I hope everyone enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday and you had an opportunity to catch up with family and friends. The official kick-off to the holiday season is already upon us and the month of December goes by quickly. There are several activities to look forward to, culminating with one of my most favorite nights of the year, our Winter Concert on Thursday, December 19 at 8:00 pm.

Seniors are hopefully beginning to see an end in sight to college application season, and a good number of seniors are starting to hear the positive news of acceptances. Additionally, we held our second meeting with seniors to go over the details and requirements of the Senior Experience – Senior Internship Program. Deadlines to secure their internship are as follows; priority deadline is December 20, final deadline is January 31. If any senior needs help or guidance with their internship/job shadowing search, please have them come in and speak with Mr. Amann or me.

Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Almost, Maine*, this year’s fall drama. Under the direction of Mr. Michael Hood, the Westlake Players performed three outstanding shows.

In December we look forward to induction ceremonies for both English and Spanish Honor Societies. I want to take this opportunity to recognize and acknowledge the hard work and accomplishments of these students earning this honor. The induction ceremonies are on December 12 and 18 respectively.

### Giving Back

Over the past few weeks and continuing through to the holidays, several student organizations and individual students have been involved in charitable acts. I wanted to take a moment to highlight how outstanding our students are and how routinely they give of themselves to make the lives of others more joyous. Prior to Thanksgiving, the Spanish Honor Society organized a Food Drive to help those in need through the Mount Kisco Food Pantry. Our Service Club and Blendors hosted a pancake breakfast for our veterans in the community. Currently the National Honor Society is sponsoring a Toy Drive for Blythedale Children’s Hospital. They are collecting unwrapped new toys to be delivered for the upcoming holiday. Toys can be dropped off in the Main Office. Service Club is also sponsoring Operation Santa where they answer the Dear Santa letters of children from families in need. They presently have a number of families they will be answering letters and buying gifts for and are excited for this annual tradition. This is one of our premiere projects and the kids can tell you how awesome it is to be a part of making less fortunate kids smile on Christmas Day. Last, our Blendors performed at Rosary Hill and will be singing for the children at Ronald McDonald House next Tuesday. I can’t say enough, how honored I am to be their Principal!

I wanted to take a moment to share with you two opportunities for students to give back to their community:

- For adults and students 16-years and older, a Blood Drive is being held on Sunday, December 15 from 8:30-2:30 pm at Holy Rosary Community Room. Information and a Parental Permission form for 16-year old donors are attached.
• WMS PTA is conducting a Sneaker fundraiser and are asking you to donate your unwanted wearable sneakers and cleats. The WMS PTA will earn up to $3 for every pair collected. Details are attached.

Safety
We will be practicing a “hold in place drill” in December. This drill is used when a medical emergency or some other event has occurred in the hallway and we need to secure students in their classrooms until the issue is resolved.

A final note to seniors; Wednesday, December 11 is Cap and Gown Measurement Day during the lunch periods. If you are going to the Cliffs with Project Adventure, please stop by the main office on December 11 in the morning and see Mrs. Cerrato. All you need is cash or a check made out to Mt. Pleasant CSD for the graduation package you select along with your height and gown color preference (blue or white).

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<th>DECEMBER EVENTS</th>
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<td>Thursday, December 12</td>
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<td>Monday, December 23 – Wednesday, January 1</td>
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Tis the Season to
Give Hope
Be a Holiday Hero to Patients
BLOOD DRIVE
Mt. Pleasant Community
Sunday, December 15th
8:30am-2:30pm
Holy Rosary School Community Room
180 Bradhurst Avenue, Hawthorne, NY10532

Sign ups appreciated, walk-ins always welcome!
Click here to sign up online

Please bring your Donor ID for faster registration

Eligible donors include those people at least 16 years of age who weigh a minimum of 110 pounds, are in good health, and meet all FDA and NY State Department of Health donor criteria. If you do not have a NYBC donor ID photo ID is needed. Please eat and drink prior donation.
Parental Permission Form for 16-year-old Donors

(Blood Center copy- please print in ink)

This is to certify that

*NAME

is 16 years old. I have read the information below and I give my permission for my child/ward to participate in the blood drive. This may include donating blood.

*PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

*DATE OF SIGNATURE

HOME PHONE

Reminders

- Eat well before your donation
- All donors must present identification with signature or photo
- All first time donors must show proof of age

PARENT’S CELL PHONE

*required fields

Donation Process

To determine if your child is eligible to donate we will:
- Ask questions about health, travel, sexual activity and medicines to determine risk for viruses and other disease.
- Take your child’s blood pressure and temperature.
- Take a small blood sample via a finger stick to ensure your child is not anemic.

If your child is eligible to donate, we will:
- Cleanse the arm with an antiseptic.
- Use a new, sterile, disposable needle and set to collect the blood.

Possible Donation Complications:

Most donors tolerate giving blood well, but on occasion reactions and complications may occur. On average, a very small number of donors have a reaction or complication when they donate either a pint of whole blood or donate blood using our automated technology. Examples of reactions and complications which may occur when donating whole blood or donating using automated technology may include anxiety; feeling warm or cold; nausea or vomiting; and dizziness or fainting. Bruising, nerve injury, or infection may also occur at the needle site. Injuries from falls following dizziness or fainting occur on rare occasions. Some of these reactions and complications may occur more frequently with younger donors donating whole blood versus donating blood using automated technology. Donors using automated technology may experience tingling of the fingers and around the mouth that is caused by citrate, a substance used to keep blood from clotting in the machine. Infrequently, muscle spasms can also occur. Very rarely, a donor using automated technology may develop decreased calcium levels (hypocalcemia) or an irregular heart beat from citrate. Our staff is trained to recognize and manage such adverse reactions.

What happens to the donation:

To protect patients, the blood is tested for viruses and certain other infectious diseases. If the blood tests are positive, it will not be given to a patient. Your child will be notified about test results that may disqualify him or her from donating in the future. From time to time, New York Blood Center (NYBC) may offer additional health-related screening tests (such as cholesterol testing) to donors. Your child will be advised at the time of donation concerning the specific test(s) that may be performed, and provided with the opportunity to decline the offer. The results of any additional health related screening tests will be provided. Some of the blood may be used for research studies or investigational test procedures which will be conducted in accordance with guidelines established by NYBC’s committee for protection of human subjects. If the results from any study could affect your child’s health, your child will be notified.

If your child responds to the optional question regarding racial or ethnic group, the blood may also be tested for the presence of a rare blood type. If a rare blood type is found based on the optional screening program, we will notify your child by mail.

What happens to the test results:

Your child may be asked to speak with one of NYBC’s medical professionals if the blood tests are positive for certain viruses, and your child may also be asked to return for a follow-up visit and further testing. The names of donors whose blood tests positive are kept in confidential files. These files can be opened solely by authorized NYBC personnel. New York Blood Center will not release positive test results without your written consent unless required by law (e.g. to the Health Department, FDA, or by judicial process).

We will not notify your child if the test results are negative or if sample tubes do not provide enough blood to complete all laboratory tests.

NYBC protects the confidentiality of all its donors.

If you have any question about your child’s donation, please call us during normal business hours.

New York City and Hudson Valley- 914-784-4623
Long Island- 516-475-5030

Some products used in blood collection contain natural latex rubber which may cause allergic reactions.

Thank you for consenting for your child to donate blood.
Got Sneakers? Don’t throw them away! We are running a sneaker drive and need all of your unwanted wearable sneakers and cleats. We’ll earn up to $3 for every pair collected for the WMS PTA!

New and used sneakers and cleats can be dropped off at the following locations from December 5th through March 31st. There is no limit to the amount we can donate, so please spread the word to your family and friends and please keep sending in those sneakers!

Collection Box Locations:
Westlake High School Lobby
Westlake Middle School Lobby at drop off circle
Mount Pleasant Community Center

Fast Facts

200 Million
sneakers in the US end up in landfills each year

30-40 Years
Is how long it takes for shoes to decompose

600+ Million
people worldwide don’t even own a pair of shoes

Many of them are children who must have shoes in order to attend school