



Take a look

Grade 12 student Ashley McFadden, left, did her co-op placement at Longwoods Road Conservation area. She came to the co-op fair with animal furs, bones and antlers, which she showed to students like Lydia Stone.

JAN 28/10

WESS Co-Op Fair

The Co-Op Fair was held at West Elgin Secondary School Jan. 21. Students who completed their co-op placements had stations set up to let people know where they worked and the things they learned. Students did their co-op at places including Fordham Motors, Wolfe Worx, Full Line Farm and Garden Equipment, Heather Bell's Sewing and Dye Studio, Knapp's Farm Service, Hully Gully, Dr. Mark Walker's dentist office, and St. Mary's Catholic School, and The Chronicle..



Apples for Nutrition

At 11 a.m. on Thursday March 11 students and staff of St. Mary's Catholic School, West Lorne munched on delicious, juicy apples as they participated in a county-wide event to promote nutrition. Pictured is one of Ms. Buck's JK/SK classes enjoying their apples.

Submitted

sports

Wildcats VS Central Elgin

Sun Media Photo

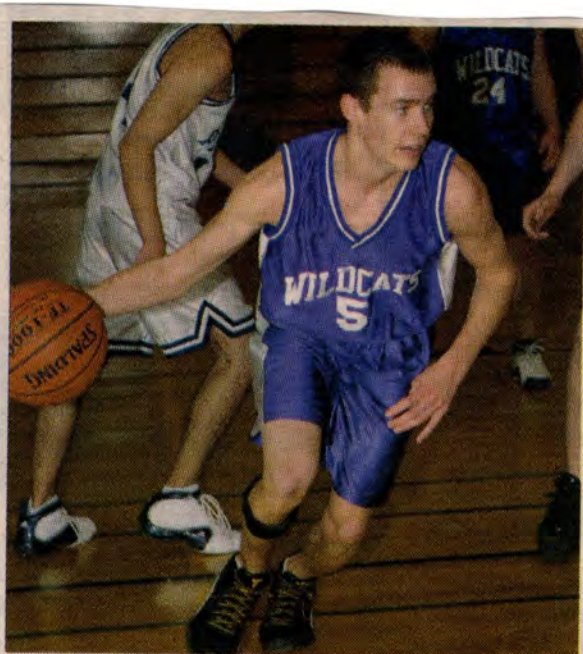
West Elgin goalie Nolan Collard backs a big glove save with six minutes left in the third period to preserve a 4-3 Wildcat lead Feb. 16 at the Timken Centre in St. Thomas. Zach Dymock opened the scoring to make it 1-0, Mike Johnston scored three goals ... one in each period. The Central Elgin Titans came back to score at the buzzer and then again in overtime to win 5-4.



OMHA playoffs

The OMHA playoffs took place at the West Elgin arena Feb. 13, with the Atom West Lorne Comets facing off against Cayuga. The game had a promising start for the Comets with the first period ending 2-1 in their favour, but by the end of the second period, Cayuga had tied up the game 3-3. Despite the Comet's attempt to stop Cayuga's comeback, the game ended 6-4 in Cayuga's favour. Pictured is Comets number 17 Matt Woods in the second period.

Jesse Cnockaert/The Chronicle



QMI AGENCY PHOTO

Wildcats VS Stampeders

West Elgin Wildcat Jonathan Godfrey breaks out after pulling down a rebound Jan. 7 at Parkside against the Stampeders. Wildcats got out 17-3 at the quarter and led 26-20 at the half, but were reeled in by the Stamps as the host team won 47-45 in a furious finish.



BY NANCY POWERS

Wildcats play at Paul Furfaro Memorial Basketball tournament

On Dec. 12, the WESS Senior Boys Basketball team was away to play the 2nd Annual Paul Furfaro Memorial Basketball tournament held at the Strathroy high school. West Lorne lost 63-39 to RMC in their first game. Pictured is WESS Wildcat number 24 Brad Bint.

