



An UnBelizeable Trip

Avery Carvalho '24
Staff Writer

During February break of 2023, Mr. Monast and a group of junior and senior students embarked on a trip to Belize through EF Tours. These students left the 30 degree weather for the warm, tropical country of Belize located near Southern Mexico in Central America.

Belize not only offered a destination full of fun activities, but provided an amazing learning experience. It is a place of ancient roots filled with remains of the Mayan people. Students, along with chaperones, were able to see a place rich in culture, history, and diverse wildlife.

Upon arrival, the group was greeted by a tour guide, a Belizean native named Roberto. Throughout the entirety of the adventure, Roberto and the Westport group traveled to three different regions of Belize.

The first destination of the trip was located on the eastern coast of Belize in Belize City. During this part of the trip, students took a boat ride through the New River Lagoon, leading them to an Old Sugar Mill and the Lamanai Ruins. The group of travelers were able to explore the various temples and learn about the specific reasoning behind the structure of these temples.

Although construction on these Lamanai Ruins began in 900 B.C, they are still preserved to the present day.

The students then embarked on the second part of their trip to central Belize, in the Cayo Region via bus. This region contained the Xunantunich Ruins, which contained temples built by the Mayan people

from 200-900 CE. The students also participated in cave tubing and zip lining, as well as participating in a survival hike. During this hike, students learned how to build shelter, find and capture food, as well as certain plants to avoid. Preceding this, they learned how to put their survival skills to use on a night hike through the jungle with experts.

On the journey to the final location of the trip, students visited the Belize Zoo, filled with rescued Belizean wildlife. The last destination of the trip was located on a Belizean Island, known as San Pedro, which was traveled to by water taxi. This location allowed students to snorkel

the second largest Barrier Reef in the world. This reef contained a variety of coral gardens, as well as reef sharks and stingrays. As the tan and cheerful group departed Belize and headed back to Massachusetts, they were able to reflect on their trip.

When asked "Why do you do EF Tours?" Mr. Monast, the EF Tour advisor for Westport High School reveals: "I think educational travel and travel in particular is one of the best things one can do with their life. If one has the ability, it gives you an entirely new perspective on the world and how people live."

Mr. Monast's response to "Why was Belize chosen as the destination?": "I picked Belize because I find that the combination of



Westport High School students enjoying their trip to Belize.

Photo Credit: Westport Community Schools

ecological learning and adventure would be particularly appropriate for the junior and senior class. As well as the ability to see the barrier reef was important to the decision as well."

Westport junior, Savana Fantasia responded to her decision to be a part of the Belize trip stating: "I was mostly convinced by the action and adventure that was talked about when I first signed up. When I went it lived up to my expectations of being constantly on the go and interesting. I learned a lot, with my favorite event being the zip line."

Westport students are always grateful for the opportunities to embark on new adventures sponsored by the Westport Community Schools.



Should WCS Expand its Recycling Program?

Jaira Bernardo '25
Staff Writer

There are recycling bins in each classroom for paper and plastic, so why not add some in the cafeteria? Single-use plastics such as bottles, bags, and utensils are convenient and reliable, but are thrown away on a daily basis when they could be recycled instead. On average, according to an article from earthshare.org, a student with a packed lunch generates around 67 pounds of waste per school year. 67 pounds of waste per year and assuming that the student packs a lunch for 12 years, that's over 800 pounds of waste for one person, which doesn't even account for any other debris thrown away. While recycling bins wouldn't eliminate the plastic waste problem, they could certainly reduce its severity. With that said, Westport should encourage recycling.

Actually, the district had a recycling program in the past. Kim Ouellette, the Supervisor of Facilities here in Westport for 22 years, described in an interview how lunches operated when she first began as the supervisor. Students getting school lunch would receive food on styrofoam trays and once done with lunch, would scrape remaining food into the waste bins and then the styrofoam trays would be recycled. It was stopped as the trash company found that there was no money to be made recycling these trays and the district had to switch to a different type of food tray.

In that sense, it would be logical to assume that the reason schools don't have a recycling program is because of money.

