

GLASS CORRIDORS



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Westhill Budget Update

By Daniel Phelan

What are two words that can change a school? The answer is “budget cuts.” For several years, the Westhill School District’s budget has suffered. This year alone, Westhill School District had \$733,635 cut from its budget. As a result, several areas of Westhill School District have been put into a bad situation.

In order to understand the budget cuts, one must first understand where they came from. The budget cuts for schools around New York State are a result of the Gap Elimination Adjustment. The Gap Elimination Adjustment was put in use in 2010 as a way to get rid of New York’s \$10 billion shortfall in its budget. It called for a portion of the state aid for schools throughout New York State to be taken back until New York’s budget deficit was fixed. This has resulted in a huge loss in

funding for school districts in New York, including the Westhill School District. Schools in New York have lost over six billion in state aid since 2010 due to the Gap Elimination Adjustment.

The individuals who are most directly affected by the budget cuts at Westhill are the staff who work at Westhill. Several teachers from the English, art, music, math, and science departments at Westhill High School were interviewed on how the budget cuts in recent years had affected them and their departments. There were obvious similarities in the responses that each teacher gave. One of the main issues was the cut in staffing, which resulted in the remaining teachers having to take on a greater work load and in some cases, teach more classes. Some of the teachers from Westhill now teach classes at both the high school and middle school in order to make up for the loss of staff. As the number of students stays the same and the number of staff decreases, teachers have to deal with larger

classes than ever before. As a result, teachers are put under more stress and have less opportunity for one-on-one student help. Unfortunately, a majority of the teachers agreed that these circumstances have resulted in the quality of teaching decreasing.

There doesn’t seem to be a light at the end of the tunnel for the Westhill School District. At the moment, New York has a high tax rate and not a lot of economic growth. These conditions will only result in the continuation of the Gap Elimination Adjustment, which will result in further budget cuts for school districts in New York, including Westhill. Mr. Barduhn, the superintendent of Westhill School District, confirmed this in a press conference when he said, “The state wants to end the budget cuts. It’s now a matter of how long it will take.” Don’t lose hope, though. As the damage of the financial crisis of 2008 is steadily repaired, change could be right around the corner for the Westhill School District.

The Scoop on School Food

By Ciara Hoyne

Sick of unappealing food choices at lunch? Wonder why portions keep getting smaller while prices are increasing? Tired of still feeling hungry when the lunch bell rings? The reality is these complaints may be due to the new federal regulations of school lunches.

According to an article written for CNN.com, schools participating in the federal lunch program are required to swap white bread and grains for whole grains, serve either low-fat or skim milk, include a fruit or vegetable serving with each meal, prepare food with zero grams of trans fat per serving, along with other limitations on calories and sodium. Head of the cafeteria staff here at the high school, Amy Cardinal, stated that due to the regulations the cafeteria has had to cut the size of meat and meat alternate portions, while alternatively increasing the size of fruit and vegetable portions. CNN.com also reported that

schools across the country are struggling to provide food that is flavorful, appeals to the students, while still meeting the federal lunch program guidelines. Cardinal said that the cafeteria staff has had to be “more creative in prep” due to the sodium restrictions. Cardinal said the staff has introduced the use of herbs and spices to make food less bland and more flavorful.

Cardinal stated that the most detrimental aspect to the cost of lunches is students throwing away food. Because a serving of fruit or vegetables is required, whether they want it or not, the produce is consequently the first thing to be thrown away. In addition to students throwing away food, most of the healthier items that meet the regulations are generally more expensive. Although the price of lunches has only increased a small amount, students have reported that they are paying a significant amount more because

they need more than one lunch to satisfy their hunger. Senior Dan DeMauro has said, “I usually have to buy a double lunch to fill me up.” Cardinal says that the cafeteria staff encourages all students to eat all components of the lunch served, and they will be satisfied.

A few schools in the local Syracuse area including Fayetteville-Manlius, Baldwinsville, and Manlius-Pebble Hill have decided to opt out of the federal school lunch program. The Syracuse Post Standard reported that the schools felt the rules were too restrictive, and weren’t going over well with the student body. Cardinal stated that the high school has considered the possibility of opting out of the federal program. Without the program, Cardinal stated that the cafeteria would be able to serve larger portions that would be more flavorful due to the elimination of sodium restrictions.

Students Speak:

How have the budget cuts affected you during your time at

Westhill High School?

Crue Culligan

“My classes have gotten progressively larger and it has gotten harder to get one-on-one teacher help. I feel it has affected my grades negatively.”

Ryan Williams

“I couldn’t take AP Physics.”

Andy Vadnais

“I get to watch good teachers get fired from the school as they build a multi-million dollar sports facility. It’s not fair.”

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GOT NEWS?

By Arlana Henneberry

EBOLA

The Ebola virus isn't what first world countries count as a problem, but now two nurses at the Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital have been infected with the deadly disease. When the first patient, Thomas Eric Duncan, arrived in the United States bringing the Ebola virus from Africa to the states, two nurses that cared for Mr. Duncan contracted the disease. Currently more then 120 people are being monitored. Seventy-five health care workers and forty-five people have had contact with Duncan. Symptoms of Ebola include a fever, severe headache, muscle pain, diarrhea and vomiting. These symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure. President Obama has been called to action to help control the widespread panic, he has appointed Ron Kalin as his "Ebola czar." It will be Kalin's responsibility to deal with the outbreak in the United States.

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Photos courtesy of Flickr

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Same sex marriage has been a growing controversy in the 20th century deciding if LGBT members have the right to marry. Twenty-nine now have legal same-sex marriage whether it is by court decision, state law or by popular vote. The common dispute is over Section Three of the so-called of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). This section states that same-sex couples cannot receive the same benefits of those in a heterosexual relationship. The Supreme Court prevented the government from denying the basic rights of those couples. Currently, same sex couples can receive Social Security, veterans' benefits, health insurance and retirement savings. The Supreme Court did not challenge section two of DOMA, which declares that states can deny or support gay marriages.

