



WESS Trivia Night

West Elgin Secondary School held its annual Trivia Night Dec 19, to raise money for the Reach for the Top school club. Six teams and 29 people participated in the event. Above: Faculty, Danny Kajan, Melanie Thibert, Principal Larry Schneider think through one of many tough questions in the cafeteria.

JEAN GUY ST JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE



Packing support for food bank

Jacob Dymock, Jordynn Belbeck, Kenzie McGaffey and Sabrina Ford pack cans collected by West Elgin Senior Elementary School students for the Daffodil Auxiliary. Students collected more than 1,000 food items for the food bank.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE



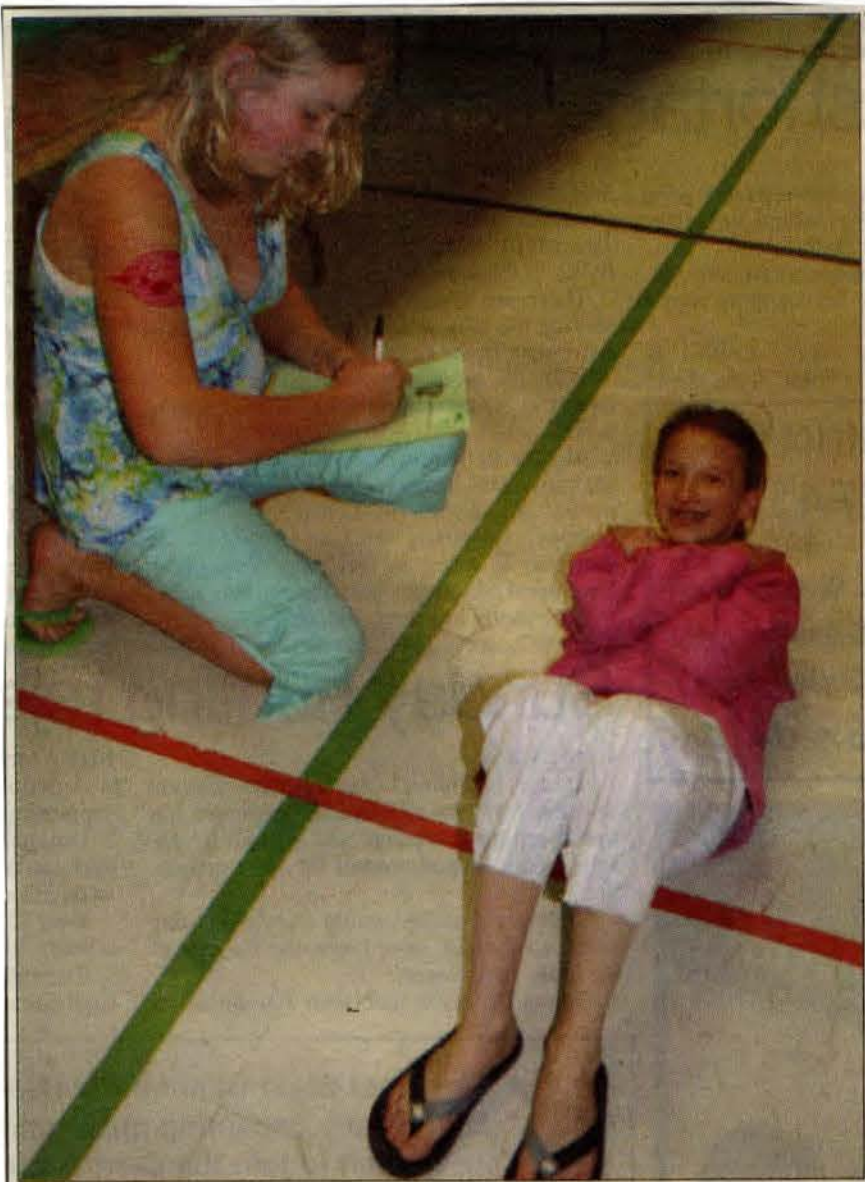
WESES hosts regional volleyball tournament

The West Elgin Senior Elementary School Grade 8 boys volleyball team won the gold medal at the regional tournament on Dec 5 to become Southwest Regional Champions at WESES. Back row left to right: Ben Welch, Doug White, Robert Johnston, Sheldon Downie, Rob Roos, coach Carrie Ostrom. Front row left to right: Cole Schneckenburger, Jason Ambrose, Mitch Kuska, Cody MacKinnon. Lying down: Ryan Leys. Absent: Zach Welch. Grade 8 girls, Kelsey McTavish, Kelsey Shaw, Jamie Stallon and Jasmine Prince compete in round robin play at the Southwest Regional Championship Dec. 6. The girls were beat out in the semi-finals.



