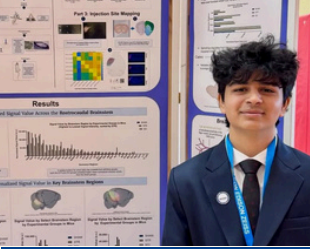


# THE WILDCAT WEEKLY

## A Note from Dr. G

Volume 5 Issue 33



### Superintendent's Corner

It has been a big spring for Westlake students across many programs.

Junior Yash Parikh took first place in Biology at the 2026 Tri-County Science & Engineering Fair, where more than 250 judges evaluated original research from 176 students across Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland counties. Yash conducted his research at the Burke Neurological Institute in White Plains.

English teacher Chris D'Ippolito has been keeping his students busy! Ten of his Creative Writing students became published poets when their work was featured in the Poetry Live anthology at the Emelin Theatre in Mamaroneck. And another 15 WHS sophomores and juniors attended the 39th Annual Young Authors Conference at PNW BOCES in Yorktown Heights, spending the day in workshops with professional writers and editors around this year's theme, "Why Words Matter."

Students in Jaclyn Hoahing's class wrapped up a year-long commitment this spring by releasing the trout they had raised from eggs into the Cross River — the same watershed that supplies our drinking water — as part of the NYS DEC's Trout in the Classroom program. They also conducted a macroinvertebrate survey and toured the Cross River Reservoir Dam.

Our Westlake Life Skills Program visited Sleepy Coffee Too, a nonprofit that provides industry-level training and employment for people with disabilities. Students enjoyed breakfast and experienced firsthand a business built on inclusion and respect.

### Noticing the Good

Our Hawthorne Wildcats have been busy this week! On Tuesday, families came out for "Camp Reads A Lot," a Family Literacy Night centered around A Camping Spree with Mr. Magee — complete with campfire word building, story retelling, Mad Libs, and camping attire. Thank you to Principal Carolini, Assistant Principal Denman, and the literacy team for such a warm and engaging evening.

The week wrapped up with the Kindergarten Concert, where students filled the gym — decorated with bright flowers made in art class — with songs celebrating Earth Day and all they've learned this year: colors, counting, the alphabet, and a few Hawthorne favorites, directed by music teacher John Hahn. Thank you to all the families who joined us. Visit our social media for lots more videos and photos.

### The Week Ahead

WHS AP Exams

5/4 - NYS Math Exam (6-8), WHS PTA General Mtg 7 PM, MTPEF Mtg 7 PM

5/5 - NYS Math Exam (6-8), WAC Mtg 7 PM, League of Women Voters Meet the BOE Candidates Forum 7:30 PM (Library)

5/6 - NYS Math Exam (3-5), WMS PTA Meeting 7 PM, BOE Work Session (Budget Hearing) 7:30 PM

5/7 - NYS Math Exam (3-5), WMS/WHS 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Midpoint



Eleven Westlake seniors have been selected for the 2026 Young Artists Exhibition at the Katonah Museum of Art, opening THIS SUNDAY, May 3rd, and running through May 24th. Get tickets and details at [katonahmuseum.org](http://katonahmuseum.org)!



### In Awe of the Paw – Music in the Park

Our students headed to Six Flags for the annual Music in the Parks Competition and swept the day, with all four ensembles: Concert Band, Chorus, Wind Ensemble, and Blendors each taking first place in their respective divisions. Ashley McKiernan earned the Best Overall Student Accompanist award, but perhaps the most meaningful honor of the day was the Esprit de Corps Award, given to the school that best demonstrates spirit, kindness, and respect — and our students earned that too. Well done, Wildcats!