GOT NEWS?

ISIS

The major threat to world safety is the growing terrorist group called ISIS. The main aim for this growing threat is to create an Islamic state across Sunni areas of Iraq and Syria. The involvement of US forces is due to the beheading videos filmed by ISIS. An American journalist, James Foley, was the first victim to be beheaded by the terrorist group. They threatened the lives of Americans if President Obama didn't end the military operations in Iraq. Within the following two weeks, another video was sent out. Instead of an American this time, it was British aid worker Alan Henning. This action enraged the United Kingdom Prime Minister David Cameron, who is vowing to bring those responsible to justice. US military forces have been using air-strikes to hit hitting ISIS targets, destroying 19 buildings. President Obama will not send land forces because he does not want another long-term war, although people all over the world are looking at the United States to declare war.

Here's What You Need To Know: The Short & Sweet Version.

ONONDAGA LAKE PARK

Big news happening at Onondaga Lake Park! Onondaga County hopes to build a 17,000-seat venue that would attract top acts to Syracuse. Typically, when big acts come to Upstate New York, they go to Buffalo, Rochester or Albany. This is going to be a \$100-million project that will include a state-of-the-art lakeside amphitheater and concert venue. However, some people living in Solvay don't like the idea. They are concerned about the amount of noise and pollution. This new addition to the park may also detract from nature, but with high paying acts, this may be an opportunity to help fund conservation projects. This project may help fund long-overdue repairs and updates in Solvay and Geddes. New sidewalks, streets and storefronts could be built. If approved, planners will begin work on the project in 2015 and the amphitheater could be completed by next fall.



Onondaga Lake Park in Liverpool.

Common Core:
How does it
affect you?

By Mae O'Neill

There are many phrases guaranteed to elicit a groan from a Westhill student. Talking about SATs, college applications, “put everything away except for a pen or pencil”... the list goes on. What is causing a particularly grim reaction? The Common Core curriculum.

So What Is The Common Core?

The Common Core is a system that implements new English and mathematics standards, creates a more rigorous K-12 experience, raises graduation requirements, improves educational accountability and raises academic standards in all fifty states. Forty-three states have adopted the Common Core standards, noticeably changing what happens in the classroom. On the official Common Core website, one sees words like “rigor,” “coherence” and “fluency.” They can throw fancy words around all they want, but it still begs the question: what is the Common Core really changing? Will it really improve the quality of our education? While the Common Core will have little effect on upperclassmen (holla), it is important to understand the key changes that will be made through the Common Core. First off, the end goal of these changes is that eventually there will be national skill-based, standardized exams that will be administered throughout the country.

What Can Students Expect In Math Classes?

In math classes, students can expect to be focusing on fewer topics, but in more depth. The Common Core also focuses on students being “coherent” in math, meaning they don’t just memorize formulas, but can connect different concepts that will support them as they learn other topics. The Common Core promotes

having a “deep, authentic command” of mathematical concepts that they can apply to situations that require mathematical knowledge. The plan is to accomplish this while not making math harder or introducing harder topics at earlier grades. Ms. Forman, who teaches geometry and taught both geometry and trigonometry last year, thinks certain students should be worried about the Common Core because “for some kids, it’s a drastically different way of thinking, which can cause anxiety. But it’s supposed to improve students’ learning abilities, so they shouldn’t be worried.” She continues by saying that the Common Core “has been implemented poorly because you have kids who have been taught the same way for 10 years and when you try to change that, their brains can’t process that shift in learning. They have been trained to think in a certain way.” Despite the poor implementation, Ms. Forman thinks “students are reacting poorly [to the Common Core] due to the sensational information they have received from the media and their fellow students. I think they have the wrong idea about what the Common Core is supposed to be about.”

“For some kids, the Common Core is a drastically different way of thinking, which can cause anxiety.”
~Ms. Forman

What About In ELA?

In ELA, students will be expected to interact more frequently with more complex texts and be able to connect it to more advanced vocabulary. Hopefully, you enjoy “content-rich non-fiction” and informational texts, because they will become commonplace in the English syllabus; not in place of, but more prominent than fiction texts. Students will be focusing on creating well-defended claims and on being able to answer questions based on a thorough reading of the text rather than on prior experience. In-class conversation, direct instruction and in-depth reading will be the key to success for English students under the Common Core.

