

Walk In Silence

By Kate Wallace, '19
Knightly News Reporter

WHS participated in a voluntary walk on March 14, organized by student leaders with the support and supervision of school personnel. Ms. Winch stated, “WHS students respectfully asked permission to participate in the national discourse in response to the recent events in Florida.” Through thoughtful and reflective ideas about the day, the activity began with Amanda Wilderman and Nikol Jara (Student Council and Class of 2018 presidents) providing words of support, unity and empathy, after which, those partaking moved to the gym to walk for 17 minutes in memory of the 17 victims of the Florida school shooting. Jack Lyman said, “I participated to honor the 17 kids who passed. It was good to have everyone honor their names.” Afterward, students were able to reflect and discuss their observances with teachers and to brainstorm 17 ways to make a positive change or difference in the WHS community.

CAS Awards

By Kiley McCarthy, '21
Knightly News Reporter

On Tuesday, April 3rd, two of Westbrook High School’s seniors, Courtney Parrish and Olivia Fabrizi, attended the Connecticut Association of Schools Arts Award Banquet at the Aqua Turf Club to receive recognition for their outstanding abilities. The CAS High School Fine Arts Awards are presented to two seniors from each high school in the state to recognize them for their amazing talents in fine and performing art. Courtney earned the award for choir and theatre and Olivia for band. Both recipients were very grateful and honored to receive this distinction. “It was a great honor to receive the award. I was extremely honored to receive it from Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Mal,” stated Courtney. Olivia also expressed her gratitude to Mr. Gerhardt; “I would like to thank Mr. Gerhardt even though he couldn’t make it to the banquet. It was really an amazing ceremony.” Congratulations to these very talented young women!



photo courtesy of Richard Parrish
Courtney Parrish and Olivia Fabrizi at the Aqua Turf CAS banquet.

CREATIVE CONTESTS IN APRIL

Two annual creative competitions happen in April here at Westbrook High School, the Poetry and the Earth Day contests. “Roses are Red
Violets are Blue
April is National Poetry Month” are the words used to advertise the WHS Annual Poetry Contest sponsored by Ms. G in the Library/Media Center. Students could submit their poems up until April 27th and

Wal-Mart gift cards were awarded to the top three finishers. With over forty submissions, this year's laureates for Westbrook are Hayley Belval '18 in third, Paola Chirip '21 in second, and, first place went to Ruby Asby '18! Congratulations to these fine winners. Ms. G would like to extend a special thank you to the teachers who supported the contest by offering extra credit to those who wrote poems. Read the winning poems in the library; they are on display.

The Eco-Adventures and Archaeology

Club and Ms. Patti sponsored the annual Earth Day contest open to all students, faculty and staff. Here submissions were accepted in three categories- poetry, photography and poster. Winners in each category are as follows: Poem- 1st place Jackie Grace, 2nd Place Ethan Hamm and 3rd Place Jason Cordon. Winner- 1st Amanda Wilderman, 2nd Place Cori Hofler and 3rd Place Jack Green. Poster: 1st place Christina Matute-Heredia, 2nd Place Cori Hofler and 3rd Place Samantha Bartlett. The first place winner in each category received a \$20.00 gift certificate to Bill's Seafood &

Ice Cream Shop. All Earth Day contest entries are on display in the hallway outside of the gym near the sophomore lockers.

Congratulations to all winners in both competitions. With their permission, all of the winning pieces will be included in this year's edition of *The Magazine*, our school's literary publication. Any student wishing to submit pieces to our lit magazine, which features original student writing and art work should see Mr. Hall or Ms. Mal. Without a doubt, creativity is abound at Westbrook High School.

Equal Opportunity Statement

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SENIOR SEMINAR: A REQUIREMENT NEXT YEAR

By Kate Wallace, '18
Knightly News Reporter

Senior Seminar is a recent addition to WHS’s roster of electives. Over the past few years, it has been developed to provide seniors with a class to work on senior projects, whether it is designed to benefit the community at large or for personal enrichment. While it has previously been an optional class, it will be a requirement beginning with the class of 2019. Senior Seminar is currently co-taught by Ms. Mal and Ms. Eichler; however, other teachers will be joining next year in order to better assist students. This English elective provides seniors with the chance to complete a project of their choosing, mostly during class; however, will

necessitate some out-of-class, too. The class itself has several requirements which are provided in a syllabus on the first day of class. One early assignment asks students to give a brief overview of their project to their classmates. In addition, all students keep a journal of their progress and findings throughout the four quarters, as well as, complete certain quarterly requirements (found in a checklist) in order to stay on track. Once their project has been completed, students prepare a final product in an eight to ten minute presentation to the class and various faculty advisors. This project can be a paper, film, report, or any other creative way of demonstrating what you learned and accomplished. Students also create a portfolio in order to store and document all

of their work. The class meets every other day for a full year in order to help students complete the course requirements, including the 50 hours of time over several weeks or months. For those wishing to work with another student on the same project, the project must be enough to fulfill 50 hours for each group member. For students in National Honors Society, with approval, they may combine their Senior Seminar project with their NHS project. Senior Seminar is a fantastic opportunity for seniors take a class where they choose to pursue an endeavor that will benefit both themselves and their community.