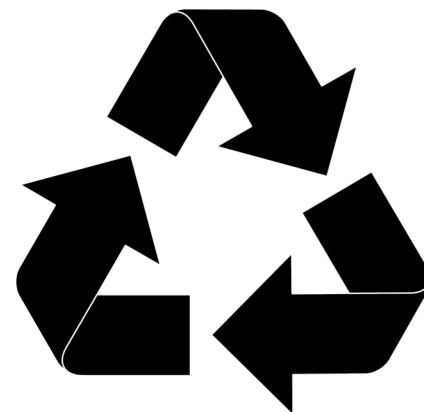
Within the district, there are four buildings that must be accounted for: Alice A. Macomber, Westport Elementary, Westport Middle/High, and the Administration Building. Each building has different purposes/needs hence their different spend-

"In order to make change, students, staff, and the town should work together...all parties must cooperate...to make an impact."

ings on trash and recycling. According to Mrs. Ouellette, the Alice A. Macomber spends roughly a total of \$1,300 a month for the trash dumpster to be emptied twice a day, cardboard dumpster to be emptied once per month, and four 96-gallon totes to be emptied twice a month. The Westport Middle/High is also spending \$1,300 per month for the same services. Similarly, for the Westport Elementary, it costs around \$1,312.50 per month, the only difference is rather than four 96-gallon totes, it's seven. Lastly, the Administration Building, which houses the Out of School Time program, spends \$720 per month for trash to be emptied once a week. Adding it all together would equal to a little less than \$5,000 a month, and that doesn't account

for the whole school year. If the district is already spending that much money, why not add more? What really stops the school from recycling in the cafeteria?

In the end, the district shouldn't be blamed fully for not being as "environmentally-friendly" as some would like it. It should also be noted that there are regulations the school has to abide by—for instance, the fire department restricts buildings from accumulating too many items, so again, it's not entirely the school's fault. While there is a financial aspect to it as some could argue, it is the students' responsibility as well. There have been attempts in the past such as putting paper and plastic bins in the cafeteria that were unsuccessful as students would throw their entire lunch into the recycling bins, which defeated the purpose. The school recycles paper and plastic bottles and while not a lot, it is a start. In order to make change, students, staff, and the town should work together, and when a plan is put into action, all parties must cooperate in order to allow it to last and to make an impact.





Mysterious Plant Eats its Way Through Westport WHS Drama Club Produces a Ravenous Musical!

Lilian Carvalho '25
Staff Writer

Back in November of 2022, the Westport High School's Drama Club had auditions for the show *Little Shop of Horrors*. After months of practice, they finally performed their production on March 17th, 18th, and 19th. The members of the Drama Club have been committed to this show, dedicating a great deal of their time over the past several months, and they were so excited to see the final product. Some examples of their hard work include staying at school during February vacation to build their own sets alongside preparing their costumes, and practicing their roles. The Drama Club's senior directors, Tyler Simonin and Taylor Perry, even built the various puppets for the character Audrey II that were seen on stage! Additionally, Tyler and Taylor shined on stage in their roles of Seymour and Audrey. They put their hard work into these roles, while still helping to curate the costumes and lead the initiative among their fellow cast mates.

That said, all of the Drama Club's seniors deserve recognition. Michael Braga was the voice of Audrey II and did an outstanding job. Guinevere Bates played multiple characters involving several impressive quick-changes and was a crucial factor in the positive attitude of the cast.

Off stage, seniors Emily Delcampo and Mikhaela Rego worked on changing sets and assisting with costume changes. Their work ensured that the show ran as smoothly as possible. Without these seniors, the show would not have been the same. The Drama Club would like to thank all its participants and everyone who came to see the show for their dedication and support on and off the stage.



Westport High School's cast of *Little Shop of Horrors* performing "Ya Never Know."
Photo by Jane Dufault



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Talent? We Got It

Emma Hathaway '25
Staff Writer

Back in December, Westport held their annual Talent Show. On the last day before break, high school students and staff gathered in the auditorium to watch their friends perform. The show was hosted by Michael Braga and Cameron Moniz. They cracked jokes, introduced acts, and later performed themselves. "I loved performing," said Moniz, "I loved performing in all aspects." There were 14 acts total, mostly music based, where students and teachers had the chance to show their talent.