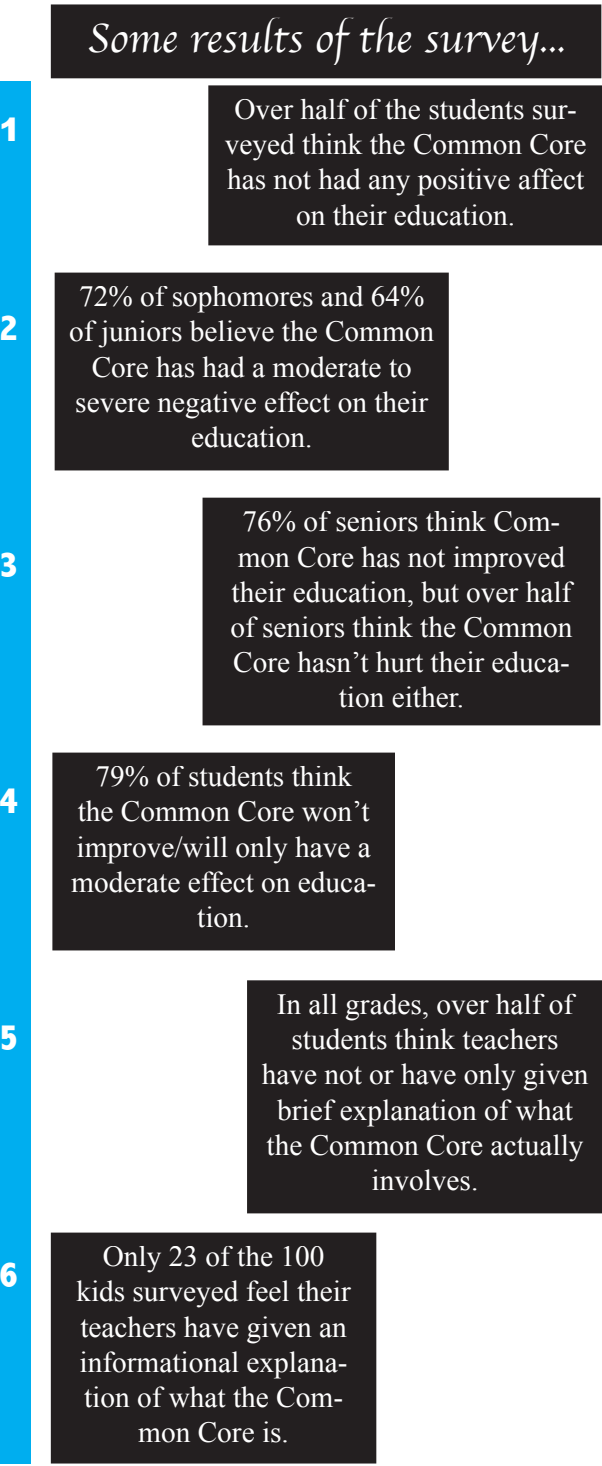
How About Everything Else?

But how will the Common Core affect other, non-academic classes, if at all? Westhill art teacher, Mr. Allen, says that the Common Core has affected the art department, but not as much as it has academic classes. When asked if he believes the Common Core will make it harder or easier for students to learn, he said, “I don’t think the Common Core will make it harder or easier...I think it will change true teaching into teaching for a test.” He also added, “It’s making a lot of paperwork for no good reason” and “creating a lot of hoops for people to jump through.” He concluded that although the Common Core is trying to make him start giving tests and final exams in art, he is firmly opposed.

Although the Common Core is currently having the most impact on math and English classes, the “hope” is that it will radiate into all other courses. To see what the students know about the Common Core, a survey was distributed to students from every grade that asked them to rate their knowledge of the Common Core.

Free Response Results of the Survey...

A free response section was included in the survey, asking people what their teachers have told them about the Common Core and any opinions they would like to share about it. Some students say their teachers only talk about “how much paper work they have to do” and that teachers can no longer “teach what they want” or that they simply haven’t discussed it. Students’ opinions about the Common Core varied. One person said that it is a “great idea” but was “poorly implemented”, while others find it “pointless” and that it will “lead to the elimination of creativity for future generations” and that it only causes more stress for students. While many students who disagreed with the changes brought by the Common Core said they had an above average knowledge of it, some students who disagreed with it rated themselves as having little to no knowledge of what it brings.



School Districts Hit Snooze



Photo courtesy of Nina Onoff

So Students Can Hit the Books

By Nina Onoff

With alarm clocks blaring as early as six in the morning, it is not uncommon to see students wandering the halls in a zombie-like daze. With many balancing school work, sports, and extracurriculars, it can be hard to find the time to catch that crucial eight or nine hours of sleep every night. The solution to the chronic sleep deprivation among students may lie in changing the time that school starts.

Although students often seem resentful of getting up ‘too early’, research has shown that the reason for students’ chronic sleepiness lies not so much in their behavior as the toll that external factors take on their sleep schedules. Early school times interfere with teens’ biological clocks, preventing them from getting the recommended eight to nine hours of sleep every night. “I think the science is very firm, and

it's becoming clearer all the time, that adolescents have optimal times for sleep," says Timothy Morgenthaler, president of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. "And it's clear that the times that we're asking most of our students to get up now are interrupting that sleep schedule." Research done by the American Academy of Pediatrics echoes Morgenthaler's claims, with the recent publication in their journal stating that it "strongly supports the efforts of school districts to optimize sleep in students and urges high schools and middle schools to aim for start times that allow students the opportunity to achieve optimal levels of sleep."

Here at Westhill, students and teachers alike are seeing the toll that sleep loss has on academic performance. “Overall, high school students don’t perform well in the morning,” says Ms. Forman, a geometry teacher at Westhill. She

notes the adverse effects of sleep loss that carry over to the classroom, reporting that “They [students] fall asleep in class; they’re not focused.” Students, as well, indicate that there is a connection between sleep deprivation and poor academic performance. Beth Ann Meluni, a senior here at Westhill, states that she wakes up at six in the morning for school after getting an average of only six and a half to seven hours of sleep each night. “I really wish school times started later because I feel like I’m always tired,” she admits.

The American Academy of Pediatrics estimates that delaying the start of classes to 8:30 a.m. or later is the correct time slot to prevent chronic sleep loss among students. Of course, implementing such changes would be no simple task. Transportation schedules would need to be re-

School Districts Hitting Snooze cont...

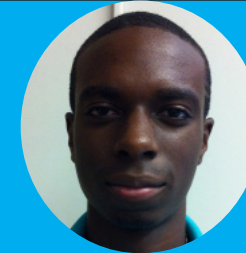
*“I feel like
I’m
always
tired.”*

-Beth Ann Meluni

configured, and students, along with their parents, would need to adapt to the new times for athletics and other extracurricular activities.

