

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS REPORT

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Weston High School

Lisa Deorio, Principal

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PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE



In honor of Weston High School's 50th Anniversary, a new banner has been prominently placed on our building celebrating the excellence of our school.

Our school was proud to host a delegation of 30 principals and elite teachers from the Guangdong Province of China. The group's organizer, Zhen Peng, had this to say about their visit "Among all the visits they have had, the day at Weston stood higher in exceeding our expectations in every way! The details of hosting, planning, and considerations you all have put into the visit

profoundly excited the group and sealed this visit with a learning experience to be remembered for a long, long time. The school, students, teachers, and all of you made a wonderful impression on the delegation. The delegation says that the visit to Weston is an exemplary case to show effective leadership in US schools. Great leadership could be felt through the visit."



The School Counseling Department visited all junior English classes to introduce students to the post-secondary planning process. They discussed teacher letters of recommendation, scheduling college-planning meetings, PSAT results, and had all students complete their post-secondary Game Plan Survey in Naviance. In addition, they held the Junior College Kickoff, which officially marked the beginning of the college exploration and application process for the class of 2020. They had their highest attendance yet at this program. A Senior Parent Coffee was held to discuss the topic, "Preparing for Early Admissions Decisions to Roll In." The Department ended the month by welcoming back WHS Alumni who participated in panel discussions to help prepare current students for their transition to college.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The English department participated in a professional development session on November 6, which was facilitated by Fairfield University English professor, and Writing Center Director, Elizabeth Boquet. The workshop focused on developing strategies for teaching revision, and running effective writing conferences with students. Teachers engaged in discussions and activities meant to support all students in the process.

Ms. Green, our College and Career and Career Counselor, visited Norwalk Community College for their annual counselor luncheon. She had the opportunity to connect with other counselors from Fairfield County and learn about NCC's High School Partnership Program, which provides high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to take up to two college-credit bearing courses per semester free of charge.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

This month all students participated in the English Department's annual film analysis unit. The intent of this unit is to develop and sharpen our students' visual literacy skills. All core English classes met in the auditorium to view Alfred Hitchcock's film, *North by Northwest*. After each viewing, students examined directorial choices as they relate to characters, themes, and storytelling; analyzed the purpose of the visual metaphors; and engaged in a focused evaluation of selected screenshots. Each course has a common assessment where students are expected to demonstrate their ability to be thoughtful and analytical viewers.



Students in the PLTW Computer Integrated Manufacturing course completed their annual chocolate lollipop project and sale. Students designed, modeled, 3D printed, vacuum formed, and produced chocolate lollipops and sold them to the student body. Students had to set price points, develop a logo and company name, decide on uniforms, and create a full sales booth to create an authentic experience. The proceeds will be donated this holiday season.

Students from Introduction to Economics and Personal Finance attended a Financial Reality Fair at Western Connecticut State University on November 14. This experience taught the students what it's like to make financial decisions in the real world and how to better understand the importance of credit scores and credit cards.

Students involved in the Community Creations Store prepared for their annual sale of gift bags, ornaments and notecards. This year, there were also several craft items available for purchase. Proceeds from the sale help to fund their pre-vocational projects and fund the store from year to year. If you would like information on how you can support our pop-up business, please contact Nancy Johnston at nancyjohnston@westonps.org.





In chemistry lab, students collaborated on an experiment to produce three unknown gases, and then conducted an experiment to test and identify the gases. Pictured: Emily Xu and Jack Spencer, and Jack Morvillo, and Nicole Sztachelski.

The Writing Center continues to work with students on editing and revising their assignments. Last month, 100 students made individual conference appointments. Writing Center teachers visited 16 classrooms to help students on revising assignments. Included were the 9th grade English classes where students worked on literary analysis papers on the Elie Wiesel work, *Night*. Junior classes began working with the Center on their junior research papers in US History. Next, Writing Center teachers will visit all sophomore classes to orient students to the portfolio process.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

WHS Junior, Samantha Meir, along with other dancers from the American Tap Company, represented the United States as members of the USA Tap Dance Team. They competed for the World Championships also known as “Olympics of Dance.” The students travelled to Riesa, Germany and competed against dancers from approximately 30 other countries

CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS



Twenty-five Weston High School students auditioned and were accepted into the Connecticut Western Region High School Festival, which is a record number for our school. There will be 13 choir, seven orchestra, four band and one jazz band student from Weston participating in the festival.

