

BEHIND THE WALL

Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter Date

AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE 2016 GRIFFINS' VARSITY SOCCER PROGRAMS

BY HUDSON STEPHENS.

Five teams, wavering from skill levels of immense experience and capability to bottom of the spectrum amateurs, set out in a quest for victory this fall, all with different expectations and objectives in mind. Despite student athlete losses of great proportion in both the boys' and girls' programs, hopes are high and rebuilding championship teams is a task that seems achievable through hard work, perseverance and determination. *Behind the Wall* provides inside information on your favorite players, teams, and coaches.

BOYS' VARSITY

Some readers may have heard of the infamous Griffins boys' varsity soccer team. With their 2015 State Championship run, these boys proved that anything is possible for a team who consistently plays to potential and has the will to win. Hopes are high for the 2016 roster, and despite losing an estimated fourteen players, success is an expectation.

On the Pitch

Defending Section VII, Division II MVP, 5th team all-state award recipient and lead goal scorer in the region, Elizabethtown-Lewis senior Joel Morris provides the young Griffins team with an expert of experience and leadership. Only four starters, including Joel, return from the 2015 dream team to play key positions in this year's young squad. Senior, and

two time section finalist, Wyatt Gough, will transition from his position at left back to a more central role in the middle of the defensive line. Sophomore, and former left midfielder, Hudson Stephens, will play in the center of the midfield, while fellow sophomore Jeremy Rossi moves from his 2015 position at right back, to fluctuate between center mid and sweeper. Additional returning players from the 2015 championship team include seniors: Sam Huttig and Schylar Kurth; juniors, Mike Dedam, Carter Smith, and Trey Mclean; and sophomore Will Napper. Carter Smith will follow in his cousin Sam Nappers' footsteps as starting goal keeper, while Will Napper and Schylar Kurth will play crucial roles on the defensive end. Huttig and Mclean will be vital members of the Griffins' attack, while Dedam will play as a substantial addition to the outside ends of the midfield. Junior Riley Martin, sophomore Peter Vaiciulis and freshmen Blake Liberi, McKenzie Stephens, and Matt Pribble will join the Griffins Varsity Boys roster as rookies in the 2016 season. Liberi is likely to start in a midfield position, while Pribble, Vaiciulis, Stephens, and Martin will float from strikers to outside midfielders to outside backs.

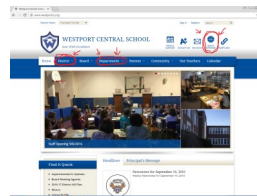
GIRLS' VARSITY

After a disappointing 3-1 loss in the 2015 section VII semi-finals, this year's girls' varsity is thick with experience

and skill, but not numbers. Starting the season with only 11 players and moving up a division, they were assured one thing, it wouldn't be easy. Now, with 14 players, the squad is looking promising, and a championship run could be in store.

On the Pitch

Eleven veteran players rejoin the girls' varsity roster, including seniors and captains Chloe Mitchell and Tess Andrade. Additional Captain, junior Hannah Schwoebel, returns as sweeper for her 4th year on the varsity team. Lead goal scorers, and vital members of both the attack and the defense, juniors Taylor Gough and Ellie Storey, will be key parts of the lady Griffin's success. Junior Lizzie Stephens and sister, freshman Annette Stephens, play identical roles in the Griffins back four. Juniors Abby Mero and Malynda Lobdell, also each play important parts: Lobdell as starting goal keeper and Mero as an attacking forward. Freshman Maggie Plouffe plays as an experienced outside midfielder, while sophomore Cassidy Roy takes a spot on the front line. Rookie players include junior Sierra Jacques, and eight graders LeAnna Costin and Anna Burdo. All-in-all, the team will be looking towards a progressive standpoint, hoping to build and adjust throughout their season, accommodating a tough Division II.



"BENEATH THE FOLD" WCS'S NEW WEBSITE AND ITS INTRIGUES

BY PETER VAICIULIS

I, like many others, was surprised last year when WCS revealed it would be updating its classic website. The news reached far and wide within the Westport area. However, upon its introduction, I realized I had never even explored the vast site.

I proceeded to spend a hefty amount of time probing the new environment that was the site.

I wouldn't be surprised if you had found the conveniently placed sports schedules in the upper right sector of the site. I would be quite

astounded though, if you found the interesting section under the "District" tab entitled: History of WCS. This page includes ten pictures of old school houses that were once used to instruct and develop the young minds of Westport. Featured to the right, under the "Community" tab is a beaut of a list featuring a swarm of events happening around town.

My own favorite location on the site is the "Departments" tab. Here you can find a comprehensive meal schedule

for the current month (that's lunch, and breakfast, fellows).

"Beneath the Fold" was founded to enlighten the minds of our youth. My job is to dig up useful info that could be dissected by our fans. Info that might be little known might not be far; it might only be, "Beneath the Fold". This has been "Beneath the Fold" with Peter Vaiciulis. Signing off.