JAN 28/10

Jesse Cnockaert
The Chronicle

WESS plays Central Elgin

The WESS Wildcats Boys basketball teams took on the Central Elgin Titans at home Jan. 14. The Jr. team came up short, losing 54-23, while the Sr. boys also fell behind and lost 68-34. Pictured is WESS number 15 Jamie Williams on the Jr. team.



Jesse Cnockaert/The Chronicle

Senior Girls volleyball win Silver

The TVRAA Southeast Volleyball semi-finals and finals were held at WESS Feb. 25. The Senior Girls team won the semi-final match against Dorchester three matches to two, and moved on to face Ingersoll DCI in the finals. Ingersoll took the first match, 23-25. Although The WESS Wildcats took a strong lead in the second match and finished 25-11, Ingersoll fought back in the next two matches and won 23-25 in match three and 25-22 in match four. The WESS Senior's took Silver medals, and as a result, WESS hosted AA WOSAA March 2.

Top row (L-R): Coach Troy Cook, Melanie Ganhadeiro, Jessica Varga, Hillary Hodder, Rae Hale, Kelsey Gosnell, Stephanie Leys, Kylie Willson. Bottom Row (L-R): Emma Wilkins, Emily Varga, Debbie Levesley, Sarah King, Shawna McDonald, Coach Dave Burke.



Junior Girls in semi-finals

The TVRAA Southeast Volleyball semi-finals and finals were held at WESS Feb. 25. The Jr. Girls played against the Woodstock CI Lady Devils in the semi-finals. The Wildcats had a promising start with a 25-9 win in the first match. The Devils came back and won the next two matches. The WESS Jr.'s stayed alive by winning match four 25-15, but match five was taken by Woodstock, who won 15-10. Pictured is Courtney Lamb on the Jr. team setting up a shot during the semi-final game.



Jesse Cnockaert

MAR 25/10



Submitted

WESS Senior Girls volleyball at OFSAA

Back row: Troy Cook (assistant coach), Melanie Ganhadeiro, Jessica Varga, Hilary Hodder, Rae Hale, Kelsey Gosnell, Stephanie Leys, Kylie Willson
Front Row: Emma Wilkins, Emily Varga, Debbie Levesley, Sarah King, Shawna MacDonald, Dave Burke - Coach

Wildcats participate in 3rd straight Ontario Championship

Chris Leys

The WESS senior girl's volleyball team participated in their third straight Ontario high school championship that was held in the town of Perth, March 9th and 10th. Based on the team's strong performance during the regular season, the girls entered as the first seed overall. The Wildcats opened their tournament against the host school of St. John's who they easily overpowered in two straight sets 25-15 and 25-7. Next up for the Wildcats was St. Paul High School who they quickly dispatched 25-15 and 25-16. In the third match the Wildcats faced John Mc Gregor from Chatham, who were a much more talented team than WESS had faced so far in the tournament. WESS started slowly and dropped the first set 25-19. The Wildcats regained their composure and fought through the next set to win

25-20 to tie the match at one set a piece. The third set was very entertaining with each team generating runs of points. In the end the experience and determination of the Wildcats was too much for McGregor and WESS took the deciding set 15-11. The final pool game pitted WESS against a young, but talented, team from Sir James Dunn. Sir James Dunn jumped out to an early lead and was able to hold off the Wildcats to take the first set 25-17. Early in the second set the Wildcats got back on track and scored a convincing 25-12 win. The next set was a seesaw battle as James Dunn played great defense against a relentless Wildcat attack. The Wildcats had several opportunities to finish off the set but were unable to get the last point. In the end James Dunn squeaked out a 25-23 victory.

At the end of the first day, WESS was in a three way tie for first place in the pool. Officials reviewed the tournament rules to determine how this tie would be broken; the top two teams would continue to the championship side of the tournament and the remaining team would be relegated to the consolation side. After the rules were consulted, it was determined that the tie would be broken by having the teams play each other once again in single sets to 15 points. WESS would first play Sir James Dunn with the loser being relegated to the consolation side, the winner would then play a set against Chatham McGregor to determine first place in the pool.

