



Westbrook High School  
156 McVeagh Road  
Issue 19

# The Knightly News

## French Exchange Program

By Kate Wallace '19

From March 31 to April 7, nine exchange students left France to experience life in America. Students from Southern Marseille stayed for two weeks in order to experience life in both Westbrook and New York City. Every other year, WHS French classes host a range of students who want to experience our unique culture. Upon their arrival, nine Westbrook students greeted our guests and prepared for an eventful week ahead.

While spending time in Westbrook, the French students experienced an array of activities. On Saturday night, Westbrook students gathered in the gym to host a welcoming party for the French students. The next day, the exchange students and their Westbrook hosts headed off to Boston for a daytrip. Throughout the week, exchange students shadowed their hosts and experienced the differences of the American education system. When asked about some of the differences between their school and ours, one student, Yann, described, "In a American class it could be people of different grades and I didn't understand how it can work. In France, people in a class are always in the same grade." Inés also noticed some of the differences between our schools, saying French school days start earlier and end later, but vacations last longer.

Ms. Finn was incredibly excited to host the French students. Every other year,

Westbrook is invited to travel to France to live with their students for about a week. Unfortunately, we have only visited France once in the six years the program has been running, but Ms. Finn looks forward to future trips with students who are looking to immerse themselves in French culture. Students from Marseille have visited Westbrook three times, and every visit presents new opportunities and experiences for our visitors. This past year, French students had the opportunity to visit the Yale Art Museum and take a tour of the Yale campus. Inés described how she, "went to the aquarium, and we had a great time. We also went to nice restaurants, like the Mystic Pizza and Sushi Japanese, and to the outlets of Westbrook." Activities students participated in on a day to day basis as different host students will take their exchange students to different places.

To any students who wish to participate in the French exchange program, Ms. Finn is happy to provide more information. While taking French is encouraged, it is not mandatory to host a student. Ms. Finn is also interested in gathering a group of students who wish to visit France under the same program. This year's French exchange program was a success, and Westbrook is so fortunate to have received an incredible opportunity to experience a different culture in such a unique way.



photo courtesy of the Ulanowicz sisters

The French Exchange students taking in some "Sun!"

## Summer Reading

Information contributed by  
WHS English Department

It's that time of year again! Time to put on the sunscreen, grab your lounge chair and head to the beach...with your book! The English department has once again, compiled the Summer Reading titles for your reading pleasure. The information

will also be available on our main high school webpage: <http://whs.westbrookctschools.org/> If you should have any questions about the summer reading over the summer, contact your English teacher via email.

Depending on whether you are enrolled in a college prep or honors/UConn English class for the 2017-2018 school year, you will be responsible for reading either one or two books over the

summer and taking high quality notes to be used in a Socratic Seminar. It is crucial you do this assignment well, since your summer reading Socratic seminar(s) will be your first grade for the 2017-2018 school year.

- Assigned texts:
- Incoming Freshmen (Current 8th Graders)
    - o The House on Mango Street, Sandra Cisneros (Everybody)
    - o The Book Thief, Markus Zusak (Honors only)
  - Incoming Sophomores (Current Freshmen)
    - o Grendel, John Gardner (Everybody)
    - o Wuthering Heights, Emily Brontë (Honors only)
  - Incoming Juniors (Current Sophomores)
    - o Passing, Nella Larsen (Everybody)
    - o Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck

- (Honors only)
- Incoming Seniors (Current Juniors)
    - o The Alchemist, Paulo Coelho (Everybody)
    - o Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man, James Joyce (UConn only)

You are free to use any edition of the assigned texts, including Kindle or e-books. The school library has copies of many of these texts, and the town library will lend out copies as well, or you may purchase your own text.

Whatever edition of the text you read, use the assigned packet(s) to complete your notes for the Socratic seminar.

Summer reading, including notes for the Socratic seminar, is due on the first day of school.

Enjoy your summer reading, and get off to a great start for the new school year!

### Equal Opportunity Statement

The Westbrook Board of Education and Public School District is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The Westbrook Board of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. The Connecticut State Department of Education does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction.

## Senior Seminar

By Knightly News Staff

Senior projects have been a large part of the WHS culture since 2006. For example, the painting of bricks in the class mural started as a senior project. The infamous rock outside the front of the building wasn't always there. Its acquisition and use as a billboard evolved from a senior project. For over a decade, seniors have had the opportunity to challenge themselves and provide a community service or complete a self-enrichment project. What IS different comes with the shift from an extra-curricular project to a class built into our school day, and the eventual requirement of all seniors to complete one.