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Reminders

- Yearbook order forms are available now
- Class of 2018 dodgeball tournament

MR. MEYER SPEAKS OUT ABOUT HONORS CLASSES

BY: BLAKE LIBERI

Today, we interview beloved principal, Mr. Meyer. We briefly speak to him about the up-and-coming "Honors Classes".

Q: Can anyone take Honors' classes?

A: Theoretically, yes. Anyone can take Honors classes.

Q: What grades are Honors' classes available to?

A: Honors' classes are only available to grades 9-12.

Q: Is the requirement for Honors' different for each teacher?

A: Teachers are free to do and assign whatever they want for their Honors' students.

Q: When should students talk to teachers about getting into Honors?

A: They should speak to their teachers at the start of the year, or the end of the year for the following year.

Q: What are some benefits with taking Honors' classes?

The benefit of taking the honors class is that it appears on your transcript, making you a more appealing candidate to colleges. In addition, the classes allow you to work at an appropriate level or rigor.

Q: Is Honors the same as AP?

A: No, AP classes go through a strict curriculum, and everyone in the state takes the same tests. Honors' classes are made locally and are organized by the teachers here at WCS.

Well, there you have it, Mr. Meyer speaks out about Honors' Classes.



MEET OUR NEW GUIDANCE COUNSELOR MRS. CASSIDY!

BY: MAGGIE PLOUFE

"I am extremely happy to be serving students at Westport!" says Mrs. Cassidy. Not only is Mrs. Cassidy passionate about students, her previous experience counseling in five other schools (Alburg Elementary, Enosburg Falls, Saranac Lake High School, Clarkston High in Michigan, and Brockport High in Brockport) and teaching at Monroe Community College, gives her lots of experience in this area and will hopefully give WCS students a step up in future aspirations and career planning.

Did you know that Mrs. Cassidy is native to upstate New York? She grew up with her mom, dad and sister in Chase Mills, a well-known Amish community that Mrs. Cassidy shared some fond memories of. "I remember playing in the barns, making homemade ice cream, playing with dolls, and running around and having lots of fun with many friends," says Mrs. Cassidy. Now Mrs. Cassidy's home is in Lake Placid. She lives with her husband, Chadd, raising two children, Ireland, age 7, and Sheldon, age 10, with their chocolate Labrador, Emerson. You will find Mrs. Cassidy loving board games, summertime, being in/on the water, and fishing.

Mrs. Cassidy's path towards guidance counseling started with, "I wanted to be a zoo keeper!" She went on sharing bits of her life in our interview, beginning with a high school graduation from Norwood/Norfolk high school. She participated in sports programs such as track, cross-country, and cheer-leading. Mrs. Cassidy remembers waitressing and working at Twin Brooks Golf Course as a groundskeeper before she earned her professional certificates. She went on to SUNY Cortland majoring in Spanish, but later transferring to SUNY Potsdam, graduating with a bachelor's degree in Sociology, and a minor in Psychology, playing women's lacrosse for the Potsdam Bears. Mrs. Cassidy furthered her study at St. Lawrence University completing a graduate degree in Education with a concentration in Counseling and Human Development. "I found great inspiration from Professor Art Clarke, the director of the counseling department at SLU."

Mrs. Cassidy's passion is truly working with kids, career counseling, and being active in student growth and development with whatever their dreams & aspirations may be. Mrs. Cassidy is super excited to be working here at Westport and plans to for years to come.

"Smile, you might be the best part of someone's Day."-Mrs. Cassidy

SEVENTH GRADE MAKES TRANSITION SEEM SIMPLE

BY HUDSON STEPHENS

It's a well-known fact that every fall, timid seventh graders at WCS climb the stairs and begin their journey through high school. While technically middle school students, seventh and eighth graders are essentially a part of the bustling Westport high school, as there are fundamentally very few differences between the two classifications of learning levels. Transitioning from an elementary environment can be stressful and often times difficult for early teenage students, and thus creates a great stage to interrogate and bombard 7th graders on their feelings and emotions regarding the high school.

Rachel Storey and Wren VanDuesen agreed that moving up was indeed quite stressful. Both girls in-

formed us that their lockers were difficult to get into and that they didn't have enough time between classes. Maddy Liberi, on the other hand, claimed that she wasn't anxious at all and that moving up was not what she expected it to be. "It's more boring than I thought it would be," Liberi complained. She also dished out what her LEAST favorite class is, a juicy detail we won't provide Behind the Wall readers with as it not only disembodies our morals, but could provide leeway to a poor relationship between Maddy and one of her teachers. Other students had similar opinions, stating that school was more boring now and they didn't have as much fun. Maddy Kirkby said that her favorite class is English, congratulations Mr. Campagna!

We concluded our interview, as the seventh graders seemed anxious to return to their lunch, almost as if they felt they might not finish their sandwiches in time. All-in-all, the transition seemed relatively normal in comparison to past years, and we felt satisfied with the intelligence and capability of the upcoming high schoolers.

AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE CLASS OF 2029

BY: LIZZIE STEPHENS AND TAYLOR GOUGH

We talked to the new three foot additions at Westport Central, the infamous kindergarteners. As you may imagine, they are a hoot. Our first reaction was amazement and jealousy of their amount of energy. During an interview with Zander Lobdell and Casey Marshall, we received some very interesting perspectives on life as a kindergarten boy. Both boys expressed a great disinterest towards school, and girls. They seem to be a bit conflicted on their favorite part of the day, saying it is "outside", though that is the prime time for girls to chase them, which counteracts their previous statement of love

for recess. Lunch is also a favorite. As they are only kindergarteners, it didn't seem necessary to mention to them that these are the only things, other than nap time, that aren't actual classes.

As one may imagine, the attention span of a five year old is miniscule, so the boys ran away and we moved on to asking Edie Goff and Carly Spadafora some questions. Similar to the boys' answers, recess is also a highlight of these youngsters' day, leading us to the assumption that they are a part of the boy chase. Based on their personalities, we gathered that the girls enjoy

school and spending time with their classmates. Carly rapidly verbalized her favorite colors, and because best friends always think alike, Edie preferred precisely the same colors.

If you get a chance, pop into the lively kindergarten classroom, and take a look for yourselves at how adorable these munchkins are!

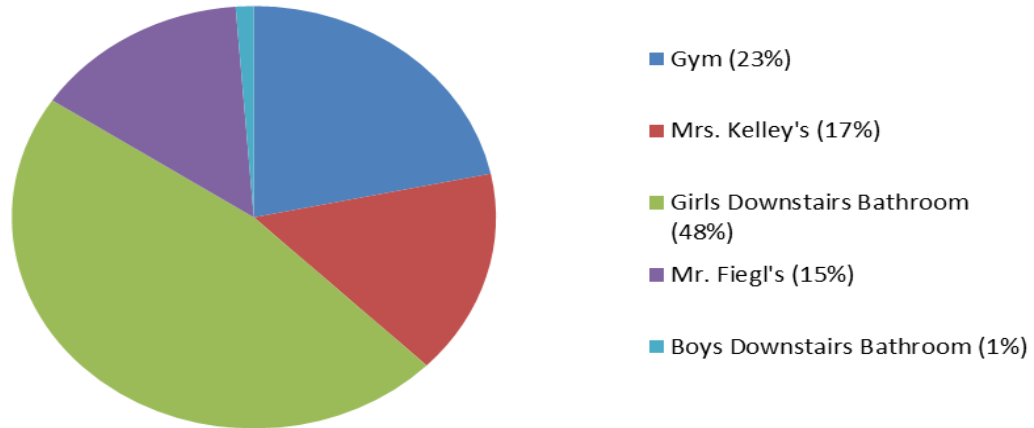
A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

BY CAMERON COSTELLO

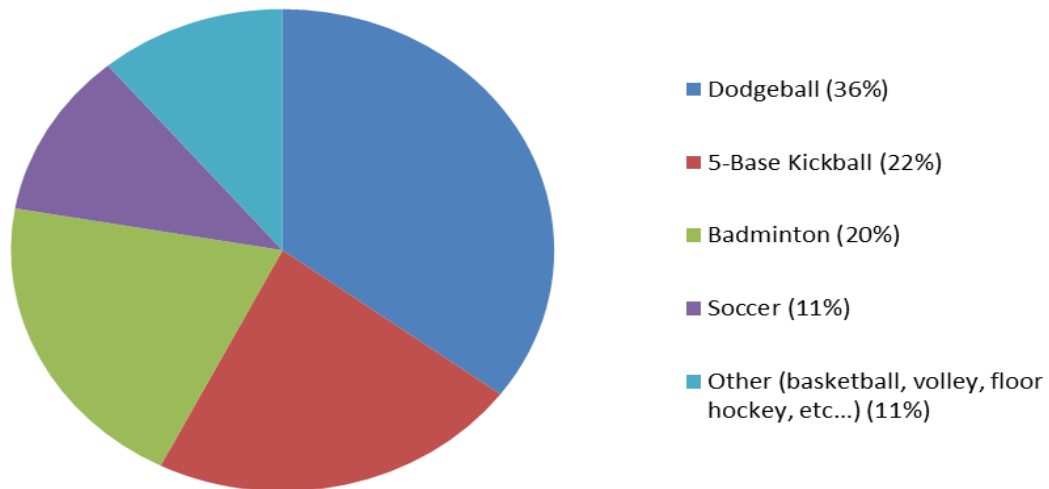
Hey Westport! Welcome to this year's first edition of Behind the Wall! My name is Cameron Costello, and I am this year's editor! I am also the co-anchor on "Wake up with Westport!" The Behind the Wall crew this year is excited to bring you some awesome stories! Have a great year Westport; we'll keep you up-to-date!



What's your favorite Water Fountain in the School?



What's your favorite Gym Activity?



The Class of 2018 dodgeball tournament!

Coming up this November 4th, is the class of 2018's dodgeball tournament! Don't miss out on a fun-filled day of dodging, jumping and throwing. Gather your team of six, three boys, and three girls for the ultimate showdown! Five dollars per participant goes to benefit the class of 2018! For further information ask Mrs. Loher.

Stay Tuned for the next edition of Behind The Wall!

