



## *DIGGING FOR GOLD*

By Emma Hathaway

The regular volleyball season just wrapped up, but the players aren't over the game just yet. Representatives from all three teams: Freshman, Junior Varsity, and Varsity, spoke to us about Dig Pink and their overall season.

Dig Pink is an annual fundraiser event that takes place towards the end of every volleyball season at Westport's home gym. It's popular among students and families alike, usually drawing crowds to fill entire bleachers. Snacks are sold outside the court to raise money for breast cancer awareness. All proceeds are donated to the Side Out Foundation, a nonprofit that supports breast cancer research through volleyball events. The goal every year is to raise about \$2,000. This year the goal was exceeded, and the coaches thank the public for their support.

The Freshman team played first during the event, beating Diman three sets to zero. Tom Clark, the Freshman Coach, complimented the team on how well they did despite playing high schoolers at a seventh and eighth grade level. "The purpose of the freshmen team is to get you better so you can play JV and Varsity eventually," Clark stated, "I was really impressed by the progress we made this year." He hopes to teach the incoming players more advanced skills next year like Setting and Hitting.

Junior Varsity played next but lost two sets to one. Ella Byron, current Freshman and long time volleyball player, praised the effort the team put into each game they played.

She recalls how the players didn't let the loss affect gameplay and improved every practice to win upcoming matches, ending the season with a 12-5 record. "We pushed as hard as we could and

you know, you win some you lose some, and we did our best, and we didn't let it get to us." Ella also had some advice for the future crowds: "Keep the crowd loud. If there's a theme, follow the theme and just keep doing what you're doing...it provides a lot of support and I think it really boosts up the players energy." Overall she's very happy with the crowd turnout and the season.

Kyleigh Finglas, Senior and co-captain of the varsity team, was interviewed shortly after her team's first win in the state competition. Kyleigh reached an important milestone in her volleyball career this year, 500 kills, which she accomplished at a home game against Avon. Her team won at Dig Pink, three sets to two, with an overall regular season record of 11-7. "I think we played very well and we put



Wildcat Staff Photo

Senior Volleyball Players (from left to right): Taylor Perry, Kyleigh Finglas, and Braylin Montigny

all we had onto the court. We used the energy we got based on the crowd and everything going on." Kyleigh congratulated her team on a great season and wants to remind them to "always try your hardest on the court" by matching your opponent's skill level but "never [to] play down" to them either.

Volleyball is a highly recommended sport, easy to pick up and challenging to perfect. All three teams described it as a fun way to get out there and learn something new. Coach Clark recommended starting in middle school so you can have the most amount of experience, but anyone is welcome. While Dig Pink might be the most attended game, this fall sport has grown in popularity and welcomes anyone with a passion for sports.





# High Honors!

By Michael Braga and Alden Priestner



Wildcat Staff Photo

Newest inductees of the Westport chapter of the National Honor Society (from left to right): Lily MacDonald, Peyton Mahjoory, Michael Braga, Noah Lacey, Cameron Leary, Olivia Morris, Camryn Rezendes, Tyler Simonin, and Noah Sowle.

On October 27, nine exceptional students were welcomed into Westport High School's chapter of the National Honor Society after no students were inducted last year. Among these students were Michael Braga, Noah Lacey, Cameron Leary, Lily MacDonald, Peyton Mahjoory, Olivia Morris, Camryn Rezendes, Tyler Simonin, and Noah Sowle.

The group was temporarily suspended during the previous school year after being unable to find a proper advisor to run it. Luckily, guidance counselor Leslie Ruel and mathematics teacher Laura McMeniman rose

to the challenge, working together to bring this association back to Westport.

The ceremony began as the inductees walked down the aisle of the auditorium, after which, Ms. McMeniman delivered a welcoming speech to all in attendance, highlighting important individuals like the faculty council and the families of these inductees. Following this speech, eighth grade school student Aleah Braun sang a beautiful rendition of the national anthem, ending the introductory portion of the ceremony.