Schools that have reset their clocks, such as Minneapolis Public Schools, have experienced significant academic benefits from the change. Kayla Wahlstrom, director of the Center for Applied Research and Education Improvement at the University of Minnesota says, “We’ve found statistically significant evidence that attendance is improved, tardiness is decreased and academic performance on core subjects, English, math, social studies and science, is improved. And now we have evidence that on national standardized tests such as the ACT, there’s improvement there, too.”

Locally, ESM has decided to start later, but no other districts have followed suit. Research aside, Westhill students should plan to get here by 7:40--wide awake or not.



Xavier Fleurinor, Senior

On school nights, I sleep for about... 5 hours

Most school days I feel...
tired, because I'm a student athlete. I do my work, but it's only at half effort because I'm tired.

I think pushing school start times back would... be helpful, because I would get more sleep. If I get more sleep, I can focus more in school.

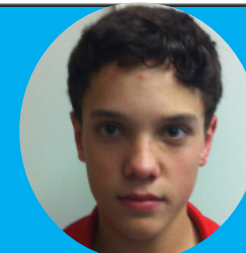


Genny Corcoran, Junior

On school nights, I sleep for about... 7 hours

Most school days I feel...
exhausted and overworked. I
can't focus as well as I could if
I slept more.

I think pushing school start times back would... probably help people focus more and get better grades. They could focus on their schoolwork and not be tired all day.



Kai Wisner, Sophomore

On school nights, I sleep for about... 6 hours

Most school days I feel...
tired for the first three periods.
I think that it affects perfor-
mance in school.

I think pushing school start times back would... probably allow kids to get more sleep and do better in school.



Megan O'Reilly, Freshman

On school nights, I sleep for about... 4 to 6 hours

Most school days I feel...
tired and frustrated. I feel
stressed with sports after
school and homework to do.

I think pushing school start times back would... help me be more focused in class because I'll be more rested. I'll also be less stressed because I won't be as tired.

Photos courtesy of Nina Onoff

Alternatives to College



By Nina Onoff

Photo courtesy of Alissa Peluso

With the arrival of senior year comes the flurry of college applications, financial aid forms, and the long wait for that much-anticipated letter of acceptance. However, as students are planning for the future, some may be left wondering, *is college the right option for me?* The push for students to go to college is greater than ever, but for many college isn't the best option. With options like technical or vocational education, government programs, and new opportunities constantly arising, students who are wary of the college route can easily find an alternative best suited to their goals.

One option after high school is going into a trade. Stefanie DeLuca, an associate professor of sociology who is currently working on a novel addressing the national push for college attendance and its effect

on teens, admits that “there was a time when high school students had a choice to go through either a vocational education or a college prep curriculum. Now, VocEd has fallen out of favor...We should help them prepare for both the labor force and for college.” Although the option of skilled labor has fallen behind in favor of the traditional college route, skilled labor is still very much in demand. Local investment in training new workers is higher than ever as employers seek employees that are adequately trained. In 2014, \$600,000 of the NYS budget was allotted to pay for certificate training programs for manufacturing jobs. With the growing skills gap, finding a skill is more beneficial than ever. Mr. Pridmore, a guidance counselor here at Westhill, admits that “I almost always encourage students to try and find a skill.” He recalls how having a skill allowed him to land a job in an AV department, where

he stayed until he gained an idea of where he wanted to go next. “If I hadn't had that skill already built up, I don't know where I'd be now,” he says. For those interested in going into a trade, but unsure of where to start, Mike Rowe of the hit TV show *Dirty Jobs* has started a foundation called the Trade Resource Center. It offers scholarships and job boards for those interested in pursuing a trade, as well as a tool that allows people to search for jobs, schools, and financial aid opportunities by state.

The government also offers a range of opportunities to high school grads. For those interested in going into the military, the Army Reserves Officers Training Corps (ROTC), offers a series of training courses that can be taken as college electives. The program offers scholarships that can pay up to the full cost of college tuition, and upon completion, participants become a

2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army. Dan Phelan, a Westhill senior planning on going into the United States Air Force, insists that “People don't realize these are some of the jobs that basically maintain life as we know it.”

For students not suited for a trade or military career, rest assured- there are still many options open to you. The Thiel Fellowship looks to help talented youth put their projects in motion by giving them a \$100,000 grant to take two years away from college to do research and work with mentors who are scientists, entrepreneurs, and other accomplished individuals. Or there's Enstitute, which offers one year paid apprenticeships at major businesses and corporations, with the nearest base in New York City. Apprentices typically earn \$28,000-\$30,000, and 90 percent leave the program with a full time job. For those interested in teaching, the CTE degree grants a classroom teaching certificate to teach certain subjects such as cosmetology, auto-mechanics, plumbing, and more in a New York State public high school or BOCES program. To qualify, one must have some occupational work experience and have taken a vocational education course.

There is such a wide range of options at students' disposal, it's imperative to take the time to explore all available options. These are only a few of the various alternative paths available to students after high school. Knowing all the choices available can make all the difference in shaping your future.

“With the growing skills gap, finding a skill is more beneficial than ever.”

~ Jonathan Pridmore, Guidance Counselor

New York State Board of Regents develops a new diploma option

- “4+1” option was passed on October 20, 2014.
- Students will be allowed to take four Regents exams and another exam relating to one of the following: technical education, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, the arts, bi-literacy or humanities.
- Students may use training in automotive technology, welding, or culinary arts in to meet graduation requirements.
- BOCES programs across the state will be receiving additional funding.

College Apps

One step closer to the future

By Mary Washburn

College applications are stressful. Many students are in the middle of applying for college now. There are a lot of key pieces to having a good application and there are many myths that could hinder the chances that a student will be an applicant that stands out.

