

Behind the Wall

April 2017
Issue 6

Senior Trip!

By: Cameron Costello

The seniors this year went to New York City for their senior trip. When they first got to New York City, they ate at Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. where they had some great shrimp, salad, and even some juicy burgers. They went to Broadway and saw *Phantom of the Opera*. The stage came to life with moving parts and an awesome symphony. They also saw "The Blue Man Group" and Schylar Kurth told me that it was "fun and weird." He said it was a kind of play/ skit kind of thing and the performers got the crowd involved.

Throughout their adventures in the big city, they bought some sweet souvenirs and met some different types of people. Some very interesting street rappers tried to bribe the seniors with their new mixtapes. One of the rappers was selling a mix tape with only two tracks on it for twenty dollars! John Looby bought a fidget spinner, Schylar got some cool key chains, Eddy and Mattea bought some sweatshirts.

They also visited the World Trade Center, went up the One World Observatory, checked out the amazing view, and took some awesome pictures. Finally, they went to an Italian restaurant where there was delicious spaghetti and meatballs, lasagna, pizza, and even salmon. In the end, great memories were made at a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

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Meet the Behind The Wall Crew!

By: Hudson Stephens



Annette Stephens

Place of Birth: Plattsburgh, NY

Previous Schools: None

Writing Interests: School Happenings

Future Hopes and Dreams: Annette would like a job in the food sciences , a husband in paradise

Known For: Various articles including a Fun Run and Tanneberger follow up

School Sports and Clubs: Soccer, Basketball, Track, Drama, FBLA, Quizbowl, Yearbook, Freshman Class Vice President.

Favorite Pastime: Gardening



Maggie Ploufe

Place of Birth: Plattsburgh, NY

Previous Schools: None

Writing Interests: Problems and Dilemmas throughout the world

Future Hopes and Dreams: After attaining her PhD, she will marry a loving husband, have kids, and have a job that involves helping people

Known For: Martin Luther King, Jr. article

School Sports and Clubs: Soccer, Basketball, Peer-to-Peer, Drama

Favorite Pastime: Shopping



Cameron Costello (Editor and Chief)

Place of Birth: Burlington, VT

Previous Schools: Flynn Central, Moriah

Writing Interests: Current Events

Future Hopes and Dreams: Cameron would like to become a physical therapist and live in the greatest town in all of New York, Westport.

Known For: No famous pieces

School Sports and Clubs: Track, Student Council

Favorite Pastime: Listening to music



Blake Liberi

Place of Birth: Philadelphia, PA

Previous Schools: Spring-Ford SD

Writing Interests: Local problems

Future Hopes and Dreams: Blake would like to live on his own private island with a wife and 2 children. He hopes to acquire enough money to somehow never have to work.

Known For: No famous pieces

School Sports and Clubs: Soccer, Basketball, Golf, FBLA, Freshman Class Secretary

Favorite Pastime: Golf



Peter Vaiciulis

Place of Birth: Plattsburgh, NY

Previous Schools: None

Writing Interests: Providing the world with snowboarding reports

Future Hopes and Dreams: Peter hopes to still be writing Mountain reports

Known For: Mountain Report

School Sports and Clubs: Soccer, FBLA, Quizbowl (Captain), Band Treasurer

Favorite Pastime: Gymnastics



Lizzie Stephens

Place of Birth: Plattsburgh, NY

Previous Schools: None

Writing Interests: Anything

Future Hopes and Dreams: Lizzie would like to be married with 2-4 kids and travel the world

Known For: Nothing

School Sports and Clubs: Soccer, Basketball, Softball, Drama, FBLA, Yearbook, Quizbowl, Peer-to-Peer, Junior Class Treasurer

Favorite Pastime: Traveling



Hannah Schwoebel

Place of Birth: Burlington, VT

Previous Schools: None

Writing Interests: Current Events, Social Opinions

Future Hopes and Dreams: Hannah would like to be married with 2 kids, live in a New York City pent-house that she designed herself, with a job as the CEO of Vogue.

Known For: Super Storm Stella

School Sports and Clubs: Soccer, Basketball, Softball, Drama, Yearbook, FBLA, Quizbowl, Peer-to-Peer, Junior Class President.

Favorite Pastime: Playing the piano



Taylor Gough

Place of Birth: Plattsburgh, NY

Previous Schools: Keene Central

Writing Interests: Events around the community

Future Hopes and Dreams: Taylor would like to be married with a random number of kids, live in a warm place.

Known For: Hygiene article "School May Stink but You Don't Have To"

School Sports and Clubs: Soccer, Basketball, track, Drama, Yearbook, FBLA, Quizbowl, Peer-to-Peer, Junior Class Secretary

Favorite Pastime: Eating



Ellie Storey

Place of Birth: Williamstown, MA

Previous Schools: Williamstown SD

Writing Interests: Persuasive articles to make changes

Future Hopes and Dreams: Ellie would like to marry and have 3 kids. She would like to work for Patagonia out of Westport.