Mr. Richard Monast is the teacher responsible for coordinating and creating the show. He greatly appreciates the opportunity to organize student events, and this year he sang "Sweetness" by Jimmy Eat World in a band with four other teachers: Ian Burrows, Scott Frost, Jarrod Russell, and Liam Sullivan. "I thought it went swell! I only messed up once, I was so grateful to have a full ensemble," said Monast. More experience at the

new school with the light system meant he could be more creative, which made the show more entertaining. Backstage with the performers, Moniz reports it was "very nice, no trouble, and well organized. It was easy to understand back there." A lot of stress can build up when you're waiting to go on stage, so the students were glad to feel comfortable around their friends.

Throughout the show, a group of Westport alumni judged the acts; the winners were announced at the end of the show. Jayden Araujo played the piano and sang, and placed third. Ava Watson won second place for her performance of "Satisfied" from Hamilton, and Luke Coelho came in first place for his original compilation of popular songs from 2022 played on the piano. Mr. Monast Con-



Westport's Got Talent 2022 co-hosts (from left to right): Michael Braga and Cameron Moniz. *Photo by Westport Community Schools*

gratulates everyone for doing so well, and he encourages students to join the Talent Show next year because of its wonderful atmosphere.

Wildcat Spotlight: Bet on Mrs. Charette

Alden Priestner '24
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Mike Braga '23
Managing Editor

Following the school's Winter Break, former principal Dr. McKinnon stepped down from her position and has since taken her leadership capabilities on to another district. Mrs. Charette, a long-time, much loved teacher and administrator here at Westport, has taken over as the principal for both the middle and high school.

Mrs. Charette began her time in this district as one of the high school's mathematics instructors, specializing particularly in statistics. Also teaching the AP course on this subject, her students regularly produced high scores on their AP Statistics tests. Admired by her students, she helped them to achieve a higher standard of learning, and set high precedents for others to follow. We spoke to Mrs. Charette about her experience transitioning

into this new role.

AP/MB: What do you view as your most important contributions to the daily operations of this school?

Charette: "The most important contribution I feel I make to the daily operations of the school is being as visible as possible. I want all students, staff, families, and community members to be able to have an open line of communication with me so we can work together for the betterment of our school community."

AP/MB: What values do you feel are the most important to uphold in the school community? What are your top priorities as principal?

"Pride! Westport is an amazing school district, and there are so many great things happening at Westport High School that we need to share and talk about! We need to be proud of all the awesome happenings in our school.

This connects to my top priorities as the new building principal. I am very much focused on retention of our grade eight to nine students."

AP/MB: Originally, you were a math teacher in high school. How do you feel about your advancement in the school faculty over the past few years?

"I am so happy and proud to be part of this community, and I always have been. The time I have spent as a teacher here is a great asset to me as a building administrator. I have formed many strong and solid relationships with families over the years."

AP/MB: Did you ever see yourself becoming a principal when you first started teaching?
"Becoming an administrator was always a goal, and I am so happy that I have been able to do so in the community that I started in."



The Medical Club says, “B Positive”

Jaira Bernardo ‘25
Staff Writer

Westport’s Medical Club hosted a blood drive through the American Red Cross on December 17, 2022 at the old high school. It was one of the club’s most successful blood drives as 31 of the scheduled 39 donors were able to donate and 30 pints of blood were collected. For reference, one pint can save up to three lives. In addition to the club’s December 17 blood drive, seniors within the club have also hosted their own blood drives, resulting in a grand total of 414 pints of blood collected by the Medical Club.

The club has been hosting blood drives since it started three years ago, and although uncertain in the beginning, was very optimistic about its outcome. This year was no different. Jordan Silva, the club’s advisor, explained how the members’ commitment helped ensure a great

turnout. Loads of time and effort was put into making it successful; contacting the American Red Cross to set a date and time, creating informative posters for the donors on the date of the drive as well as posters to promote the drive, placing the posters up in the community, and assigning roles for the club members to volunteer at the drive. Silva expresses his gratitude to members who volunteered at the event, saying he was very proud “of the volunteers in med Club who offered their time on a weekend to help make the drive successful. [There were] members who stayed the entire duration of the drive on a weekend which speaks to the dedication of the members of Med Club.”

