



by Alan Youngash, Athletic Director

Our Junior Boys' Volleyball Squad proved their metal in Thames Valley last week as they took on all corners and ended up #1... Congratulations to the Team and to Coach Mike VanDyke. During the current week they have a shot at the "AA" and the "AAA" Champions in Thames Valley and on Saturday November 17 defended their position in Mitchell. More on this next issue. Our Senior Boys' vied for top honours on Nov. 16 in Mitchell and our Lady Hoopsters were back on the court during this week. Football has wrapped up after our Senior Team got a lesson in acceleration from EESS and our Juniors lost a heartbreaking 12-7 decision to Westminster. Hockey Tryouts continue with the season opener scheduled for November 27 on our home ice. Boys' Basketball, Girls Volleyball and Curling Volunteer would still be appreciated by yours truly and I can be reached at the High School at 768-1350.

It is interesting that the Hockey Season sees a return to County Play... I guess the big City is sick of having to travel out to the Wild West. It will be nice to have an opportunity to relive those days to travel out to the Wild West. Oh well, it will be nice to have an opportunity to relive those days of yesteryear when simplicity and open communications were a given. We needed a schedule change in Hockey to accommodate our exam schedule and this was done within 24 hours. With the Big Machine of TVRAA it would take 24 hours just to fill out the paperwork.

Lori Clinton is our Head of Physical Education and the upcoming Coach of Senior Girls Volleyball... a very promising team, watch this one!!! She is a graduate of my old Alma Mater of 24 years, AVSS in St. Thomas. Her family are long-time Elgin County Dairy Farmers and her eldest brother, David, is currently active in the operation with her Dad and Mom, Gary and Dawn. Sister, Teresa is a Physiotherapist and brother Brad, of St. Thomas Stars fame, is working and currently on the soon-to-be-married

list.



Lori Clinton

Lori is an Honours Physical Education Graduate from UWO and a talented athlete in our own right with strong ties to Volleyball and Baseball (genetic endowment from Mom). She currently lives in Lambeth and is playing Rec. Volleyball. We scooped Lori from Parkside where she was running the SLD program and we have no intention of giving her back. Lori is a great Teacher and an eminently qualified Coach... Thanks Lori!!



Athletes at St. Mary's School in West Lorne cleaned up at the London District Catholic School Board's 'C' Division Track Meet, held at UWO on June 5. First row: l-r, Daniel Johnston, Vanessa Dacosta, Emma Wilkins, Melanie Ganhadeiro, Kristin Mylrea, Lexi Wilson, Amy Azevedo, Stephanie Oliveira and Kristie Winn. Second row: Dawn Welch, Ty Schneidenburger, Kraig McGaffey, Christine Alves, Nicole Hilliard, Stephanie Leys, Adam Almeida and Tyler Small. Back row: Kyler McGaffey, Justin Hwang, Jacob Welch, Dakota Poels, Justin Regnier, Justin Azevedo, Connor Wilson and Keyah Burke. **JUNE 2001**

WESES volleyball team end season with championship win

The West Elgin Senior Elementary School Grade 8 girls volleyball team are the proud new AA Thames Valley District School Board champions.

It was another fantastic month for the Eagles after coming off a superb month of November and numerous victories.

On Wednesday December 5, the team competed and won the Regional tournament.

On Saturday, December 8 the Eagles went to Parkside Collegiate in St. Thomas against the other top 7 schools in the whole Thames Valley School Board.

Eagles coach Krista Price said their pool was heavily weighted with three very strong teams including the Eagles. Price said the girls had to fight tough in three gruelling matches to finish first in their pool.

In the first matchup, they took two points against Stonybrook. Then they met up against Chippewa for the third time this season in a tough match, which saw both teams splitting points with one point each.

In their third match they faced a strong Annandale team from Tillsonburg who beat WESES out of the tournament last year.

Price said this year was different and the Eagles played "brilliantly, with tough serving, perfect passing and some extremely smart offence."