Piloted this year, Senior Seminar, is now offered to any senior. To meet the requirements, students must devote a minimum of 50 hours per person over several months, serve the community in some capacity and/or fulfill a personal enrichment goal. This year, eight students enrolled in the class and have been working since September to complete their portfolios and oral presentations. Casey Burns and Aerial Ulanowicz held a tennis clinic for the Unified Sports class on May 30. Liam Bell has been promoting his YouTube endeavor "Life With Liam", while Tim Knudsen crafted a bench in the wood shop which he donated to WHS's drama department to be used in future shows. Tyjah Childs put her passion for

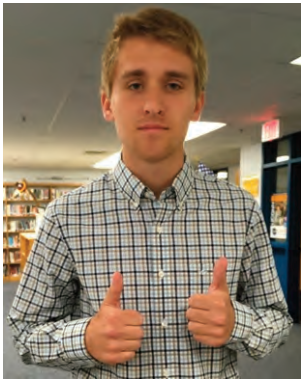
track to the test, also working with the Unified Sports program, and Brandi Andrade, Sara Einsmann, and Michelle Pesantez have been painting away to raise money for Cerebral Palsy.

Completing the 50 hours is only one of the requirements. Students must also document their activity through a journal/mentor log and take photos or record the project in its various stages. A written reflection must be submitted in a portfolio which compiles all of the year's work into one binder. This is followed by a short slideshow presentation for the class.

Students in the Class of 2018 may elect to take the course next school year. See your counselor to enroll.



## WHAT ARE YOUR POST GRADUATION PLANS?



Phil Hartzell  
Attending the University of New Haven. Planning on majoring in Forensic Accounting.



Callie Liberatore  
Going to Douglas Education Center, one of the only 2 schools in America that have an accredited Special FX program.



Connor Sestrom  
Working for Downie Septic and then going into the Army



Matt Ossa  
Attending the University of Maine majoring in Civil Engineering



Alexa Mulvihill  
Attending Assumption College in Worcester, MA, where she will play Field Hockey



Austin Herzy  
Attending URI to major in Business and Finance with a minor in Spanish.

# Best Wishes, Class of 2017

## *Westbrook Junior/Senior Prom*



"Poe" students with Ms. McKenna, juniors and seniors in the mix, Ms. Mal with the theatre crew.

# Rotary Recipients



Rotary Students of the Month:  
L to R Jason Matunas, Nick Perregaux, Matt Gallagher, Sabrina Martins, Madison Beebe, Alex Barzallo, Rick Atkinson, and Gus Marx, missing from photo Emily Hotkowski

## By Knightly News Staff

Each month, the Old Saybrook Rotary Club hosts a breakfast for high school students to acknowledge outstanding achievement in a particular academic discipline. Rotary is a worldwide organization of men and women who are business and professional leaders whose main objective is service in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world. Additionally, they support programs for educational opportunities and international exchanges for students, teachers, and other professionals. The Old Saybrook Rotary Club serves Saybrook, Westbrook and Old Lyme, welcoming a high school student (usually a senior) from each town to celebrate his/her success in the academic discipline of that month. Westbrook students honored this year include the following:

September: Madison Beebe in English  
October: Gus Marx in Math  
November: Matt Gallagher in Social Studies  
December: Jason Matunas in Science

January: Sabrina Martins in World Languages  
February: Ricky Atkinson in Technology  
March: Alex Barzallo in The Arts  
April: Emily Hotkowski in Business  
May: Nick Perregaux in Health/Physical Education

Ms. Winch introduced each WHS student. Then a teacher from the subject area spoke, expanding on the achievements of the recipient in that academic area. Recipients also had a chance to address the group, expressing their gratitude and sharing their plans for the future. We are proud of our Westbrook Rotary Students of the Month and wish them well as they pursue opportunities in their chosen field.





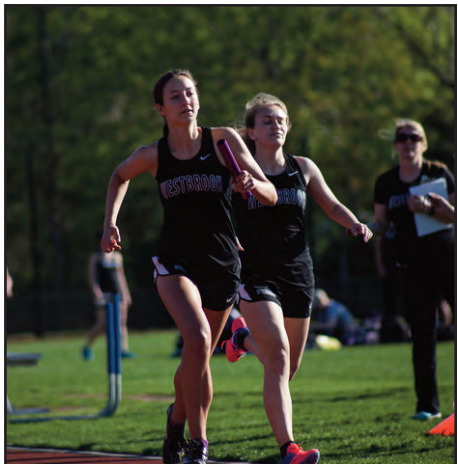
Girls tennis-Shoreline Champs!



