



West Elgin Sports Centre

188 Main St. • West Lorne

768-0606

Team Uniforms
Trophies & Awards
Casual Wear

Mon. to Thurs. 9-6
Fri. 9-8
Sat. 9-5



Eagles Flyin' High

Not only did WESES play host to a boys elementary volleyball recently, they also took the gold medal as the top team on the day. Sponsored by the West Lorne Optimist and Celtic Sports and Arts Camp, the WESES Eagles, behind the coaching of Donna Baran, defeated Arthur Ford Public School out of London for the championship. It was a well-deserved medal for each team member who played hard every game.

Wildcat Sport Shorts



By
Meghan
Bell

Hi, my name is Meghan Bell. I am junior intramural executive for the Student Athletic Association (SAA) at WESS.

Fall sports are slowly winding down with the senior girls

basketball team's season ending. Their last game against Arthur Voaden ended in a 28-21 loss despite strong play from the girls. Great season girls!

This past week WESS hosted

the boys WOSSA volleyball tournament. The senior boys played on Friday while the junior squad took to the gym on Saturday.

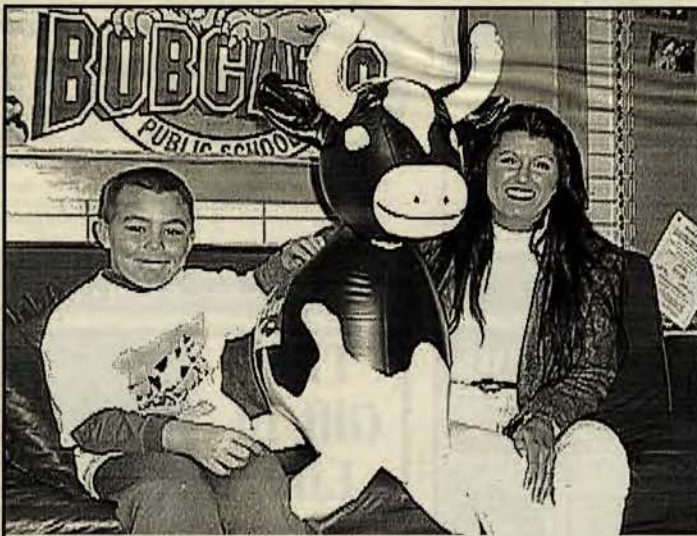
We'll let you know next week how our teams finished.

The winter sports have begun. Boys hockey and senior and junior boys basketball tryouts are currently being held. Tryouts for senior, junior and midget girls volleyball are also being held.

Curling has also started. This sport has not been played at WESS for many years now and has been eagerly welcomed back.

And last, but definitely not least...Spirit Wear! These great school favourites include sweatshirts, dazzel shorts, sweatpants, hats and tearaways. Any of these pieces would be a welcome gift on Christmas day.

For more information or to order contact any SAA member or Ms. Clinton at 768-1350.



Utterly Fantastic

The students of Aldborough Public School were cow crazy last week as they took part in the "Name the Cow" contest put on by the Aldborough Volunteer Parents Association (AVPA). Sponsored by the Ontario Dairy Farmers of Ontario, their yearly program offers a number of contests and activities for Ontario school children. Out of all the submissions, Grade 2 student Randy Ossel took top honours by naming the cow "Cayla." Here, Ossel poses with Cayla the blown up cow, which will hang in his class, and AVPA milk and juice coordinator Andrea Fordham.