Known For: Muriel Madness

School Sports and Clubs: Soccer, Basketball, Softball, Drama, FBLA, Quizbowl, Yearbook, Peer-to-Peer, Junior Class Vice President.

Favorite Pastime: Watch Netflix and Chill



Hudson Stephens

Place of Birth: Plattsburgh, NY

Previous Schools: None

Writing Interests: Advocacy and Criticism journalism

Future Hopes and Dreams: Hudson hopes to be living in Vancouver, BC, where he will have a happy family and a great job.

Known For: 2015 Halloween Skit Critique

School Sports and Clubs: Soccer, Basketball, Track, Quizbowl, Drama, FBLA, Yearbook, Sophomore Class President

Favorite Pastime: Shredding the Gnar

Grease, Grease, Grease

By: Annette Stephens

I hope you were able to join us May 5, 6, and 7 for the Westport Drama Club's production of *Grease*! With a group of experienced main roles and a young, but lively ensemble, this year's production of *Grease* brought back the prestigious reputation of the Westport Drama Club. As this year's cast of 31, as well as the stage crew and director Diana George, have learned, hard work got us there. Show business isn't easy and requires a huge commitment. The older cast members put in crazy hours and sacrificed their physical and mental health, making sure that the audience left each night with big smiles on their faces and helped spread the word about the show's triumph. The most magical part of the show, however, was the energy stemming from the genuine fun all the actors and actresses had while on stage. The revival of musicals seems to be helping the drama program and increase involvement in the school and community. The lead roles were played by experienced actors, Hudson Stephens and Maggie Ploufe, as well as Malynda and Lawrence Lobdell. In such a sports-focused school, having a large and successful arts program is impressive. So many parents, teachers, and community members made it a priority to see *Grease* in the Bulles Auditorium and continue to help make Westport a well-rounded school. Look for more details and pictures from the show in our next edition.

April Showers Bring May Flowers

By: Lizzie Stephens

Word in the hallways of Westport High spreads rapidly. Recently there have been rumors of a Gardening Club. Hannah Schwobel is heading up the creation and said, it is not a definite yet, there are a lot of steps to take before it can be approved. Prospective members of the club have talked about starting seeds in the back of the library, where the large glass windows give the room a greenhouse-like environment. They would also like to plant flowers in the area above the baseball field, and around the bushes in the front of the school. Stay tuned for more information on this new club.

Revival Of Open Gym

By: Ellie Storey

Every Sunday between 4 and 6pm the school doors open for community members of all ages who want to have some fun playing basketball. This is a great chance to get some exercise, to really enjoy yourself, and to improve your basketball skills by playing with people of all skill levels. It is an uncompetitive and light-hearted environment. Depending on numbers, we generally play a game of 5 on 5 on 5. We are divided into 3 teams and rotate playing against each other. This allows everyone to be involved and to work on personal basketball skills. Those who have gone in the past have given great reviews and recommend it to anyone else interested!

Freshman, Sophomores, and First Graders visit the Echo Aquarium

By: Blake Liberi

The Echo Aquarium is a medium-sized aquarium located in Burlington, VT. On Friday, March 31, 3 grades ranging from 1st grade to 10th grade visited the tremendous aquarium.

The visit consisted of tours around the aquarium, seeing the different species of fish and reptiles found in the ocean and Lake Champlain. The freshman and sophomores got a behind-the-scenes tour seeing hurt animals, or animals that were not wanting to be seen by numerous people. They also got a tour of operating rooms, learning how they operate the aquarium and keep it in top shape. Many of the 1st graders were very ecstatic to be there while others, like Bryce Liberi, were not very amused. "This is boring," claimed the 1st grader. Many of the stations at the aquarium were very interesting, but quite small. Another field trip to the aquarium would be recommended for newer, younger grades, as older grades may not be interested in this small, but interesting aquarium.

Whose Side Are We On?

By: Hannah Schwoebel

The past few weeks have been nothing but high tensions and public uneasiness. Right now the world is full of secret ties and confusion. No one is quite sure where the other stands in issues involving areas such as the Middle East and the Korean border. Recently, Syrian president, Bashar al-Assad, has been accused of dropping chemical weapons on the people of Khan Sheikhoun. Russian leader, Vladimir Putin, has been accused of trying to cover up for Assad by stating that there is no way of knowing who did what. Russia has been one of Syria's longest allies and public supporters when it comes to supplies such as weapons and gear. The United States, along with Turkish and European allies, have very distinctly expressed complete disgust with Assad's actions and attitude toward his own people. Russia and the United States have been riding a rollercoaster of emotions due to differences with governmental status. The disputes between democracy and communism have always been a separating factor between the two superpowers. Within the past few months, the isolated, communist regime, North Korea, has provoked reactions from nations across the globe. North Korea leader, Kim Jong Un, flaunted nuclear missiles and deadly bombs to the rest of the world during a massive holiday parade. This, too, has caused much anxiety throughout the nations of the world. Russia has expressed support of Kim Jong Un, along with many middle eastern countries. U.S. President, Donald Trump, has met with Chinese leader, Xi Jinping to discuss actions and precautions to take with North Korea's invading confidence. So, who are we really fighting? Who are the good guys? The bad guys? Well, it breaks down to this: currently, the U.S. has strong allies in Britain, France, Germany, Israel, Canada, Japan, China, South Korea, and many other countries. We are not fond of dictatorship countries such as Russia, North Korea, Iran, Syria, Libya, and many other Middle Eastern nations. It's a waiting game right now. The world is waiting to see if someone will make the first move or if things will settle peacefully.