Unified Teammates taking a break at their track meet!



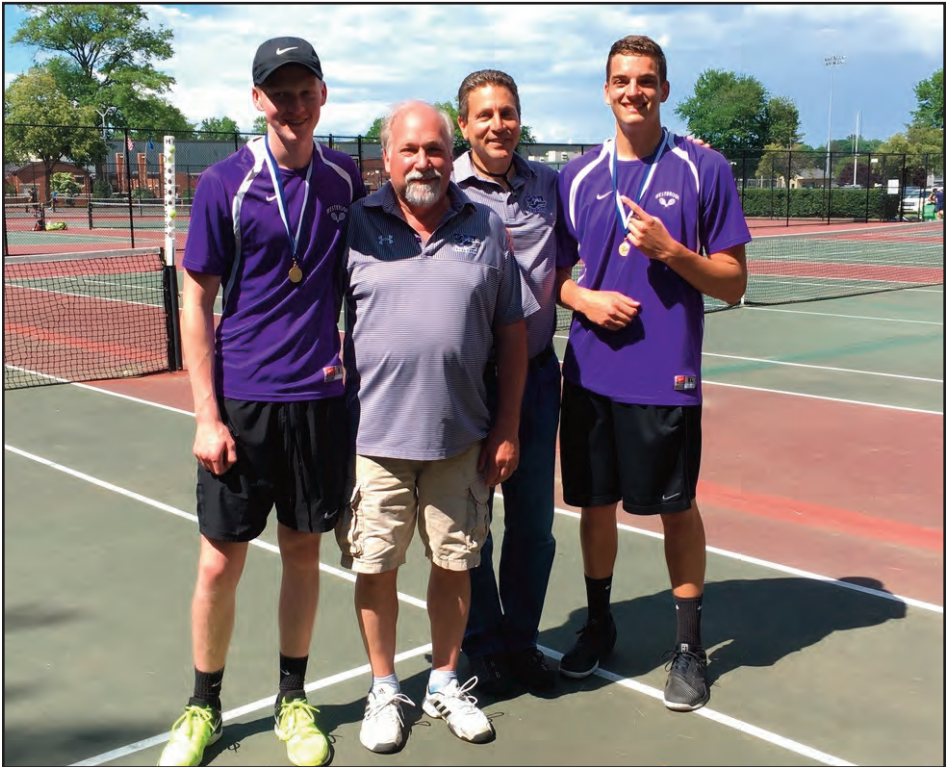
Meeting at the mound



4 x 400 handoff



Softball girls celebrating a run!



Boys and coaches after their State Title match.



Tennis seniors 2017!



Jake participating in the 200m



Max clearing the pole.



# A Night at the Halos

## with WHS Theatre

By Knightly News Staff

On May 30th, WHS Theatre arrived at the Palace Theater in Waterbury to attend the 14th Annual Halo Awards. Over 25 schools filled the audience with great anticipation. Savannah Marshall '19 said, "The atmosphere was energetic and exciting. It made it so much fun to watch everyone get their awards. It was special to be a part of."

Our department received 12 nominations in a variety of categories. This year, WHS Theatre garnered nominations in all of the major acting awards, both male and female in both the musical, Footloose, and the play, Hotel Paradiso. Competing against schools, some more than three times our size, WHS held its own, taking home a statue in Best Costumes for Footloose. Kelsey Xenelis remarked about the win, "It was super exciting! I knew our costumes killed it, but it was cool to hear Westbrook be called. I was definitely feeling school pride."