Learning about river safety

Alicia McReady places a puzzle piece during a river and creek safety program given to Grade 2 students at St. Mary's Catholic School recently. Denise Biega, conservation education technician, back, from the Lower Thames Conservation Authority led the program to promote safety around water. The RCSP is designed to meet the Grade 2 curriculum needs in Physical Education and Life Science. It offers a variety of interactive activities focusing on river systems and the dangers around waterways. The RCSP is offered during the time of greatest danger. Rivers, lakes, ponds and streams can put children at risk any-time of year, but in winter the water is cold, the banks are slippery and the ice is beginning to melt.



Science fair at WESES

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Nicole Collard and Sabrina Griffin demonstrated some of the cardiovascular exercises they studied as part of their Grade 8 science fair project called Pump It, looking into which exercises accelerate heart rates the most.



Quebec youth living in area

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Fadwa Bouziane, Audrey-ann Vachon and Marc-Olivier Jannelle from the Montreal area switched lives with three local students for the summer.

Exchange promotes unity

Three Quebec youth on exchange are working at area day camps.

Living with families, the three teenagers are looking forward to seeing their own parents again after a six week student exchange.

Their local counterparts switched families and have been working and living in and around Montreal.

Audrey-ann Vachon, 16, comes from an urban area near Montreal and while her first impression of West Lorne was, "very small" she has enjoyed hanging out with local youth.

She's made herself at home with the Ouellette family, even teaching the family dog to shake 'gauche', with his left hand.

Marc-Olivier Jannelle, 17, is staying with Marie and Jim Humphrey while their daughter Rachel is in a small town south of Montreal.

Marc said the program, organized through Canada Unity Council has been a good opportunity to learn English.

On weekends the students have been taking trips to Niagara Falls and Point Pelee, etc.

Jannelle is working at the West Lorne Day Camp.

Nervous at first about his command of the English language, Jannelle has picked it up and was surprised how fluent he is now.

Fadwa Bouziane is staying with Sara Peternel's family and has been enjoying the quiet country-

side. She's gotten the chance to ride a horse on her hours off from working with the Dutton Day Camp.

"I would love to have a horse," she said, if there was only a way not to have to drive so far into the country to get the chance.

Vachon believes once she is back home she will realize how much she has learned about Ontario culture.

Coming home soon

Three local high school students that spent the summer in the Montreal area in exchange with the French youth will be coming home next week.

Sara Peternel, Phil Ouellette and Rachel Humphrey boarded a train in London for an 11-hour trip to Montreal five weeks ago to spend the summer working and living in Quebec as part of a unity exchange.

"I'm scared," said Humphrey days before she left. "I'm nervous about my French."

Ouellette has been working at a tourist attraction, leading tours, while Peternel and Humphrey are working with children.

Canada Unity Council, through the Department of Heritage coordinated exchanges between Quebec and other provinces in every political riding to promote unity.

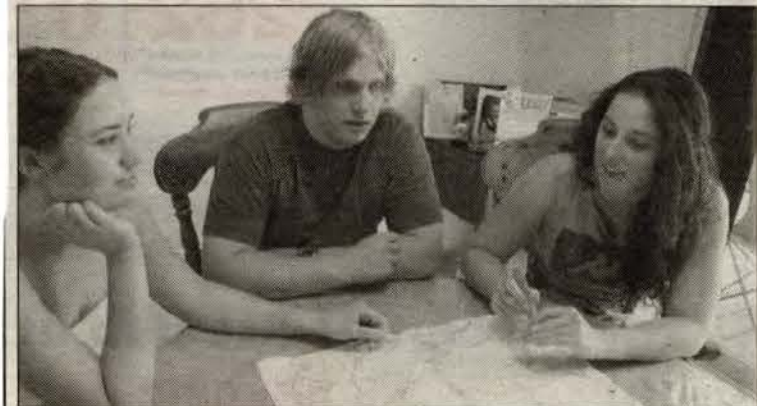
One perk is the students will be taken on excursions on weekends and given a chance to see museums and go camping.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Safety day

