



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
St. Mary's Catholic School
celebrate Bonhomme Carnaval
 Top: Nick Johnston helps Bonhomme Carnaval play broom ball at an event as part St. Mary's Catholic School Winter Carnaval Feb. 10. Lower left: Caitlin Oliveira hops through hoops with a ball between her legs at another event during the event organized by the school's French teacher, Sharon Stockman. Lower right: Taylor Parish and Shayne DeGauist hold tight on the parachute, trying to score a ball through the opposing team.

Student trustee from WESS

Jeffrey Koscik likes to get involved and that involvement is taking him to Toronto for a province-wide leadership meeting he's helped organize.

Elected student trustee, representing students at the Thames Valley District School Board, the Grade 12 student is also President of the West Elgin Secondary School Student Council.

"I'm going through (school). I figured I might as learn about it and get a say in what's going on," said the West Lorne resident.

Koscik is busy with the board and council but has also taken on the role as secretary of the English public board council of Ontario.

With that council, he's been busy organizing a provincial-wide student council general meeting to be held in Toronto this fall.

"It's big," said the 17-year-old.

As if that wasn't enough, Koscik went to Washington D.C. for a world leadership conference.

Meeting students from around the world Koscik has become an ambassador for world leadership.

Koscik became the first student trustee to be allowed to sit at the TVDSB during in camera ses-



FOR THE CHRONICLE
Koscik busy
 Jeffrey Koscik is the WESS council president and student trustee.

sions, closed to the public.

It means shredding documents afterward and not saying anything about what was discussed.

While he admits a lot of the budget business at the school board goes over his head, trustees have been good about answering his questions.

"They can be long meetings, kind of boring," he said.

His twin brother Jeremy is active with sports at the high school. He also has two older brothers and a sister. His parents are Rich Koscik and Jean Guy and Heather St. Jacques.

FOR THE CHRONICLE
Cooling off
 Madison Gosnell, 13, from West Elgin Senior Elementary School cools off at the TVDSB south west track and field championship held at Glencoe District High School May 29. With a full schedule, including high jump, ball throw and the 4x100m relay, water and whatever shade she could find were the order of the day.



JEAN GUY ST JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE
WESES Winterlude of Music
 West Elgin Senior Elementary School held its Winterlude of Music Dec. 14. The choir, jazz band, concert band and new percussion ensemble performed. Above; the new percussion ensemble performs a tune called Sassafras under direction of music director Mrs. Gracey. Below the choir sang popular Christmas songs.

Job coach fundraising needed to raise \$17,000

The 2006 2007 school year is beginning here at WESS, and once again we are very excited about the students, our programs, improvements which are being made to the school, and our energetic and dedicated teaching staff. We are literally bursting at the seams with an opening day enrolment of 600 students, and a teaching staff of 37.5.

In addition to welcoming our 117 Grade 9 students, we as well welcome the many students who have joined us from other schools. Welcome to the Wildcat family.

We have several new and very exciting programs beginning and continuing at our school this year.

To give a brief overview, we have an exciting new agricultural program which will provide our students with learnings about the world of agriculture, agri-business and woodlot management, with three different courses being offered to our students in Grades 11 and 12. We will be requesting very involved partnerships and cooperation with our community, and have already been overwhelmed by the offerings of assistance pouring in from the community for this program. We will have an evening to which the many possible partners in our area will be invited to learn about the program, and where they will be able to provide assistance, to come in to be guest lecturers, to provide resources, or to volunteer to be the sites for field trips for our students. Even more exciting, there is a chance to become the cooperative education placements for our students in the agricultural sector.

New initiatives supported by the Ministry of Education will allow us to focus even more on student success. Opportunity exists to support, and get back on track throughout the school year, those students who begin to lose their focus or work ethic and require additional support and structure in order to earn all of their credits to graduate in a reasonable amount of time.

We have a number of new teachers on staff this year, owing to transfers and retirement. Kim Alexander is our new horticulture and science teacher; Teresa da-Costa will be teaching physical and health education for a teacher on maternity leave; Ed Eglinton and John Fithern are joining our technological education department, and Jennifer Emke is our new music teacher.

She has lots of exciting activities already planned for our music students this year, and the band will have their first performance this year at our commencement exercises on Oct. 5.

Lisa Browne joins us as an educational assistant and Job Coach for our WEST program, and Natalie Gillis-Ford will be joining us in the semester two to teach business, for another teacher who is on maternity leave.

Improvements to the WESS building continue through the fall. This summer a portion of the roof was replaced, new floors were installed in the office area and one classroom, many new computers were installed at the school, and data projectors were installed in many classrooms, which will allow students and teachers to do multimedia presentations, to view live feeds from the Internet and to view and hear audio-visual films, slide shows and other elements of the curriculum in a state-of-the-art manner.

