

Behind the Wall

December 2016
Issue 3

AN INSIDE LOOK AT OUR VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAMS

GIRLS

After a disappointing loss to Crown Point in last year's sectional quarterfinals, this year's girls' varsity team hopes to improve on their weaknesses, and make a solid run for the section VII title. Having lost only two girls from last year's team, beloved exchange student Sarah Schmoelz, and lone senior Sarina Westerkamp, this year's team looks to take advantage of their experience and skill, despite still fielding only one senior, Chloe Mitchell. With two additional players from E'town, Lauren Hutter and Faith Bona, our girls will look to reinstate Westport's prestigious basketball reputation. 2015-16 first team all-star Hannah Schwoebel, returns for her fourth year of varsity basketball, as a junior, and hopes to improve upon her previous 15.2 ppg average and 10.8 rpg average, which led her team through last year's season. *(continued on page 3).*

FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF PROVES SUCCESSFUL

The Senior Class of WCS worked hard for eight weeks on the production of *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. It was a long ride with a lot of fun, tiring practices. The final product was pretty awesome and there was a great feeling of success amongst the seniors afterward.

All the members of the play got closer to each other throughout the weeks of practice. Many new friendships were made during the long two and a half hour rehearsals. Some participants came right from sports to play practice and ate dinner there. The twelve hour days eventually paid off though. *(continued on page 4)*

Inside this issue:

A Very Fun Run	pg2
Westport Basketball	pg3
Ferris Bueller's Day Off	pg4
Public Existentiality	pg5
Google	pg6
Holiday Festivity	pg7
Indoor Soccer	pg8



A VERY FUN RUN

By: Annette Stephens

The streets of Westport were speckled with the vivid athletic attire of the bold runners, walkers and volunteers participating in the 2016 Fly Like An Eagle Fun Run 5k. From college runners and Ragnar race top finishers, to overzealous power walkers and ambitious 9 year olds, the Fun Run was a huge hit. After WPTSO president Jess Storey explained the route and sounded the horn, the eager adults, teens and children took off; however, many of the 5K participants quickly watched their hopes of winning, and self-esteem drop, as formerly state-ranked and college runner ,Jonathan Gay, made his way to the front of the pack and went on to finish first with a time of 17:14. Even though Gay, among others, took the race seriously, the atmosphere was very uplifting. All over there were voices of encouragement, high fives and hugs, while still holding on to a competitive spirit. Seeing as it was a "fun run", Gay was not the only winner. After all the runners, walkers, volunteers and families had finished their delicious and nutritious breakfast of pancakes, sausage and several types of breads, the awards were handed out. In first place for the men, to no one's surprise was Jonathan Gay and for the women, track coach and Westport Central alumna, Deirdre Forcier with a time of 22:19. There were also winners of various age groups including Taylor Rose Gough, Henry Loher, Mr. Jason Fiegl, Annette Stephens, Evan George and other community members. As for the 1K, everyone was a winner and everyone created their very own medal. Between the warm weather, involved community participants, and encouraging, feel-good environment, the 2016 Fun Run was a very successful, enjoyable event.



WESTPORT BASKETBALL

By: Hudson Stephens

Continued:

Juniors Ellie Storey, Taylor Gough, and Lizzie Stephens reappear for their third varsity season while classmates Abby Mero and Malynda Lobdell return for a second season. Storey will lead the charge beside Schwoebel, coming off a 13.2 ppg season last year. Sophomore Malina Lawrence returns after joining the team half way through last season, and freshman Maggie Ploufe will join for her first year of varsity basketball. Westport Central athletic coordinator Brad Rascoe returns for his second year as head coach of girls' basketball, and assistant coach Ron Mitchell returns for his second year of coaching at the varsity level.

BOYS

After injuries and disappointments in last year's championship destined team, our boys this year aspire to work towards the potential their fans know they possess. With only three returning players, this year's boys' varsity team is youthful and inexperienced. Aside from seniors Wyatt Gough and Schylar Kurth, no starters remain from last year's team. Gough and Kurth bring the most familiarity to the team, having been starters on Varsity since their sophomore season, while fellow senior John Looby returns for his second year. Rookie senior Sam Staats will play basketball for the first time ever in the 2016-17 season while juniors Carter Smith and Riley Martin emerge from last season's JV team, along with Sophomores Hudson Stephens and Will Napper for their debuts in varsity basketball. Freshman Blake Liberi will also join the team, after two intense years of modified basketball. The boys are led by long-time head coach and town supervisor Ike Tyler, who is assisted by basketball icon of the 1960's, Barry Morrison.



FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF

By: Cameron Costello

Continued:

While working on a budget of zero dollars, we were still able to get the costumes together and gather some great props. John Looby starred as Ferris and Sam Staats starred as his friend Cameron, and they did an excellent job.

The audience thought the play was hilarious and the seniors got some positive feedback from the viewers. Both nights the crowd was clapping along as the play ended and gave the seniors a bunch of energy. Many great memories were made from the play!