DEC 20, 1999

The West Elgin Chronicle



A Gift of Music

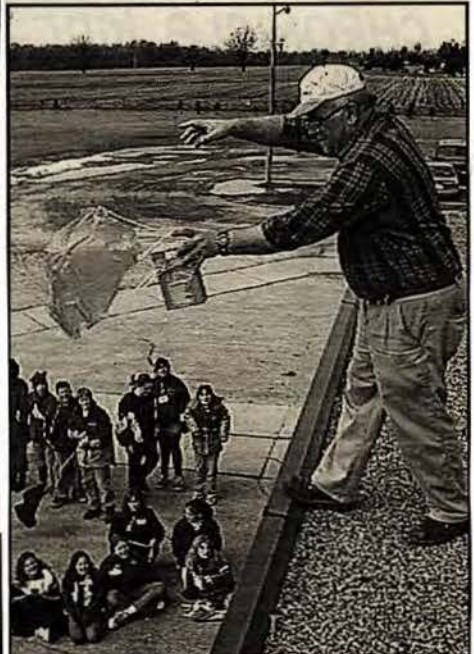
They may be small in stature but the Junior Kindergarten class at West Elgin Senior Elementary School definitely know how to belt out the Christmas tunes. The students put on a pair of performances last week for family, friends and fellow students as they presented "A Gift of Music." Everything from 'Must Be Santa' and 'Five Bells' to the classic Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer, the students had hands clapping and feet tapping. In top photo, Hassan Jabara, left, and Anna Kelly use a few dance moves to get their point across. In photo at left, Cole Kirschner, left and Dylan Painter get into their roles as reindeer.



All That Jazz!

The West Elgin Senior Elementary School Jazz Band are enjoying the sweet sounds of gold after competing in the Southwest Regionals of Music Fest Canada in London March 3. It was the band's first experience at such a festival and impressed the adjudicators so much that they received the Gold Standing Award, the festival's top honour. At left, teacher/conductor Tom Pietrangelo, WESES principal June Harkness and West Lorne Optimist Club President Don Boos share a moment with the band, including Jonathon Fleming, Andrew Schneider, Jen Pinder, Becky Kosciak, Shannon Kindernay, Donovan Boyd, Erin Smith, Amy Denomme, Scott Bray, Ian Molnar, Matt Mistele, Donald Drummelsmith and Laura Park. The local Optimist Club provided transportation and support for the band's trip to London. The band has now been invited to the national finals of Music Fest in Toronto this May where more than 10,000 musicians will be competing.

APR 5, 1999 The West Elgin Chronicle



Eggs Away!

The Grade 6 class at Aldborough Public School recently finished up a study on space and decided to celebrate by tossing a few raw eggs off the roof of the school. Actually, there was a good reason behind this activity. The students were required to make a contraption that would be able to absorb the fall from the roof without breaking the egg. It was to simulate what astronauts used to go through when landing after a mission. Everything from shoeboxes to ice cream containers were padded to absorb the fall and the parachutes ranged from plastics bags to balloons and umbrellas. Here, school custodian Jim McDonald launches a few of the projects from the roof of the school, much to the delight of Grade 1 student Jesse Sherriff, who cheered every egg that survived the fall. The other grades were invited to watch the launches.

WOSAA Champs!

MAR. 1999



No matter which way you line them up, the West Elgin Secondary School Wildcats Junior Girls Volleyball team are tops. The squad marched their way to the Elgin County championship, followed that up with the Elgin-Oxford title, and last week wrapped up a wonderfully successful year by defeating Dorchester in two straight games for the top spot at WOSAA. The team is made up of Melissa Couper, Natalie Ford, Laura Jones, Joanne Knowles, Janet Littlejohn, Amy Mezenberg, Julie Moreau, Alison Murray, Catherine Schneider, Carrie Slaats, Gilleanne Trudell, Nicole Webber, Kelly Welch (head coach), Kim Beattie (asst. coach) and Christopher McCready (team manager.)



Knapp shares views on school violence with Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Paul Mayne
The Chronicle

Politics has always intrigued Marsha Knapp and that interest was hit full force with her trip to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

And not only did the 17-year-old West Lorne resident make it into the building, she was one of 130 students from across Ontario who actually got to sit among the MPPs as opposed to sitting in the audience.

Knapp and three fellow St. Joseph's High School students (Max Kemmerling, Nathan Hambly and Rita Mennil) took part in the first ever Ontario Student Conference on Human Rights, an offshoot of a similar American conference which began last year.