In place of the usual Westport High Teacher of the Year

address, Evan Gendreau, a Westport High School Class of 2017 alumnus, made a guest appearance at the event. Taking a position at the podium, he expressed all the ways that he believed Westport helped him grow into the person he is today, and how the National Honor Society only added to that. He ended his speech by congratulating the inductees, beginning the candle-lighting portion of the occasion.

Here, four candles, each representing the qualities necessary to become a member of the National Honor Society (scholarship, leadership, service,

*(cont. p. 3)*

## The Wildcat Staff

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and character), were lit following statements made by faculty members about them: Dr. Kerri McKinnon on Scholarship (Gold), Mr. Michael Grandfield on Leadership (Green), Mr. Jason Pacheco on Service (Red), and Mr. Daniel Marques on Character (Blue).

Each inductee then took the stage, lighting their candles and reciting the inaugural pledge. They then signed their names into the Westport chapter of the National Honor Society and received their certificates, concluding the ceremony.

We spoke to two inductees, Lily MacDonald and Olivia Morris, asking them a few questions about the National Honor Society and their plans in the club and after high school. Here's what they had to say...

**How did you feel when you first found out you were going to be inducted?**

Lily MacDonald: "I was relieved. It's an important part of high school and we've always been told to look up to and strive to be inducted into it ever

since we were little. And we didn't have the opportunity to do it last year so I was like, 'yes, I finally get to do it now.'"

**After there was no induction ceremony last year, what did you think the future of this group would hold?**

Olivia Morris: "Well first of all, I thought that I would not be in it. That there would not be an NHS this year.

That I would miss it entirely, but I am very glad that it has come back."

**How do you feel you will set precedents for future inductees?**

Lily MacDonald: I try to set precedents by being nice and a good person to everyone. I like to help others, too. Helping others can also have rewards such as volunteer hours. I would like more people to help the community and just be a good person. I feel like being a good per-



Wildcat Staff Photo

Guest Speaker, Evan Gendreau, at the Westport National Honor Society induction.

son can get you far if you strive for that."

**What are your plans once you graduate from high school?**

Olivia Morris: "Well, I want to go to a community college first, to save a little money and get my EMT or CNA certification, after that I will decide either to go into nursing or become a PA. So, physician's assistant is definitely looking up for me."



# *Wildcats hit the Dance Floor!*

By Michael Braga

On Thursday, November 10, Westport High School held yet another one of its annual homecoming dances. The event took place at Whites of Westport, with students and their guests arriving dressed to the nines, ready to party hard with their friends and classmates. Of course, this would be the last homecoming for the graduating class of 2023 as they transition to

their adult lives at the end of this school year.

Students spent the night on the dance floor, jamming out to the usual dance stylings of "Low" by Flo-Rida and T-Pain, "Dancing Queen" by ABBA, "Mr. Brightside" by The Killers, and many more. Along with this, they were able to capture the memories of the night thanks to the photo booth with fun props

and costuming which was very popular among those in attendance.

Juniors voted for the honors of Prince and Princess, bestowed upon the birthday boy, Malakai Hughes, and Avery Carvalho. As for the Seniors, the Class of 2023 crowned their long-awaited King and Queen, won by Maxwell Morotti and Vitoria Rodrigues. (cont. on p. 4)



(cont. from p. 3)

To crown off the night, guests voted on which students in each grade they would elect as their homecoming royalty.

The Freshmen homecoming court consisted of Gabby Montigny and Carter Couto, while the Sophomore court was made up of Noah Amara and Holly Roy.

Although the night may have ended, this dance has given these students memories that they will never forget.



Wildcat Staff Photo

Westport students and guests at their 2022 homecoming dance.

# Powderpuff Power!

By Alden Priestner



Wildcat Staff Photo

Members of the Class of 2024 Student Council at Powderpuff (from left to right): Avery Avila, Madison Plourde, Mrs. Phenix, Avery Carvalho, Meghan Molloy, Charlie-Rae Lees (Not pictured: Ella Turenne).

On Tuesday, November 8, WCS held its first Powderpuff Game. In a Powderpuff game, it is a swap of traditional football; girls play flag football with boys as cheerleaders and coaches. a

The game was an idea crafted by the Class of 2024 Student Council for Homecoming week. The admissions fee for the game was two dollars. The Freshmen-Senior team color was pink, the Junior team was blue, and the Sophomores were purple. There were three games between the three teams as each team played each other. Though the game finished in a three way tie, with all teams having won a single game, the players still had a great time.

