



## March 2018 NEWSLETTER

WHS is committed to providing a safe and intellectually challenging environment that will empower students to become innovative thinkers, creative problem-solvers, effective communicators, and inspired learners prepared to thrive in the twenty-first century.

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### PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE



March is a very busy time at Weston High School. The Key Club sponsored a blood drive on Monday, March 5 with students and staff donating blood in memory of the victims of Stoneman Douglas High School. Pictured is Sophia Rico. On March 13 the Registrars of Voters were in our main lobby registering seniors who will be 18 years old by November 6 and eligible to vote. Seniors may also register on line at <https://voterregistration.ct.gov/OLVR/welcome.do>

The annual Spectrum concert was held on March 14, which was also Pi Day. Teacher volunteers were pied in the cafeteria during first lunch as part of this math celebration. March 21 we will have a special half day schedule. This is the date of the school based SAT for all juniors. A letter will be forthcoming regarding special programming for the remaining grades which includes a career day event.

There will be an international college forum on Tuesday, March 27 during the lunch waves. Students will have the opportunity to visit with representatives from a variety of colleges and universities.

### ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

**ART** teacher Ms. Hawthorn is proud to announce that five drawing student have had their artworks accepted in the Westport Arts Center Annual High School Art Exhibition. This show was juried by Elizabeth Gorayeb, Executive director of Wildenstein Plattner Institute, who is an art historian and critic. The show will award cash prizes to four entries at the opening. All are welcome. The opening is Friday March 23rd at 6PM. WHS participants are: Alexa Policano, Arianna Berman, Saige Kanik, Alexa Kripke and Adian Delgass.

**ENGLISH** teachers are proud to announce the winners of the 2018 Hudson-to-Housatonic Scholastic Writing Awards. "A panel of professional novelists, editors, teachers, poets, librarians, journalists, and other literary professionals selected these works from the 2,009 works submitted this year. There were 168 Gold Keys, 272 Silver Keys, and 420 Honorable Mentions.

### *Gold Key*

Sophie Collins for her short story “Everybody Wants to Eat”

### *Silver Key*

Camden Archambeau for his poem “Conveyances-Pictures of a Day on the Rails”

Sophie Collins, for her poem “Change-forever”

Midori Tobin, for her short story “Lucky”

### *Honorable Mention*

Camden Archambeau for his short story “Probably Not”

Arielle Belluck for her poem “Woman’s World” and “You, Me, Us, Them”

Sophie Collins for her poem “4 Sonnets”

Alexandra Policano for her personal essay/memoir “The Comfort That Comes with a Rickety Porch”

In addition to winning a *Gold Key*, Sophie Collins was one of five students from our region who is being considered for the National American Voices Medal in the American Voices Competition

**MUSIC** students in our Tri-M Music Honor Society have been spending time coaching our young music students. They work on their ensemble music, and a fun new tunes that middle schoolers are interested in learning. This program has been a great success.



### **COMPUTER INTEGRATED MANUFACTURING**

classes have been working on a reverse engineering project to make a “Beehive Clock”. Inspired by the natural honeycomb, students worked together in small groups to determine sizes, tolerances, and overall design of connection pieces to link the rings together. As an individual aspect to the project, the faces of the clock are all unique, displaying the interests of each individual.

**ADVANCED VIDEOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY II** students entered this year’s Teen Safe Driving Public Service Announcement (PSA) contest sponsored by the Department of Motor Vehicles. This year’s contest focuses on a teen driver. Distractions and other unsafe behaviors behind the wheel can create dangerous situations for teen drivers and their passengers. A single person can control the fate of himself or herself, as well as others, such as siblings who can ride in the vehicle after six months and other kinds of passengers as well as those in other vehicles traveling on the same roadway. Here are links to our exceptional entries.