A special award in student directing went to Christine Banks. "I was totally surprised," commented Ms. Mal, "This was an unannounced award. In my production notes, I wrote about all of the great work Christine had done with blocking scenes. Apparently the judges agreed with me!" Below is the list

- of WHS' 2017 Halo Nominations:
- BEST COSTUME DESIGN: Kate Wallace, Christine Banks, Tirzah Blomquist, Kelsey Xenelis, Victoria Koplas
  - BEST HAIR / MAKEUP: Aerial Ulanowicz, Jada Morrell, Marilyn Ulanowicz, Patricia Calle, Callie Liberatore
  - BEST PROPS DESIGN/MANAGEMENT: Courtney Parrish, Callie Liberatore
  - BEST DANCING: Footloose
  - BEST FEATURED DANCER(S): Jason Cordon
  - BEST PERFORMANCE BY A SUPPORTING ACTRESS IN A PLAY: Aerial Ulanowicz
  - BEST PERFORMANCE BY A SUPPORTING ACTOR IN A MUSICAL: Alexander Barzillo
  - BEST PERFORMANCE BY A COUPLE OR DYNAMIC DUO IN A PLAY: Binak Cecunjanin & Ben Schreck
  - BEST PERFORMANCE BY A LEADING ACTOR IN A PLAY: Hayden Richardson
  - BEST PERFORMANCE BY A LEADING ACTRESS IN A PLAY: Charlotte Barton
  - BEST PERFORMANCE BY A LEADING ACTOR IN A MUSICAL: Binak Cecunjanin
  - BEST PERFORMANCE BY A LEADING ACTRESS IN A MUSICAL: Aerial Ulanowicz
- Congrats to all!



photo courtesy of Madame Malafronte

WHS Theatre members at the Palace Theatre in Waterbury for the 2017 Halo Awards.

# ART-icle

By Brandi Andrade '17

This is it people, the final few days of the 2016-2017 school year. As they try their hardest to avoid procrastination, the art students continue, or maybe scramble, to finish up their final projects in the art room.

The Advanced Art class has recently completed their diligent work on their "Drawing from Nature" pieces. They quickly began cleaning out their drawers and preparing for their final exam and cleaned up.

The 2D and 3D art students are toiling away on their most recent assignments. In the 3D class specifically, the students are "sizing up" their shoe sculptures. Both classes are working

hard to prepare for their finals.

The Photography students have spent the past few weeks taking endless photos and working with new Photoshop techniques. They have almost completed their final presentations and are getting ready to share them with their classmates.

The Advanced Art and 2D art classes have packed up some supplies for their exam at

Hammonasset Beach. We looked forward to this special day and kept our fingers crossed for a nice day. With the sun shining, we departed for a day at the beach where we painted and sketched from the picturesque landscape of one of the Shoreline's most beautiful spots. It was great to get out in the environment and paint from life, even though we were all over dressed and dying! Who knew that amid the stretch of chilly, rainy weather we would actually see the sun and feel hot. All in all, it was a great day.

Ms. Hourihan and the art students would like to wish everyone an amazing end of the school year! Also, a giant congratulations to the class of 2017!

## Acoustic Cafe



On Friday, May 5, the cafeteria was packed with audience members, and the air was filled with music of all styles, from pop to jazz to folk and more.

## Memorial Day Ceremony



Because of the rain, WHS' Marching Band wasn't able to march in the Memorial Day parade. Zach Jacobs and Travis Miller performed "Taps" at the ceremony, despite the downpours.

## MUSIC NEWS

Kina Mama has been invited back to the Westbrook Senior Center for the first time in Feb, they've been invited back for a second visit next week. Coordination of this visit was initiated by Kendra Mansey who works at the Senior Center. The group sang the National Anthem at the Memorial Day parade ceremony and will be singing it this year for the first time at a WHS graduation. In addition, these ladies will provide music for Project Graduation's Baccalaureate Service at Westbrook Congregational Church.

In keeping with tradition, our graduating seniors were recognized with short readings by their peers, sharing their experience in the music department and plans for the future. Of those seniors, Zach Jacobs and Patricia Calle were announced as the winners of two \$500 scholarships given by the Westbrook Music Boosters. Congratulations, Zach and Patricia!

At the small ensembles concert, Kina performed their arrangement of "Til It Happens to You," a song originally recorded by

Lady Gaga for a documentary on campus sexual assault. To accompany the performance, Kina created a video montage of WHS classes, teams, clubs, faculty and staff sharing statistics to increase awareness and showing their support for sexual assault survivors. Kina sends sincere thanks to the many groups for their participation, and for allowing this project to involve a wide cross-section of our school community in sharing this important message.

The 2017 Acoustic Cafe was our most successful yet, featuring more than 20 student and faculty performers, including student emcee Amanda Wilderman. Elnora Amenta's magic show was one of the biggest hits of the night, as was Mr. Craig Hall's performance on penny whistle (accompanied by Mr. Gerhardt on guitar). All proceeds benefit the WHS Music Boosters, a parent organization which supports K-12 music department initiatives.