"It was pretty cool," says an excited Knapp, whose trip was paid through her high school. "I'm interested in politics, so to go to the Legislature...and then to be part of the process."

A total of 130 elementary and secondary students from across the province took part in the two-day conference which brought the students together to discuss, and find solutions to, problems us in everyday life.

Students attending were required to write an essay on one of three topics: Racism, Water Pollution or Drugs and Violence in Schools.

Knapp chose the latter topic. Her essay on school violence, which ironically was done well before the recent tragedies in Colorado and Alberta, was picked as one of the top essays among all in attendance.

When attending the Legislature, Knapp read her essay to the members.

"It was exciting because we had to do it by legislative rules," she says. "You had to raise your hand with a note that a page would then pick up and then your were recognized by the chair...it was great."

Knapp says she learned a lot from her experience. She met a number of students from across the province that all share the same basic interests - how to



Marsha Knapp

make our communities a better place to live.

"We discussed a variety of topics and worked on a number of solutions," she says. "We felt that it was important that everyone be awarded basic human rights and that everyone has the ability to participate in their community."

Knapp hopes to follow up on her recent experience with a trip to New York in September. The Ontario students has been invited to a follow-up meeting with students from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Conference that was held in New York late last year.

For more information on future conferences, contact organizers Stacey and Kevin LePage at (705)444-6165 or you can email them lepages@bconnex.net.

The following is the essay written by Knapp and read at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Violence in Canadian schools has become more serious. The past ten years have seen a great change. The number of youth charged with crimes involving violence across Canada rose by 14% (18,919 to 21,656) between 1991 and 1994. However, 22% of all violent crimes occurred in schools (Vanier).

When a parent takes their children to school each morning, they entrust the educators to make sure their child will be "...in a safe, healthy, and happy academic environment void of taunting, teasing, racism, and various physical forms of aggression, particularly bullying. (Smith, Hamilton Spectator).

The reason for an individual's violence or lack of depends on one's environment, history, upbringing, examples, values, evolution and personal choice (Hemsworth, Hamilton Spectator).

By the time the average boy or girl graduates from elementary school, they will have seen 8,000 murders (visual media). On average they will have seen 100,000 different acts of violence. By the time they graduate from high school, they will have seen 16,000 televised shootings and overall 300,000 acts of violence.

These shuddering statistics are from Dr. Peter Jaffe of the London Family Court Clinic. Children and adults alike are becoming desensitized to violence throughout the media which ties into our imaginations and conscience. Youngsters do not understand the impact of their actions they are carrying out.

The solution is a complicated one, if it were not we would have had one by now. Particular subjects: ethics, racism, drugs, and life skills, should be talked about earlier, with more emphasis on random acts of kindness.

In high schools, there should be a buddy system where seniors look over our Grade 9s.

Whatever the solution, order to make people aware of this increase of violence, issue needs to be addressed in our schools.

The West Elgin Chronicle



Senior Stories

Seniors have always played a vital role in West Elgin and the students at WESES are looking to document their many stories in an upcoming book. In celebration of the International Year of Older Persons, WESES has received a government grant to put together a book of stories from local seniors. Students recently concluded the initial interview process and will now work on writing their stories. Approximately 30-35 stories, along with photos, are planned for the 100 page book. The book will be unveiled at a June 18 dinner. Here, WESES students Kyle Switzer, left, and Matt Mistele chat with West Elgin senior Keith Kelly.



School Anyone?

SEPT. 4/99

The new school year gets underway this Tuesday and are students were busy shopping last week to pick a few school supplies. Here, 13 year-old Nadine Lewis of Wallacetown is loaded down with new supplies as she shops at U-Need-A-Discount in West Lorne. She plans to begin her Grade 8 year at West Elgin Senior Elementary School.



