

THE WILDCAT WEEKLY

A Note from Dr. G

Volume 6 Issue 4



Superintendent's Corner

First graders at Hawthorne Elementary practiced a breathing exercise that they can use whenever they need to calm down and refocus. Students counted on each finger, held their breath, then exhaled slowly as they moved to the next finger. It is a simple tool our youngest learners can carry with them anywhere, from a busy classroom to home.

The WHS Life Skills class is interning at several new locations this year, thanks to teachers Sarah Mackin and Francesca Mejia, who have been building relationships with local businesses. Students now spend time each week at Cookies & Cream, Sal's Pizzeria, Fredericks Laundry and Berger Hardware, gaining independence and real job experience. We are grateful to these businesses for partnering with us, so please stop in and thank them. Also at WHS, our newest class of CRA students toured the new auditorium taking shape at WHS, where the project manager walked them through construction, shared his own path into the trades, and offered great advice on making the most of their potential. Next week, students will visit the Mount Pleasant Highway Garage. Thank you to Mr. DiPaolo for the photos.

Spirit Week wrapped up Friday with a pep rally that pitted every WHS class against one another. Scores were based on poster design, spirit day participation, and the creativity of each class's theme day. Musical chairs, Hungry Hungry Hippos, and the balloon-popping contest returned, while a mattress race and a pool noodle cup game became new favorites. Congratulations, Class of 2027!



The Week Ahead

9/28 - AMP Meeting 7 pm

9/29- WHS Financial Aid Night, 7 pm, Lib

10/1 - Hawthorne Picture Day

10/2 - Columbus Picture Day

**Homecoming
Postponed to
Oct. 17 at 7 pm**

In Awe of the Paw - Pep Band!

Westlake has a new sound this year! The Westlake Pep Band will bring live music and school spirit to games and events throughout the year. From the fight song to the beat of the brand-new drumline, expect plenty of energy from the stands. A big thank you to Ulysses Torres for serving as the band's advisor!



Noticing the Good

Congratulations to our September Wildcats to Watch!

HES: Siena Butler, 1st Grade

Nominated by her teacher, Ms. Palmiero, Siena shows responsibility and collaboration every day. She models positive hallway behavior with the quiet star sign, makes sure everyone feels included during free play, and brings a bright attitude and real enthusiasm to her classroom.

CES: Ellie Marsh, 4th Grade

Ellie came ready for the new school year, prepared and eager to participate in every setting. She helps teachers and classmates without being asked, and when she recently noticed a classmate in need, she stepped right up to share her supplies. Ellie brings kindness and a smile wherever she goes.

WMS: Ella Rinaldi, 8th Grade

Ella's teachers point to a quality we don't talk about often enough: consistency. She shows responsibility and strong critical thinking in every subject. Ms. Scanga calls her a role model in Italian class, and Ms. Sullivan praises her careful analysis and thorough lab work in Science. She shares her ideas clearly, listens to her peers, and strengthens every group she joins.

WHS: Marlena Balic, 12th Grade

Marlena was recognized across several classrooms for her leadership, enthusiasm, and persistence, including English 12H, where she helped drive the class's first Socratic Seminar. As Student Council president, she led homecoming shirt sales and worked directly with the PTA to give students a voice in planning our school's first-ever homecoming dance. She is also a founding member of the Westlake Wildcat podcast and a committed softball player whose resilience shows in everything she takes on.