Starting this month, every window in the building will be replaced with new energy efficient windows, with new screens to keep out the bugs, and blinds which will allow us to black out the rooms for more effective viewing of dramatic productions, movies, and other multimedia projections. The final electrical and other hookups of our improvements funded through our Lighthouse Agricultural projects have been

COLUMN



Principal's Corner
Larry Schneider

done so that all is in readiness for the beginning of school.

I have a huge request of the community, its citizens and businesses. While we have been the beneficiary of a huge investment from the Thames Valley District School Board and the Ministry into our school, the one item for which there is no funding provided by either of these is the position of job coach in the school. This is a very crucial position which we created when we began the Wildcat Employability Skills Training (WEST) program here several years ago. We have funded the position through donations from a variety of businesses and individuals.

Recent changes have greatly increased the cost of the position to us, and we have lost some of our previous funding sources. Five years ago I appealed to the community to raise \$25,000 for our music program, and the community responded with donations totaling more than \$27,000.

While we would still welcome donations for musical instruments, as that drive got us up to date four years ago, but instruments have continued to age, and some more must be replaced, I would like to make the job coach fundraising our main focus for this year.

The job coach works with our students in the WEST program to support their learning, help to resolve issues in their work placements, help in attaining new placements, and transporting them physically in our vans to and from their work placements, which our supporting businesses in the community so generously provide.

We need to raise \$17,000 to maintain the position this year at the school. We will be writing letters to businesses and service clubs in our community, but require financial commitments and dollars now in order to make the program run as we would like it to

for the benefit of our students in the WEST program, which ultimately is for the benefit of us all.

Please consider, as a businessperson, community member, service club, or any other group or organization, donating funds to WESS for this important program.

This position does not fall under the funding criteria for any government assistance. Believe me, we have asked, repeatedly. So, I earnestly and humbly ask the WESS community to once again to step up to support our community school, by writing cheques made out to West Elgin Secondary School, with a note indicating that the funds are to be used for the job coach position. Tax receipts will be issued by the board for all donations.

Students and staff involved in the program will be available to speak to service and church groups, businesses and other organizations.

Students raise jaw dropping amount for WESES

As the students start a great third month at West Elgin

WHAT'S UP AT WESES?

By Caitlin Simpson

Senior Elementary, Mr. Westaway reminds us to "Respect ourselves, respect others and respect the property at West Elgin." The staff has treated the students to an entertaining performance about respect, and Mrs. Nielson's 7A class shared a presentation about manners and what they mean.

In the month of October, the students sold magazine subscriptions as a fundraiser. With the help of our customers, we raised a jaw dropping total of \$7,480. A portion of the money will go towards the school, and the students get a percentage of what they sold as an individual, towards their eighth grade trip to Celtic.

On Nov. 10, West Elgin paid a tribute to all the veterans who fought in and still are fighting in wars for our freedom and that of others. The choir reached some beautiful notes, a few students shared some of their poems and

Mr. Westaway added his own thoughts to our special ceremony.

On Nov. 14, our school had the privilege of hosting a few special guests. In the morning, ten girls from Litherland High School in England paid us a visit along with their principal, Mr. Donnelly, and Amy Lang who teaches them dance and physical education. They showed off their dancing and vocal skills. In the afternoon, Leroy Hibbert, a motivational speaker, delivered a powerful message about respecting yourself, who you are and others around you.

Coming up on Dec. 14, Mrs. Gracey is holding a winter concert at the school. There will be performances from the Concert Band, Jazz Band, Choir and even some surprise performances! Everyone is welcome. As well, these musical groups will be selling calendars as a fundraiser. You can see choir and band members for further



CAITLIN SIMPSON

Hosting English dancers

Four WESES students are in the front. From left to right is Kylie Willson, Emily Penney, Taylor Cundy, and Emily Varga who acted as student hosts to the Litherland Dancers.

Caitlin Simpson

details.

Our cross country runners moved on to the final run on Oct. 18, at Fanshawe Conservation Area. The four Grade 7 boys who captured the gold medal as a team in the regionals, went on to win the silver medal at the finals. Cody Parker finished 16th, Kyle Barber in 43rd, Michael Verboom in 54th and John Williams in 94th. All our runners made us proud, competing against Thames Valley's very best.

All four school volleyball teams have now been selected, and are competing in games and tournaments. Congratulations to the grade eight boys volleyball team for their successful start. At their first tournament on Oct. 14, they finished first place in

their pool, but then lost a close game against Southwold in the quarter finals. On Nov. 4, they competed in the Forest City Tournament at Fanshawe College, against some of the best teams in Thames Valley. The boys played great in their pool matches, defeating Arthur Ford, Sherwood and Knollwood, but losing to Clara Breton by one point, placing second in their pool.

Mrs. Ewing has recruited 13 strong players for the Grade 7 girls volleyball team. They traveled to Glencoe to take on the Ekcoe Eagles and won 2 of 4 matches. They have two tournaments to look forward to in the next month. The four school teams competed in the W.E.S.E.S. Invitational scheduled for Nov. 18.