ashlawn farm COFFEE

by Christine Banks '18
Knightly News Reporter

For this review, I revisited my favorite coffee shop on the shoreline, Ashlawn Farms. While preparing for a bio exam, back in December, a friend and I checked out a coffee shop by the train station in Old Saybrook. The venue offered red leather couches for lounging, intimate seating, and workstations. Like us, several patrons brought their backpacks and computers to hunker down while they supply themselves with coffee. We ordered hot chocolate, listened to the hum of Christmas music in the background, and set up our station with papers, notebooks and flashcards. When they finished our order, we filled with excitement as our eyes feasted on the beauty of the beverage. Our hot chocolate was garnished with home-made whipped cream and sprinkled with powdered chunks of chocolate. We each took a sip, and to our surprise our tongues did not suffer from the heat. At this point in my hot chocolate drinking career, I am accustomed to the

burn associated with eager drinking. One must wait for it to cool before guzzling it down, but not in this case. The hot chocolate was the perfect temperature and the flavor was rich, creamy, and, of course, extremely chocolatey. It did not resemble other watered down and powdery versions at other establishments. Each component of the drink aided the satisfaction of the customer, in addition to the components of the entire experience. Friendly staff, cozy and rustic atmosphere, and a plethora of goods to fit one's morning and afternoon needs makes Ashlawn Farms a great alternative to other corporate franchises. They source specialty beans from all over the world and roast them locally. They then sell and supply those beans to other restaurants, cafes and grocery stores around the area. In addition, all of their baked goods and food items are made fresh each day. They even hand make their chocolate sauces and special syrups. This place has it all. The next time you need a muffin or quick morning coffee check this place out. You will not be disappointed.



photo courtesy of Christine Banks, '18

ashlawn farm COFFEE: a great alternative to "big" coffee establishments

Prom Update

French Trip

by Nikol Jara '18
Knightly News Reporter

Prom is around the corner! As everyone prepares for the “Gatsby” themed event, the prom committee has been hard at work. In order to reduce ticket prices, many members of the committee have taken action by organizing and hosting fundraisers. On April 6th, Kelsey Xenelis and Victoria Koplas hosted a prom expo in the Westbrook High School auditorium, where, our very own senior girls, modeled the beautiful gowns from different local stores. Charlotte Barton and Merry Farrell organized a trivia night on May 3rd which was held in the Middle School Cafeteria. It was a successful night and many students, parents and even teachers came out to support the event. Sean Scully was the emcee and entertained the crowd as he read the challenging questions. With the help of Mr. Donovan, a group of middle school students went home with the

win, edging out Bowl Team 1. Lastly, Madison Bratz and Thalia Rowell organized a car wash on May 7th, at the Ambulance Barn in town, bringing in over \$200. These three events, coupled with class dues, helped defray ticket prices over ten dollars from last year. In addition to the committees' dedication to fundraising, they have been planning every detail including centerpieces, favors, photos and a delicious candy table with the help of class adviser, Mrs. Carr. The Westbrook Junior/Senior Prom will take place on May 19, 2018 at Water's Edge from 6:00-10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$70 per person which includes dinner, dancing, favors and pictures (a 5x7 and 4 wallets prints). One of the best parts of the Westbrook prom tradition is the photos out on the lawn at Water's Edge. It's truly a community event, with parents, alum and teachers gathering to see our students in their finest attire! Without a doubt this prom will be one to remember.

By Amanda Wilderman '18
Knightly News Reporter

During April break, ten WHS students took a once in a lifetime opportunity to travel to France. Three teachers, Mrs. Stopa, Ms. Winch, and Mrs. Finn, accompanied the students on their journey. The students were immersed into the rich cultural atmosphere where they took in the famous art and of course dined on some extraordinary food. While there, they stayed with host families, many of whom came to Westbrook during last year's student exchange. The students' days were full of various sightseeing activities such as the Arch de Triumph, Notre Dame, Versi -the eternal flame honoring soldiers, and of course, the Eiffel Tower. During their free time, they went to restaurants and practiced their French through ordering. "It was a really good

experience because I was able to learn more about the French language and the culture while grow closer to the students I went with," said Samantha Cates. One big cultural difference is with dining. The French would eat dinner at 10 pm and there was a two hour break for lunch, as well as, deluxe lunches at school. Daniel Perreault believed that the trip "was a wonderful opportunity to see the fascinating cultural differences between the US and France. Overall it was a positive experience that I will never forget and it really changed the way I look at the world around me." Everyone gained something beneficial from the trip whether about a new culture, environment, or even art. Zoie Murphy remarked, "On the French trip we started out as strangers, but by the time the ten days were up, we were all friends with memories that will last us a lifetime."


