

Grade 10 student on crusade for cancer

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

A West Elgin Secondary School student is bringing joy to the Children's hospital in London this Christmas.

You've seen the jars around the region for Chloe's Christmas Crusade for Children's Hospital.

Grade 10 student Chloe Steele is enrolled in an enhancement program at the high school which led her to the Children's Health Foundation.

She's collecting toys, games and money for children with cancer.

For the project, she can earn a full credit if she com-

pletes the program and organizes an event (in this case the fundraising campaign), researches cancer, does a report and makes a presentation.

The 15-year-old is daughter of Joe and Lisa of Wallacetown.

She has 15 locations set up in Dutton and West Lorne for donations.

Also she has made connections with local public schools. Boxes are being filled with donations at West Elgin Senior Elementary School and at the upcoming Dunwich-Dutton Dynamo's concert Dec. 17 and 18.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Chloe's Crusade

Chloe Steele is raising funds and collecting toys for the Children's Hospital in London.

"I just want to collect as much as I can," said Steele.

"The words 'oncology,' 'cancer,' 'chemotherapy' and

'radiation' are not words that come up in my daily routine. ... But what if they did?" she asks on her poster.

While doing research, she has found that because of advanced therapy, 78 per cent of cancer patients will survive for five years or more, an increase of almost 46 per cent since the early 1960s.

Toys/gifts will go directly to the Children's Hospital at London Health Sciences Centre. All money donations will go to the Children's Health Research

Institute.

Steele visited the hospital when she set up the campaign.

Donations will be collected until Dec. 19.

Locations:

- Dutton Building Products
- Dutton Royal Bank
- Daisy Mart
- Cotrac Ford
- Dutton Flowers and Gifts
- Highland Pharmacy
- Sears Canada
- LCBO
- Dutton Post Office
- Mancari's
- Tall Tales Café
- Lakeview Gardens
- West Elgin Pharmacy
- Knight's Home Hardware

• West Lorne Foodland

WESS racing to read its way across the globe

Students at West Elgin Secondary School are in a race from Europe to Japan. The Amazing

Reading Race has pitted WESS students in a challenge to read more books than Sir George Ross Secondary in London and College Ave in Woodstock.

Aiming to read

1,000 books this school year, students and faculty have read 650, putting them in second place, with each book gaining 10 kilometres.

Hoping students won't get lost some-

where in Mongolia, organizers are confident the school can reach its goal by the end of the school year.

"We'll get there," said librarian Melanie Thibert.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Literacy

Students in the front row were caught reading around school and ended up on literacy posters by the school board. They are: Scott McIntosh, Nick DeBoer, Tara Deyte, Mike Lyons, Ariel Whalen and Devon Willson. In the back row is the school's book club: teacher Tammy Vacante, librarian Melanie Thibert, Erin Sheedy, Rachel Kovach, Jasmine Dyck, Jessica Lawley, Chelsea Drent, Ali Close, Jared Cooper and teacher Mike Lynds.

Last year WESS beat Ross across Canada.

"The students have been doing great. They like the idea," said teacher Tammy Vacante.

The race is for staff and students as a way to encourage reading and literacy.

Some students only read course books but others have been reading up to 20 books a month.

"A lot of the students have gone above and beyond," said Vacante.

Both teachers also work with the school's book club which started three years ago.

The 10 week club ended before March break.

About 15 students get together after school Wednesdays to talk books.

While basic literacy lessons are ingrained, students also explore new genres of reading.

Members can read whatever they want then form groups to discuss the books.

Discussions range from what is good or bad about the books to talking about character development, plot lines and writing styles.

"We encourage students to step outside their comfort zone and read many different genres," said Thibert.

Anyone from the community is encouraged to join the club at the school.

As well, the club is always looking for more books.

WESES raises \$6,700 for Heart and Stroke

February was heart month, and like every year, the West Elgin Senior Elementary School students participated in Hoops for Heart.

After raising money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the entire school gathered to watch three games, in which the girls and boys basketball teams squared off, and then each took on a team of teachers.

Last year, our campaigning was rewarded, as our school raised more money than any other school in South-Western Ontario.

This year, we'd like to recognize Jessica Degraw, who raised a whopping \$503, bringing in almost eight per cent of the entire school's total of more than \$6,700! Way to go Jessica!