Aldborough Public School Winter Concert

Grade 6 Aldborough Public School Students sing Seasons of Love at the daytime Winter Concert Dec. 13.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Code X: intruder

▶ *WESS prepared for shooting*

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

In the wake of school shootings in the U.S. and Dawson College in Montreal West Elgin Secondary School is prepared for the worst case scenario.

Within its emergency plan are provisions for a 'Code X'.

If an intruder is in the high school, 'Code X' is simply called over the intercom.

Students are pulled into classrooms and told to stay under their desk while the intruder is dealt with.

Principal Larry Schneider is top of the command structure at the school in an emergency.

Above his computer in his office is the emergency plan.

Taped to the wall above pictures of his family is a list of teachers that know CPR.

If there were a bomb threat at the school, 'Code A' would be called. No one would be allowed to leave classrooms and students would be put up against walls.

In the emergency plan, Schneider placed check marks next to catastrophes, grading the chances of one actually happening.

Unlikely is a flood. More likely is a tornado, ice storm, earth quake and human caused emergency, like a shooting or violent act.

"We've taken every reasonable precaution for any possible incident," said Schneider, in his sixth year at WESS. "You can't be prepared for everything."

While the school has never rehearsed a Code X, it did have a real bomb threat.

An anonymous call to the superintendent, several years ago, said there was a bomb in one of the board's schools.

During a tense day, class went on as normal as officials narrowed down what school was targeted, elsewhere in the board, and the fake bomb was found.

A new set of plans came out in response to the threat because it happened as all 600 students were arriving at school, a circumstance unaccounted for at the time.

Please see Students, page 2

Employer acknowledged for working with WESS

Alan Vandenbrink has been named one of four award of merit winners in Ontario for his role in the high school co-op program.

The retired general manager of Erie Flooring gave employment opportunities and mentorship to students at West Elgin Secondary School.

Vandenbrink was the first co-op employer 16 years ago, and was nominated for the award by Berta Prelaz, head of the co-op program at West Elgin Secondary School.

"I know that without Al's help, financial support and reassurance I could not have helped as many students as I have during my co-op years," said Prelaz, who is retiring from the school this year.

"Whenever we needed a placement for a student I could call Al. He never said, 'no,'" she said.

Many special needs students have been given work experience and careers at Erie Flooring.

"(Vandenbrink) had the patience, skill and determination

to help these people when no one else would," said Prelaz.

"I didn't want recognition," said Vandenbrink, who met with Prelaz and students who are or have worked at Erie Flooring. "It's something I had a passion for, to help WESS."

Unpaid co-op positions at Erie Flooring often turned into full time jobs or spring boarded students into the working world.

Erie Flooring was also the first business to work with WESS and an apprenticeship program giving students training to go into the electrical industry.

Having from 10 to 50 students at one time at the plant, students with summer jobs or evening shifts could earn money for post-secondary education.

Sometimes, working at the plant was just the push students needed to realize they didn't want to join the working world yet and wanted more education, said Vandenbrink.

"To find employees in the



Students present award

Retired general manager from Erie Flooring, Alan Vandenbrink, right, received a provincial merit award for his contributions to co-op programs at WESS. Berta Prelaz, left, co-op director and students that have worked at Erie Flooring, Jesse Greenfield, Alex McIntyre and Julie Oliveira present the award.

community, you have to support the community," said Vandenbrink.

"It's a challenge to get businesses to open their doors," said Prelaz, adding taking in students not only benefits the business and the school, but it benefits the students with experience. Provincial Partnership Council is part of the Ontario Business Education Partnership and recognizes four employers across the province each year for supporting work experience through the Passport to Prosperity program.

WESS supports Wheels in Motion

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

More high school students than ever will represent the area at the Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion fundraising ride in London June 11.

Colin Kittmer is a math tutor at West Elgin Secondary School and has been in a wheel chair since 2000 after a fall paralyzed him from the chest down.

Each year he takes part in the Wheels in Motion ride in London and each year about a dozen students join him for the five kilometre ride.

This year, he asked teacher Bill Lolos to help round up some students to gather pledges and take part in the event.

Lolos went on to make a deal with students that if more than

20 signed up to help he would shave his head.

Twenty-nine students are now gathering pledges, the most ever in support of the event from WESS.

"It's just amazing," said Kittmer. "Mr. Lolos doesn't look the same but it's great."

Kittmer will be joined by the 29 students at the event along with a contingent of 20 with him.

"West Lorne will be well represented," he said.

The annual event honours Rick Hansen, a Canadian athlete who circled the world in his wheel chair in 1985 and raised more than \$26 million toward improving the lives of people with spinal cord injury.

This year's event takes place June 11 at the Wolsey Barracks in London.



Teacher gets buzzed

West Elgin Secondary School teacher Bill Lolos gets buzzed by Matt Dietrich as part of a deal made with students to support the Rick Hansen Man in Motion fundraising effort in the area.