WESS was at a decided disadvantage as James Dunn would have already played a match in the morning before the two teams squared off. The entire season, the early morning practices, league games and tournaments had come down to one single set to 15! Once again the Wildcats displayed

their experience and determination as they quickly disposed of Sir James Dunn to ensure a spot in the championship side. The next set featured a different opponent, however, the end result was the same as the Wildcats easily handled Chatham McGregor and claimed first place in their pool.

The Wildcats faced the third ranked Dryden Eagles in the best of three quarter-finals. The Wildcats started quickly and were able to hold the lead they gained early in the match and won the first set 25-19. The second set was very close with neither team being able to open up a gap. When one team established a small lead, the other quickly responded to close it. In the end Dryden was able to prevail 25-23. The third and deciding set was also a back and forth struggle. Both teams played extremely well, there were a number of very long and exciting rallies, tremendous defensive plays and amazing kills. In the end Dryden was able to gain a slight advantage and won the decisive set 15-12.

The girls would like to thank a number of people for their support this season and over their volleyball careers; the fans who have always been there to support the team, including trips to Dryden and Smiths Falls; this year's "GO WESS GO" crew who were incredibly supportive with their painted shirts and loud cheers; assistant coach Troy Cook for the many hours of work in helping us develop our skills; Mr. Welch for providing his time and valuable insights, and finally a very special thank you to Dave and Kasi Burke for their commitment to volleyball not only at WESS but also with the Warriors volleyball club.

Your hard work and dedication to volleyball in the West Elgin area is truly amazing and we would not have been able to accomplish everything we have without you!



Koryn Petrushevsky reliving memories of riding in the blue bins at WESES.

WESES Takes Over

Over the river and through the woods lies West Elgin Secondary School (WESES) ... Okay not really, it's more like right across the parking lot from the high school. This middle school consisting of grades 7 to 8 are making conscious efforts each year to go green.

The main program the school is involved in is the Blue Box recycling program. There's a blue bin in each classroom as well as separate bins in both lunchrooms to separate plastic and glass. Like Aldborough Public School's clever "No Waste Wednesday" idea WESES' also has "Little Less Tuesdays."

Students collect the blue bins each week, sort through them, and dispose of the recyclables into larger blue bins; these are picked up each month. I remember way back when I used to go to WESES and I won the recycling award for doing this each week, I felt like such a rebel for joy-riding in the blue bins when the teachers weren't looking. Students of WESES are also collecting pop tabs for a student in Strathroy who is in need of a wheelchair. The pop tab containers are found in each classroom, office, and lunchroom. These pop tabs will be melted down and recycled to create the wheelchair.

Last year trees were donated

to the school and students were more than happy to help plant them along the schoolyard. This Spring more trees will be donated and planted. During recess students are encouraged to pick up at least one piece of trash before they come back in for class. There are also "clean-up days" where full classes take the time to thoroughly clean the schoolyard. Years ago my classmates would always pretend they were picking up trash way back in the far field, once out of site they would run into the woods.

Stoker explains that unfortunately most of the waste in the school comes from waste paper. Handouts are given out everyday to the students but sometimes the students will lose their handouts therefore the teachers have to photocopy more. Quite frankly the blue bins are piling up. Stoker states "we can always benefit from doing more," cutting back, reusing and reducing, and recycling really goes a long way.

The students help raise awareness at the school by making posters to promote different causes and ideas along with visiting classrooms to inform them of what the school is doing at the moment and what they hope to accomplish. With a smile on her face Stoker notes, "it's amazing what they can do."