Painting on Christmas cheer

The Grade 10 art students from WESS made their way downtown West Lorne last week with paint brushes in hand to spread a little Christmas cheer. Each year the students show off their skills by painting Christmas decorations on the windows of local merchants free of charge. Here Jodi Thompson, left, and Jennifer Cowell work on the window at Paul Gangle Insurance. DEC. 6, 1999



High School Lends Helping Hand

The students of West Elgin Secondary School have once again shown their true Christmas spirit in completing their annual 'Gift For Gobble' fund-raiser. The money raised through donations from the students will go to the Daffodil Society to help less fortunate families this holiday season. Here, the OAC chemistry class, the top homeroom fund-raiser, present a cheque for \$2,779.60 to Daffodil Society representative Helen Mooser. Mr. Sydor's homeroom was a close second. DEC. 1999



Now Hear This...

WESS music program students are looking for caring community members who are willing to adopt them...their instruments, that is. The music department, led by Spiro Grima, have initiated an Adopt-An-Instrument program to help raise funds to keep the more than 100 brass and percussion instruments in tiptop shape. Here, OAC student Lisa Smith trumpets what she hopes will be a successful fund-raiser. See story Page 7.s



Music Night

The halls of West Elgin Secondary School were filled with the sounds of music last week as a number of local schools came together to display their vocal and instrumental talents. Here, David McWilliam (Dutton-Dunwich P. S.), front left, Bill Nunes (Aldborough P. S.), Craig Watterworth (Aldborough P. S.), back left, Jasmine Doan (Aldborough P. S.) and Stephanie Everett (Dutton-Dunwich P. S.) ham it up prior to the concert.

MAY 31, 1999

Busy week ahead for WESES students

By Craig Hoglund

The pupils and staff once again are engaging in many summer related activities.

The jazz band's performance in Toronto was exceptional as they achieved a silver medal standard throughout Canada. The students and staff would like to say: Way to Go!

On Tuesday (June 1), Track and Field Day will be held for many competitive students. We invite community members to cheer on the local athletes.

A Carnival Day for the Grade 8 students is being held this Wednesday (June 2) at WESS. We would like to thank the WESS Student Council for organizing this. Admission will be \$5.

A lesson for the proper and formal usage to write a resume will be held on June 8 to aid the Grade 7 and 8 students finding part-time jobs.

On June 9, a Junior Achievement Day, "Economics of a Good Education" will be hosted for the students to learn of their career opportunities. Presenting this will be local businessmen.

The students will be taking a break from their everyday studies to compete in a baseball tournament held June 18. This is a

follow-up of the ongoing Grade 8 league.

Just a reminder of the upcoming Cinderella play for

those of you who want to view the talented local youth actors and actresses. The dates will be posted in next week's Chronicle.

November 1, 1999 - Page 9



Stop the Violence

The Thames Valley District School Board is once again in the midst of another major violence prevention initiative that uses drama as a catalyst for helping students talk openly about violence. The program is being presented by students from Medway High School in Aylmer. The performance of 'Forum Theatre' came to WESS last week and involved interactive performances between the players and the WESS students, who were allowed to join the performance at any time to act as problem solvers. Here Grade 10 WESS student Sara McCallum, left, performs a scene with Grade 11 Medway student Clay Pearn.

Ferrara takes over WESES helm

By Iggy Ferrara

I trust everyone is having an enjoyable summer. My name is Iggy Ferrara and I am the incoming principal at WESES. My wife, Susan, and I reside in London with our two children, Jonathan and Ryan.

Before coming to West Lorne, I was vice-principal in schools in Woodstock, Hickson and most recently in London.

As the new principal at WESES, I am excited about the new experiences and challenges I will enjoy in my new position. I am eager to meet my new students, parents and other members of the community.



Iggy Ferrara

I have already received several positive comments from people who learned about my transfer to the school. Without fail, they mentioned the industrious and responsible character of the students, the supportive community and committed teachers. These three ingredients certainly point to a winning combination.