WESES badminton team play tough in London

This past May long weekend the WESES Badminton Team travelled into London to compete in the 9th Annual London Youths Badminton Tournament. The tournament allows for three boys doubles teams, three girls doubles teams and three mixed doubles teams from each school over the two days.

On Saturday morning the boys from WESES had high hopes as their level of play against each other throughout the year had progressed to an extremely high caliber of play.

Against the opposition from throughout the Thames Valley School Board and local club entries, our boys demonstrated outstanding poise throughout the morning as they reeled off win after win on their way toward the medals.

The team of Robert Johnston and Steven Milne had their lone setback at the hands of one of our own in the second round of play but rebounded to win the rest of their games on the day to capture the gold medal in the "C" division. The team of Rishi Sharma and Zach Welch played some outstanding badminton as they cruised through their bracket before suffering a third round defeat and were relegated to the "B" division where they won their final two matches to take home the "B" gold. The final WESES entry, Jonathan Godfrey and Lucas Kalita went undefeated on the day but in the final suffered a heartbreaking defeat in the best 2 of 3 match, losing the third by the tightest of margins 15-13.

The stage was set for the girls, and they

had equally high expectations for themselves as they took centre stage on Saturday afternoon.

Randi Woolley and Teresa Nesic had close matches throughout the day and were undefeated through their first two matches but lost their next two and finished with the bronze medal in the "B" division. The team of Chloe Steele and Morgan McCulloch suffered only one loss on the day and took home the gold in the "B" division. The third WESES entry for the girls was that of Debbie Levesley and Madison Gosnell and they too suffered only one loss on the day which was in the "A" semi-final which relegated them to a fourth place medal position.

The WESES mixed team was a formidable one as several last minute openings allowed for five extra team entries and made for an exciting day. Jessie Bergey and April Stallon were "D" quarter-finalists, Kyle Lewinsky and Ashley Willie were "C" quarter-finalists, Brad Bint and Samantha Hamelin took home "C", fourth, Bryce Doiron and Karlie Snobelen won "C" silver.

The team of Debbie Levesley and Jason Ambrose had only one loss on the day and took home the "C" gold medal. Jason Carroll and Nicole Campbell brought home the "B" fourth place medals while Brandon Caughell and Shelby Woolley had a fantastic day as they won "B" bronze. WESES had played second fiddle to the Annandale squad in the girls and boys doubles championships but they were not to be denied in



badminton teams win

The WESES badminton teams recently competed at the school board finals in London. The boys team is from left to right - Coach Dean McLenaghan, Zach Welch, Jonathan Godfrey, Lucas Kalita, Steven Milne, Robert Johnston. (Rishi Sharma is absent from the photo.) The girls team from left to right is back row - Chloe Steele, Randi Woolley, Debbie Levesley, Teresa Nesic; front row - Morgan McCullough and Madison Gosnell.

the mixed. The team of Jonathan Godfrey and Maddison Gosnell were outstanding as they played with grit and determination, as they demonstrated their skill in winning the "A" division gold medals in a hard fought final that went the distance by scores of 15-13, 12-15, and 15-9.

Another bonus was added to the weekend when Frank Kontos (tournament organizer) unexpectedly recognized

McLanaghan with two awards: Mentor of the Year and Coach of the Year for his contribution to the sport and his development of badminton in the West Lorne area.

According to the coaches at WESES, the interest in badminton has been overwhelming at the school. Dean McLanaghan indicated that 120 students and teachers participated in the intramural tournament while

over 70 tried out for the badminton team. While many schools brought the same students both days to the tournament this past weekend, WESES had a depth that allowed them to send 26 players over the course of the two-day tournament. All of the badminton players from WESES that competed in London individually and collectively represented the school and community in a commendable way.

to great start in sports

WESES SPORTS NEWS

By Caitlin Simpson

West Elgin Senior Elementary School has had a great start this year as our school sports teams are already claiming victories.

Our boys soccer team brought home the gold medal at the 2006-2007 Regional Championships in Glencoe on Sept. 29.

They made an outstanding start as they defeated Caradoc South 14-1, scoring one goal on their own net! They went on to win their second game against Mosa with an amazing score of 16-0, and their third game against Ekcoe 6-0.

Our girls soccer team also took the gold at the same tournament. Starting out with a 2-0 win over Caradoc South, they went on to win 6-0 against Mosa, and 2-1 in their third game against Ekcoe.

Fighting through the cold and snow, on Oct. 12, the boys claimed the silver medal while the girls lost in the bronze medal game.

With an early start this year, our cross country team practised hard, and on Oct. 5, 29 runners competed in the regionals at Longwoods against nine other schools.

Leading the way for the grade seven girls was Madison Redman in fifth place, followed by Natasha Cameron in sixth, Vivian Nolan in 12th, and Nicole Pelcz in 19th. These girls will be moving on to the Thames Valley Finals at Fanshawe Conservation on Oct. 17.