Grade 4, 5 and 6 students from local schools were at the West Elgin Arena for Safety Day, put on by the Health and Safety Committee June 2. Students learned about safety around the house and farm. Above, Robbie Bennett and Daniel Whittek help Stephanie Hayes with a presentation by the Ontario Pesticide Education Program from Ridgetown College. Right, Junior Firefighters Dave Clements and Rob Wilkins put a suit on Frankie Fehervari.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

A long way from home

Sara Peternel, Phil Ouellette and Rachel Humphrey, three local students are coming home next week after a summer exchange in Quebec.



Carnival celebrated at St. Mary's Catholic School

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Shelby Brown hurdles a bench in a relay race during Carnival at St. Mary's Catholic School Feb. 16. Middle: Sylvie Ozinga watches Brittany Reaume and Jesse Woldenberg-Behn compete in snow soccer. Right: Chantel DaSilva, Bonhomme de Neige and Kayla Poels present the Queen and King of Carnival, Taylor Parish and Lucas Bettencourt.



Junior Badminton tourney held at WESS

Anna Debruyn and John Drummelsmith played in a mixed doubles match during a junior badminton south division TVRAA tournament at West Elgin Secondary School April 20. The top three players moved on to WOSSA.

WESES student council elected

My name is Caitlin Simpson, Grade 8, and I will be writing about what's going on around the West Elgin Senior Elementary School.

We want to keep the local community up to date, so watch for the monthly version of, "What's up at WESES".

Mrs. Gracey has the concert and jazz bands up and running, with practices every week.

She is also running the school choir, and they will be performing at the Remembrance Day Ceremony here at the school.

WHAT'S UP AT WESES

By Caitlin Simpson

As many other schools did, our school ran the Terry Fox Run on Sept. 29 and collected a whopping total of \$5,265.27 for cancer research.

We're so lucky to live in such a generous, giving community. Our success would not have been possible without those who participated in the Marathon of Hope, and gave one dollar or more to our Terry Fox

participants.

Mr. Weiland's 7D class raised \$934.50, Miss Ostrom's 7C class raised \$1,101.50, and the class winning the spirit banner, and a pizza party was Mrs. McLenaghan's 8D class with an incredible \$1,115.65.

The school also recently voted our students' council. Emily Varga and Jamee Ellis are the school's co-presidents, Kylie Wilson is the new treasurer, and Emily Penney was voted secretary.

Class representatives are now being elected.

Elementary students to be surveyed on bullying

Public elementary school students will be surveyed about bullying in coming weeks.

Students will be given surveys about their perceptions of bullying to help schools identify concerns.

Last year, secondary students were surveyed across the Thames Valley District School Board.

At West Elgin Secondary School, programs were developed after administration, teachers, students and parents analyzed the study results.

A mentoring course was developed at the school for Grade 11 students this semester.

Students from that course will be helping elementary students understand bullying.

Key issues discovered through the high

school student survey involved reporting of bullying.

Principal Larry Schneider said students are reluctant to report bullying because of the stigma of being called a rat.

"We're trying to change the attitudes of the students," said Schneider. "It's just like drinking and driving. Twenty-five years ago there were more people drinking and driving but the mind set changed."

The school initiated complaint cards for students dealing with bullying.

A student concerned about a friend or themselves can fill out a card and the guidance staff and administration can deal with the situation.

However, shunning, especially among

girls, was identified as a key issue at WESS.

One day a girl is your best friend, the next day the whole group won't even talk to the girl, said Schneider.

Teachers have been working to understand the issues students are dealing with.

Schneider said most cases he's had this year aren't bullying, but are a conflict between two students, insulting one another back and forth.

He's only had to suspend two students this year for a fight.

Punishments were also a big concern identified in the survey.

Parents and students want to know what has been done about a bullying incident.

Schneider said it's one of the most frustrating problems. Confidentiality prevents him from discussing punishments with the victims.