Entry 1 -(Anna Brosnihan, Sara Gibek, Sofia Bara)

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VtVcD\\_ablbNZ4e1fBht7s48E9Sur1GI0/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VtVcD_ablbNZ4e1fBht7s48E9Sur1GI0/view?usp=sharing)

Entry 2 -(Aaron Miller and Tom Story)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MGokySZeeM2UnXsrxrhq6Wi4C0LNobNG/view?usp=sharing>  
Entry 3 -(Nathan and David Katz)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KR6AbyGL6QirUA9hJES1zzcloUgBD0X/view?usp=sharing>

**WORLD STUDIES AND BIOLOGY** freshmen spent several weeks in both Biology and World Studies classes completing an interdisciplinary project titled “Global Petri Dish”, which allowed them the opportunity to predict and justify what they felt was the greatest infectious disease threat facing us. In World Studies, students examined the Age of Exploration’s impact had on society by studying how small pox changed society. Simultaneously, the 9th graders learned details about infectious agents and methods to combat them in Biology. The two disciplines then combined efforts towards an interdisciplinary project where students engaged in research on various modern-day diseases of their choice where they studied the disease’s biological and social impact on society. The students ultimately chose one disease to make the focus of their in-depth research and created a unique infographic to advertise their choice. In addition, they were responsible for a written justification highlighting the social, political, and economic ramifications of the disease, as well as the biological ramifications Social Studies

**SOCIAL STUDIES** teachers have lent their support to the Weston Historical Society in their preparation for their 1960’s Exhibit coming this spring. Working with former WHS history teacher, Ms. Bennet, the teachers look forward to taking advantage of the educational opportunities associated with this exciting event.

**WRITING CENTER** teachers had a very busy month in February. Mrs. Davies and Mrs. Gleason met with 69 students to individually revise and edit their writing in scheduled conferences or in conferences during classroom visits. They visited 20 classrooms to conference with students. The Writing Center visited all of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade history classes to reintroduce the Sophomore Writing Portfolio and encourage students to begin revising their selections. Many students are taking advantage of booking appointments, and we encourage all students to do so as soon as possible! Mrs. Gleason and Mrs. Davies also visited the middle school to introduce the 8<sup>th</sup> grade portfolio, which is a vital source of information about student performance. They look forward to continuing to work with middle school students to revise and edit their work in preparation for high school.



**ATHLETICS** Girls Ski and Girls Basketball are the headliners from this season while many other programs also made us proud this winter. Girls Ski were crowned SWC Champions and also Class S State Champions while finishing 3rd at State Opens and our Girls Basketball team made a run deep in to the state tournament playing in the state semifinals for the first time in approximately 40 years (at the time this was written the quarterfinal game had not yet occurred). Our Boys Ski Team along with our Girls Indoor Track and Field Team and our Boys Indoor Track and Field Team won the SWC Championships. Two wrestlers placed at the SWC Championship meet after our wrestlers compiled their best win/loss record in the

history of the program. Our swimmers and divers earned SWC Runner-up at their championship meet and our cheerleaders earned the highest point total in the history of their program at both



the SWC and State Competitions. Finally, our Unified Sports Team competed in both basketball and bowling competitions this winter and taught all of us about sportsmanship and effort.

Coach Medve has been named Coach of the Year for Indoor Track and Field. Coach Medve will be honored at a banquet in May. This is a picture of him being honored at the All State Banquet in early March.

## CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT** sponsored its annual Winter Spirit Week last month.

Events included badminton, movie night, and a winter pep rally featuring our cheerleaders. All profits made from the various night activities went to support *Sandy Hook Promise* as part of our winter Shine-a-Light initiative. Student government would like to thank all of the students and staff who helped make this week possible, and hopes for a successful Color Clash week in



**COMPANY** will present its spring musical, Rogers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific* on March 22, 23, 24 and 25. *South Pacific* is set in an island paradise during World War II. Two parallel love stories are threatened by the dangers of prejudice and war. Nellie, a spunky nurse from Arkansas, falls in love with a mature French planter, Emile. Nellie learns that the mother of his children was an island native and, unable to turn her back on the prejudices with which she was raised, refuses his proposal of marriage.

Meanwhile, Lt. Joe Cable denies himself a future with a beautiful Tonkinese girl with whom he's fallen in love out of the same fears that haunt Nellie. When Emile is recruited to accompany Joe on a dangerous mission that claims Joe's life, Nellie realizes that life is too short not to seize her own happiness, thus confronting and conquering her prejudices.