To clinch first in their pool before the semi-finals, they had to win at least one of the games against Annandale. That they did when they took the first game 25-16. However in the second



WESES Grade 8 Girls Volleyball team- 2001 Thames Valley District School Board Southwest Regional Girls AA Champs!! First row l-r, Katie McIntyre, Caitlyn VanRaes, Emily Dryfhout, Ashley Wooley, Lindsey Lamb, Rochelle Ambrose. Back row: coach Krista Price, Amanda Ford, Amanda Pelcz, Brittany Bint, Brittany Jewell, Michelle Webber and Jaime Hale.

game, fell behind against the strong team.

Coach Price it was an "incredible match - some may argue it could have been the match up for the final. But the girls for the first time all season, found something deep inside, and turned the game around and came from behind to win 26-24.

The win secured their first place finish, but when Chippewa beat Stonybrook, Annandale as eliminated from the tournament.

In the semi-finals, we met Algonquin Public School.

After a slow start, the Eagles

got into the groove and won both games with scores of 25-21.

In the championship final against Westmount Public School, coach Price said the team performed on "pure adrenaline with aggressive offensive plays, and diehard defence, including outstanding blocking in the middle, backcourt digs and wicked serving."

The Eagles won the tournament and finished their season by beating Westmount 25-17 and 25-16.

By clinching the championship, the team ended

their phenomenal season with a season record of 50 wins out of 55 games.

In the morning announcements last week Price noted the season was a complete team effort and congratulated them on their determination.

"I knew from the first practice in September that you had the potential to go all the way. With your dedication, your hard work, your enthusiasm, your spirit and your talent, you have met that potential. I am so thrilled for your achievement because you earned it," said Price. **DEC. 17, 2001**

Two West Lorne graduates from St. Clair College win academic awards

St. Clair College of Applied Arts & Technology in Chatham has announced two academic award-winners hail from West Lorne.

On June 13, college Convocation Awards were held in Chatham were both Linda Dove and Connie Baptista of West Lorne were presented with respective awards.

Linda Dove, a graduate of St. Clair in the Office Administration- Executive Program was awarded the Faculty Academic Award for attaining a minimum program Grade Point Average of 3.00 and be recommended by the faculty.

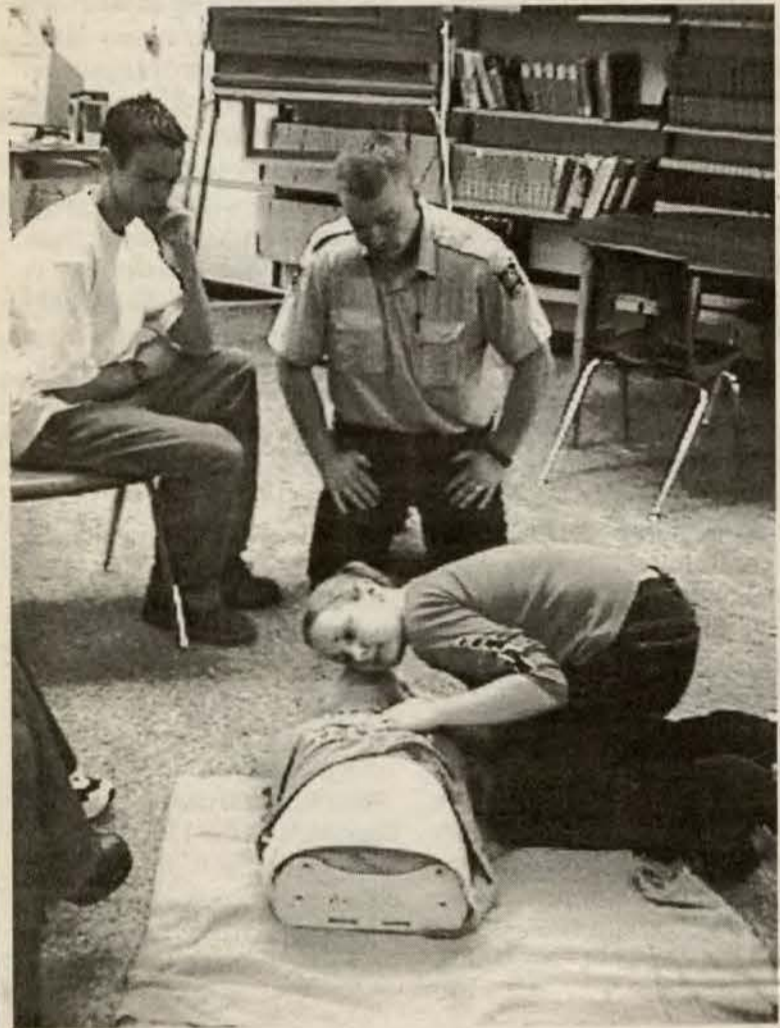
Linda resides in West Lorne, with her children; Jackson, Yvette, Scott and Lisa. Connie Baptista, a graduate of St. Clair