30 hour famine held in Dutton

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Dylan Simpson, Jordynn Belbeck and Tyson Ford answer a trivia question about the Third World during a 30-hour famine held by Knox Presbyterian Church in Dutton over the weekend. About 14 youth stopped eating Friday afternoon and raised about \$1,500 for World



Earth Day activities at schools

Above, West Elgin Secondary School students competed in activities April 20 for Earth Week. Here, chugging toxic sludge (pop) is Rob Loeters, held by Sarah Hamelin, Amanda Weits, held by Jackie Geisler and Abe Peters, held by Jasmine Dick. Left: St. Mary's Catholic School students Sara Oliveira and Chantel DaSilva are planting the tree on the school grounds.

The London Free Press

West Lorne teen charity's champ

Last year, it was breast cancer. This year Zoe Van Dyk is raising money for autism.

BY JOE MATYAS
Free Press Reporter

She's only 13, but Zoe Van Dyk is already developing a reputation as a fundraiser.

For the second year in a row, the Grade 8 pupil from West Lorne has been involved in raising money for a good cause.

Last year, she organized a

car wash with two friends. At the end of the day, they donated \$1,300 to the Breast Cancer Society.

"The mother of one of my friends had breast cancer and we wanted to do something to show that we cared," said Zoe.

Tomorrow, Zoe and her friend from early childhood, Nicole Vergeer, will find out how well their fundraising walk for Autism Ontario does.

"We both have friends with autism, so that made us want to help in some way," said Zoe.

In addition to organizing the one-hour walk for people with autism, the teen girls will

sell hotdogs, hamburgers and soft drinks at the event.

"That should bring in some extra money," said Zoe.

The walk is scheduled to begin at noon at the St. Mary's parish parking lot in West Lorne. The barbecue will also be there.

"I'm extremely proud of Zoe," said her mother, Lise Van Dyk. "She and Nicole have had to contact autism and municipal officials and the police. They've made all the arrangements, produced a flyer and distributed it."

Zoe said the flyer was circulated in schools and food dona-

tions were obtained from local grocery stores.

"I've learned a lot about organizing an event. It's been a little harder than last year."

Jodi Hillman, the mother of a three-year-old autistic son, Nathan, said she's impressed with the teen organizers.

"They're special girls. They deserve applause. They're doing something good for the community and they've got the word out."

Hillman said her husband and daughter have lined up "quite a list of sponsors" and will be walking tomorrow.

The money will go to

research, not direct services, she said.

"We certainly need the research dollars," she said.

More provincial dollars are needed for services for autistic children and their families, she said.

"Most of the money goes to children with severe autism, but kids like Nathan, who are mildly or moderately autistic, are often not funded."

Hillman said her family spends \$18,000 a year for a behaviour therapist who spends 15 hours a week with Nathan.

jmatyas@lfpress.com



Wonderful winterland

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

West Elgin Secondary School's senior band perform the Nathan Hale Trilogy at its Winter Wonderland Concert Dec. 12 at St. Mary's Parish Hall. A full house of family, staff and friends also heard the junior and jazz band.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Terry Fox runs held

Area schools held Terry Fox runs for the Journey of Hope. Above: Zack Dymock, Doug White, Josh Ambrose, Jaimee Ellis, Emily Varga and Cody MacKinnon from West Elgin Senior Elementary School run with the entire school through Miller Park Sept. 29 Right: Nicole Vergeer and Alicia Krebs from St. Mary's Catholic School run with classmates through the West Lorne.