Submitted

Go WESS Go

GO WESS GO team - Tanner Willson, Ryan Leys, Ron Wilkins, Dan Varga, Ralph Hale, Rob Willson, John Ganhadeiro, Steven Wilkins

MAR. 25/10



Jesse Cnockaert

Helping Haiti

Ian Manson (standing), a paramedic from the Halton region, visited WESS Feb. 24 to speak to an assembly of students about his experiences in Haiti the week following the disastrous January earthquake. The school's Social Justice Club has organized several fundraising events, including a Bake Sale March 3 and 4 and canvassing on March 9. The Social Justice Club includes (from L) Letica Nicol, Justine Wayne, Rishi Sharma, Alex Kirschner, and Brandon Campbell.

Paramedic talks Haitian relief with WESS

CONTINUED > page 1

Day fundraiser for Haiti. Students could pay a dollar for the right to wear a hat all day. On March 3 and 4, the Club organized a school bake sale, and on March 9,

HAITI RELIEF FUNDRAISER

Tuesday, March 9th
Students From WESS
will be canvassing
door-to-door for cash
donations for Haiti Relief.

Tax receipts will be available!

they begin canvassing to gather donations. The Social Justice Club has a goal of raising \$2 per student and WESS staff member.

Manson said of the four major hospitals in Port-au-Prince, only two were functioning, and only at half capacity. He described a nation where people are overwhelmed by the amount of concrete dust in the air, and the smell of death and human waste. Manson also showed students pictures from his time in Haiti. Some pictures were graphic depictions of patients, and before Manson showed them, warned students they may want to look away.

"Sometimes you need to see what's going on, and even this is toned down, to understand the need to help," he said.

After Manson's presentation, Principal Richard Pincombe thanked him for coming in.

"It's interesting how [Haiti] has gone from front page news, to page two... then to the back of the paper," said Pincombe. "My challenge to myself and to all of us, is not to lose this. They are rebuilding a nation. Let's not lose sight of what this is and what it needs."

While Manson was in Haiti, he and the people he was with operated out of the Mission of Hope and in mobile clinics set up in Port-au-Prince. Medical supplies were less than the demands by patients, and Manson showed one picture of a patient whose leg was kept immobile by being kept between two cinder blocks, since a proper splint was not available.

MAR 4 10



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

An evening of theatre!

West Elgin Secondary School will host 'An Evening of Theatre' Jan. 15 in the school cafeteria featuring several short plays put on by the Gr. 10-12 classes. On Jan. 11, the performers for Peter Pan got in some rehearsing. From left - Abby MacDonald as Tinkerbell, Jared Cooper as Peter Pan, Dustin Hadway as a Lost Boy, and Jacqueline Campbell as Shmee. Tied up on the floor are Shelby McFadden as Wendy and Alicia Matthews as Jane.

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It's a Carnaval!

Jesse Cnockaert The Chronicle

The students of St. Mary's Catholic School enjoyed a Carnaval day, with Olympic-themed events organized by the Grade 6 classes. Shane Degaust, Gr. 3, is shown here competing in one of the relay events. Check out more pictures on page 6.



Bonhomme Carnaval!

The Quebec Winter Carnival, AKA Carnaval de Québec is an annual winter carnival that takes place in Quebec City from Jan. 29 and continues for 17 days. On Feb. 12, Carnaval's mascot, Bonhomme visited St. Mary's Catholic School in West Lorne and toured the school grounds while the students competed in Olympic-inspired games. Bonhomme is shown here with King of Carnaval Simon Stass (gr.2) and Queen of Carnaval Kendra Reaume (gr.1).



Photos by Jesse Cnockaert The Chronicle

Olympic Torch (sort of)

In honour of the commencement of the Winter Olympics, the Grade 1,2 and 3 classes from St. Mary's had fun skating at the West Elgin Arena Feb. 12. They carried a makeshift Olympic Torch, which all the students signed, made of tissues and a cardboard tube.



Left foot, right foot!

Grade 7 student Sophie Tasker helped Danny McAuliffe, Kendra Reaume and Briana Oliveira as they tried to walk in unison in the Biathlon event at St. Mary's. Other events going on that day included the luge, hockey relay, athletic relay, curling, and others.