College in the Developmental Services Program was awarded the Student Leadership Award for attaining a minimum program Grade Point Average of 3.00 and must have made a significant contribution to the program and the class.

Connie is the fiancée of Glen Reaume and daughter of Maria Baptista of West Lorne. **JUNE 2001**

Education week was a great success at WESES. Many parents and other members of the community took advantage of all the special activities that were taking place at our school April 30th-May 4th. We had a great turnout during the Links to Lit-

eracy evening and for our grade 8 Science Fair. The grade 7's also took part in an invention fair of their own. The winners of the grade 8 Science Fair were: in biology - 1st, Katie King, Emily Moreau and Maryjo McWilliam, differ-



Life-saving techniques

Thanks to members of the Rodney Ambulance Service, all grade 8 students at St. Mary's School and West Elgin Senior Elementary School have been taught CPR. About 150 students took part in the annual campaign. Pictured, Michelle Smith checks her "victim" for breathing while classmate Jason Enns and paramedic Dwayne Cottel look on during a session at WESES.

ent leagues of plant growth; 2nd, Jesse Hawley, Steve Howse and Stacy Johnston rate of plant growth; 3rd, Kathryn Drummelsmith, hydroponics. In physics - 1st, Jonathon Peternel; 2nd, Jason Enns, Keith McCallum and Greg Hull; 3rd, Jennifer Watson. In chemistry and other categories - 1st, Rueben Vander Zon; 2nd, Mike Hatch; 3rd, Rachel Van de Vooren, Michelle Smith and Chanel Timson.

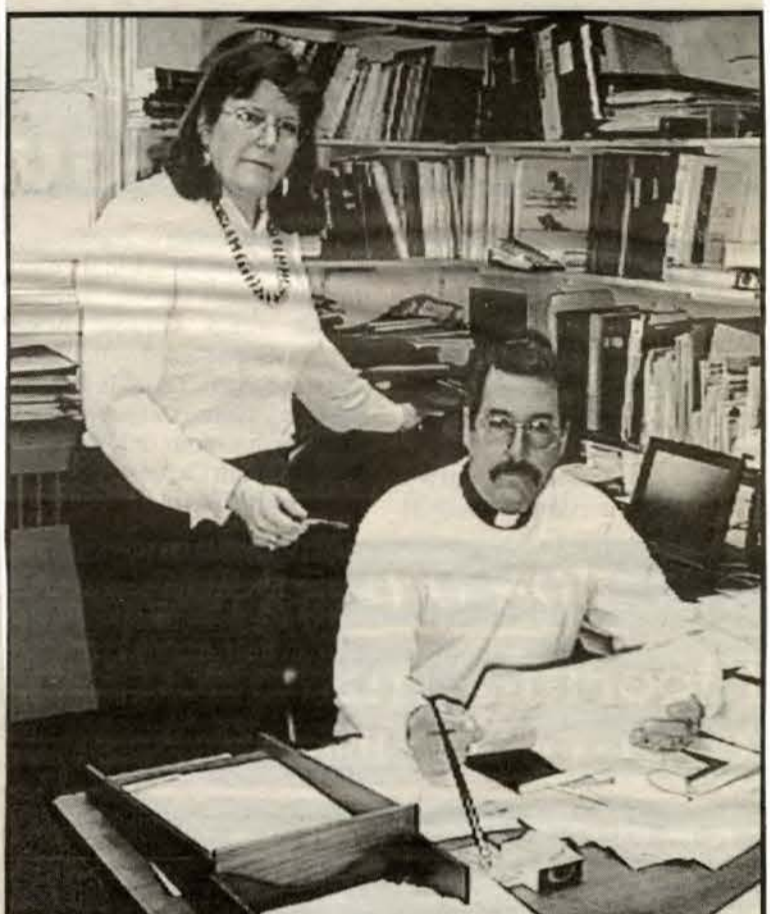
For the grade 7 invention fair, in the category "best overall" winners were: 1st, Amber Menzies; 2nd, Amanda Ford and Laura Ford, and 3rd, Danielle Fordham. For the "best advertisement" category, winners were: 1st, Wes McLandress, Luke Emmett and Mat Nash; 2nd, Kayley McTavish and Amanda Howard, and 3rd, David McWilliam, Geoff Wayne and Tyler Wood. In the "most likely to be patented" category, winners were: 1st, James Stone and Shawn Sabo; 2nd, Jaymee Peternel and Amanda Pelcz, and 3rd, Ryan Grant.