Charlie-Rae Lees, current Junior and member for two years, volunteered at the blood drive and was tasked with checking in. She expressed how the Red Cross made the blood drive efficient as they were

very organized and made the process simple. Lees said that “[she] enjoyed volunteering knowing that it was for a good cause.”

Overall, the club is grateful to those who donated as well as the Red Cross and staff who helped set up at the old school. It was great to see once again how generous and helpful the Westport community is in helping not only the club, but those who need it the most.

The Medical Club always finds it a great pleasure to be hosting the blood drive to give back to the community. They hosted another blood drive on Saturday, April 8, 2023 from 9-2 at the old high school. It was just as, if not, more successful than the last, and the local community always appreciates all that the Medical Club do to make sure that blood is accessible to anyone who needs it.



Work it Out

Alden Priestner ‘24
Editor-in-Chief

On February 2, 2023, approximately 50 companies, organizations, programs, businesses, and trade unions came to Westport Middle-High School to speak with students. Students learned about the educational requirements for various occupations, the necessary skills, and the job descriptions for many different workplaces.

Students from grades eight to 12 were able to ask questions and speak directly to the employees and volunteers from the private sector, like banks and local corporations, as well as non-profits, like

YEAH! Corps, where students can get paid to work on commissioned public and private art projects. Branches of the military were there, as well.

Additionally, the technology department brought out the new zSpace Computer Technology that students will have the opportunity to use that will further their knowledge in vocations, such as automotive, plumbing, and electrical.

We would like to thank Mrs. Ruel, the Guidance Department, and administration for this wonderful and extremely successful learning opportunity.



Volunteer for the Career Fair speaking to Westport High School students.



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Wildcats Roar With The Pride

Avery Carvalho '24
Staff Writer

As Christmas Break was approaching, Westport High School Students competed for the title of “Winners of Pep Rally 2022.” On the day before break, the day was split in half. The first half was dedicated to the Talent Show and the second half was dedicated to Pep Rally.

The Pep Rally is an event that inspires competition between classes and instills a sense of pride in their grade; it strengthens the bond between classmates and allows each grade to work as a team to win. Not only does this event allow students to advocate for their friends in their grade competing in activities, it gives students a desire to show off their school spirit.

The high school student council director Mr. Marques comments, “It builds a sense of community and camaraderie amongst classmates and rivalry of classes.” Junior student, Cameron Moniz, claims that “The high school students are not often brought together, so Pep Rally allows everyone to assemble to support Wildcat pride.”

The 2022 Pep Rally consisted of the Classes of 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026. Each class was assigned a color and must build a theme around the color scheme: Freshman—Brown, Sophomores—White, Juniors—Gold/Yellow, Seniors—Black and Choice of Color. These colors represent the school colors and they will remain the same for future rallies. The freshmen’s theme consisted of Gingerbread men to support their color scheme of brown. The



Westport High School’s Class of 2023 cheering on their classmates during the Pep Rally.

Photo Credit: Westport Community Schools

sophomores’ theme was Winter Wonderland, decorated with snowflakes and white decor. The juniors’ theme was ‘Caution for 2024’, surrounded by construction decorations. Finally, the seniors’ theme was Alice and Wonderland with the slogan “Seniors down the Rabbit Hole,” decorated with black and purple.

The Pep Rally consisted of a variety of competitions that were weighted with a point scale of one to three. The class with the most points would win. The first event was prior to the Pep Rally. Each class was assigned a hallway to decorate with their theme/color, the best decorated mutually agreed upon by the school won the first set of points, which the seniors won.

Along with the activities, a variety of fun events also transpired, majority of which were physical activities. These events consisted of a finish the lyric competition, an obstacle course, tug of war, musical chairs, dodgeball, and knockout. These events varied in point weight. The event concluded with a win for the seniors. However, this is the same result every year. The question asked by many students: Is Pep Rally rigged for the seniors to win?