This truly proves the generosity of the communities we live in. On behalf of the staff and students at W.E.S.E.S., everyone at the Heart and Stroke Foundation, and those affected by the disease, I'd like to thank everyone who contributed.

WHAT'S UP AT WESES?

By Caitlin Simpson

The boys' basketball season has come to an end, but they have reason to celebrate. They won 7 of 8 league games, and after placing first in the regionals, they went on to play in the Thames Valley Championships, where they lost in the bronze medal game.

Their coach, Mr. Weiland, said they had a great season overall, and is excited to send some skilled players into Grade 9 next year. Here's what he had to say about each player on the team.

The captains, Robert Johnston and Cole Schneckenger, led the team all season long with strong and consistent guard play. Rob Roos, Doug White and Zach Dymock played amazing defensive basketball, getting every rebound possible.

Sheldon Downie and Cody Parker were the team's most improved players, and Kyle Barber, Michael Brennan and Michael Verboom worked hard to develop their skills.

Ryan Leys won the sportsmanship award, for having the best attitude towards the game.

MAR 15/07



WESS plant sale

MAY 24/07

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE

Jacob Rowe, Rob Loeters, Michelle Keith, Derek Blaney and Lee Balint help out with the West Elgin Secondary School plant and craft sale, which was held the last two weekends. Products sold were produced by the students in the horticulture and shop classes.



Beach clean up

NICHOLAS FORD/CO-OP STUDENT THE CHRONICLE

Scott McLaughlin, Teresa Nestic, Lauren McWilliam, Samantha Kindornay and Abi Smith, and their peers in the West Elgin Secondary School Fishing Club and Environmental Club joined the TD Great Canadian Shoreline Clean Up, at Port Glasgow Sept. 20.

Public school work starts

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

West Elgin Secondary School is getting a major facelift.

Every window, depending on how you count them, 70, in the building is being replaced.

Work started with library windows and second floor windows being replaced already.

Part of the provincial Ontario Renewal Project, work is hoped to be completed by the end of July, although complications have already been encountered.

Last year, most of the roof was replaced and new boilers were installed.

Principal Larry Schneider says the school will be much more energy efficient.

"It's a sign we are here to stay. We should be at 470 (students) but we're at 600, with more new families moving in," he says.

Laughing, Schneider says every year, for the 23 years he's been at WESS, someone has come up and said, "Too bad the school is closing."

"Hopefully all this work will put that to rest. It's a great sign for the school and the community," he says.

Some windows in the school are the originals, installed when the school was built in 1952.

Drafty windows, leaky roofs, moisture making the school cold in the winter, and steaming hot classrooms in the summer, should be gone.

The new windows will prevent drafts in the winter and will be tinted, making classrooms cooler in the summer.

All this improves the learning environment, says Schneider, which has teachers happy and student will be more open to learn, without distraction.

The price tag may remain unknown for a while for the windows.

About four-years ago, sciences labs were upgraded for half a million dollars.

Parts of the project are interfering with the window project,



Before and after

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

West Elgin Secondary School is getting a facelift as the old white siding is replaced with glass and new tinted windows are installed to help keep the school cool as seen here at the school's library.

and will have to be dismantled, then put back together.

"They're already over budget," says Schneider.

The most noticeable change will be to the front of the school. All the white metal siding will be replaced with a yellowish spandrel, or glass with insulation on the other side.

From the inside, the spandrels will be lined with bulletin boards for teachers.

The glassy front will modernize the look of the school making it look similar to Central Elgin Collegiate Institute, says Schneider.

The front door will also be replaced, making it stronger and more efficient.

As well, blinds will be replaced throughout the school, to close tighter, to improve conditions in classroom to watch video or slides on projectors.

Other local schools will also see work over the summer:

- Dunwich-Dutton Public School - steam boilers will be replaced with water boilers over the summer in a project budgeted to cost more than \$1 million.

Next year, it's expected all the windows in the school will be replaced.

- Aldborough Public School - asphalt in the school yard will be replaced.

Drains and tiling repair will all commence in the yard.



Wildcats basketball

Rhonda Knight charges out of end in senior basketball action versus St. Joe's Oct. 18. St. Joe's won the game but the Wildcats have two wins so far this season.