I got a chance to speak with both Charlie-Rae Lees and Meghan Molloy, the Treasurer and President of the Class of 2024 Student Council and asked them both a few questions. **How do you feel Powderpuff went?** **Charlie-Rae Lees:** “I am happy to say that Powderpuff went very well and most importantly was a lot of fun.

This idea came to Meghan Molloy and I about a month before, and left us with a short amount of time to propose the idea to administration and figure out all the details. Overall, with a lot of hard work and help from staff, Powderpuff was a great event for students and staff.”

**Meghan Molloy:** “I feel as though Powderpuff was really successful and built lots of school spirit, as we’d hoped it

would. Everyone there looked like they were having a great time and it really brought our school together.” **How did you feel about student participation?**

**CRL:** “Student participation was one of our biggest concerns regarding the Powderpuff. The sophomore and junior class had lots of enthusiasm and quickly recruited the team and coaches. On the other hand, the freshman and seniors were less interested, so they combined in a freshman/senior team. Our hope for next year is that students will both participate and support the game.

**MM:** “Student participation was greater than we’d expected. The numbers were through the roof. We had 83 students sign up in total.”

**Do you feel like this could become a tradition at Westport?**

**CRL:** “Yes, definitely. This year definitely showed us what worked and what things we can improve for next year’s Powderpuff. We hope this be-

comes an event that students look forward to that creates Wildcat pride.”

**MM:** “I do think this could become a yearly homecoming week tradition at Westport. We are hoping to put on Powderpuff again next year. We plan to involve the younger grades in the planning process next year to give them the tools they need to carry on this event when our class has graduated.”

**How do you feel about the outcome of the event?**

**Charlie-Rae:** “I am very pleased with the overall outcome of the event. The junior class student council wanted this to be something for students to look forward to on homecoming week. This is definitely an event we hope to continue.”

**Meghan:** “I was very pleased with the outcome of the event. Everything went smoothly with the help of student council members, administration, and parents. I loved the energy all the students brought. It really made for a great night.”



Wildcat Staff Photo

Class of 2024’s Powderpuff team making their entrance.



# Falls Sports Recap

## Boys' Soccer

**Regular Season Record:**  
17-0-1

**Playoffs:** 3rd Round

**Seniors:** Tyler Arraial, Ben Boudria, Hunter Brodeur, Owen Couto, Nick DosVais, Antonio Dutra Africano, Coltrane McGonigle, and Noah Sowle

**Season Recap:** The Westport Varsity Boys Soccer had an outstanding season, finishing with a 17-0-1 regular season record. Their only tie was to league opponent West Bridgewater in early September, a team that they would come to beat in late October. The boys would shut out their last three regular season opponents before entering into the post-



Wildcat Staff Photo

Westport High School Varsity Boys' Soccer Team.

season. Earning the fifth seed in the state tournament, the Wildcats rolled through the first and second rounds to earn a spot in the Elite Eight for the second year in a row,

where they would lose in double overtime to Gardner. Another excellent season for the Wildcats!

## Girls' Soccer



Westport High School Varsity

Wildcat Staff Photo

**Regular Season Record:**  
4-13-1

**Playoffs:** N/A

**Seniors:** N/A

**Season Recap:** Though a young team, the Westport Varsity Girls Soccer team battled through their season, earning a 4-13-1 record. This was a season of learning, and there is a bright future ahead as they grow in experience and we cannot

## Field Hockey

**Regular Season Record:**  
7-9-1

**Playoffs:** 1st Round

**Seniors:** Molly Bazinet

**Season Recap:** The Westport Girls Varsity Field Hockey team, despite being a young team faced with a difficult schedule, held their own throughout the season, finishing 7-8-1 in the regular season. They made it to states and put on an amazing fight against defending champions Uxbridge High School. This young team had a lot of potential and tried their hardest in every game no mat-



Wildcat Staff Photo

ter what the outcome was. Next year will be an exciting one for the Wildcats.