Winter Sports Recap

Jack Keane '25
Sports Writer

Regular Season Record: 13-7

Playoffs: Round of 16

Seniors: Maxwell Morotti (All-Star 2nd Team), Hunter Brodeur (All-Star), Ben Boudria (All-star), Owen Friedrichsen, Coltrane McGonigle (All-star), Cameron Leary (All-star 2nd team), and Nick DosVaïs

Other Accolades: Owen Boudria (All-star), Scot Boudria (Coach of the Year)

Season Recap: The Westport Varsity Boys Basketball team experienced a turbulent season this year. Tough losses and injuries early on caused the Wildcats to come into the new year at 2-2. However, Westport persevered by closing out January on a four-game win streak which included wins against West Bridgewater and Avon. Westport had to recover from a three game slump late in the season, and they did so by winning three of their last four and securing a spot in the state tournament. The Wildcats came back late in the Round of 32 against the Ayer Shirley Panthers to advance to the Round of 16, where they lost a close one against Mount Greylock in a 52-55 game.



Westport High School Boys' Varsity Basketball Seniors. *Photo: Westport Community Schools*

Girls Varsity Basketball

Regular Season Record: 16-4

Playoffs: Round of 8

Seniors: Shelby Orr, Leah Sylvain (Co-Player of the Year)

Other Accolades: Korynne Holden (All-Star), Sarah Perry (All-Star), Jenna Egbe (All-Star 2nd Team), Julia George (All-Star 2nd Team), Mrs. Jennifer Gargiulo (Coach of the Year)

Season Recap: The Westport Girls Varsity Basketball team had an outstanding season, dominating in non-conference and conference play. The Lady Cats had countless double digit wins, and they seemed unstoppable entering February. Despite getting swept in hard-fought games to West Bridgewater, Westport was not deterred and responded by handing undefeated Joseph Case their first loss of the season in early February. Reaching the playoffs again this year, the girls stormed through the first two rounds by defeating Saint John Paul II and Ayer Shirley to reach the Round of 8. In the Round of 8, they fought tirelessly yet would fall short of the victory, losing to Sutton 46-35.



Westport High School Girls' Varsity Basketball Team.
Photo by Korynne Holden

Emma Hathaway '25
Staff Writer

Regular Season: 17-2

Playoffs: Final

WHS Players: Dylan Aguiar

Season Recap: The Westport/Diman/Durfee/Dartmouth co-op ice hockey team finished up their season in late February with a chilling conclusion. Dylan Aguiar, a freshman from Westport along with his teammates made it to the Massachusetts Vocational championship. Unfortunately, they lost against Essex. Tech 3-1. However, the team ended with a 17-2 record and 10-0 record in the Mayflower division.

Co-Op Ice Hockey



Westport High School Freshman Dylan Aguiar in action for the Co-Op Hockey Team. *Photo by The Herald News*



Winter Sports Recap

Pep Band and Cheerleading Team

Jack Keane '25
Sports Writer

Cheerleading Seniors: Braylin Montigny, Camryn Rezendes

Pep Band Seniors: Molly Bazinet, Olivia Morris, Cadence Tavares, Ethan Tripp, Olivia Morris,

The Pep Band, led by Chris Nunes, and the Cheerleading Team, led by Courtney Moniz were both crucial pieces of boosting the morale and spirits of our winter sports teams this year. They have such an amazing effect on our school spirit, and we are grateful to all of the students and faculty who make it possible for these programs to thrive.



The Westport High School Cheerleading Squad
Photo Credit: Westport Community Schools

WHS Student Athletes Honored as Dave Cowens Award Nominees

Jack Keane '25
Sports Writer



Westport High School Student Athletes and Dave Cowens Award Nominees, Ben Boudria and Leah Sylvain.
Photo Credit: Westport Community Schools

Westport's own Ben Boudria and Leah Sylvain were nominated recently for the Dave Cowens Award.

Sylvain finished her Senior year with 345 points, and led her team in steals, rebounds, and assists.

Boudria had an outstanding season, being named one of the Herald News All-Star team players for his work with the team.

We are all extremely proud of Leah and Ben, and we cannot thank them enough for their dedication to their teams and school.

**CONGRATULATIONS to our
Winter Sports Basketball Coaches
who were named COACH of the YEAR!**

Girls' Basketball Coach

Jennifer Gargiulo

The Herald News
2023 Coach of the Year

Boys' Basketball Coach

Scot Boudria

The Herald News
2023 Coach of the Year