JEFF KEMPENAAR
THE CHRONICLE

Lots going on at high school

Take 560 students, 36.17 teachers, 1.5 education assistants, three secretaries, four custodians, three cafeteria staff, one Vice-Principal and one Principal, plus various support staff in our Wellness Centre, mix them all together, and what have you got? This year's West Elgin Secondary School community.

With the first month of the school year almost past, things are off to a hectic, wonderful start.

We've had our Grade 9 welcoming day, our first MuchMusic video dance, and our new Students' Council, Student Athletic Association and Music Council executives and members are all hard at work.

There is so much new and exciting going on at the school that I would like to share with the community, that I'm going to have to write more frequent columns.

I have much to tell you about, and yes, some support to ask for as well.

WESS has been approved to offer

students a specialized program, with partnerships with local farmers, associations, Ridgetown College, and many local agriculturally based businesses and consultants, called the Specialist High Skills Major in Agriculture.

Students who take a specific package of courses will be able to graduate with a special Ontario Secondary School Diploma which indicates a specialization in Agriculture.

Only 12 schools in Ontario will be able to do this at present!

Our commencement exercises will be held at the school at 7 p.m. Oct. 4 - the same night that virtually all secondary schools in our region are now using for their fall graduation ceremonies, owing to the many mid-term exams now being held on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays during our usual late October or early November time slot.

Many students come home specially for Thanksgiving, but then travel over the weekend, as do many of the staff.

COLUMN



Principal's Corner

Larry Schneider

With the tragedy of suicide now having touched so many so tragically in our community, WESS is taking a leadership role in suicide awareness, prevention, and education.

All staff at the school will participate in workshops on the Sept. 28th P.D. day, led by experts in social work, tragic events response, and suicide awareness and prevention, as well as people whose lives have been affected by the suicide of a loved one.

We will hold assemblies for all students in order to reinforce the need for them to seek help, counselling, and above all, to communicate to others any feelings of depression, sadness, anger, feeling overwhelmed, or having dark thoughts.

A night for parents

and all in our community is being organized for the second or third week in October, and once details are finalized, the dates and time will be announced very publicly.

As a community we must do all that we can to support our young people, to help them, to support them, and to listen to them.

Our most recent literacy and numeracy scores, a snapshot of students' achievement on a given day, have fallen, and we are making a renewed effort to improve our student's performance on these, and in their overall credit accumulation.

We have the highest graduation rate of any school in the Thames Valley District School Board (tied with Medway 95 per cent!) and have welcomed back several students this fall who had left school, but who have now returned to try to complete their education.

We offer credit recovery classes, alternative education classes, and the

Board offers a Re-Connect program once a week at the WECHC for students who have dropped out, trying to assist them to get some credits, as a means of making the transition back into the regular school so that they can succeed.

Our student success program, in its second year, will encourage students who are not experiencing success, to renew their efforts to compete homework and assignments, and to pass their courses.

Our Work Internship program, our WEST program, for those students who will be going directly to work from school, has its highest enrollment ever, and we are so grateful to the employers in our community who have taken on the important role of giving these young people real world experiences in the workplace.

Funding is still a huge issue with this program, as we have built it beyond the scope of any funding provided by the Ministry or the

Board, to ensure our students' success in an area where the geography and distances covered getting these students to and from their workplaces is vast.

I will once again appeal for the community and service clubs to support the WEST program by donating funds to WESS.

Please seriously consider supporting this program, as our youth are our future, and we want these young people to become hard-working citizens who contribute to their community in meaningful ways, having



Set design

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Painting the walls of the Clam Cove Inn are Ben Hyatt, Sarah McCallum, Dan Salgado and Kyle Kuska. The Inn is the setting for Touchtone M for Murder the West Elgin Drama Class production June 8 and 9.

Year-end show a murder mystery

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Touchtone M for Murder, the final theatre production of the year at West Elgin Secondary School goes Friday and Saturday.

The audience participation mystery takes place at Clam Cove Inn Island Resort where Sam Slade a rather inept detective played by Brendan Carey comes to find his girlfriend Lila Dean (Coryan Baron).