Girls OVA win bronze!

The U14 Girls OVA Team from the West Elgin Warriors Volleyball Club were thrilled to win their first medal (bronze) at the Hawkins Cup Tournament in Cambridge on Feb. 21. The girls all played hard all day and finally beat out the Waterloo Tigers in the tie-breaking game of their final match, to win bronze. (back row) Coach Lindsay Lamb, Brianna Downie, Alex Goos, Brittany Mylrea, Bernadette Welch, Tori Gosnell and Coach Jamie Welch. (middle) Kim Bandeen, Courtney Lamb, Monica Ganadeiro, Kristen Kovacs, (front) Megan Campigotto, Anita Rastapikevicius.



SUBMITTED

OMHA Playoffs.

On Feb. 14 the OMHA playoffs were held at the West Elgin arena. On Left, Josh Goos with the Comets Atom Division made a play for the net during the game against the Arthur Vipers. The Comets won 6-1. The Comets Bantam team then took on the St. Catherine's Warriors. Despite a strong team effort, the Comets lost that game 0-1.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

WESS Basketball playoffs

On the right is a picture of WESS Wildcat number 3 Milos Agbaba during the Senior Boys basketball game Feb. 12 against the Central Elgin Titans. Wildcats lost 61-40. The Junior team played that day against the Glencoe Gaels and won 37-25.

On Feb. 19 the senior boys played against East Elgin at East Elgin for the playoffs. It was a tough game, and even though the Wildcats lost 59-43, many will agree it was one of their best played games this season. Number 10 Michael Godfrey scored 17 points, 12 of which were from 3 pointers. Zach Dionne got 14 points, most of them made during the second half. A team effort yielded a strong end to the season.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE



WESS Senior basketball plays against Parkside C.I.

WESS wildcats number 10 Michael Godfrey with the Senior Boys team blocked a shot to the net by Parkside Collegiate Institute Jan. 15. Despite a strong performance by the West Elgin team, Parkside walked away victorious with a final score of 31-21.

PHOTO BY: JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

WESS Jr. team takes on Parkside team

The WESS Jr. boys basketball team played Parkside C.I. Jan. 15. Wildcats Number 12 Tyler Hull (R) made a basket during the 4th quarter of the game. The boys tried hard, but fell short in the end, finishing the game with a score of 25-49 to Parkside.



PHOTO BY: JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE



Jesse Cnockaert/The Chronicle

Aldborough school to host Haiti fundraiser

Aldborough Public School will be hosting a fundraising event Feb. 4 to raise funds for the people of Haiti. From noon until about 3:00 p.m., the school will be holding a bake sale, toy sale, book sale, and be selling hotdogs. There will be a \$1 admission. Some Aldborough students are shown with posters they've made to promote the event. Top row (L-R): Tamara Williamson, Alex Steckley, Adam Van Shaick, Kate Docherty, Brendan Richard, Shelby Crago. Bottom row (L-R): Zack Greenham, Carson Marks, Jillian Greenham.



Submitted

U15 Girls volleyball win silver

On Feb. 27 the U15 Girls won silver at an OVA Volleyball tournament held in Amerstberg. Congratulations girls! Front Row (L-R): Asst. Coach Jessica Varga, Monica Ganadeiro, Kristen Kovacs, Courtney Lamb, Bernadette Welch, Brittany Mylrea, Kim Bandeen, Asst. Coach Jamie Welch. Back Row (L-R): Chelsey Roberts, Ali Goos, Tori Gosnell, Anita Rastapkevicius, Meaghan Campigatto and Coach Lindsay Lamb.