Westport High School Varsity Field Hockey Team.



# Volleyball

Regular Season Record: 11-7

Playoffs: 2nd Round

Seniors: Kyleigh Finglas, Braylin Montigny, Taylor Perry, Mikhaela Rego, and Vitoria Rodrigues

Season Recap: The Westport Girls Varsity Volleyball team had a roller coaster of a season this year. Starting off 5-4 in the first half of the season, they began October with high hopes. The Lady Wildcats snapped a three game losing streak in October to win out the rest of the season, finishing 11-7. In the state tournament, Westport started off



Wildcat Staff Photo

Members of the Varsity Volleyball Team celebrating Senior Night.

strong by winning three straight sets against the Cathedral Panthers to advance to the second round, where their post-season would end after losing a hard-fought game to West Bridgewater.

# Golf

Regular Season Record: 6-6

Playoffs: 1st Round

Seniors: Noah Lacey, Avery Viveiros

Owen Boudria had 7 individual match wins, leading the team. The Wildcats finished 6-4 in conference play which put them at second place by the end of the regular season.



Season Recap: The Westport Boys Varsity Golf team finished their season 6-6 with an appearance in the state tournament a few weeks ago.



Wildcat Staff Photo

Westport Varsity Golf Seniors (from left to right): Noah Lacey and Avery Viveiros.

# Co-Op Football

Regular Season Record: 5-4

Playoffs: N/A

Seniors: Shaun Desroches

Season Recap: For the first time ever, the Atlantis Charter-Westport-Bishop Connolly Co-op football team finished their regular season over .500 by winning in an overtime thriller against the Saint John Paul II Lions on Thursday, November 10th. The Tritons finish the regular season 5-4 and await the playoffs.



Photo Courtesy of Herald News

Varsity Co-Op Football Team in play against Holbrook/Avon.



# Wildcat Spotlight

## Kyla Takes On Cali

By Lilian Carvalho

Recently, Kyla Carmichael had the opportunity to go to California to train with vocal coaches and to further pursue her singing. She reached out to us wanting to share her experience. As many of you know, she performs locally for fundraisers, nonprofits, and other events.

In an interview she describes her enjoyment when performing. Kyla is performing next on December 11, 2022, for a music event at the Westport Grange. When asked “Who is your biggest supporter?” she responded with “This whole town!” Kyla is grateful for the town of Westport, especially the Wildcat community, for supporting her in her fundraisers that had allowed her to go to L.A. She wanted to thank the community for being so kind and welcoming.

When asked her biggest challenge, she responded with “My visual impairment.” Although she is visually impaired, she does not let that stand in her way. She said that she finds new ways to do tasks that others do. Whether she has to be innovative or go slower than most is not a problem for her. She adapts to each challenge and perseveres, as she has done with singing.

Kyla is so grateful to have had her experiences in L.A. She was able to work with famous vocal coaches and even took pictures on the red carpet. She came home with 3rd place in the teen division! However,

even with these achievements, she does not wish to become a star and would rather keep singing as a hobby. Her main focus is trying hard in school in order to get a good education. She then plans on becoming a teacher or an orientation mobility specialist to help other visually impaired children to get a good education. Overall, Kyla is grateful of the experiences that were available to her and wants to thank the Wildcat family for supporting and encouraging her the whole way.



Photo Courtesy of Keri Foster and Fun 107.

Kyla Carmichael sets out to California for her VocalStar performance.



## Mr. Monast “Cruises” To Victory

By Michael Braga and Alden Priestner

This past summer, Westport Middle and High School’s own library and media specialist, Richard Monast, was chosen to be a recipient of the Norwegian’s Giving Joy Award. This competition was set up by Norwegian Cruise Line to award and recognize teachers for their outstanding ability to inspire their students each and every day.

Mr. Monast was within the top 100 highest voted candidates in the United States and Canada, the prize being an all-inclusive five-day sailing trip aboard the Norwegian Prima. This trip was the inaugural journey of the new cruiseliner; the ship departed from Galveston, Texas and had a myriad of once-in-a-lifetime experiences onboard.