The school has received repairs during the summer, as well as a partial new roof. Thanks to the board's maintenance department for their efforts in this area.

The staff have also been in and

out throughout the summer to spruce things up in their classrooms. Their effort is greatly appreciated. A big welcome to Beth Peternel and Christine Huybers, who will join me as new faces at the school.

The school will be open Aug. 30 to Sept. 3 if parents or students need to contact us for anything. As you know, classes will begin on Sept. 7.

We will also be continuing with the WESES News each week in the Chronicle. It's a great way to keep everyone informed about school life at WESES.

I do hope I can meet many of you personally during the year.

2001 Student Wins Music Camp Registration

Jonathan Peternel, a grade 8 student at WESES, has been attending National Music Camp of Canada at the end of August for the past two summers. This year, as part of the camp's early registration promotion program, his name was drawn to win free registration to camp.

Jonathan plays the alto and baritone sax. He also takes piano lessons with Sharon Little. It was while he was taking sax lessons from Little that he first heard about the camp. It didn't take much encouragement for him to sign up the first year.

For the first two years, he participated in the Band program and has played in the jazz band as an elective. This year, Little has encouraged him to sign up for the Intermediate Jazz program, for grade 7 & 8 students.

"He has a natural feel for jazz and improvisation," says Little.

"The Intermediate Jazz program helps younger students, whether they have jazz experience or not, to learn the basics of jazz playing. He's going to love it."

Several other West Elgin area students have attended NMC. Nearly all have been or are students of Little. Mike Miller will be attending for his third year, playing trumpet in the Band program. Scott Bray plays trombone and will be at camp for his third year. Because of his camp experience, he has been able to audition successfully for the London Youth Symphony. Aimee Champigny has loved camp so much that she's applying for a music staff position. Michaela McCready, a percussionist was a camper for a year and was on staff last year.

National Music Camp is located on the shores of Lake Couchiching, near Orillia, and has been operating for 35 years. Little was a camper there in the early 70's and has been working there since 1978. She currently hires the high school and university students who work with the teaching faculty. She can't imagine a summer without the camp. "It's like family," she says. "Watching the incredible amount that the kids learn in a week is a thrill."

For grade 4-8 students at the Junior division there is Band/Orchestra, Suzuki strings, Beginning Band, Beginning and Advanced Acoustic and Classical Guitar, and Music Theatre. At the high school camp, for students finishing grade 8-OAC, there is Band/Orchestra, Beginning and Advanced Acoustic and Classical Guitar, Music Theatre, Instrumental and Vocal Jazz.

Applications are still being accepted. Interested families can call Sharon Little at 785-0797 for an application or the camp office at 1-800-701-3132. There are some full and partial scholarships available on a first come, first served basis. Call the camp office for scholarship information or check out the web site at www.nationalmusiccamp.com.



Who's ready for six more weeks of winter?

According to Wee Willie in Warton, and Punxsutawney Phil (his U. S. counterpart) there will be six more weeks of winter weather. The prognosticating pair both saw their shadows, which brought geers from the adults and cheers from the children. Here, WESES Junior Kindergarten student Anna Kelly is more than prepared to survive what winter has to dish out. Anna was spotted at the Miller Park playground for phys. ed. class. FEB 7 2000