Concert a hit

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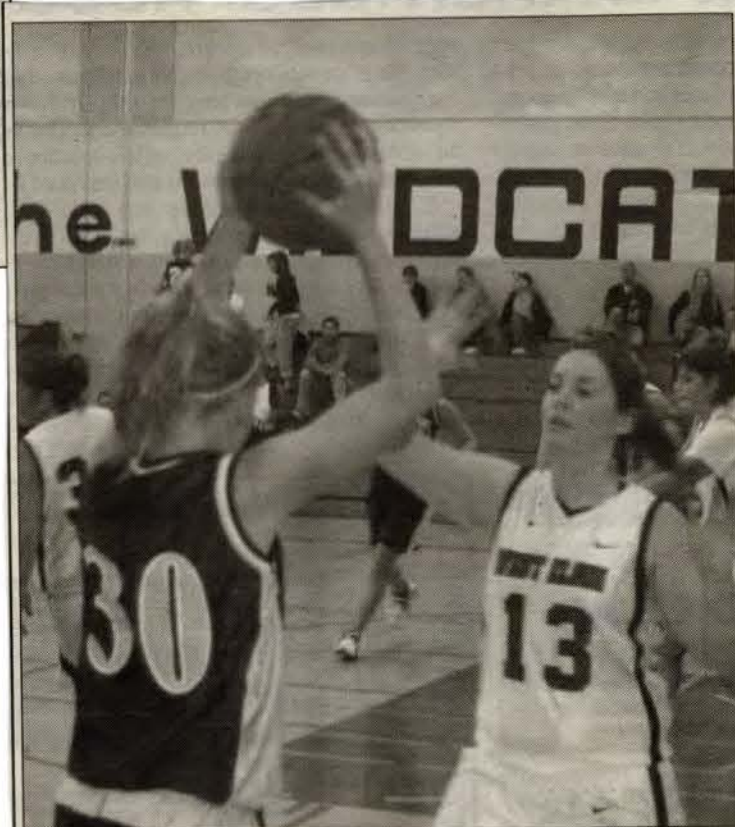
The concert started with Vicki Close, vocalist and student at the West Elgin Secondary school. She sang numerous songs including one she wrote called "Coming Home".



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Walk for Autism

Nicole Vergeer and Zoey Van Dyk, Grade 8 students from St. Mary's Catholic School raised \$2,700 for autism with a walk and barbecue held Sunday at St. Mary's Parish Hall. Van Dyk said they were overwhelmed by the pledges and support by the community.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

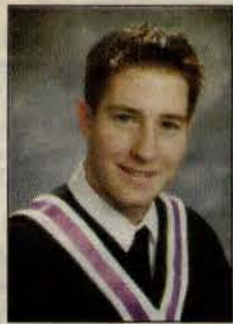
Wildcats hard against St. Joe's

Karen Godfrey tries to block a pass from the St. Joseph's Catholic Secondary School player during a senior girls basketball game at West Elgin Secondary School Sept. 28. WESS lost 34-5. The junior girls lost 32-11 to St. Josephs. The next home game is Oct. 19.

West Elgin Secondary School Ontario Scholars



Caren Campbell
Iona Station
Parents: Stan & Lori
Attending: Wilfrid Laurier University
Enrolled in: Bachelor of Music



Ryan Carey
Wardsville
Parents: Patti & Rowland
Attending: Queens University
Enrolled in: Arts and Science (Psychology)



Angela Dick
West Lorne
Parents: Wendy & Darrell
Attending: Western
Enrolled in: Science



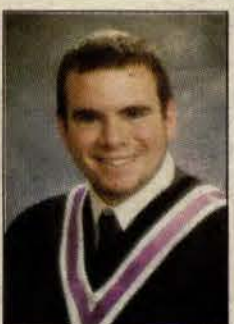
Tracy Donaldson
Iona Station
Parents: Peter & Pauline
Attending: Kings College
Enrolled in: Management & Organizational studies



Brittany Eichenberger
Dutton
Parents: Ron & Lee Ann
Attending: University of Guelph
Enrolled in: Biomedical science



Luke Emmett
West Lorne
Parents: Tim & Joanne
Attending: Western
Enrolled in: Kinesiology



Mike Miller
Rodney
Parents: Lynda & John
Attending: University of Guelph
Enrolled in: Agricultural Science



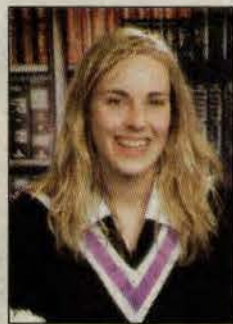
Kyle Mylrea
Dutton
Parents: Joseph & Donna
Attending: Wilfrid Laurier
Enrolled in: Honours History



Lara Ford
Rodney
Parents: Tom & Lynda
Attending: University of Guelph
Enrolled: Bachelor of Science in Agriculture



Kristen Griffiths
Dutton
Parents: Ron & Bev
Attending: Algonquin College
Enrolled in: Vet Tech.