One of the many misconceptions about applying for colleges is that students want a teacher who gives you the best grades to write a letter of recommendations for them. This is true in some cases, but not all of them. Some say that the teacher or adult you choose to write your letter should be someone who has seen you in many different settings or situations. Perhaps it's a teacher who has taught you for several years or one you have kept a good relationship with for a longer period of time. Mrs. Wolfe suggested, "Let us see more of you other than just in class." This gives the person writing the letter the opportunity to write a better letter. Mrs. Wolfe also added, "Come back and tell us what college you decide to go to. Teachers like to know what you decide."

Everyone is aware of students that don't do their summer reading and Spark Note books. Along with this, people copy homework all the time from their friends. Admissions essays need to be original and not copied or plagiarized. Some think that admissions will not be able to tell if someone else writes their essay. This doesn't mean that it is bad to get some help with your essays from a teacher, peer, or parent. Make sure that the ideas are original; don't let other people change them. Some people believe they need to give the admissions office "what they want to hear." Be truthful when writing; voice your thoughts, opinions, and ideas when they are asked for, but do not go way out of the box. Also don't forget as Mrs. Wolfe puts it, "It's only a piece of the puzzle."

Do not think that colleges will take late applications. Although there are some colleges that may take your application a few days late, there have been people whose applications have been rejected. That's a lot of time and effort down the drain just because a deadline was not met.

Finally do not forget to apply to a school that fits and you think you will love. You want to spend your next years at a place where you will be happy and not hating it every time you get up and go to class or other activities. In order to have the opportunity to go to the college of your choice, the hard work must be done in high school.

Interesting College Application Questions

University of Chicago "Winston Churchill believed 'a joke is a very serious thing.' Tell us your favorite joke and try to explain the joke without ruining it." "How are apples and oranges supposed to be compared?"	Lehigh University "What is your favorite riddle and why?" "Describe your favorite \Bazinga\ moment."
Tufts University "Celebrate your nerdy side." "What does #YOLO mean to you?"	University of Virginia "Describe one of your quirks and why it is part of who you are" "What's your favorite word and why?"
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill "What do you hope to find over the rainbow?"	Yale University "What is something about which you have changed your mind in the last three years?"
Villanova University "What sets your heart on fire?"	

Standing for the Pledge

To stand or not to stand

By Corey Smith

Why do we stand for the Pledge of Allegiance? Should we have to? Students have continued to get in trouble because they do not stand for the Pledge. Every day for morning announcements, teachers glare at students, expecting them to stand. If students do not stand, then they get into trouble with the teacher. Some Americans believe students should continue to stand for their country, while others believe that they do not have to. What students need to know is that the Supreme Court has already issued their decision on this controversy.

There have been several debates dealing with standing for our nation's flag. The Supreme Court decided this issue in 1943 when it ruled that students do not need to stand for the Pledge from the case of *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette*. A 6-3 decision overruled a previous decision and held that making public school students salute the flag was prohibited. The Supreme Court felt that making students stand and/or pledge to the flag was unconstitutional.

Kyle Martin is a senior at Westhill. He believes students at Westhill should stand and he said, "I think that the fact that men and women fight for your right to stand should be motivation to stand." When asked if students should be told to stand Kyle said, "I think it's fine for the teachers to tell them to stand."

Ms. Hall teaches United States history. She says that she asks her students to stand up for the Pledge "as a sign of respect." Her husband, who is a police officer, and her friends in the military are the reason why she stands and has her students stand for the Pledge every day. She goes on to explain that even though she tells her students to stand, they have the option to say the Pledge or to not say it at all.

Ms. Brown, who teaches English, does not ask students to stand or to recite the pledge. She does, however, ask them to remain silent and respectful of those who choose to do so. She believes it is important to respect the Supreme Court's decision and allow students to exercise their court-ensured rights, regardless of a teacher's own opinion of that decision. It is a lesson in democracy and honors the freedom of speech Americans have always valued.

While some support standing and/or reciting the Pledge, not everyone agrees. According to Debate.org, 31% of the people who took a poll about the Pledge believe students should have to stand for it. One user said, "It is a sign of respect for the country you live in. If you don't say the Pledge of Allegiance, you are just telling all the men and women in our armed forces past and present that we do not care that they lost their lives to protect our freedoms. It is a sign of respect to those who fight for our country." The other 69% of people polled disagreed. One said, "We are a democracy, America is a free and democratic nation. I am a high school student and I personally say the Pledge, but I do not feel someone should be compelled to do so. It is wrong to force someone to speak or do what he or she doesn't want to do. I think that making someone say the Pledge of Allegiance against his or her will does not serve any rational school interest. Forcing someone to pledge allegiance against their will does not inspire people to be loyal Americans. So to summarize my position, no, I do not think students should be forced to say the Pledge of Allegiance."

Based on a Supreme Court ruling, teachers cannot force students to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance or recite it. These students have the option about what they want to do during the Pledge. Students should know that they have the right to sit down or stand up and recite the Pledge.

The
Funny Things
Teachers Say...

Photo Essay by Noe McAfee



M. U. D.

Honored Tradition or Pointless Assembly?

By Alissa Peluso

The administration of Westhill High School has been struggling for nearly twenty years to make Moving Up Day an event that honors, entertains and respects students. Grouping hundreds of rowdy students into one venue and trying to prevent chaos has only been attainable by holding Moving Up Day in the auditorium. What Mr. Roscoe and the administration have to do is decide between chaos, fun for the students and safety.

According to Mr. Roscoe, “About five years ago, before Mrs. Lachenauer was working here, the event was held in the gym.” Students were called in by grade level and sat accordingly, throwing confetti, water, and toilet paper. While this was fun for some students, seniors especially, who were excited for the impending end of their last school year; other students and faculty did not feel the same. When Mr. Roscoe was interviewed, he explained that “the upperclassmen picked on the underclassmen.” When Westhill welcomed the winners of the eighth grade Student Council elections, they were especial-

ly ridiculed. Even the valedictorian and salutatorian, who were being rewarded for working impossibly hard for their entire academic career, were made fun of.