Prom Time

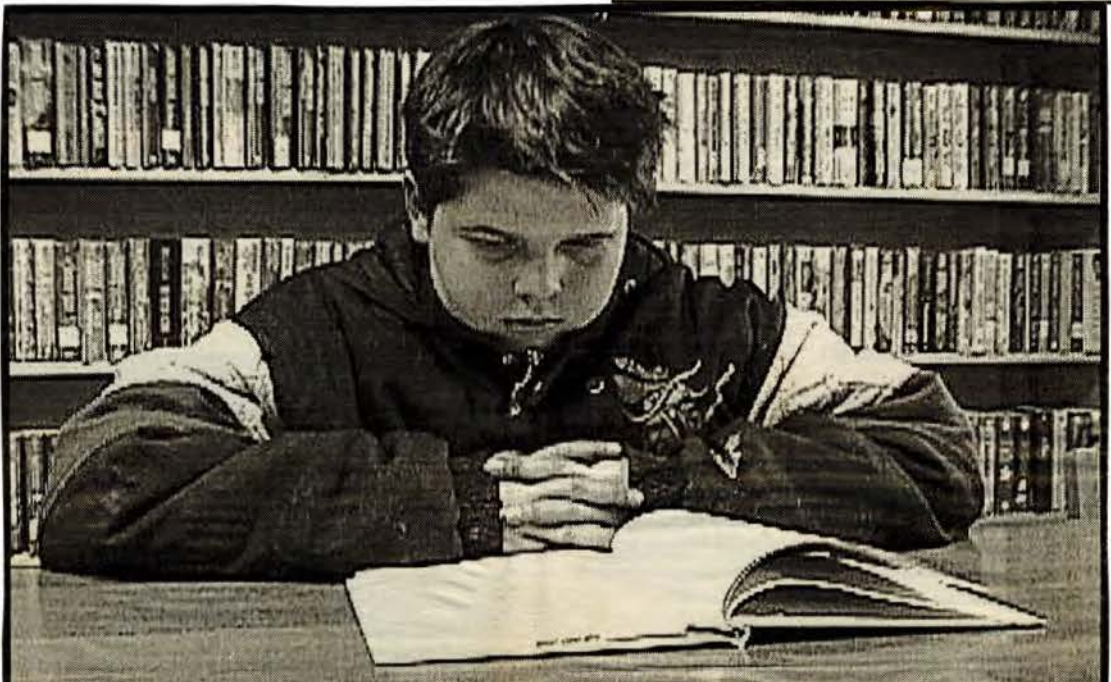
The tuxedos were pressed and the gowns flowed as students at WESS enjoyed a great night at this year's senior prom. Crowned this year were Sarah Hentz (Queen), left, Brad McCreedy (King), Bryan Dupuis (Prince) and Donna McKillop (Princess).

JUNE 12 2000 Photo by Karen Cormier



Helping United Way

The students at WESS have once again dug deep to help support the Elgin-St. Thomas United Way and pitched-in their nickels and dimes to come up with \$500 to help support community programs. Here, WESS Student Council President Stuart Murray presents the cheque to Judy Thorner, Education Chairman for the United Way. In back from left are student council representatives Jeremy Karn, Kelly McGill, Nicole Loeters and staff advisor Jim Ryan. FEB 21 2000



Bookworm!

The Christmas break was extended a week for local school kids due to potential Y2K problems, so students had time to kill before heading back to school. Here, 12 year-old Sean Swick took advantage of this free time by getting a headstart on his reading assignments for the upcoming school year, which begins today (Jan. 10). 2000



Sterling Silver!

For about the fourth time in five years, the West Elgin Secondary School Senior Girls' Volleyball team brought home hardware from the OFSAA 'A' championships. Proudly displaying their silver medals are team members Kelly Azevedo, Mallory Peternel, Tina Boyd, Joanne Knowles, Nicole Webber, Roberta Ford, Amy Coates, Amy Mezenberg, Terri Schnekeburger and coaches Mike Buttinger, Ann Wrobel, Jamie Peacock and Paul Gallant. Absent were Laura Jones, Nicole Myslik and coach Dale Peacock. MAR/00



West Elgin Senior Elementary School sent 16 qualifiers to a June 11 track meet at University of Western Ontario. The WESES team was back row: coach Krista Price, Phil Ouellette, Tyler Gowanloc, Lindsay Lamb, Kory Timmermans, Laura Ford, Tyler Wood, Jordan Shine, and coach Dean McLenaghan. Front row: Amanda Pelcz, Tracy Donaldson, Ashley Willie, Jaime Hale, Katie McIntyre and Jessica Kalita. Absent is: Dustin Drulliard, Erica McDowell and Jon Dietrich. Jaime Hale had the strongest showing (3rd 800m & 4th 1500m).