CHRONICLE MAR 18/10

The British Invasion

Students from Litherland, U.K visited West Elgin Secondary School Oct. 24-31. On Oct. 29, Litherland and WESS students put on a show of music and dance for everyone to enjoy.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Nutrition poster contest winners

On Dec. 8, West Elgin Secondary School students showed off their winning entries in a Nutrition poster contest. The contest was held by Elgin Community Nutrition Partners, who sponsor the WESS breakfast program. Since students from WESS also had the highest number of entries compared to other schools, WESS will also get an extra \$100 for their breakfast program. Back Row (from L) - WESS Principal Richard Pincombe, Charlotte McDonald, School Nutrition Program co-ordinator. Front Row (from L) - Barb Ross, Zoey Van Dyk, Emily Varga, Caitlin Blake and Erin Budgell. Absent - Lindsay Wright.

DEC 08



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Show time

Students from England showed some flair on the dance floor during the performance night Oct. 29. From L - Demi Doherty, Jess Hartley, Charlie Jessop, Rachel Lavery, and Lois Williams.



WESES Girls bring home the bronze!

SUBMITTED

On Dec. 6, The WESES girls volleyball team ended their season with a third place finish at the 'AAA' TVDSB tournament and Bronze medals! Congratulations to the boys and girls teams for a great season! Top row (L-R): Madison Sommerville, Ally McKillop, Alli Goos, Brooklyne Jones, Chelsey Roberts, Haley West, Mr. Weiland, Desiree Livingstone, Courtney Lamb, McKayla Monden (kneeling L-R) Shalena Horst, Amy Nash, Stacy VanAcker.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Concert

English students Salli Johnson and Alex Edgar played flute during the concert. The Litherland students had a full schedule while visiting Canada, which included sight-seeing in Toronto, a visit to Niagara Falls, the Stratford festival, and a trip to the Halloween corn maze at Empire Valley Farm in Wallacetown.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

A musical evening

Charlotte Milburn sang for the audience, and was backed-up by musicians including Mitch Kuska, Lee Garry, and Rob Roos. The students from England also had performances at Dunwich-Dutton P.S., Ekcoe P.S. in Glencoe and a morning of dance at Beal Secondary School. The English students made their farewells Oct. 31 and returned home.

NOV 6/08



WESES Boys Volleyball win gold!

SUBMITTED

The WESES Boys and Girls volleyball teams competed in the Southwest Regional Volleyball tournament Nov. 26-27 and both won the gold. Then on Dec. 6, The WESES boys team finished their season with their fourth tournament championship, another gold medal to add to their collection, and the title of TVDSB 'AAA' Volleyball Champions! Top row (L-R): Marko Agbaba, Mackenzie Dick, Aidan Roos, Matt Hooghiem, Michael Lewinsky, Dylan Simpson, Miss Ostrom. (Kneeling L-R) Blake Dougherty, Skyler Welch, Sean Vanoverbeke, Troy Winger. (Lying L-R) Cole Kalita, Dylan Clark.

DEC 11/08



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Eagles soar to finals

WESES student Shalena Horst readied a serve during the volleyball playoffs held at the WESS gym Nov. 27. The girls team won against Southwold in the final round. The boys team won against New Sarum on Nov. 26. Both the boys and girls divisions will advance to the TVDSB Finals Dec. 6. The WESES girls last won the finals in 2001, and the boys last won it in 2004.

WESES volleyball advance to finals

The West Elgin Senior Elementary School Boys and Girls Volleyball teams are heading to the TVDSB Finals Dec. 6.

The Thames Valley District School Board will host 48 Boys and Girls teams at this year's Elementary Volleyball Championships. Approximately 120 Boys teams and 122 Girls teams competed to advance to the Finals.

The Boys and Girls teams will give it their best as they vie for the AAA Championship.

"The boys last won it in 2004 and the

girls last won it in 2001. That's some really intense competition when you get to that level. But both teams are poised and ready to give it their best shot," said Dean McLenaghan, a WESES Gr. 8 teacher.

Neither team will know what schools they'll be competing against until sometime Dec. 4.

The Girls team qualified for the finals after beating the Southwold team Nov. 27.

The Boys team qualified for the finals after winning against the New Sarum team Nov. 26.