She comes to the Inn to introduce her recipe for fried clams to Colonel Horace Clamskey (Phil Oulette) owner of the Crazy for Clams chain of restaurants.

He's accompanied by his adoring secretary Holly Holgrave (Lauren Vergeer), his spoiled niece Caroline Clamskey (Caroline Levesley) and her doting cowboy suitor Tex Dayton (Jarret Carder).

Adding to the fun is Clamskey's spinster sister Verna (Nadia Kelman) and his irritating cousin Calvin Cobb (Ben Hyatt).

Slade finds his girlfriend but also stumbles upon the murder of the Colonel.

Motives are discovered among the many guests. Who could it be?

The Wiltons, with their obnoxious children? Mr. and Mrs. Wilton (Shawn Sabo and Caitlin VanRaes), Rodney and Randy Wilton (Shawn Zimmerman, Josh MacDonald).

Is it the bird-watching widow (Erin Sheedy), an eccentric New York cartoonist (Dan Salgado)?

Or could it be the Beaupree sisters, Faith, Hope and Charity, (Rachel Kovach, Steph Gash and Leah Hervoly) who manage the Inn left to them by their late father?

Sam Slade untangles this twisted plot of intrigue, with help from the

audience.

Directing the play is Jasmine Dick and Sarah McCallum. Producer is Kanda Ocolisan. Stage managing is Brandon DeGraw and Tasha Turnbull.

It's a heavy time for students with final projects and end-of-year exams but that hasn't stopped students from devoting time to the show.

"Students have taken on a heavy burden but when the tough gets going the tough get lifting," says drama professor Mike Lynds. "There's so much else going on at school these days."

But the students are pulling it all together.

"They're a really good group," says Lynds. "To put together two productions in five months; most amateur companies can't do that."

Both shows start at 7 p.m. June 8 and 9. Public is welcome.



Eco Friendly

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Jasmine Dick, WESS Environmental Club leader and Jeffrey Kosciak student council president gave news to West Elgin council that through an application process, the school received a Shell Canada Environmental Fund grant for \$2,000 to plant trees and flowers.



Battle of the Bands

GREG FREISINGER FOR THE CHRONICLE

8 O'clock Curfew, Derek Reno, drums, Norbert Kallai, singer, Chris Wemp, guitar, perform at West Elgin Secondary School Oct. 17 during a battle of the bands. The school and Kent Regional Alternative Ministries put on the event to introduce "Someone Cares". The program encourages youth to wear a sticker and promote helping each other and being there for each other.

Lots of drama at high school

By Bailey Lamon
WESS

WESS Drama is at it again! The senior drama class of West Elgin Secondary School are making preparations for their upcoming night of theatre performances...which will of course, be held for the community's enjoyment.

This night of fun will be held on Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. in the WESS cafeteria.

Tickets are only \$5 each including refreshments that will be provided for the audience. However, anyone wishing to make a donation to the drama department will be welcome to do so and will be greatly appreciated.

There will be a number of 15-20 minute plays directed by students in the class, including "Wanted: One Groom" directed by Lisi Hentz, and "Death of a Dead Guy" directed by Nadia Kelman. On top of that, a group of highly-gifted and funny students known as the "improv team" will also make an appearance.

This will be the first of many opportunities for the community to enjoy the dramatic presentations of WESS.



WESS show a success

By Bailey Lamon

As the school year comes to an end, the West Elgin Secondary School Drama department put on one last production for the community.

The senior Drama Class held two showings of Touch tone 'M' for Murder June 8 and 9.

Those who came to the performances had the opportunity to help Detective Sam Slade, (Brendan Carey) solve a mystery, a murder mystery in this case.

Audience members said who they thought committed the crime, which characters looked suspicious, and anything "fishy"

that was going on. The ending was a surprising one, and left everyone in shock after all of the suspense.

The production was a huge success and received great reactions from the audience. The plotline was funny, but because it was a murder mystery it evened out with a hint of seriousness. In other words, it was an excellent mix between comedy and tragedy.

The drama department looks forward to doing much more in the future. Audiences continue to support the student in what they love doing.