The insults were not the only issue. Mr. Roscoe described how the ceremony “dragged on forever” when it was held in the gym. Thankfully, the administration has learned that cramming hundreds of hormonal, cranky, hot teenagers in the gym for several hours is not ideal, and stopped presenting special awards during school hours. Now, the Spring Special Awards Ceremony is held as an evening event.

The issue still remains that Moving Up Day is not entertaining for students whatsoever. Unfortunately, when I interviewed students and asked them what they would suggest, they had few suggestions. Two students, when asked their opinion of Moving Up Day, responded that they simply did not care how the ceremony was carried out. Their responses may connect to senior Stephen Burgay’s response to his view on MUD. He stated, “The way it is now, we do this ceremony, and what does it mean? There seems to be no point to it.” Therefore,

MUD needs to be changed or eliminated as a school function. What we make MUD into is the next question. Ryan Williams suggested that we conduct activities similar to superstars, or faculty-student competitive games. Currently, we are not prepared or invested enough to propose any ideas. If we have complaints, we as students need to step up or shut up.

In the end, the evolution of Moving Up Day may be in the students’ best interest. As Mr. Roscoe said, “It’s a balancing act of engaging and making the day fun for everyone.” Currently, the school administration is planning to schedule Moving Up Day for the last day of school, limiting it to a brief half hour, like last year. Roscoe says, “It seemed to work well. I got a lot of positive feedback. I want students to feel good about it and I am open to suggestions.” While the former Moving Up Day was more enjoyable for seniors, it was a liability and led to the humiliation of underclassmen. Moving Up Day in recent years has been incredibly mundane, but it has been safe and only requires one school period.

“The way it is now, we do this ceremony, and what does it mean? There seems to be no point to it.”

Stephen Burgay

Photo of the rubber ducks dressed as Orthodox Jewish men sold in the German Holocaust Museum gift shop.



MAKING \$\$\$Money\$\$\$ OFF OF TRAGEDY

A horrific gift shop

By Meghan Burke

For many family members, the memorial waterfalls with engraved names of the innocent people who passed was enough construction on the site of the World Trade Centers. Once the new Freedom Tower and museum were built, families were outraged. Many people were against the building of these monuments because ground zero is considered the final resting place for loved ones.

Although many came to terms with the Freedom Tower, the main issue people have is the gift shop within the museum. The gift shop consists of several souvenirs that have only done more harm than good. Some of these problematic souvenirs include: scarves, bags, coffee mugs, I Love NY shirts, key chains, iPhone cases, bracelets, animal clothing, and jackets. All of

these have “9/11 memorial” plastered in at least one very noticeable area. Some items are still respectful, such as books that tell the stories of every person who was killed on 9/11. Others have turned into more of a marketing plan and a way for tourists to say they’ve been there. Another item that has been discontinued was the cheese cutting board that was in the shape of the United States with triangles marking each spot where the planes hit.

Having a gift shop at museums like the 9/11 museum is, unfortunately, not just an American tradition. The Holocaust museum in Washington D.C has a gift shop very similar to the 9/11 gift shop. When the D.C gift shop first opened, there was controversy over the items and because of this, many of items are currently being switched out for

more respectful items, but key chains remain. Holocaust memorials in Europe, except for Germany, only sell respectful informative books in their “gift shops.” Germany’s Holocaust Museum gift shop has been selling rubber ducks dressed as Orthodox Jewish men. The ducks have beards, round glasses, a black wide brimmed hat and a black suit. Currently the Washington D.C. Holocaust Museum is the only one who has taken out almost all the previous items and replaced them due to public opinion.

If the people running the 9/11 Museum want to stop the controversy, they need to move the gift shop off Ground Zero and discontinue the most controversial items in shop.

Photo courtesy of Flickr

Get to Know the New Athletic Director By Corey Smith

If you don't know her already, you will find out who she is soon enough. Ms. Jennie Smarelli is the new athletic director for Westhill. While she is the new AD for Westhill she is also the assistant principal at OHMS. Before this job Ms. Smarelli attended Towson University and earned a B.S degree in physical education. She played soccer and lacrosse from grades 7-12. She enjoys spending quality time with her family and friends. She has been a lacrosse official for over 10 years. This is her first year here at Westhill and she says that this is her dream job.

When asked what her number one priority is as athletic director, she responded with "I'm not sure I can pick one, but if I must, it would be the development of our Westhill student athletes not only as competitors, but as outstanding young adults who represent our school and community. And, Westhill is very lucky to have exceptional coaches who not only take pride in being a part of the Westhill community, but also care about their players and strive to have successful programs." According to Ms. Smarelli, the goals of the athletic department here at Westhill are "to maintain a standard of excellence in athletics by ensuring our student athletes develop physically, socially, and mentally by being an active participant in athletics and continue to live a healthy lifestyle as a result." To Ms. Smarelli, our student/fan section is amazing here at Westhill. She says, "I'm biased, we have the best! We need to pack our



*Ms.Smarelli in the weight room--photo credit to Tracy Collett.

house more, but I think that will come with time. I want them to have fun, be loud, but be respectful to all the visiting teams. They are products of our community and that's what spectators remember when they think of Westhill. I want the visiting team's fans and parents to leave Westhill at the end of a game wishing their student section was as AWESOME as ours!"

Fall Sports & Records

Boys and Girls Cross Country: 4-0	Junior Varsity Football: 3-4
Girls Tennis: 7-5	Varsity Boys Soccer: 10-6-1
Junior Varsity Boys Soccer: 14-2	Varsity Football: 6-1
Junior Varsity Girls Soccer: 13-2-1	Varsity Girls Soccer:1 4-1-1
Junior Varsity Volleyball: 12-4	Varsity Volleyball: 14-2

WARRIOR!