Visiting Minister

The students at WESS were visited by the Honourable Don Boudria recently as he was a guest of Elgin-Middlesex-London MP Gar Knutson. Boudria, the Government House Leader, spoke to the students on the importance of an education. Boudria was a high school dropout and just recently worked towards a university degree while a member of parliament. MAY 8, 2000

WESES students in a rush to raise money for cancer research

By Amanda Leonardes, Sarah Woolsey and Rachel Van de Vooren

Since 1989, WESES has been involved with hosting a Terry Fox Run to raise money for the Terry Fox Foundation, which uses the money to fund research into finding a cure for cancer.

This year, the run will be September 27 during the afternoon. The run covers a distance of six kilometres and can be walked or run by the participants.

In 11 years, WESES has raised more than \$32,000 for research and it is hoped that this year's event will boost that amount even further.

Volleyball tryouts for both girls and boys started last Tuesday and Wednesday. The girls coach will be Mr. Lawrence and Miss Price. The boys will be coached by Mr. Peacock and Mrs. Ostrom.

Many of the boys and girls

participated in the soccer tryouts last Tuesday. Mr. Raffa was holding tryouts for the boys, while Mr. Cobban held tryouts for the girls. Once the teams are set the first soccer game will be in Aylmer.

The Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit will be at WESES on September 25 to offer the Hepatitis B vaccine to Grade 7 students. If you have any questions regarding the program, call the

health unit at 1-800-922-0096.

The Thames Valley District School Board would like to remind drivers of the need to exercise caution as children of all ages head back and forth to school each day. Remember, you must stop at least 20 metres behind the bus when the lights are flashing.

In recognition of the major curriculum reform initiatives across the province, and given the continuing emphasis on the need for staff training and development, the board has approved three early dismissal days (Sept. 27, Mar. 1 and Apr. 4). Parents are reminded that students will be dismissed an hour early (2:25 p.m.) on these days. On the first day, the teachers will

work on 'Goal Setting', 'Staff Supervision' and 'Choices into Action'.

The book fair is back with bigger and better books. Students are able to visit the book fair during lunch hour and scheduled times with their class. It will be at our school beginning tomorrow until the end of the week. It will also be open Tuesday night from 5 until 7 p.m.

The student council election will be held in the WESES pit this Friday. Grade 8 students will be running for president and vice-president, but the Grade 7s can only be elected for secretary, treasurer and student representatives. 'Parent/Teacher Night' is scheduled for this Tuesday from 5 to 7 p.m. 3/6

The West Elgin Chronicle

Movin' On

The end of the school year means some local schools will be saying goodbye to a handful of teachers as they venture on to new schools or prepare for retirement. Leaving WESES are Christine Huybers (Lord Elgin P.S.), Jeremie Roselle (Chippewa P.S.), Donna Baran (Forest Park/Mary Bucke P.S.), Carolyn Willie (undetermined) and Kim Grimminck (undetermined). Also saying goodbye are:



Aldborough P.S. - Natalie Temple (Locke's P.S.) and Wendy Masciotra (White Oaks P.S.).



Dutton-Dunwich P.S. - Tammy Bakker (Ottawa), Rob Mailhot (Scott St. School), Rick Wood (Lester B. Pearson School) and Deanne Cole (retiring).