We would like to thank Mrs. Lindsay for organizing the event and all of the judges who helped out. A special thank you to Mr. Joe Fischer who provided us with the 54 tables we needed to accommodate all of the projects in the gym.

On May 4th, Rodney Paramedic Bob Padfield gave the grade 8's a demonstration on how to perform C.P.R. On May 8th, Rodney and Dutton paramedics visited our school to give each student a chance to try C.P.R. on a dummy. We would like to thank all of the paramedics for giving us such great knowledge.

A dance-a-thon will be held from 1-3 p.m. on June 2nd in the Dunwich-Dutton Public School gym. The funds raised will be used by the school to purchase books for the library in memory of Jeffrica Gray. Dance-a-thon

sponsor sheets are available at WESES. Anyone wishing to participate may pick one up in the office.
Dates to remember:
May 18: lip-sync assembly.
May 22 to 25: Jazz band to Hull, Quebec.
May 29: School Council meeting, 7 p.m.



What's it really like?

West Elgin Secondary School Principal Martha Foster, left, goes over a schedule with Rev. Kirby Breithaupt as he prepares to be "Principal for a Day." Among the activities for the day were visiting various classes such as computers, science and music, spending time with the office staff and meeting with other faculty members. "I wanted an unvarnished picture of being principal," stated Rev. Breithaupt, who commented that staff were very receptive to his presence.

Area teachers on the move!

Many teachers across West Elgin, Dutton/Dunwich and Southwold said goodbye to their schools just like many of the graduating students did.

A record number of retiring teachers in the Thames Valley District School Board need to be replaced required the board to scramble to find replacements. This year 200 teachers and principals are retiring within the school system.

The Catholic School board is also looking at changing faces within its school system.

Aldborough Public School

Two teachers and the school principal are on the move for the 2001-2002 school year. Principal Larry Sales will be working at Drumbo Central Public School.

"I've enjoyed my time here," says Sales who spent two years at Aldborough. "It's been very good here. I've enjoyed the community, the kids and the staff."

The two teachers that are leaving are Mrs. Jennifer Russell, who is going to New Sarum in St. Thomas and Mrs Kim Lawrence who is heading to Southwold Central Public School.

St. Mary's Catholic School

Two teachers will be leaving after last week. Krista Fox is leaving after one year at the school. The school board has not announced which school she will be going to. Fellow teacher Tanya Maric is also leaving after one year at St. Mary's. It has also not been announced which school she will be at this fall.