**DEBATE** students competed in the final Connecticut Debate Association tournament before the State Finals. The Weston High team walked away with an impressive collection of trophies which are awarded to both teams and individual speakers. Out of 43 Novice teams, our up-and-coming Novice team of Alex Boston and Knox Watson won second place and Knox placed 3rd as the best individual novice speaker. Weston fielded two teams in the Varsity division (43 teams) in an unusual arrangement. The team of Jane Burdett and Carolyn Zech took third place and Sean O'Neil, without a partner, won 2 of his 3 matches and scooped 1st place as Varsity Speaker.

Weston's 11 member team has seven qualifiers for State Champs. They are Alex Boston, Jane Burdett, Lindsey Greenberg, Sean O'Neil, Rebecca Ronai, Knox Watson and Carolyn Zech. The team is tight knit and, in preparation for the States, the Varsity teams are working with the Novice teams to refine contention development, hone questioning and rebuttal skills, and practice speech and delivery skills. During tournaments, debaters are presented with a Resolution one hour before the debates and must argue both sides in repeated elimination rounds. The team especially wants to thank the parents who act as chaperones and judges for the all day Saturday events as well as advisor Mrs. Snaith. Mr. Ronai has been a stalwart supporter of our team, thanks to him for attending March 3rd. The team's energy and camaraderie are an inspiration and a strong support system for all those interested in this type of competition that demands a knowledge of current events, the ability to critically and quickly examine evidence, and the ability to create and respond to arguments with poise and articulation. Pictured here are March 3 attendees Sean O'Neil, Carolyn Zech, Jane Burdett, Rebecca Ronai, Ava Ascher, and Knox Watson. Alex Boston is missing from the photo,



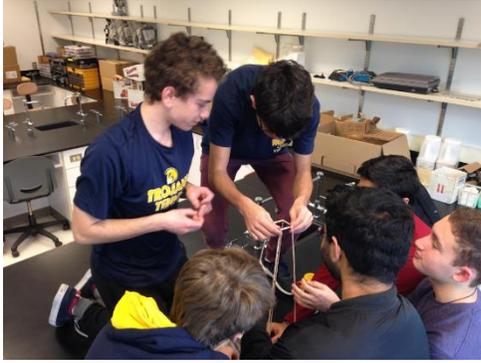
**MOCK TRIAL** red team members will compete in the finals of the state competition this month. They will argue a case against Trumbull High School's team.

**MODEL UNITED NATIONS** club members recently attended the UNIS-UN conference at the United Nations headquarters in New York City. The students took a guided tour of the building, listened to speakers while sitting in the General Assembly Hall, and discussed the topic of artificial intelligence and the future of work. Thank you to Mr. Jorge and Mrs. Klein for organizing and chaperoning this trip. The Model UN club is looking forward to their final conference for this year in late April.



**ST. BALDRICK'S CLUB** hosted a guest speaker from Fairfield who spoke about how St. Baldrick's helped her niece in her battle against stage 4 childhood cancer. The annual charity event where several of our members will be shaving their heads, is scheduled for March 24th at St. Francis church. The club is led by Sophomore Katie Morvillo and Freshmen Jack Morvillo and Daniel Bello –The club is doing a tremendous job in

raising awareness and funds.



**SCIENCE OLYMPIAD** students have been hard at work training for their April 7<sup>th</sup> statewide competition at the University of Connecticut. Student pairs will compete on various tests and events such as Anatomy, Astronomy, and Chemistry Lab, as well as building events including helicopters, and tower building shown in the picture.



## ALUMNI NEWS

Kelly Hagen, Class of 2013, graduated from University College Dublin last month and just began her internship as a Research Intern at William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies in DC.



Bevin Benson, Class of 2017, is pursuing a degree in computer science at Princeton. She recently contacted AP Coding teacher Mrs. Reens and shared, *“I’m loving computer science and still planning on choosing it as my major. Last semester, I took a course called COS 126, which they call “Introduction to Computer Science,” but it is definitely more than an intro! All I have to say is I’m so happy that I had AP Computer Science under my belt. The course is difficult, but I felt very well-prepared. Given how fast paced the course is, I honestly don’t know if I would have had the confidence to continue with computer science had I not taken AP in high school.”* Bevin

was the founder of the *Girls Who Code* chapter at Weston. We are thrilled to share that she was offered a software engineering internship this summer at Facebook and will be moving out west.