Allison Gumpert
West Lorne
Parents: Patrice & Jim
Attending: Iowa state university
Enrolled in: English & Visual Arts



Marcia Hay
West Lorne
Parents: Curtis and Christine
Attending: Western
Enrolled in: Social Science



Heather Heyboer
Dutton
Parents: Ron & Luanne
Attending: Huron University/College
Program in: Social Science



Shane Hogan
Dutton
Parents: Kathleen & Patrick
Attending: Fanshawe
Enrolled in: Manufacturing



Shobha Sharma
Rodney
Parents: Anji & Shelly
Attending: Western
Enrolled in: Health Science



James Stone
Dutton
Parents: Valerie & Bob
Attending: McMaster University
Enrolled: Engineering



Amanda Jamieson
West Lorne
Parents: Stuart & Patty
Attending: Guelph
Enrolled in: BA Psychology



Brittany Jewell
Dutton
Parents Names: Kim & Mark
Attending: Laurentian
Enrolled in: Mid-wifery



Breanna Keith
Wallacetown
Parents: Robert and Karen Keith
Attending: Queen's
Enrolled in: BMUS program



Jessica Kennedy
Dutton
Parents: John & Joan
Attending: Nipissing
Program Enrolled in: Psychology/art.



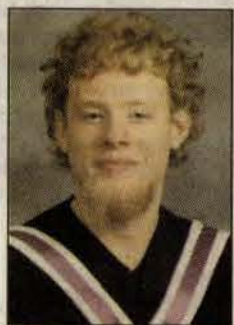
Rachel Kovach
West Lorne
Parents: James and Lydia
Attending: Windsor University
Enrolled in: English and Creative Writing



Trena Lebedz
Rodney
Parents: Serge & Sheila
Attending: Laurier
Enrolled in: Honours Business

Photo not available for Emily King of Dutton.
Parents: Andrea & Dave

Attending: Fanshawe College
Enrolled in: Architectual Technology.



Kory Timmermans
West Lorne
Parents: Joe & Elizabeth
Attending: Working



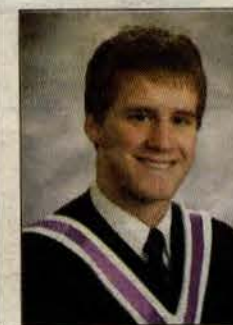
Liona Vander Zon
Wallacetown
Parents: Leo & Linda
Attending: Fanshawe College
Enrolled in: Nursing



David Lettner
West Lorne
Parents: Johann & Hermine
Attending: Laurier
Enrolled in: Business



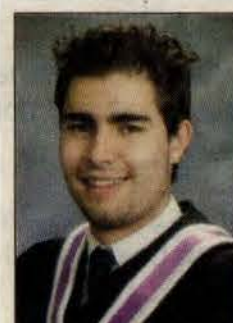
Brian Lilley
Glencoe
Parents Names: Tim & Ann
Attending: University of Guelph
Enrolled in: History



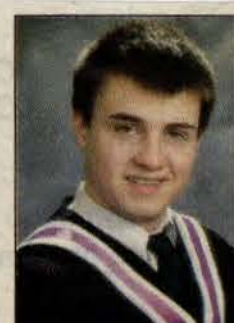
Mike Lyons
Dutton
Parents: Lucy
Attending: University of Guelph
Enrolled in: Kinesiology



Katie McIntyre
Rodney
Parents: Sandy and Larry
Attending: University of Waterloo
Enrolled in: Biotechnology/ Chartered Accounting.



Tim Vander Zon
Wallacetown
Parents: Leo & Linda
School attending: Working



Tyler Wood
Dutton
Parents: Helena & Steve
Attending: University of Guelph
Enrolled in: Bachelor of Commerce



Kris Oliveira
West Lorne
Parents: Maria and Domingos
Attending: Western
Enrolled in: B.A Kinesiology



Amanda Pelcz
West Lorne
Parents: Monica & Charles
Attending: Niagara College
Enrolled in: Pharmacy Technician



Sara Peternel
West Lorne
Parents: Michael & Susan
Attending: McMaster University
Program: Science



Tanya Schleihauf
Rodney
Parents: Rick & Monica
Attending: Fanshawe College
Enrolled in: Nursing

Congratulations

Graduating Class of 2007

Christine Alves
Justin Azvedo
Daniel Balint
Coryan Baran
Amanda Baratta
Alexander Barry
Amanda Bedford
Bradley Blanchard
Ryan Brown
Bev Campbell
Caren Campbell
Donnie Campbell
Kyle Carew
Ryan Carey
Brian Carlos
Adam Clark
Steph Collins
Jeremy Conway
Dustin Cook
Thomas Cotie
Aaron Cowell
Chad Cross
Kari Delouw
Tyler Deyle
Jasmine Dick
Tracy Donaldson
Alyssa Doub
Dustin Drouillard
William Allen
Drummelsmith
Katelyn Duplessis
Jessica Dupuis