JUNE 07



Field hockey

JEFF KEMPENAR/THE CHRONICLE

The Wildcats' field hockey team is battling for second place this week. Here Jordan Emmett charges toward the North Middlesex net in action Oct. 10. The Wildcats won 2-0 with both goals scored by Emmett and assisted by Brittany Hein.



CONTRIBUTED

Champs

Left: Jason Ambrose and Robert Johnston Centre: Emily Varga and Stephanie Campbell. Right: Varga and Cole Schnekenburger. All A Champs.

WESES dominates badminton tournament

The West Elgin Senior Elementary School badminton team competed in the 10th Annual London Youth's Badminton Tournament at Carling Heights Optimist Centre May 5 and 6.

The previous three years, WESES had good success, but this year the Eagles dominated.

The tournament got started early Saturday with boys' doubles

action. In the 32-team draw, WESES had three entries (Robert Johnston and Jason Ambrose, Doug White and Cole Schnekenburger, Zach Dymock and Tyler Russell). The boys got off to a great start with all three teams winning their first games. Matches became tougher but the boys rose to the occasion. The unstoppable duo of Johnston and Ambrose won the 'A'

Championship.

The team of Schnekenburger and White also played great all day, losing only once, which allowed them to capture the 'C' Championship.

Not to be outdone, the girls also had three entries: (Emily Varga and Stephanie Campbell, Rae Hale and Caitlin Simpson, Kelsey McTavish and Kailyn Cedar).

Domination was the word, for two of the teams rolled through the tournament.

In the end, the 'A' Championship trophies, school plaque, and racquets went to the Varga/Campbell team for their superior play.

WESES, in fact, had two undefeated teams. Hale and Simpson captured the 'B' Championship.

The confusing part was that they should have been in the 'A' division because they had not lost (organizers made a mistake advancing the wrong team), so, in effect, they were champions as well.

On Sunday, WESES was represented by six very strong mixed doubles teams (Emily Varga and Cole Schnekenburger, Carlee O'Connor and Chris Ward, Jasmine Prince and Ryan Leys, Rob Roos and Nicole Durbridge, Alicia Lozon and Justin Lapadat, Jamee Ellis and Cody Winn).

It was a sea of purple on the eight courts, as at one point, all six of our teams were playing.

As the day progressed, it became clear that the WESES crew were the teams to beat.

Winning the 'D' Championship, with only one loss, were O'Connor and Ward. Taking fourth in the 'C' were Prince and Leys. 'B' division fourth place went to Durbridge and Roos. Finally, in the 'A' division, the WESES team of Varga and Schnekenburger won 15-4 and 17-16 in a thrilling climax to the tournament.

Coaches Mr. and Mrs. McLenaghan and Miss Ostrom were extremely proud of each and every player.



WEDS play starts this weekend

The cast of the new West Elgin Dramatics Society play, Rememberin' Stuff, rehearse a scene where a group of youth remember a classmate who died from an eating disorder. The new play, entirely casted by local youth, hits the stage for the first of six performances Friday.

JEFF KEMPENAR/THE CHRONICLE

All student WEDS production starts Friday

By Bailey Lamon

The West Elgin Dramatics Society is returning with another performance for the community, but this time with a whole new twist.

Rememberin' Stuff, an all student production is being perfected for it's upcoming performances this weekend and the next.

The Director is 18 year-old Dan Ranney,

an aspiring drama teacher who is in his last year at West Elgin Secondary School.

The cast and crew are made up of students in Grades 8 to 12, as well as the WEDS team who were committed and helpful throughout the process.

This play is simple, yet unique. It is about teenagers remembering past events in their lives and sharing their memories for a class assignment. It varies in seriousness, as some parts are happy and humourous

while others are sad and bitter.

Either way, it is a presentation that all can learn from and relate to.

Performances take place Nov. 23 and 24 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 25 at 2 p.m.

Also, Nov. 29, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at 8 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased by calling Shenanigans at 762-5662 or at the door.

