



## Principal's Newsletter

### - March 2019 -

Although the snow continues to fall, spring sports have begun and we closed out the winter season with several exciting accomplishments.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

I want to take a moment to congratulate Liam Naughton on qualifying for the New York Varsity Boys Swim and Dive state championships this past weekend. Liam competed admirably in the 200-meter relay. The Varsity Cheerleading Team had an impressive competitive season. After taking the section title, the team represented Westlake at the state championships in Rochester this past weekend. In Track and Field, the Westlake Wildcats competed at the Class C Indoor Track and Field championships with Dylan Ahern taking Gold in the High Jump and Silver in the Triple Jump and Glen Ahern who took Bronze in the High Jump. I want to also congratulate Senior Jack Simon who has signed with High Point University to play Division I Lacrosse. We will have a signing ceremony on March 7th to celebrate this achievement.

Congratulations to all our winter athletes on an incredible season of both personal and team accomplishments. I especially want to congratulate Varsity Girls Basketball, Varsity Boys Basketball, and Varsity Boys Swim and Dive for being named New York State Scholar Athlete teams.

We have some very impressive academic achievements this past month that definitely need to be acknowledged. Over the last couple of weeks, the Class of 2019 celebrated the announcement of the Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Christopher Bauco has been named Class of 2019 Salutatorian and is extremely deserving of this honor boasting an impressive resume of accomplishments. Bryan Mesquita has earned the title of Class Valedictorian and is an outstanding representation of a well-rounded student. Not only is Bryan involved in clubs, student government and the theatre program, he also takes many of our most challenging courses. Congratulations to both Chris and Bryan on this impressive accomplishment. Additionally, I want to congratulate Sophia Catarino who was recently awarded the Joseph Adams Senior Scholarship by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. Sophia is 1 of only 12 students in the nation to receive this impressive award based on Ms. Mittelmann's nomination for outstanding achievement in the study of Spanish.

Our Juniors and Seniors in Science Research presented at the JSHS competition and Westlake once again left its mark on the science research world with an unprecedented number of students receiving honors. Six Westlake Science Research students won 7 prestigious awards at the 17th Annual Westchester-Rockland Junior Science & Humanities Symposium (WR-JSHS). A record 650 students from 37 high schools presented their original science research either as PowerPoint speakers (for select seniors only) or as poster presenters in this highly competitive regional science fair. Congratulations go out to:

- Senior Stephen Donato won 5th Place in Behavioral Science (an alternate to compete at Upstate JSHS); Stephen conducted his original research at New York Medical College in Valhalla, NY.
- Junior Kenneth Dronzek won 2nd Place in Medicine & Health; Kenny conducted his original research at Polymeric Converting, LLC, in Enfield, CT.
- Junior Caleb Levitt won 2nd Place in Animal & Plant Science; Caleb conducted his original research at the New York Botanical Garden in Bronx, NY.
- Junior Liam Naughton won 2nd Place in Cellular & Molecular Biology; Liam conducted his original research at New York Medical College in Valhalla, NY.
- Senior Faith Summers won 2nd Place in Biology for her poster presentation; Faith conducted her original research at New York Medical College in Valhalla, NY.
- Junior Jake Szeszko won not only 1st Place in Behavioral Sciences but also 2nd Place Best Overall Poster; Jake conducted his original research at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai in New York, NY.

Every year Westlake High School nominates deserving students to Boys State. This year was no different and the three students nominated were so impressive that the representatives from the American Legion who sponsor the program, wanted to send all three to Boys State! Congratulations to Niko Dominguez, Caleb Levitt, and Roman Raguso for being selected to attend Boys State. I know they will represent us well!

**BUILDING CONSTRUCTION**

Excitement is growing as the high school starts to see some of the significant bond-related work begin. It is important to note that starting with this past break in February and continuing during Spring break as well as during evenings, Westlake High School will see facilities-related work in order to stay on schedule. More importantly, this summer, starting literally the day after graduation, the building will be shut down to all visitors and programs to allow the various contractors daily access to complete the entire scope of work supported by the bond. To that end, offices and my staff will be relocated so that our work in preparing for the opening of the 2019-20 school year can continue.

- The closure of the building and portions of the campus will make it impossible to run a summer driver education program. If you had planned to have your child take driver education this summer through us, you will need to find an alternate program. More information from PAS Auto School will be forthcoming to help you with summer driver education options outside the district.
- Additionally, parents of future seniors from the Class of 2020 please note: senior portraits will not be scheduled for the summer; instead, their senior photo appointments will be booked throughout the month of September.

**SPRING MUSICAL**

Last, I want to acknowledge the hard work of our Westlake Players as they prepare for our spring musical, *The Addams Family*. This will be an outstanding show and a great evening for people of all ages. Please join us for one or more of the performances on March 29-31, April 5-6.

**LOCKDOWN**

Please be aware that we will be holding an unannounced lockdown drill during the month of March.

<b>WHS MARCH EVENTS</b>	
Thursday, March 7	WHS Class of 2023 Scheduling Begins
Friday, March 8	WHS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Midpoint
Monday, March 11	Spring Teachers Institute – Student Early Dismissal
Wednesday, March 13	WHS Social Studies Honor Society Induction – 2:30 pm
Wednesday, March 20	WHS Science Honor Society Induction – 2:30 pm
Thursday, March 21	WMS 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Visit to WHS
Friday, March 29 & Saturday March 30	WHS Spring Musical – <i>The Addams Family</i> – 8:00 pm
Sunday, March 31	WHS Spring Musical – <i>The Addams Family</i> – 1:00 pm (Senior Citizen Luncheon at 12:00 pm)

As always, I look forward to seeing you on the Westlake campus.