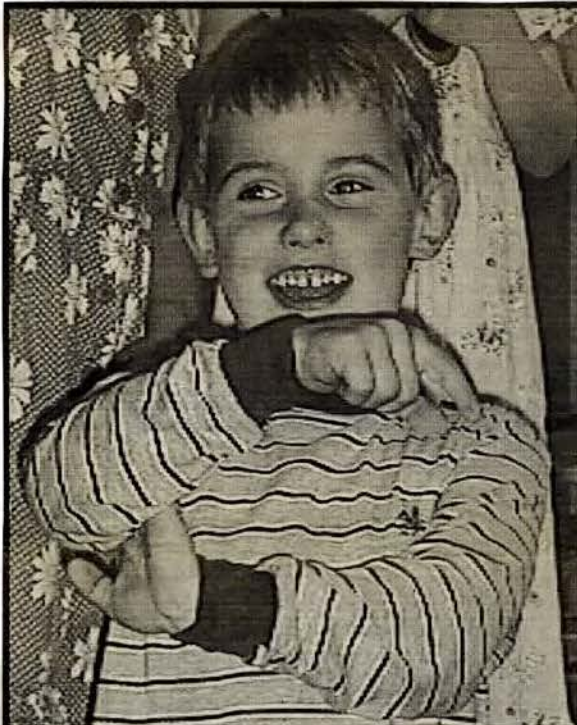


WESS - Back row is Kathy Lougheed (retiring) and James May (retiring). Front row is Tina Chapman (Oakridge), Meegan Campbell (undetermined) and Elaine Back (Medway).



St. Mary's School - Seated is Tracey Ruetz (maternity leave), Theresa St. Pierre (retiring) and Linda Van Raay (undetermined). Standing is Marianne DeSando (undetermined) and Rachel O'hagan (Jean Vanier).

JULY 3, 2000



Skinnamarinkin' at WESES

The voices of the Junior Kindergarten students at WESES were booming throughout the halls last week as students attended a Grandparent's Tea. Here, Lyle Groniger had no problem following along with the Skinnamarink song. **JUNE 12, 2000**

Page 16 - May 15, 2000



Millennium Maple

Schools throughout the Thames Valley District were each given and encouraged to plant a Silver Maple tree in front of their schools to mark the new millennium. And that's just what the students at WESES did last week with the assistance of West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail. Here, McPhail receives a helping hand from kindergarten students Cody Welsh, left, and Jacob Reimer.



Silver Swingers

It was a great weekend recently for the WESES Jazz Band as they returned home from MusicFest Canada in Toronto with a silver medal in the instrumental jazz division. The competition involves thousands of students from across Canada.

MAY 29/00

JUNE 5, 2000

The West Elgin Chronicle



WOSSA Champs!

The West Elgin Wildcats Junior Girls Volleyball team has quite the successful year. Not only did they take the Thames Valley 'A' title, they also showed off their skills recently at the WOSSA championships in Glencoe. The girls came away with the overall title, sweeping Centre Desloges de London in two straight games. The Wildcats are made up of Alison Murray, Lindsey Hull, Katie Cormier, Cheri Hunter, Mallory Paternal, Janet Littlejohn, Jodi Thompson, Laura Jones, Justina Campbell, Nicole Myslik, Roberta Ford, Julie Moreau, Nellie Oliveira, Carolyn Tunks and Ana Oliveira. Coaches are Kelly Welch, Kim Beattie and manager is Brad Seed.

MAR. 13/00

Photo by Karen Cormier



WESS Student Council President Stuart Murray, left, receives information from Summer Job Services program provincial coordinator Jenifer Duin and summer employment officer Ross Pryde before signing up for the program. You can call 768-0020 for more information.



Down & Dirty

It may simply look like a bunch of red begonias and white alyssums now, but give it a couple of weeks and you'll have yourself a Canadian flag. The Grade 10 students of Mr. Walter's horticultural class took time out to do some planting in the flower bed located near the railroad tracks in West Lorne. The students will also be making a much larger Canadian flag at the West Elgin Arena shortly. Here, WESS student Karl Robinson lines up one of the begonias in the flag.

JUNE 5, 2000



Takin' It To The Streets

When you want to get your message across the best way to do it is by hitting the pavement. That's just what a group of approximately 50 students from WESS and WESES did last Thursday and Friday as they expressed their dislike over the provincial government's potential changes to the education system, including Bill 74 which would make extracurricular activities mandatory for teachers.

JUNE