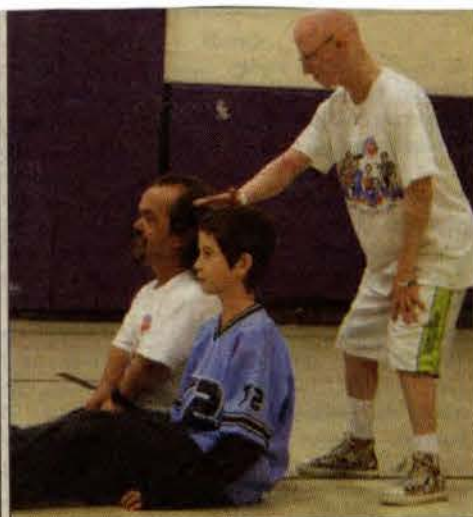
Warning: mature content, may not be suitable for young children. *Nov 22/07*



Matherena

Jeffrey Kosciak, second left and Ms. Sony Sethi, math teacher lead Jacob Willson, Ryan Leys and Cody Schaffer in the quadratic formula macerena at a Grade 8 open house at West Elgin Secondary School Jan. 18.

JEFF KEMPENAR/THE CHRONICLE



JEFF KEMPENAR/THE CHRONICLE

Optical illusion?

Farmer Pete and Johnny 5 of the Canadian Half Pints and Aldborough student Calvin Dowling demonstrate an optical illusion. Pete is a little person born with hereditary dwarfism which causes his arms and legs to be smaller than his torso. Sitting is the great equalizer said Pete. The Half Pints visited Dunwich-Dutton P.S., Aldborough P.S. and West Elgin Senior Elementary School delivering the message: "Bullying's not kool - keep it out of our schools." They also played basketball against students and teachers Oct. 25.





JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Once Upon a Turnip

Ann McDougall, dressed as a hedgehog, hides, amongst Aldborough Public School students during Once Upon a Turnip a Tinderbox Theatre production. The theatre group with former resident Charlene Carroll, played at APS and Dunwich-Dutton Public School Monday.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Science Fair at St. Mary's

St. Mary's Catholic School held its annual Science Fair Monday afternoon in the gymnasium. Left: Alex Sura demonstrates his and William Weeks' hover craft, which the two students made from a box and leaf blower. Above: Kristen Kovacs shows three house plants, exposed to cigarette smoke. The plants were put into a closed environment. One was exposed to cigarette smoke three times a day for three weeks, another two times a day and another was not exposed to smoke. The plant exposed more was obviously suffering the worst. The plant that was not exposed showed signs of being impacted by second-hand smoke, just by being placed next to the other plants, says Kovacs. This year, younger students were involved in the fair.



Learning about the news

Steve Down, Publisher of the Chronicle talks to Grade 6 students at St. Mary's Catholic School about newspapers during Education Week May 3.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE



SUBMITTED

Left: Jenna Ferencz (tara's aunt), middle, Sandy Ferencz (tara's grandma) with Tara Smith.

Local helps raise money for Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation

Tara Smith who attends Grade 7 at West Elgin Senior Elementary School took part in the CIBC 5 km Run For The Cure on Sept. 30 in London.

Tara found out in August that her grandmother has breast cancer and decided to register for the run just two days before it took place.

Through emails, a web page and by going door to door, her sponsors generously donated over \$600 to give to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

Tara is still gathering donations until the end of October.

Donations can be made by going to www.cibcrunfortheure.com and clicking on "donate to a participant" then enter "Tara Smith London" to view her web page and make a donation.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Theatre

The West Elgin Secondary School drama department has assembled several plays to be performed May 10 and 11. Left: Murdered Mystery - three ladies, Caroline Levesley (Jennifer), Leah Hervoly (Betty) and Lauren Vergeer (Lydia) fight for the affection of Josh MacDonald (Steve), striking jealousy in Dan Salgado (the Butler). Above: Phil Ouellet (Dr. Phil) and his wacky patients, Sarah McCallum (Rose, sleeping), Tasha Turnbull (Noah's wife) and Erin Sheedy (Lenore) in And you think you have problems.

Jazz band to accompany West Elgin Choir May 19

The West Elgin Choral Society, under the direction of Sharon Little, will present their annual Spring Concert at 7:30 p.m. May 19, at West Elgin Secondary School.

This Choral & Jazz event will have Sharon's trademark styling all over it, beginning with her featured guests, the George Laidlaw Quartet. The boys of Jazz will accompany the choir in their up-tempo numbers and also do a few danceable sets on their own.

Familiar tunes on the program include

classics such as Four Strong Winds and Yellow Bird.