Moving on for the Grade 8 boys are: Dustin Welch who won the bronze medal, Ryan Leys with 13th, Zach Dymock with 14th, and Jason Ambrose with 16th. Congratulations to Nicole Durbridge who finished 9th, and Kelsey Shaw, who finished 17th, both will be advancing to the finals.

Grade 7 boys advancing to the finals are: Michael Verboom, who received the bronze medal, Cody Parker in 5th, Kyle Barber in 7th, John Williams in 13th, and Tyler Hull in 15th. Michael, Cody, Kyle, and John won the top team prize, and brought home the 1st place team plaque for the school.

Mrs. McLenaghan, this year's coach for the Grade 8 girls volleyball team has selected 12 strong players, and is holding practices two to three times a week. They are excited to be playing an exhibition game against Southold Public School at the UWO on Oct. 27.

The girls will also be competing at two other tournaments in London, and a home tournament in November.



Cross country

SUBMITTED

The senior boys cross country team captured the gold medal at the Southwest Regional Cross Country Meet at Longwoods on Oct. 5th. From left to right the boys are: John Williams, Michael Verboom, Kyle Barber and Cody Parker. Each of the boys qualified for the All Thames Valley Cross Country Meet at Fanshawe Conservation Area on Oct. 17.

Barn Dance comes to WESS cafetorium

Prairie Oyster fiddler John P. Allen will be playing in the end-of-year concert for the choral society that could well break the mold.

While the West Elgin Choral Society always offers a lighter program for its May concert, this one is modeled after the tradition of a barn dance and features Allen on the fiddle, plus dancing, story telling and some specially written music.

"The choir is always looking for something different," said choir president Pat Campbell. "And this fit the bill."

Based on a yet-to-be-produced musical written by choir member Mike Mulhern, the concert includes two songs from the musical - the opening Barn Dance and West Elgin Waltz - plus some familiar favourites such as Achy-Breaky Heart, Lollipop, Sentimental Journey and Irene Goodnight.

The story includes some local characters as well as fictional ones.

And there will be dancing. The aisles in the high school cafetorium will be kept wide so there is room for the audience to get up and dance. Campbell advises everyone to wear their dancing shoes.

"If you're sitting on the aisle, you can expect to get pulled out of your seat," she said. "There will be no wallflowers."

The idea for the show came from Aldborough farmer Frank

McMurphy.

"Soon after we moved here (to West Elgin), Frank came by canvassing for the Cancer Society," said Mulhern. "He got to telling us about a barn dance he had at his place. After he built a new barn and before they moved any animals or equipment into it, they ran an ad in the paper saying they were having a barn dance and it was a big hit," Mulhern remembers.

"Frank's experience captured my imagination and I wrote a musical based on the idea," Mulhern said. "Then, when the choir was looking for ideas for a spring concert, I suggested we adapt the Barn Dance script for a stage show."

In addition to Juno-award winning Allen on fiddle, choir director Wayne Carroll - no stranger to playing dances - will be playing his Hammond B3 organ. Campbell will play electric piano and drummer, Jen Pinder - whose jazz ensemble played at the choir's spring concert two years ago - will be back.

Unlike the traditional barn dance, at this event "Ladies don't need to bring lunch," Mulhern said. "The choir's going to take care of that."

Barn Dance will be performed at 7:30 p.m. May 27 in the West Elgin Secondary School cafetorium, 138 Graham St., West Lorne.

For more information and tickets call 762-3865 or 762-2882.

Picketing in western Elgin

Educational assistants strike at area schools

Jeff Kempenaar Staff

Picketing education assistants continued their soggy strike in front of public school's in western Elgin County.

Asking for one hour more a day, about a dozen local EAs stood in front of the Dunwich-Dutton, for the second week of a strike.

Many of the all women group are EAs at local and Glencoe-area schools or live locally but work in London or St. Thomas.

Strike leader Joanne Johnston of the Rodney area said enough EAs gathered across the Thames Valley District School Board, that a protest could be organized to

get the message out locally.

"People need to know what their tax dollars are not paying for," she said.

Paid for six hours a day, EAs, and their union, Canadian Union of Public Employees 4222, are asking for a seventh hour.

Johnston said many EAs already work full days, arriving to meet special needs students at the bus and making sure they get on the bus at the end of the day.

EAs provide physical care for students with special needs, helping them go to the bathroom, eat and provide medicine along with class work.

Please see First, page 2



Students join in

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Supporting her educational assistant, Rebecca Betsch and Jessica Wilson-Evetts, whose mom is an EA, joined a CUPE strike May 10 in front of West Elgin Senior Elementary.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Jazz band hold hot latin night

The West Elgin Secondary School Jazz Band held a steamy night of latin jazz April 28. Here: Joe Peternel, Kim Krieter and Jim Raithby perform to a large crowd at the dinner show.



WESS athletics awards handed out

ATHLETIC FACULTY

for The Chronicle

West Elgin Secondary Schools student athletes were honoured on May 26 at the annual athletic banquet. The evening started with tasty desserts provided by Ann Wrobel and her cafeteria staff. As the athletes and their families finished their treats, point awards were distributed to athletes who had participated in various sports throughout their years at West Elgin.