Brittany Eichenberger
Jeffrey R. Else
Luke Emmett
Mike Ford
Greg Freisinger
Nik Ganhadeiro
Cassandra Gionet
Cecile Gionet
Tyler Gowanlock
Ashley Graham
Kristin Griffiths
Allison Gumpert
Marcia Hay
Mike Henry
Heather Heyboer
Shane Hogan
Bradley Ireland
Amanda Jamieson
Sarah Johnston
Breanna Keith
James Douglas Kelly
Jessica Kennedy
Emily King
Ashley Knapp
Rhonda Knight
Rachel Kovach
Lindsay Nichol Lamb
Trena Lebedz
Kelly LeBlanc

Jessie James Lowes
Nick Lunn
Mac MacKinnon
Caitlin McCallum
Sarah McCallum
Erica McDowell
Kraig McGraffey
Scott McIntosh
Kathleen McIntrye
Wes McLandress
Jason McWilliam
Michael Miller
Scott Mohan
Ryan Munn
Justin Nagy
Steve Nagy
Mat Nash
Blair Noddin
Kanda Ocolisan
Andrew Okolisan
Nicole Oliveira
Phil Ouellette
Amanda Pelcz
Sara Peternel
Gilbert Poole
Jim Raithby
Tyler Reid
Derek Reno
Emily Rose

Shawn Sabo
Alicia Sanderson
Benjamin Philip
Schleihauf
Tanya Schleihauf
Shoba Sharma
Brandon Shaw
Erin Sheedy
John Smith
Sam Smith
Matt Soos
Reece Stacey
Brent Swallowell
Caitlin Tomczyk
Casandra Tomczyk
Bradley Trybel
Liona Van Der Zon
Timothy Van Der Zon
Derek Vanhee
Adam Vanoverbeke
Lauren Vergeer
Justin Walker
Dave Ward
Michelle Webber
Catie Welch
Pat Whelen
Devon Wilson
Cory Winger
Kristie Wood
Tyler Wood

Power of accomplishment abides within you

By Kris Oliveira
Valedictorian 2007

Honoured guests, parents, teachers, administration, and my fellow class of 2007, it is a great honour to have been selected as this year's valedictorian, and also a privilege to have been a student at West Elgin Secondary school for the past 5 years.

This is an outstanding school, where we have all grown academically, and more importantly, we have all matured as young adults. Over the past four or five years we have developed many important qualities that we will carry on with us on our journey of life.

Empathy, passion, courage, and dedication are all traits which we have obtained while here at West Elgin.

The countless hours of volunteering, participating in clubs and being a part of the Wildcat Athletics and WESS Bands have engraved determination, dedication and drive into all of our hearts.

The competitive nature of our athletes will continue to inspire future students at West Elgin.

The creativity and talent of our art students who paint breath taking paintings all around the walls of our school; the dedication of our school councils, who not only put forth the students' word but take their time to try and make our school a better place for everyone; and most importantly, the devotion of the graduating students to their studies in successfully completing Grade 12, shows their dedication to their

future.

High school has been a growth experience, and throughout the years great memories have made the high school experience truly the best years of our lives.

Another stage full of challenges that will test our determination, and as cliché as it may sound, the future is indeed in our hands as this class is full of unlimited potential so do whatever you long to do and as Robert Collier a successful author once said, "The POWER to be what you want to be, to get what you desire, to accomplish whatever you are striving for, ABIDES within you. It rests with you only to bring it forth and put it to work. You must learn how to do that, of course, but the first essential thing is to realize that you

possess this POWER, and your FIRST objective is to GET acquainted with it". So use the power within you to thrust yourself into the future, trusting always that you, a West Elgin Secondary School graduate, can do it!



WESES Track and Field

THE CHRONICLE

Left: Rebecca Panther competes in the junior girls ball throw event during the track and field day at West Elgin Senior Elementary School. Centre: Cody Parker, Grade 7 makes his attempt in the high jump event. Right: Doug White competes in triple jump.