The Tree

By: Blake Liberi



The school's beloved 80-year old (estimation, rings counted) maple tree, has been cut down. Many people around the school, including teachers, have mourned the chopping of our cherished tree. This tree was located right outside of the front doors, and was standing for at least 80 years (estimated by Magnus Kohler). Many messages have been left on the stump, such as "You will be missed," "Why would you do such a thing," and "Papa Bless." This controversial move has been proclaimed by our school principal, Mr. Meyer, "It was dead." He has also claimed that while cutting down a dead limb, they saw that the inside of the tree was diseased and hollow. Elizabeth Lee, as I write this article, is planting a new tree with the help of our high school science teacher, Mr. Fiegl. This tree is being planted right next to the one chopped down, and will be up and growing within a few days. As we are still sorrowing over our tree taken at such a young age, we are excited to see teachers and volunteers plant a new one, as it gives us a shimmer of hope for our future.

Montreal

By: Peter Viaciulis

April 28th marked the anniversary of the death of William Wallace, and the birth of local bmx rider McKenzie Stephens. Also on this particular day, a 27 students in grades 9-12 boarded a school bus for a field-trip to Montreal, Quebec.

The day began when students met in the wee hours of the morning—6:15— at the school. After riding the bus for over an hour, we reached the US-Canada border. As the bus's roar of conversation dimmed to silence, and the border patrolman boarded the vehicle, the tension was palpable, until the patrolman commented on the likeliness of Owen's id to none other than Justin Bieber.

After all was said and done, we arrived in Montreal vitalized and full of pomp, ready to begin our adventure touring an exhibit of Chagall's works. Chagall was a Jewish, Russian-French painter of early modernism whose work was created throughout a lot of the 1900's. The exhibit showcased paintings, costumes, and even engravings by Marc Chagall.

Following the tour, the crew walked through Montreal on the way to a large mall to eat lunch, and later ride the metro to our next event: movie-time. The group viewed a movie entitled "America Wild" inside one of Montreal's IMAX theaters. The film explored many of the United States' national parks, such as the Grand Canyon and the Arches in Utah.



Once the movie finished, the weary group made their way back to the bus, and proceeded homeward. Although crossing the border back into the US was quite a bit less entertaining, it was no less a success, and so the trip was done.

Listen Up!

By: Maggie Ploufe and Taylor Gough


The month of April is known as National Sexual Awareness month. In honor of this, there were many organizations, including Planned Parenthood, that collaborated to put on an event at the Lake Placid Center for the Arts called the *Listen Festival* to raise awareness and empower young men and women to express themselves through writing poetry, telling their stories, and educating themselves about sexual violence. Four poets who have had experiences relating to adolescence and sexual violence shared poems of those experiences and shared their very vulnerable, emotional, and raw feelings. The poems were extremely touching and reached many of the students' hearts.

Four other high schools from around the region were at the LPCA, and after the poets finished reading their works, all of the students were split into groups and assigned to a poet. The poets in each group worked with the students to help them create their own poems and discuss ways to express their feelings towards certain topics, such as sexual violence, individuality, diversity, etc. The workshops were very beneficial to the students, who were able to share what they had written to their group. Many of the students shared their works. The workshops were safe zones, allowing the students to feel comfortable and unjudged in their environment.

The *Listen Festival* was a fantastic opportunity for young adults to become aware of their rights as an individual to speak out against situations that they are not comfortable with and to encourage healthy relationships. It is a privilege to live in a country where we have these resources who are so passionate about helping others regardless of our history.

Adirondack Center for Writing and
Planned Parenthood of the North Country
New York present:

LISTEN FESTIVAL



SPOKEN WORD POETRY PERFORMANCES

April is both poetry and sexual assault awareness month so we are bringing acclaimed spoken word poets Carlos Andrés Gómez, Jon Sands, Jeanann Verlee, and Lauren Whitehead to the region to explore themes on sexual consent in an electrifying performance.

April 24, 7:00-9:00pm
Paul Smith's College, Freer Hall

April 25, 1:45pm - 2:45pm
S-19, North Country Community College
Saranac Lake Campus

Free and open to the public. Donations welcome.

This event is made possible thanks to:
The Bookstore Plus, NYS Police Campus Sexual Assault Victims Unit, The Counseling Center, NCCC Student Government Association (SGA)