Various team awards, Most Valuable Player, Most Dedicated Player, Most Sportsmanlike Player, were then awarded to deserving athletes from each of the school

teams.

Afterwards, major awards were bestowed upon West Elgin's finest athletes.

Melanie Ganhadeiro, a grade nine athlete added the Jr. Female Athlete of the Year award to her Jr. Girls Volleyball MVP and Varsity Girls Soccer MVP awards.

Michael Godfrey, another grade nine athlete took home the Jr. Male Athlete of the Year award based on his outstanding play for the Jr. Boys Volleyball team and Sr. Boys Basketball team.

The Sr. Female Athlete of the Year award was awarded to Rachael Kalita, a key member of the soccer and volleyball

teams throughout her high school years. As well as being this year's SAA president, Rachael took home the Heart and Hustle award and the Most Dedicated Player award for her play on the Sr. Girls Volleyball team.

The Sr. Male Athlete of the Year award went to grade 11 student, Adam Timmermans. Adam was a dominant player on the Football, Hockey and Soccer teams as well as

being a member of the track team.

Mark Godfrey was the winner of the other Heart and Hustle award while Rochelle Ambrose was the recipient of the Optimist Club award.

This year's banquet ended with an entertaining slideshow prepared by student, Jon Dietrich, and featuring action photos of Wildcat athletes from throughout the school year.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

WESS athletes

Athlete of the year awards were handed out at WESS recently. Junior award winners were Melanie Ganhadeiro and Michael Godfrey. Adam Timmermans and Rachael Kalita won senior athlete of the year awards.



WESS students clean along Graham road

Students in West Elgin Secondary School's leadership program partnered with the EcoElgin Environmental group to clean along Graham Road Saturday. Here: Rachel Cardol, Lisi and Christy Hentz, Jen Nagy, Diane VanDyk, of EcoElgin, and Kyle Kuska.

Congratulations

West Elgin Secondary School Ontario Scholars



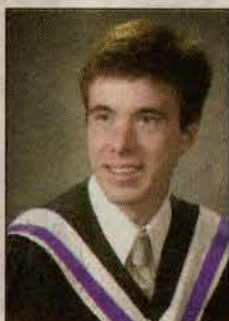
Amanda Mistele
From: Rodney
Parents: Paul and Carol
Attending: York
University
Enrolled in: Fine Arts,
Cultural Studies



Sarah Nagy
From: Rodney
Parents: Steve and Cynthia
Attending: Wilfrid Laurier
University
Enrolled in: Honours Arts
- Archaeology



Ashlynn Newport
From: Rodney
Parents: Randy and Lucy
Ann
Attending: Seneca College
Enrolled in: Fashion Arts



Matt Parezanovic
From: West Lorne
Parents: Mike and Pam
Attending: University of
Western Ontario
Enrolled in: Health
Sciences



Jaymee Peternel
From: Iona Station
Parents: Beth and the late
Joe
Attending: University of
British Columbia
Enrolled in: Geological
Sciences



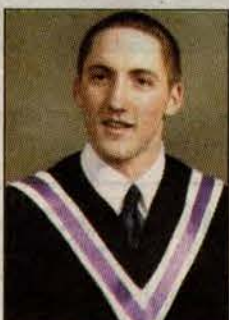
Kory Preston
From: Wallacetown
Parents: Ron and Kathy
Attending: Wilfrid Laurier
University
Enrolled in: Global
Studies



Melanie Schramowsky
From: Dutton
Parents: Rhonda and
Ralph
Attending: King's College
Enrolled in: Social
Sciences



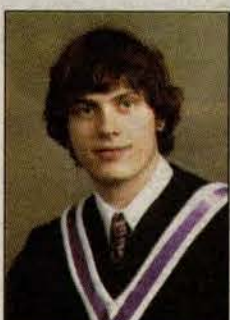
Erica Silva
From: Dutton
Parent: Pam
Attending: University of
Windsor
Enrolled in: Music
Therapy



Will Smith
From: Rodney
Parents: Bill and Deb
Attending: Fanshawe
Enrolled in: Recreation
and Leisure Services



Nichole Stallon
From: Rodney
Parent: Bonnie
Attending: University of
Windsor
Enrolled in: Social Work



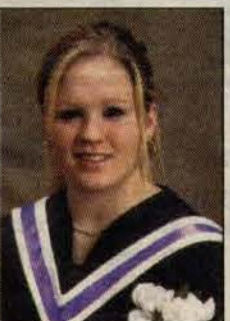
Tyler Sutherland
From: Dutton
Parents: Scott and Karen
Attending: University of
Guelph
Enrolled in: Commerce



Sarah Woolsey
From: Rodney
Parents: Robert and
Wendy
Attending: University of
Western Ontario
Enrolled in: Biological and
Medical Sciences



