somewhat comedic, and introduced some interesting segment ideas. Aside from a few mis-haps here and there, some dated information, a strange sports segment, and a particularly lengthy interview, the pilot was entertaining and gives us hope and anticipation for the integrity of upcoming episodes. While

Vaiciulis displayed his contentment with the pilot, claiming that it got lots of laughs and that a band room screening went particularly well, Pribble seemed less enthused, admitting that he was unhappy with the audience response and that there was definitely room for improvement, as is expected with any young news show. Pribble explained that some audience complaints were genuine, while others were just weird, while Lobdell added that the crew is open to criticism and feedback, and that other than the late release, he wasn’t particularly disappointed.

We are excited to watch the young minds behind *Wake Up Westport* develop new and innovative material in the coming months. It will be interesting to see what the show becomes and how it will impact our school. *Behind the Wall* wishes *Wake up Westport* all the best in 2018.

***“The 2017-18 Wake Up Westport Pilot was a great first effort, and exhibits many elements crucial to any news show.”***

# Westport Skating Rink

By: Peter Vaiciulis

Smell that? It's the smell of Winter here in Westport, New York. Over the recent period of time, our town has erected its classic ice rink. Located in the heart of our town, the ice rink has been a symbol of Westport's prestige for many decades.

What is the draw of Westport's rink, you might be wondering? Why does it attract such a wide variety of skaters? Well, to answer that question I think we must hone in on its location and surroundings. For one thing, its central location makes it an ideal riding distance from

many prospects' homes. Secondly, there is nothing short of a plethora of places to gather around it, such as the warming hut adjacent to the rink, or the stores and shops a moment's walk away. Lastly, is its location within the great town of Westport, New York. A spectacle in many regards, the town's iconicness is definitely partly to blame for its popularity.

As I write this article, conditions are supple. We haven't had a substantial amount of snow in the past week so the rink is fairly clean. I can

also attest to there being a very minimal amount of bumps and cracks, at least in comparison to years past.

I partook in a little pickup hockey match with some fellow Westport students recently, and while the temperature was very nippy it was an enjoyable experience. I played for approximately two hours, and for those whom I'm sure are wondering, my team won, practically unchallenged.



## Alumni Panel

By: Peter Vaiciulis & Annette Stephens

After a post-poned meeting with the alumni, Westport students in grades 10-12 gathered in the computer lab to hear past Westport students' experiences in the "real world."

Thomas Mero, Ellie Schwoebel, Mattea Viens, Chloe Mitchell, Schylar Kurth, and Sam Staats answered questions that might interest future college goers.

Some had positive experiences, while others had negative experiences. It was a very well-rounded panel. They talked about their social lives, as well as their

education, and what it was like coming out Westport and transitioning into a larger, more populous college setting. Even Ellie Schwoebel, who went to a

that Westport did not fully prepare them for what college life entailed. The college students reassured Westport students that it's okay in the beginning to not know what you're doing and that going in undecided is okay too.

The main takeaway is that college will be a lot of things- confusing, challenging, and stressful. The key is to be relentless, and understand that you're not alone,

or you won't be for long. Try your hardest and as Guy Bolton and P. G. Wodehouse



school of only 500 undergrads, talked about the "size shock." The majority of the panel, unfortunately, felt

***"The main takeaway is that college will be a lot of things- confusing, challenging, and stressful."***



# Clubs

By: Victoria Cole

Seventh and eighth graders listen up! High school is filled with many amazing clubs that you may want to join when you are older. Here are a few that you may be interested in joining:

**Video Production**— Video Production is open to grades 9-12 as an elective, but similar to journalism, could be considered a club because they produce a news show called Wake Up Westport. Video Production is taught by Mrs. Lackey.

**Student Council**— Student Council is open to students in grades 9-12 who are chosen by classmates. From there, they elect a president (that must be a senior or a junior), a vice president, treasurer, and a secretary. Student council meetings are held once a week during lunch on Thursdays. Mrs. Phillips advises Student Council meetings.

**Quiz Bowl**— Quiz Bowl is an academic competition, usually held in Queensbury, open to grades 9-12. There are six matches every other Wednesday from mid-October to the end of December. There are twenty-two schools in the league and practice is once a week during lunch and is advised by Mrs. Phillips.