By Cody Badman

FOOTBALL!!!!

This is my 5th season playing.

I tried it in modified and fell in love playing it.

Beating Marcellus this season.

I am considering playing in college if the school I attend has the sport.

I've learned to keep trying and to never settle for being just "ok."

Work hard and play with a purpose.



Jimmy Kernan and Meaghan Burrows

What sport are you currently playing?

How long have you been playing this sport?

How did you become interested in playing this sport?

What is the best moment you've ever had playing this sport?

Do you plan to pursue your sport at the college level?

Has playing your sport taught you any valuable life skills?

Any advice for other athletes here at Westhill?

Varsity Girls Tennis

Two years.

My friends told me it would be fun because the team is so inviting and they just have a ball playing.

Being able to sprint across the court in a matter of seconds to hit a ball back and win the set because the other team didn't expect me to get it.

I hope so.

A real player is made during the off-season.

Team spirit is the most encouraging thing to hear, so cheer for your teammates.

THE MOST IMPORTANT NEWS YOU'LL HEAR TODAY

By Maura Felter

Weather.

Wow. Isn't weather the most interesting thing ever? I know the moment I wake up in the morning my first thought isn't the possible threat of war our country faces, or the economy- no my first thought is weather. Sometimes it's sunny. Sometimes it's raining. Weather truly is the most pressing issue at Westhill. Forget the threat of ISIS. Forget Ferguson. Forget the Ebola epidemic. Weather is what everyone wants to hear about. We feel compelled to address this pressing concern- because the weather is also our main concern here at the Glass Corridors. Who needs to watch the Weather Channel? The Glass Corridors can definitely report on the weather better than those unreliable meteorologists who study it for a living. And the Glass Corridors writers would much rather report on the weather than, say for example, the school budget.

Our Report for October-There was no snow.

And we have made some predictions for the coming months you will find *very* reliable.

NOVEMBER-

We predict that you might see the sun at least one time this month. At least. We also predict it might get a little cold. But that's just a prediction- we can't be too sure... In addition, we predict that towards the end of the month you may/ or may not be eating a turkey.

DECEMBER-

Our prediction this month- you might see some snow. It might also be cold. We recommend you wear a warm jacket.

JANUARY-

It will be cold. We also predict you will be shoveling a lot of snow while you're not following your New Year's resolutions.

FEBRUARY/MARCH-

We'd rather not say...

JUNE-

We will end the year on a high note. We predict that it might be hot. And we also predict that towards the end of the month you might be taking some exams. And you might fail them. Who knows?

MAY-

The showers won't actually give our lovely writer Mae O'Neill any flowers. In fact, no one will give her flowers. There is no kindness in the world.

APRIL-

There will be April showers that will bring Mae flowers.

FINTER FESTIVITIES

You have probably noticed when you stepped outside this morning that the weather we Syracusans love has come back and wants to play. It's that sort of in-between time that's not really fall, but not quite winter yet. What do we call that? Finter, a perfect combination of fall and winter, where we just don't really know what to do. What activities do *you* choose to do during this season? Don't let the weather force you to cuddle up in your bed with nutella, possibly a spoon and Netflix. Believe it or not, there are a ton of great festivities to be done with friends, family, and baes too! Imagine this: It's a dreadful Tuesday at Westhill High School and all you want to do is anything other than academics. Oh look! Friends! Wouldn't it be great if you could all have something to look forward to during the day? Take it from someone who's been there, it helps to have a reward at the end of the day. Looking for festivities to do with friends?

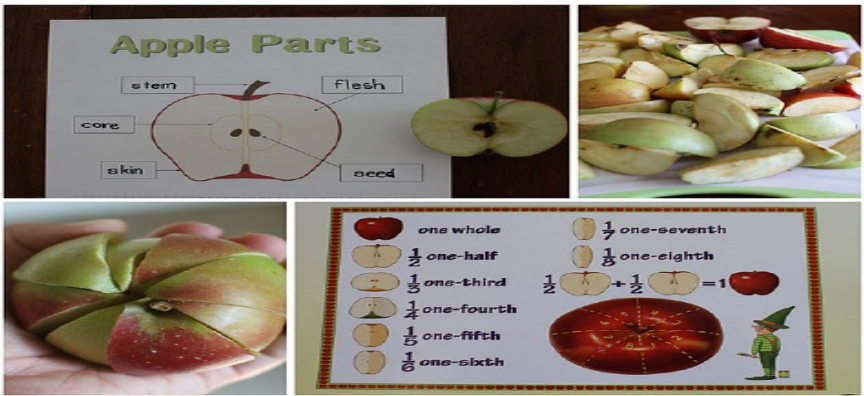


Photo Courtesy of Flickr

TO DO WITH THE FAMILY...

- Make a taffy apple pizza dessert
- Got a sibling in college? Send them a wicked goofy picture
- Roast pumpkin seeds
- Create a family newsletter to send to extended family
- Experiment which way is best to eat leftover turkey; journal it
- Churn your own butter for the holidays
- Practice fractions as you chop up apples
- Make a thankful tree of all the things you are thankful for this year

8 AWESOME IDEAS:

- Try to make the funniest scarecrow you can
- Take a hunting safety course and go hunting
- Plan a fun-filled trick (or treat) with friends
- Take a picture looking up into tree with your cell phone and send to friend
- Leave motivational quote on friend's social networking page
- Offer babysitting for free for one night to someone who could use the break
- Sketch a tree that is losing its leaves
- Give your social networking page a fall look.

BY NICOLE AWAD

AND THE LOVED ONES...