Lindsay Besley
From: West Lorne
Parents: Tracy and Bill
Attending: St. Clair
College
Enrolled in: Medical
Office Administration



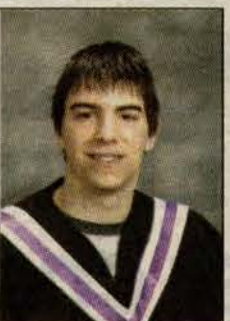
Sandy Campbell
From: Iona Station
Parents: Stan and Lori
Attending: University of
Windsor
Enrolled in: Bachelor of
Arts (Honours)



Cassie Clark
From: Dutton
Parents: Mike and Liz
Attending: Fanshawe
Enrolled in: Interior
Design



Megan Close
From: Dutton
Parents: Michael and
Pamela
Attending: Brock
University
Enrolled in: Bachelor of
Accounting Program



Richard Demsyn
From: Dutton
Parents: Melanie Demsyn
and Chris Jones
Attending: University of
Waterloo
Enrolled in: Arts
& Business



Lisa Donaldson
From: Iona Station
Parents: Peter and Pauline
Attending: St. Clair
College
Enrolled in: Interior
Design



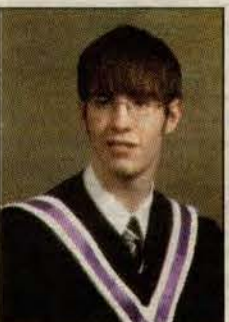
Erin Fleming
From: Rodney
Parents: Alex and Sheila
Attending: Wilfrid Laurier
University
Enrolled in: Chemistry



Danielle Fordham
From: Rodney
Parents: Ron and Andrea
Attending: York
University
Enrolled in: Psychology
and Criminology



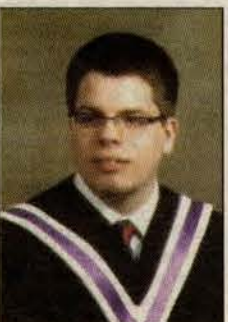
Natalie Gash
From: West Lorne
Parents: Judy and Stephen
Attending: Carleton
University
Enrolled in: Commerce



Mark Godfrey
From: Wallacetown
Parents: Tom & Donna
Jean
Attending: University of
Toronto
Enrolled in: Bachelor of
Music Performance



Stacie Gowan
From: Iona Station
Parents: Russ and Cindy
Attending: Guelph
University
Enrolled in: Fine Arts



Dan Martyn
From: Dutton
Parents: Mike and Cindy
Attending: University of
Western Ontario
Enrolled in: Software
Engineering

Rochelle Ambrose
Brian Azevedo
Aaron Barry
Jason Belanger
Dawn-Marie Bennett
Brittany Bint
Mike Bogart
Craig Bowery
Nichol Briand
Cassandra Clark
Megan Close
Dave Dawson
Richard Demsyn
William De Pater
Jamie Derraugh
Angela Dick
Charles Dietrich

Ashley Dinga
Branden Dobson
Lisa Donaldson
Pat Dupuis
Erika Eckersley
Stephanie Everett
Erin Fleming
Amanda Ford
Laura Ford
Danielle Fordham
Sarah Fugard
Natalie Gash
Mark Godfrey
Caitlin Gowan
Stacie Gowan
Ryan Grant
Jesse Greenfield

Graduating Class of 2006

Jake Hansen
Amanda Hood
Corey Hughes
Amy Hyatt
John Jeffery
Brittany Jewell
Owen Johnston
Peter Jones
Katie King
Holly Knight
Bruce LeBlanc
David Lettner
Brian Lilley

Matthew Loos
Justin Lyons
Mike Lyons
Kaleigh MacDonald
Stephanie McCulloch
Eric McGill
Victoria McIntyre
Mark McLellan
Kenny McMurchy
Kayley McTavish
David McWilliam
Katelyn Melkert
Pat Milne

Amanda Mistele
Kyle Mylrea
Robert Nash
Julie Oliveira
Kris Oliveira
Matthew Parezanovic
Jaymee Peternel
Jonathan Peternel
Ashley Phillips
Jessica Reed
Justin Regnier
Ben Schnekenburger
Lisa Silva
Chris Smith
Kaitlan Smith
Michelle Smith
William Smith

Paul Speller
James Stone
Tyler Sutherland
Kory Timmermans
Pete Thomson
Christopher Van Loon
Caitlin VanRaes
Matthew Warren
Craig Watterworth
Geoff Wayne
Mathew Weed
Danielle Welch
Ashley Woolley
Josh Wright
Donny Yorke
Justin Zander

Embrace change, focus on the path ahead

Excerpt from Mark Godfrey's Valedictorian speech

Commencement. The last real high school event that we will ever attend. Today marks two very important points in our lives.

The first, being the completion of a principal journey that now defines all the memoirs of our youth.

Approximately 12 years of our lives were spent trying to reach this point and now take a look around...we're all here.