**FBLA**— FBLA stands for Future Business Leaders of America and is open to 9-12. The purpose of FBLA is to prepare members for careers in business and to assist them by becoming better employees and citizens. It helps students develop leadership roles, prepares them for entry into a business-related occupations, and offers a setting where members compete at regional, state and national levels in business and technology curriculum. FBLA is advised by Mrs. Brankman.



## Senior Slideshow/End of-the-year slideshow

The end-of-the year slideshow is open to 7-12 and meetings are held during lunch periods. 9-12 graders usually attend these meetings but slideshow is always open to 7th and 8th graders. Seniors are responsible for taking pictures for the senior slideshow and presenting it at their graduation. Everyone else is responsible for taking pictures of everybody in the school (at least one picture of each student/faculty member). They are also in charge of making sure they get different pictures from different events. They work on Adobe

Premiere and find the best pictures and make a video with songs. Sometimes they will choose a theme for the slideshow. There are elected officials including president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. The senior slideshow and the end-of-the year slideshow are both advised by Mrs. Lackey.

**Drama Club**— Drama club is open to people in 7-12. There are elected officers and right now, Malynnda Lobdell is the President, Maggie Plouffe is the Vice President, Hannah Schwobel is the Treasurer, and they have no Secretary. You will have to figure out how to work around sports and work schedules, when you are older. The plays are on March 23rd and March 24th. During rehearsal, members spend a considerable amount of time on character development and practice for the show. The director of Drama Club is Diana George.



**Yearbook**— Yearbook is open to 7-12 graders and there are officers elected. Like slideshow, 9-12 graders attend the meetings but there are always a few 7th or 8th graders. Meetings are on Monday during High School lunch and people in the club get to work on the designs and formats of the yearbooks.

There will always be someone in charge of a page whether it is the ninth grade page or the eleventh grade page. Seniors will be in charge of their pages and will include descriptions about their personal lives including their favorite color, favorite class, quote, etc. Don't worry, if you are not quite ready by the deadline, meetings can be held during weekends or school evenings. You can get pictures from other sources if you do not have any of your own. The advisors are Mrs. Bisselle and Mrs. Brugger.

**Newspaper/Journalism**— Journalism is open to 9-12 graders. It is a full year class/club and will earn a student one credit. This course helps emphasize the skills and knowledge required to produce a newspaper and contributes to the production of the school newspaper. Students will conduct interviews, write in a variety of journalistic forms, discuss editorial positions, and help produce and edit the newspaper using desktop publishing. This course/club is advised by Mrs. Brankman.

There you have it. So, if any of you are interested in joining these clubs, either next year or when you're older, talk with the advisors and maybe you can be a part of an amazing club!



# Look Good, Feel Good, Play Good

By: Maggie Ploufe

During basketball season, dressing up on game days has been a long tradition for WCS student athletes. Not only is it a symbol of poise and sophistication, but it is effective in heightening team spirit and creating awareness to the sporting event. Despite the positive effects of this tradition, some may still struggle to fully appreciate and respect the importance of following through with it. Some may ask: Why is it important?

Coming to school wearing formal attire tells other students and faculty that there is a game that evening, and can potentially promote more people to attend. In fact, it is such a strong tradition in Westport, that people in the community/ outside school recognize when game day is solely based on dress attire. In an interview with former basketball coach (and player) Mrs. Fiegl, she commented that she, along with other teachers love when the kids dress up, because they can use that opportunity to encourage them and say "Good luck!" Dressing up and looking your best can also boost confidence which can be brought into the game. If you start the day looking your best, it enables you to feel your best, and maybe even play your best.