There will be a big centre aisle where you can swing your partner if you are unable to sit still.

The big ending will feature Oscar Peterson's Hymn To Freedom, when the audience will be invited to join in. This will be a fun evening - guaranteed!

Tickets are available by calling 519-762-2882 or 519-762-2722. Tickets will be at the door, if available.

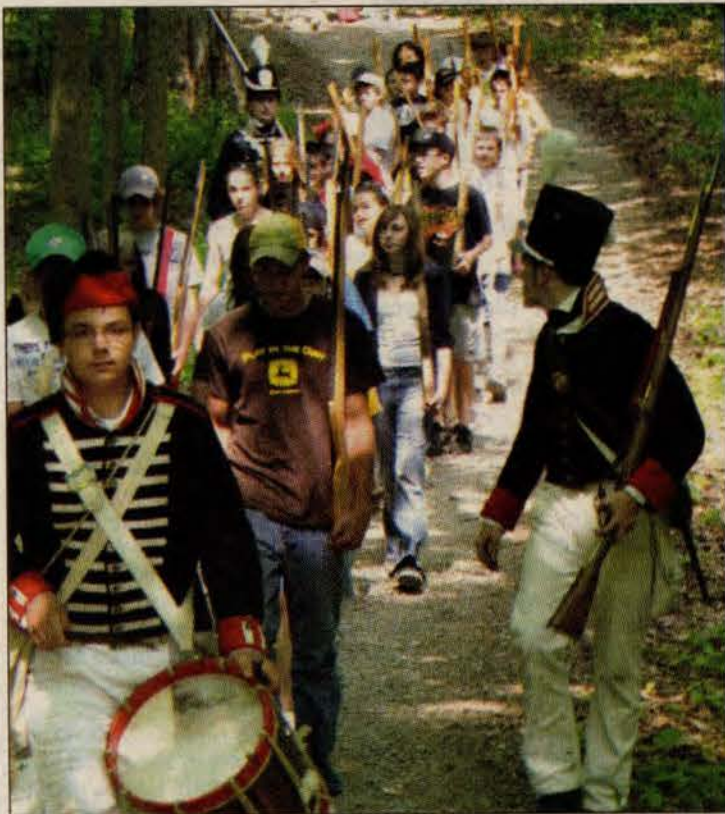


Hizzah!!

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Jonathan Herb from St. Thomas plays an American soldier from the U.S. 17th regiment as he leads West Elgin Senior Elementary School students through a mini-militia demonstration. About 500 Grade 3 and Grade 7 and 8 students from schools across the region were at Education Day at the Backus-Page House and John E. Pearce Park at Tyrconnell May 25. See more photos on page 9 from Education Day and the rest of the Living History and Nature Weekend.

History and nature



Left right left

Grade 7 and 8 students from West Elgin Senior Elementary School march to the drum on way to a cannon at Lake Erie during Education Day at the Backus Page House May 25. Grade 7s and 8s learned about the life of a 1812 soldier while Grade 3s learned about pioneer life.



Period clothing

Adding to the pioneer atmosphere, students dressed in period clothing as did St. Mary's students Cal Horvat, Josh Goos, Dan Barfett, Mitchell Noury, Emma McDonagh, Jessica Stacy and Jade and Raine Hindley.

PHOTOS BY JEFF KEMPENAAR



Terry Fox Run

St. Mary's Catholic School students ran laps around West Lorne Sept. 27 as part of the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope. While the total amount raised by students through pledges has yet to be organized, it's expected that last year's total of around \$3,500 has been exceeded by the approximately 176 students.

NICHOLAS FORD
CO-OP STUDENT
THE CHRONICLE

Student exchange taking girl to Peru

Nicole Hilliard will be jetsetting for Peru this week.

The 16-year-old West Lorne is leaving for a year-long exchange through Rotary International.

"I'm excited! It's going to be amazing," she said.

She starts her 8 hour flight from Toronto to Lima

Aug. 24, 5 p.m.

From there, she'll have to wait another six hours for a connecting flight to Arequipa, a large city in southern Peru, 633 miles from Lima.

Hundreds of people were killed after a magnitude-8.0 earthquake rocked a town halfway between Lima and Arequipa.