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*Perreault, Dan
Class of 2019*

Awareness Day


On My 4th, WHS hosted Awareness Day, organized by members of the Teen Leadership/School Climate classes. Students in these classes spent months preparing for this big event which featured over 28 presenters who talked with students about timely topics and healthy lifestyle decisions. In addition, students from Woodstock Academy and neighboring school, Oxford Academy, attended the day long event. The Knightly News was on the scene to ask participants about the day which included a keynote speaker from Lady Gaga's Born This Way Foundation and special activities from the National Guard and State Police. Here is what a few students had to say.

Asset 32-Planning and Decision Making




"We thought that the massage therapy was very relaxing and the bungee game in the gym totally fun!" Freshman Marguerite Bartlett, Isabelle Esposito, and Kayla Arevalo

Young person knows how to plan ahead and make choices



"I found the college life information and advice very helpful." -Dan Perreault '19



"It was great helping with the organizing and seeing it all come together!" Sophomores, Lexi Koplas and Olivia Archer

COMPETITION



A few Girls Tennis players are taking on new responsibilities on the court and the first couple of weeks will indicate their goals for the season.

After coming off an undefeated season, the Boys Tennis team has 7 new players in starting spots.

The WHS Baseball Team will look to build on the valuable experienced gained during last year's season.

The Lady Knights look forward to a competitive season. With many starting underclassmen, they hope to steadily improve throughout the season.

Led by captain, Andrew Naccarato, Boys Track expects a good showing. Vin Dyer is the favorite in discus and some strong freshman joined the team.

Girls Track is off and running with many early achievements. The team looks strong this season.

Spring

CAPTAINS



Our spring captains smile for the camera!

In The Spotlight... with Danyelle Engels



Over the past four years, Danyelle made great strides for track and field at Westbrook High School.

By Tirzah Blomquist, '18

For the past four years, Danyelle Engels has competed in discus, javelin, and shot put for the high school's track and field team. Her leadership emerged through her participation as a captain in both indoor and outdoor track this year. As a freshman, Danyelle demonstrated her prowess, qualifying for the state meet. Her first place finishes in the discus and javelin at the Valley Freshman Invitational showed her competitiveness that would continue throughout high school. Sophomore year, Danyelle joined the newly formed indoor track team and earned the title of Second Team All-Shoreline in shot put. This success then transferred to the outdoor season where she won First Team All-Shoreline in both discus and shot put. Her top finishes at the Class S

meet allowed her to advance to the State Open that year. Danyelle continued on her path of achievement junior year as she placed either first or second in almost every meet for discus and shot put, and earned First Team All-Shoreline in the discus. With a third place finish in Class S in the discus, she competed at State Opens with a seventh place finish against the twenty-three most competitive throwers in the state. She also won the Most Valuable Player Award, as the highest scorer on the track team. This year, Danyelle continues on the path to victory in discus and shot put. She hopes to defend her First Team All-Shoreline title for a third year in a row. Next year, she will take her determination to CCSU where she will compete in Division I track and field.

WHS Theatre's
March play was
RADIUM GIRLS
March 23-24



Grace (Christine Banks '18)
Katherine (Merry Farrell '18)
and Irene (Kendall Orlowski '20)
talk shop in the factory. Also
pictured Natalie Ranelli '18 and
Rylee Phillips '20



Mrs. Fryer (Courtney
Parrish '18) talks about mar-
riage and life with her daugh-
ter, Grace, and fiance,
Tommy (Mason Waldron '21).



Tommy, Grace and
Katherine deal with the
press while in the hospital.
Charlotte Barton '18 and
Emma Parkhurst '21 play the
reporter and photographer.



Grace comforts
Katherine as they try to
cope with the loss of their
dear friend, Irene, and
find some answers.

The Latest with Band and Choir

Big numbers equal big things!

By Kiley McCarthy '21
Knightly News Reporter

The Westbrook High School band and choir programs continue to thrive throughout the 2017-2018 school year. Enrollment in the two electives is high and the directors are hopeful that it will continue to increase in years to come. Both Ms. Allen, the concert choir director, and Mr. Gerhardt, the band director, are deeply saddened about the loss of seniors at the end of the school year. “We are losing a lot of seniors this year. It’s always tough but I’m looking forward for the inflow of new talent into the new year. We are all enthusiastic for the spring concert,” Ms. Allen states. For the spring large ensembles concert, the choir is planning to sing three songs including: “Make Them Hear You” from the