Secondly, we have survived a month of university, college, working, and life. Those graduating today are successful individuals, having reached these personal milestones. However, we did not reach these objectives on our own. The parents, siblings, friends and teachers whom we will be forever thankful towards have guided our growth.

Hold onto everything they taught you; morals, how to make a grilled cheese sandwich and how to make one pair of underwear last a week. It will all come in handy some day down

the road.

I would specially like to thank the teachers for putting up with our attitudes, temper tantrums and mental breakdowns for the last few years. Some of you have a few more grey hairs and in some cases less hair than when we first met many Septembers ago.

For the last five years we saw as much if not more of you than we saw our parents. You have shaped and influenced each and every one of us; the men and women that have crossed the stage before you today are images and reflections of yourselves and things that you've taught us.

Printed around the crest of the West Elgin emblem is a Latin phrase. Loosely translated it says "we learn not for school but for life". Your teaching not only aided us in achieving our diplomas, but life lessons as well. Whether it was through sports, clubs, music, tutoring, class or just pure friendship we have learned from all of you.

We are all growing up now, but West Elgin will remain. However, it

was not the building that made our time here; it was the people and the friends. It was you. The school and the teachers will change, but the memories will not. The band trip stories, the France trips, the fun days, the dances, the sports events, the carnivals, the beach; all of which are permanent memories engraved into our minds.

Embrace this change, much like we did many years ago walking through the doors into a new high school.

Do not dwell on the past; on what happened or didn't happen, it is all the same. Unless we focus on the path that now lies ahead of us we will not enjoy and experience life to the fullest.

This is the last time that many of us will see each other for a long time, so take the time to ask what exactly everyone is doing with their life. Ask them exactly what their degree is, exactly where they are, exactly what they are doing. It will come to serve as a bond between you.

West Elgin has given birth to a new age of students; doctors, teachers, ath-

letes, musicians, actors, tradesmen, politicians, farmers and most importantly, young adults.

I would like to conclude with two quotes given to me in my last few days as a West Elgin Secondary School Student.

The first is this: Forsan et Haec Olin Meminisse Iuvabit". I apologize for my slander of the Latin language but I'm not taking that course yet. This means "Perchance in days to come it will please you to recall this". I hope that each and every one of you leaving here today will be pleased to recall this chapter of your life and the memories we've shared. Cherish and enjoy them.

The second quote is one by which I now govern my life: "Some men see things the way they are and ask, 'Why?'. I dream things that never were, and ask, 'Why not?'".

Having said this quote, I would like to do something that I asked why not to. I wrote a little song to commemorate our time at WESS. Hope you enjoy.

Boys soccer team at WOSSA



WESS holds plant sale JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Martin Rimes prepares some geraniums for sale at the West Elgin Secondary School horticulture class plant sale on all this week.

Hoping to cover at least one of the many volleyball pennants in the WESS gym, the boy's soccer teams are optimistic going into WOSSA this week.

"We've always had good volleyball teams," said assistant coach of the boy's soccer team, Dave Burke. "But there are a lot of good soccer players around here."

The boys blew out CDI 7-1 last Thursday to qualify for the Thames Valley Region Athletics Association finals at Athletes Park in St. Thomas this Tuesday.

The boys play in the WOSSA 'A' South final tonight (May 25).

"It's the furthest WESS has made it," said Coach Chris Leys. "We expected to make WOSSA anything from here on is great."

It takes three years to build a strong soccer team, said Leys, and to

make it to WOSSA in the second year of the building process, is an excellent sign.

Few players will be graduating from the team next promising more success to come.

"The team's solid through and through," said Burke.

Led with strong defence, anchored by Mike Lyons and potent offence with Aaron Cowal, the Wildcats finished the regular season 3-2-1.

Chris Oliveira and David Dryfout have been sharing goaltender duties for the team.

In the 7-1 blow out, goals were scored by Stephan Agar, Jake Carter, Aaron Cowal (3), Mike Lyons and Adam Timmermans.

The girls' soccer team suffered an upsetting loss in penalty kicks against Holy Cross May 18.

After a triumphant



Saved JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Shelby Willcocks made this shootout save for the WESS Girls Soccer team in the semi-final game last Thursday.

come back with 10 minutes remaining, the girls couldn't score in the overtime or shootout.

Brittany Correia and Emma Wilkins scored for

the girls with under 10 minutes to play in the second half to tie the game.

An exciting finish, after skies held out, the girls kept pressure the

entire second half.

Despite three saves by Shelby Willcocks in the shootout, the Wildcats lost the semi-final, ending the season.



Bike rodeo JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Doug Staddon does a safety check on Stephanie Jocius' bike during the Optimist Club Bike Rodeo at Aldborough Public School May 18. Club members checked 125 bikes and tested students on road safety knowledge at several test stations.



APS track JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Madison Redmond, Natasha Cameron and Sheltina Beke run at Aldborough Public School's track and field day May 18.