

THE WILDCAT WEEKLY

A Note from Dr. G

Volume 4 Issue 24



Superintendent's Corner

It is officially budget season in Mount Pleasant. There will be many more details coming between now and the May 20th vote, but we are pleased to share a few numbers with you now: The proposed budget of \$79,527,212 represents a \$242,000 decrease from last year's adopted budget, with a tax levy increase of 1.69% but an estimated tax rate decrease of 0.91%, providing approximately \$115 in annual savings for homeowners with an average assessed value of \$8,500.

As our seniors are announcing their post graduation plans, our 9th, 10th, and 11th graders are busy with their planning too! The very popular annual Coffee & College Night was well attended and provided invaluable information from college representatives, our counseling team, and even some WHS seniors.

Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society welcomed 13 new members. Thank you to guest speaker, Mount Pleasant Town Justice Mark Rubeo for joining us!

3/14 is a math teacher favorite! Dianna Jativa and Allison Tracey's 8th graders celebrated Pi Day with a digital scavenger hunt to find the birthday closest to the beginning of Pi and a TikTok challenge.

WHS librarian Lenore Rotanelli and the WINS team are growing herbs and vegetables in the Hydroponic Tower. From monitoring the PH balance of the water to daily plant maintenance, the students are doing it all! Soon these student farmers will moving some seedlings outside and into the school garden. Thank you WHS PTA for funding this project!

Eleven of our WMS musicians represented Mt. Pleasant at the All-County Band and Chours concerts in New Rochelle. What an honor to be part of this talented regional group of performers!

Noticing the Good

As we celebrate Athletic Trainer Appreciation Month in March 2025, the entire Westlake community recognizes an extraordinary individual who embodies dedication, expertise, and compassion - our beloved athletic trainer, Hilary Piccoli. Day in and day out, Hilary stands as the backbone of Wildcat athletics, ensuring our student-athletes perform at their best while prioritizing their health and well-being above all else. Her impact extends far beyond taping ankles and treating injuries. She is a mentor, confidant, and guiding presence for countless Wildcats who have passed through these halls. Hilary's unwavering commitment to each athlete's journey, her calm reassurance during stressful moments, and her ability to understand both the physical and emotional aspects of athletic performance make her a vital part of the Westlake family.

Please join us in thanking Hilary for her tireless devotion to our student-athletes and for being a steady hand that keeps our Wildcats strong, healthy, and poised to win!



The Week Ahead

3/17 - Varsity and JV Sports Begin

3/18 - WHS Incoming 9th Grade Orientation 7 pm

3/19 - BOE Meeting 7:30 pm

3/20 - HALF DAY for Students; Spring Institute for Staff

3/21 - HES and CES End Trimester 2



In Awe of the Paw - #BeMoreLikeGia

As we mourn the passing of Gia Gentile, I am deeply moved by the Mount Pleasant Schools' unity and compassion this week. Though filled with emotion, I find comfort knowing our presence offered support to the Gentile family during this difficult time. I was truly awestruck by our collective grace during the campus procession. In this moment of grief, your actions demonstrated the true heart of our community. I could not be more proud to be your superintendent.

In the coming weeks, Mount Pleasant will announce additional memorial events dedicated to honoring her legacy.

For those wishing to express their support, contributions to the GoFundMe established in Gia's name may be made here:

<https://gofund.me/787a7e12>.