This competition grants the top three prize winners with an addi-

tional monetary prize, receiving \$25,000, \$15,000, or \$10,000 to use within their school, based on their positions after the voting had concluded. Currently, this project has awarded 230 teachers with free cruises for their outstanding work and donated at least \$230,000 to schools and the teachers within, since 2019 (NCL Giving Joy).

When asked about how it felt to win such a prestigious award, Mr. Monast said that “it was honestly amazing” and it was “hard to put it into explicit words.” He describes it all as a sort of “warm, fuzzy feeling” that was “just so gratifying.” It was not only the award to him that felt as amazing as it did, but the supportive community behind him that came together to vote him into this prize. Mr. Monast was “unbelievably grateful,” and it felt “unbelievable to

hear” about some of the people that voted for him, like “[his] kindergarten teacher” who “[talked] about



Photo Courtesy of NCL Giving Joy.

Mr. Monast, teacher at Westport High and recipient of the Norwegian’s Giving Joy Award. 7



how she remembered [him],”. It was “really, really heartwarming”. After returning home from his well-deserved trip, he reported his experience as simply “amazing”. After witnessing a performance from none other than “Kelly Clarkson” and “[meeting] a bunch of other teachers that had won,” he was able to marvel at the sight of the “trophy on [his] desk”. Westport is lucky to have such a friendly and dedicated member of their community.

# Announcements

## WHS Drama Club

By Jaira Bernardo

Westport High School offers many after-school clubs, one being the WHS Drama Club. A place to meet people and create friendships, it’s great to express yourself through acting, singing, and dancing. Open to grades 7 to 12, the club meets everyday after school until 4:30. It can help you get you out of your comfort zone- can improve your confidence in front of a crowd, be louder and project your voice, and just socialize with others. The time you spend after school, you really get to know other castmates and become close friends with amazing and talented people. Even if you have no prior theatre experience, there’s no worry. With the inclusive and non-judgmental atmosphere, there’ll be people who will tell you what to do and you’ll have a fun time. Although it may seem like a lot, the end result is very rewarding.

This year the musical will be “Little Shop of Horrors”. A thrilling sci-fi show written by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman, it’s about Seymour, a young man who lives in the poor city called Skid Row, who unexpectedly gets a plant that grows and feeds on human blood, helping Seymour fulfill his desire of fame. There’s a total of 8 lead roles plus ensemble; it’s open to everyone and as long as you’re committed to showing up after school, you’re guaranteed to be a part of it. Although the season has already begun, the production is always looking for new members to join. Make sure to keep an eye out for any posters and announcements made if you’re interested. If you have any further questions, email the Drama Club’s advisor and director, Matthew Shivers ([mshivers@westportschools.org](mailto:mshivers@westportschools.org)).

Not the type to be on stage but would still like to join? Or perhaps time commitment is an issue? Consider joining Tech! Not as much attention is drawn to you but still as important- as a part of tech, you are in charge of lights, sets, props, and other crucial things backstage. If you’re busy after school, Tech is great since you’re not required to show at practice until the time of the show (which is usually in March) gets nearer.



Wildcat Staff Photo.

WHS Drama Club Cast in their last spring production of “Pippin”.

## WHS Medical Club

By Alden Priestner

If you plan to study nursing, medicine, or any of the allied health fields, report to the Medical Club STAT! Out of all of the clubs that Westport High School has, the Medical Club seems to be a school favorite. The Medical Club was founded in 2020. The advisor for this club is Mr. Jordan Silva, who teaches Freshman Biology, Environmental science, and Anatomy and Physiology Honors.

This club hosts a variety of medical related events for the school and the town. One of the most important events this club holds is the Blood Drive, at which students over the age of 18, along



Westport Medical Club Logo

with faculty, staff, and townspeople donate blood. This event is crucial to the Red Cross, because as its website states, the organization has experienced its “worst blood shortage in over a decade.” following the outbreak of the Omicron strain of COVID-19.

Another event this club holds is CPR Certification Classes. For a nominal fee students learn how to perform CPR and become certified. If you have any questions, see Mr. Silva in room 1122 or reach out to him at

[jsilva@westportschools.org](mailto:jsilva@westportschools.org)!