PUBLIC EXISTENTIALISM

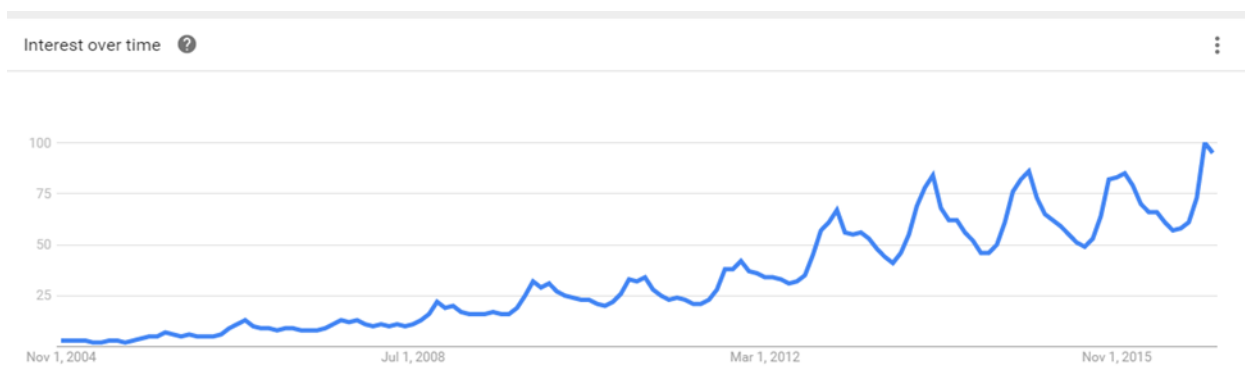
By: Peter Vaiciulis

In this day and age, leggings are commonplace attire among the females of our society. But has anybody besides, Mrs.Brankman, ever raised the husky question: "When did leggings become pants," and why?

Well, to answer that question I turned to female, Amy Lee. In late February of 2014 Amy published an article on "dailybruin.com" detailing the tolerance for leggings as pants. The question was raised on the social media site "Reddit" where it solicited over two-thousand readers. There is no doubt in my mind that many people want to know the truth, and the truth is what I have to present.

According to Amy Lee, the best explanation for the legging craze is ease, saying, "It's easy, comfortable and at least somewhat more presentable than sweatpants." The majority of leggings wearers possibly agree with this statement as well.

I will finish my argument with some news from the opposing force. A philosophy student, Jonathan, offered up some form of an attack on leggings — although it lacked reason other than opinion, "They can be worn at home but it's just like if I was wearing swim trunks or sweatpants to class. You can do it, but I feel like that's weird," he said. "I'm not a fan but I understand why it is a thing." We all can, Jonathan, we all can.



A graph by "google" shows leggings searches peak in the winter months like December, and have grown greatly in the last decade.

WCS “Drives” Into the 21st Century

Since their high school debuts, Ellie Storey and Lizzie Stephens have been using “Google Drive” as a replacement for Microsoft Word. They struggled for years with not having access to the program on their school accounts and asked repeatedly for the site to become available to students. They were overjoyed to learn that this year they would have access to the program, thanks to Mr. Campagna.

Campagna, the rookie of the English department, not only advocated to get “Google Drive” unblocked, but went further and introduced WCS to “Google Classroom,” which is quite ironic seeing as he claims to be anything but tech savvy.

It was quite a process to get the program up and running, but with the help of Mr. Shane Porter, the school's tech man, and students familiar with the program (and a little more tech savvy than Campagna), such as Stephens and Storey, “Classroom” was easily integrated into the curriculum. In an interview with Storey, she talked about how nice it is to have access to “Drive” and the convenience of “Classroom.” She told us that in the first few weeks of the year, she and Stephens helped Campagna and their fellow classmates understand the ins and outs of “Google Drive.” His start of putting upperclassmen in “Classroom” was such a success, that he has now started using “Classroom” with all of his courses.

As the year has progressed, Mr. Campagna has introduced more and more of his classes to the program, and by now, all of them are participating. His students praised the program so much, that Mrs. Loher also joined with some of her courses.

It seems to be agreed by most people I have talked to that it is great that we took this technological leap into the 21st century, though some are overwhelmed with the massive jump, seeing as we have been working in the 19th century for such a long time.



Teachers Get Festive

By: Maggie Ploufe & Taylor Gough

Christmas time is a favorite among those who celebrate it, including some of our dear teachers here at Westport Central. We interviewed six high school teachers covering three different subjects. Starting off with Mrs. Brankman, her Christmas traditions include putting up a real tree, baking festive cookies, and sleeping in on Christmas morning. Mr. Campagna, on the other hand, puts up a fake tree because he's "allergic to pine", doesn't bake Christmas cookies, and usually wakes up before his kids, around 5:00 am, on Christmas morning. His motto is: "Before anything... coffee!" Both Mrs. Loher and Mr. Fiegl stay home on Christmas Day and sometimes travel afterwards. They both put up real trees, dabble in decorating, and take down their trees sometime in January. Mr. Fiegl loves listening to Christmas music and his favorites songs consist of "The First Noel," "We Three Kings," and "Good King Wenceslas." The social studies teachers, also, love listening to Christmas music. Mrs. Kelley and Mr. Smith enjoy baking cookies with their families during the holiday season. Mr. Smith leaves out cookies and milk for Santa, along with carrots and celery for Santa's reindeer.

A controversial topic that comes up every year during the holiday season is Christmas sweaters: pro or no. There are clear lines between teachers who love the festive sweater and which considered the sweaters a waste of money. The English department said the sweaters were a "must-have." Mr. Campagna says they, "should be a must for all of the Westport faculty members," and Mrs. Brankman says, "the gaudier, the better!" The science department, on the other hand, aren't as into the Christmas-sweater trend. Mr. Fiegl originally liked Christmas sweaters, but began to dislike them when they became too big of a thing, and Mrs. Loher hates them so much she "steals her husband's sweater and throws them on the roof!" Mrs. Kelly says she's "not too fond of them, but does own one sweater only just for ugly sweater day. On the other hand, Mr. Smith is all for Christmas sweaters, and says, "If you can't laugh at yourself wearing an ugly Christmas sweater, it's just no fun!"

Overall, the teachers at Westport have many unique views on holiday season traditions and have lots of fun celebrating Christmas!

FBLA FOOD DRIVE CONCLUDES



Some (not all) members of Westport Central's FBLA club pose with food donations from students and faculty alike.

FBLA members thank everyone who donated items to our local food shelf and wish all a very Happy Holiday season.