The 13 choir participants are (listed alphabetically): Brooklyn Boehme, MoMo Burns-Min, Lucas Casellas, Robert Constantine, Tejal Dhiman, Erin Dillon, Konstantina Gotouhidis, Sophie Lang, Andrew Pappas, Emma Rogers, Joshua Ronai, Catherine Xie, and Remy Young. The seven orchestra participants are: Ryan Baker, Charlotte Chen, Margaret Lee, Jessica Li, Harrison Moy, Alejo Navarrese, and Natalie Schreder. The four band participants are: Rhys Aron, Gabriel Paknia, Benjamin Rosenberg, and Jaden Yon. The jazz band participant is Ethan Klotz.

On November 30, the Weston High School Choir performed at the Emanuel Church tree lighting ceremony.



The WHS Student Government and the Young Progressives Club received a heartfelt thank you from Lisa Maxwell-Lewis of the Weston Food Pantry, “On behalf of the Weston Food Pantry and the many families that we serve, I would like to thank you, the WHS Student Government and all the student body for supporting the pantry. Due to everyone’s generosity our shelves are full and many Weston families will be able to fill their cabinets at home. This is a perfect reminder of how special our community is and how when called upon...neighbors help neighbors! We thank you once again and look forward to working with the WHS Student Government on future drives!”

National Association for Music Education All Eastern Music Festival Update - Two Weston High School choral students have been accepted into the All Eastern Honors Mixed Choir at the All Eastern Music Festival. These choristers are selected from students who participated in their All State Festivals in CT, MA, NY, NJ, DE, RI, MD, ME, PA, VT and NH. The All Eastern Honors Festival will take place in April in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Members of the Save the Children Club attended an event at the Prospector Theatre in Ridgefield to raise funds and awareness for Save the Children. The event was a pre-screening of the film *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*. It was a successful night of fun and fundraising in support of Save the Children's mission of giving children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn, and protection from harm.

Weston students Jordan Gladstone, Chris Burns, Isabella Rondini, Jesse Rosenberg, Sam Parks and Chris Fruhbeis, as well as Unified Coach, Tom Curley and Unified Coordinator, Nancy Johnston attended the annual Unified Sports Leadership Summit in Rocky Hill on November 30. There were 23 high schools from across the state in attendance. The students listened to several inspirational speakers, including Miss Connecticut, and participated in breakout sessions that shared ideas on how to grow your school's Unified Sports Program. Unified Sports meets every Monday from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the gym.



ATHLETICS

Our fall sports season was a terrific one. WHS had its first-ever win in ESports, its first-ever SWC Championship in Boys Soccer, and its first trip to the CIAC State Championship Volleyball Match since the 1970's. Our graduating senior swimmers never a lost single swim and dive meet in their four years, and capped their legacy with a 4th straight state championship and a 3rd place finish at the state open meet! Four Weston Athletes signed their National Letter of Intent to continue to compete at the Division 1 level next year, our girls soccer program was recognized by the Western CT Soccer Officials Board for their outstanding sportsmanship, and our football team brought home the Turkey Bowl Trophy by beating Joel Barlow 48-17 on Thanksgiving Eve. Winter sports have started and our athletes are working very hard to keep this momentum going.

Our school has been recognized by the Colonial Football Officials Association for excellence in sportsmanship for the 2018 season. A Weston representative was invited to attend the annual banquet at Anthony's Lake Club on December 6.

CLUB NEWS



The Weston Against Cancer Club celebrated 'Giving Tuesday' on November 27 by hosting a free bake sale in the high school lobby. Weston students received their free baked good when they used social media to promote 26 Days of Kindness, Weston Against Cancer, or Giving Tuesday. Pictured left to right: Chelsea Greenberg, Sophia Balotescu, Lindsey Greenberg, Peri Ferdinand, Noelle Mendelson, and Julia Reynolds.