- Build a fort and snack on some indoor s'mores!
- Choose three cheeses you've never heard of and place them on a classy plate and consume
- Visit the aquarium
- Rather than meet up for drinks, meet up for cupcakes!
- Walk into a preferred restaurant and demand a tour

Netflix
VS.
Amazon Prime
VS.
Hulu Plus

By Makayla Kanavy

When it comes to streaming content, most people are opting to cut the cord and only use services such as Netflix, Amazon, and Hulu Plus. However, what service people use is dependent on the type of content desired and the price tag.

1. Netflix has around 36 million customers, making it the most popular streaming option. Netflix, which is easily available on gaming consoles, computers, and Blu-ray players, has started to make its own content. Netflix TV shows were nominated for 31 different awards at the Emmys. Shows like *Orange is the New Black* and *House of Cards* have been received with growing popularity. Netflix, which is currently about 120 dollars a year, has the most content for the biggest price. Netflix, unlike Hulu Plus, does not offer seasons of TV shows until the newest season of that TV show airs. For example, the third season of *American Horror Story* will be on Netflix once the fourth season airs on television.

2. Amazon Prime is an up-and-coming streaming provider with about 20 million customers. Amazon Prime is not as well known as Netflix or Hulu Plus, but it is definitely on the rise. Amazon Prime costs one hundred dollars a year, but with it comes two day free shipping on any Amazon products you buy. Amazon is currently the only service that streams HBO shows other than HBO’s own service HBO GO. Amazon Prime offers current seasons of TV shows like *The Walking Dead*.

3. Hulu Plus, which has about five million customers, provides mostly television content, but they do have movies as well. Unlike Amazon Prime and Netflix, Hulu Plus makes viewers watch commercials during their programming. When it comes to watching the newest episodes of TV shows, Hulu Plus is the way to go. Hulu Plus offers TV shows the day after they air on TV. Hulu costs about eight dollars a month, which comes out to be around 95 dollars a year, making it the cheapest streaming option.

People are starting to cut the cord and use services like Netflix, Hulu Plus and Amazon Prime. Verizon is planning to launch a new internet-based TV service that would allow viewers to pick and choose the cable channels they want to subscribe to. This differs from what most cable providers have currently, which is just a cable package of shows viewers will not necessarily watch. Around 2.3 million people have already discontinued cable. Are you going to join them?

Movies to See Between
Thanksgiving and
Christmas

By Makayla Kanavy

- November 21st

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1
Starring: Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson and Liam Hemsworth
Director: Francis Lawrence
Summary: In the third installment of the series Katniss is forced to make several tough decisions, now that she knows about the existence of District 13. The main focus of this movie is Katniss setting out to find and save Peeta.
- November 26th

Horrible Bosses 2
Starring: Jason Bateman, Jason Sudeikis and Charlie Day
Director: Sean Anders
Summary: In the follow up to the first movie, which was released in 2011, the main characters attempt to seek revenge on their bosses once again.
- December 17th

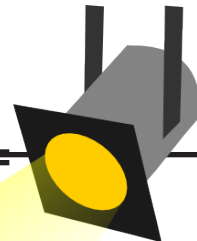
The Hobbit: The Battle of The Five Armies
Starring: Ian Mckellen, Martin Freeman, and Richard Armitage
Director: Peter Jackson
Summary: Bilbo and the other characters are forced to get involved in a war to ensure that Smaug and his combatants do not acquire the huge kingdom of treasure and incinerate all of Middle Earth.
- December 19th

Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb
Starring: Robin Williams, Ben Stiller and Dan Stevens
Director: Shawn Levy
Summary: Larry Daley goes on an epic mission to save the magic in the tablet that makes the museum come to life, before it runs out.
- December 25th

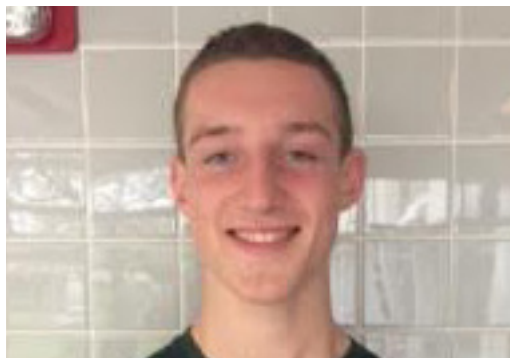
Into the Woods
Starring: Anna Kendrick, Meryl Streep and Chris Pine
Director: Rob Marshall
Summary: A witch sets out to teach lessons to all the classic fairytale characters like Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Rapunzel.
- December 25th

The Interview
Starring: James Franco, Seth Rogen and Randall Park
Director: Evan Goldberg and Seth Rogen
Summary: Dave Skylark and Aaron Rapoport run a celebrity tabloid show and they find out North Korean dictator Kin Jong-Un is a fan of the show. They land an interview with him, but their entire plan changes when the CIA recruits them.

Senior Spotlight



Dan O'Connell



Sarah Coombs



By Cristin
Rathbun

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| "Cloud 9." | What is the most embarrassing thing that has happened to you? | "My friends posting fliers around the school telling the student body to vote for me for prom queen." |
| "The basketball team." | What will you miss most about high school? | "Not doing anything and still doing well." |
| "Chicken with hot sauce." | If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be? | "Wegman's subs." |
| "Dances, of course." | If you could change one thing about this school, what would it be? | "People being annoying all of the time." |
| "Guaps?" | What does the last text message you sent say? | "Probably something about being super teen or swag." |
| "With Westhill's Most Attractive--Andrew French." | If you swapped genders for a day, how would you spend it? | "I'd be super bro and get mad swool." |
| "My legs." | What is your best physical feature? | "My eyebrow game." |
| "Mufasa. Lions are king of the jungle." | If you were reincarnated as an animal, what animal would you be and why? | "A deer because they don't care about anything." |

Photos Courtesy of Cristin Rathbun