However, Nicole was told by her host father, the devastation had no impact on the area she will stay in.

Two years ago, Nicole's sister Kylie spent a year on exchange in Poland, also coordinated through Rotary in St. Thomas.

After her sister's experience and a desire to travel,

Nicole did all she could to get the exchange.

She's making a huge sacrifice though, she'll miss a year of school and have to repeat Grade 11 at West Elgin Secondary School when she returns.

"I'm disappointed that I don't get to graduate with all my friends," she said.

She has to pay for the flight, insurance and souvenirs on her own.

Her host family will cover the rest, including a uniform for school.

Nicole will attend *Colegio Internacional*, along with three other exchange students from the U.S.

Her host brother will come back with another family.



Off to Peru

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Nicole Hilliard leaves for a student exchange to Peru Friday.

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In the same time zone, though, the school starts its two month summer break in December.

During that time, Nicole will be travelling around Peru, including trips to the jungle and the Inca Trail.

Peru was second on her list after Australia, wanting to learn Spanish.

"It's a cool language," she said.

She hopes to spiral the experience into skills to be used for a future career.

In preparation,

Nicole's been reading lots about Peru and taking Spanish courses at night.

"I'm going to miss my family and friends and I'm going to miss my cat," she said, adding she'll be home next July.

WESS athletics awards handed out at banquet

By Meegan Campbell
West Elgin S.S. Athletics
West Elgin Secondary School held their annual athletic banquet and awards night May 30.

More than 130 athletes, coaches, parents, and fans packed the gym for a night of recognition and celebration.

As with last year, the banquet was a dessert affair, with a special cake created by Ann Wrobel.

Things were really heating inside the gym, but the night was shortened a bit by printing each team's results in the program and by the amazing slide show created by Katie McIntyre and teacher Dave Burke. The slides showed pictures of each team and many of the athletes during competitions.

After the team awards were wrapped up, seven special awards were presented.

Debbie Levesley won Junior Female Athlete of the Year for her outstanding showings in basketball, volleyball, track, and soccer.

Will Feere won Junior Male Athlete of the Year for his achievement in football, basketball, and track and field. He added other awards to his collection including Junior Boys Basketball MVP and Junior Badminton MVP.

Will also had an exceptional showing at the OFSAA Regionals last weekend, placing 9th.

Katie McIntyre (outgoing Student Athletics Association co-president) won Senior Female Athlete of the Year for her dedication and skill in volleyball, soccer, and tennis.

Katie also won Most Sportsmanlike Player for Sr. Girls Volleyball and MVP for Varsity Girls Soccer.

Mike Lyons won Sr. Male Athlete of the Year for the second year in a row. He also won MVP for Sr. Boys Volleyball and the St. Thomas Soccer Club Soccer Award.

The Heart and Hustle Awards for outstanding athletic achievement and school involvement went to Katie McIntyre and Kris Oliveira.

Kris also won the Team Award for Varsity Boys Soccer. We thank them for all they've done for WESS over the past five years.

Laura Ford won the Optimist Club of West Lorne Award for a deserving female student-athlete. She was also named Most Sportsmanlike Player on the Sr. Girls Basketball team.

This year we had a girls hockey team for the first time in WESS history!

Laura McKnight and Ken Shine made that dream a reality.

Our SAA. We will miss Katie McIntyre, Kris Oliveira, and Brittany Jewell a great deal next year. Their dedication and enthusiasm was really appreciated.

The Varsity Boys Soccer team was away in Barrie at OFSAA over the weekend and up until Tuesday, so we wished them a Gold time!

Emma Wilkins performed very well at the OFSAA Regionals track and field meet on the weekend.

All of our dedicated coaches and fans made this year another great year for Wildcat athletics!

Good luck to all graduating athletes.

Jesse Owens said, "Friendships born on the field of athletic strife are the real gold of competition. Awards become corroded, friends gather no dust" and with that thought, we'll see you on the court, field, or ice next season!



Carnaval

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Alyssa Paiva tries to pop a balloon during a relay race at St. Mary's Catholic School where winter Carnival was celebrated Feb. 16. Grade 6 students designed the events, Grade 7s led the teams and Grade 8s organized the event which was delayed a week due too cold of weather.