On the other hand, it is not uncommon for students in our school to be confused as to who has a game and when it is happening. This could

be due to a lack of uniformity of teams' attire on game days. Some may wonder why we have this tradition, and why student-athletes at Westport Central only dress up for the game days of basketball season and not other sports. The answer can be put simply: because it has been this way for so long. Field sports such as soccer and softball most likely don't have this tradition because once the team arrives at the field, they are already in uniform to play. Whereas girls' varsity and junior varsity basketball players have to walk into their opponent's school and wait until their playing time. Walking into your opponent's school looking your best shows your respect for the event and also for your opponents. Teams such as the cross-country, soccer and, baseball/ softball teams do have the option to create a tradition for their team if they so choose. With basketball, it can also be a coach's endorsement or encouragement to dress up as well. If coaches are lenient about tradition, chances are the players will be too.

What constitutes as dress clothing? In an interview with Girl's Varsity Basketball Head Coach Mr. Rascoe, he discussed the importance of dressing up in that it is ultimately a representation of your team and your school. He also added that dressing up should just basically entail, "Something that you wouldn't normally wear

to school," as opposed to having a strict definition of what type of clothes are to be worn on game days. For others, such as Westport Boy's Varsity Basketball player Hudson Stephens, the dress code for game days is non-negotiable. "The boys team is expected to wear a dress shirt, dress pants, a tie/ bow tie, and dress shoes. Sweaters are optional." Either way, it is ultimately up to the team to decide what dressing up on game days should look like, and also up to the athletes too.

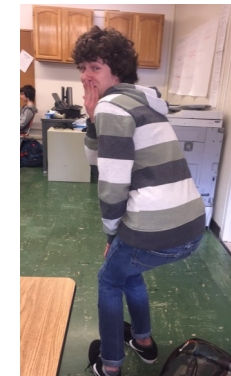
Another contributing factor that may hinder uniformity of players on game days can

lie within economical issues. This is a topic that people should be sensitive about, as one person's best may appear different from another's. And, in conclusion, that is okay as long as there is an effort made to look your best. An effective way to keep this tradition alive is to hold each other accountable. If teams, coaches, and players hold a standard for how the tradition is to be upheld, it will create a positive and uplifting environment for all. It is such an important tradition that should be carried on for years to come.

## *Appropriate for game days*



## *Inappropriate for game days*



# CFES Brilliant Pathways Mentoring Event with 9th and 1st Grade

Contributed by Mrs. Lackey

Westport Central School is a CFES Brilliant Pathways School of Distinction. What does that mean? The faculty, staff and Board of Education have joined with CFES Brilliant Pathways out of Essex, NY to offer opportunities that will better prepare our students to be college and career ready at time of graduation. This week the 9th Graders met with their mentees from the 1st Grade. Each 1st grader has been paired with two 9th graders for mentoring. The students will meet at a minimum once a month to engage in a fun activity. This week they got to know each other. Next month the students will attend a winter concert at Willsboro, "ANIMAL TALES: A Winter CAR-NIVAL of the PERFORMING ARTS." In addition to the monthly events, the students will meet with their mentors/mentees to read to each other, watch a basketball game, join in Math Club or other after school activities.

The mentoring program is just one of many activities that are scheduled for the 2017/2018 school year. February is packed full with activities for students from 6-12 grade. On February 1st grade 10 students will visit CVTEC to learn about the many programs CVTEC can offer. February 2nd Mr. Smith will accompany several students to the League of Women Voters Workshop at CVTEC. On February 12th the 7th and 8th graders will take a field trip to the GE Wind Turbine Training Center in Niskayuna, NY and the Hudson Valley Community College TEC Smart Center in Malta, NY. The students will have the opportunity to learn about what it takes to become a wind turbine technician or engineer and the many programs offered at HVCC including the microchip fabrication technician program. On February 13th ten 11th/12th grade young ladies will attend the Empowering

Young Women of the Adirondacks workshop at the CFES center in Essex, NY. February 14th the 6th grade will attend an Adirondack STEM Fair in Ticonderoga, NY. February 15th ten 8th grade students will participate in the WestPoint Robotics Day being held at CFES Brilliant Pathways Center in Essex, NY. The students will gain valuable teamwork, critical thinking and problem solving skills as they work to complete a challenge.

The CFES Committee at WCS continues to organize events for our students that align with the values and the mission statement of CFES Brilliant Pathways. Please visit the Westport Central School CFES webpage to view upcoming events, pictures and reports of past events. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school at 518-962-8622.