Broadway musical Ragtime, written by Terrence McNally, a version of “One Day” by Matisyahu, and “You Will Be Found” from the Broadway musical Dear Evan Hansen, written by Justin Paul and Benj Pasek. Ms. Allen expresses her difficulty in choosing this concert’s music, “In choosing music for the spring concert, I kept being drawn to pieces that dealt with connection, relationships, the human experience, etc. but couldn’t verbalize a clear theme to tie them all together - and then one night I rewatched the movie “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty.” There is a quote that runs throughout the film and is the centerpiece of the plot, and as soon as I heard it, I realized that was my concert theme: “To see the world, things



photo credit WHS Music

Students on the steps at the Philadelphia Art Museum on their spring music trip

dangerous to come to, to see behind walls, draw closer, to find each other, and to feel. That is the purpose of life.” The band program also continues to thrive. “The program is going really well. This year we have the highest enrollment the band has ever had and it looks like it will continue in the future. I am very happy with the difficulty of the pieces I chose for the spring concert,” Mr. Gerhardt says, “Variations on a Korean Folk Song is one of the most difficult pieces that the band has ever performed. I couldn’t be more thrilled. I’m enjoying this year very much and I’ll miss the seniors when they leave. It was wonder-

ful to have them in band.” For the spring concert, Mr. Gerhardt plans on having the band perform five songs including: Variations on a Korean Folk Song, by John Barnes Chance; Amparito Roca, written by Jaime Texidor; Simple Gifts, by Aaron Copland; Symphony No. 9, the finale “from the New World” written by Antonin Dvořák and arranged by Larry Daehn; and this year’s senior piece See You Again, arranged by Johnnie Vinson. Both the band and choir programs are vigorously preparing for the upcoming spring concert.

In the Art Room

By Amanda Wilderman '18
Knightly News Reporter

We all know the famous saying that “art is in the eye of the beholder.” This remains true to its word for the current Art classes at WHS all of which are using unique methods to allow the expression of deep thought. The art students shall use Enplaine painting for their final which will take place at Hammonasset Beach. Painting and the Advanced Art classes are currently working on a magnificent project where they express ten emotions. The students will use ten media to express ten different emotions when creating ten artworks using one subject matter. The sculpture class will be working on glass suluming using the kilm. Lastly, the annual Art show at the end of the year in the Library displays various kinds and methods of artwork from students at WHS in May. Dylan Appleby, a senior in Advanced Art has a word of advice for those interested in or pursuing art. “From my entire time taking art in high school I’ve learned that you are really

your own worst critic and you would do so much better if you went off of what others think. Also, don’t be afraid to take criticism because it could be positive criticism and that helps you to improve and instills methods in your brain to change your artwork.” Ms. H, has given her students and even those not taking an art class, help on various art projects. In speaking with Ms. H, she explained that her “favorite kind of art is photography by trade but she has gotten into ceramics.” As Ms. H “learns about ceramics, the kids are learning too and are involving themselves in ceramics!” Anyone interested in Art, should know that Ms. H is always there to help you transcend your current position on your artwork. She wants everyone to know that she “will never turn anyone away, if you have a study hall or want to work on your art but don’t have an art class, just stop, everyone is always welcomed!”

Music with Ethan POP Music

“Blue Ribbon” comes off of the short Remo Drive EP Pop Music. Evidently, pop music is exactly what one gets here, congruous with the soda can featured on the cover. Upbeat, feel-good, poppy-warmth lasts from start to finish because there is no time to waste on this two-and-a-half-minute track. The band decides to add more consonance than dissonance compared to earlier tracks with a fuzzier emo. Here they are just as bouncy and angsty, but sharper, wanting to keep that derivative edge.



Cuckoo for Cuco!

Cuco’s “Lover is a Day” is the epitome of the band. It has the sunny and bright instrumentals of songs like “Sunnyside”, and the punchy synths and angst of “CR-V”. Its dreaminess and rumbling distortion is what the band is all about, putting on a perfect show for this indie love song. Omar Banos shows off the essence of his vocals here- melancholy, cloudy, and dim. It’s his preferred style as opposed to his experimentation in a sometimes mumbled, overdramatic voice, or his newly discovered knack for rapping like in “CR-V”. “Lover is a Day” essentially represents Cuco and all his mesmerizing work in this break-up generation.



Splitting the Boundaries

Code Orange proves on “Only One Way” that they are changing the game of heavy music. It’s a grunge track with heavy influence on groove metal and industrial. Guitarist Reba Meyers, shows off her sinister vocals, and after a few small, unstructured synth breaks in the middle, it changes its pace. It is an unorthodox transition that along with the song’s erratic behavior. This eventually brings the song to an end with a sharp, punchy groove of guitars, drums, and synths. It is a song unlike any other as the quintet continues to split the boundaries of music in half.



photo courtesy of Ms. Hourihan

Light on Westbrook Photo contest winners Ms. Hourihan and Sophia Levine.