St. Mary's teachers- Tanya Maric and Krista Fox on their last day at the school, West Elgin Secondary School

Three teachers and the principal will be moving on after the school year ends. Principal Martha Foster will moving on to become a trustee.

Vice-principal Jim Ryan is also moving on, as are teachers Trevor Gray, and Aaron Steinhold who had their last day at the school on June 27.

Students now able to access health services at school

A collaboration between the West Elgin Secondary School, West Elgin Community Health Centre and the Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit has resulted in the new Wellness Centre located at WESS.

Students will now be able to access services they might need from the agencies during school hours.

Confidentiality for anyone using the centre will be a priority. This centre is a very innovative undertaking by the partners involved.

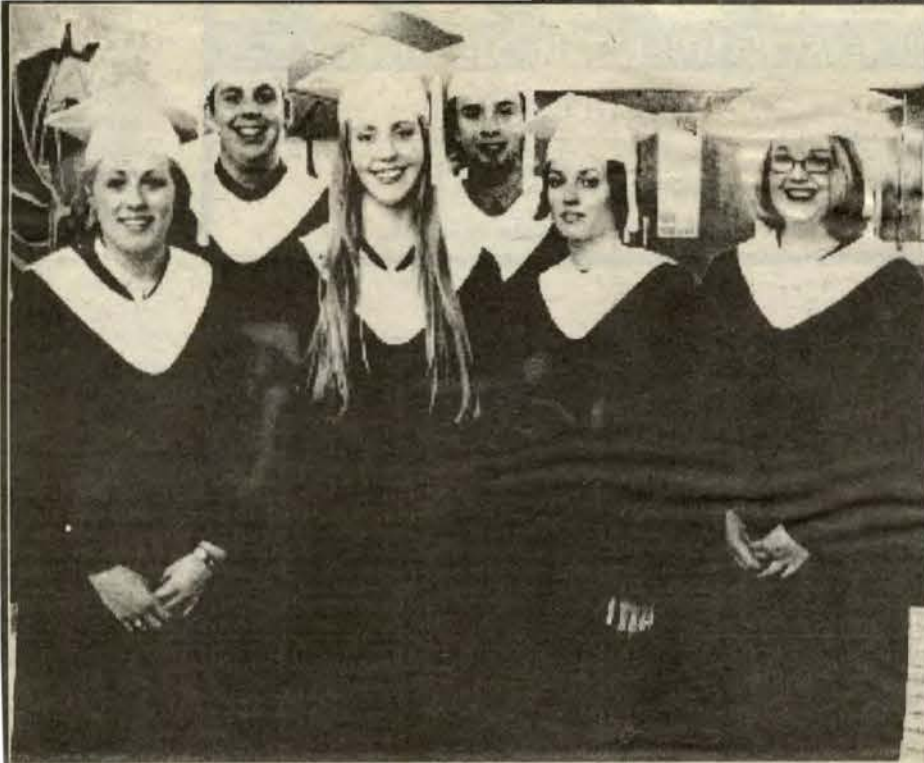
"This is a place where our students and staff can come to learn about healthy living and lifestyle programs, illness prevention and wellness. They can also receive personal and group counselling and have access to health professionals, in a convenient location and during school hours," said Principal Martha Foster. "These services are of particular importance in rural areas, where access to them may be difficult."

The Centre is one of only a few health unit supported wellness centres located in schools in the province.



How are you?

A new Wellness Centre for students has been opened at WESS. Cutting the ribbon to officially open the Wellness Centre are, left to right: WESS Principal Martha Foster, WECHC Executive Director Douglas Graham and Health Unit Manager of Health Promotions Janet McKillop. MAY 28/01



Major awards winners of West Elgin Secondary School. Pictured left to right, Tina Boyd (1st Honour Award), Jeremy Karn (Honour Award and Salutarian), Leanne Carroll (Valedictorian and OAC Proficiency Award), Tim Kosciak (4th Honour), Erin Deyle (1st Honour Award), and Sarah Langelaan (4th Honour Award). The commencement ceremony was held on October 27. See pages 2 and 3 for results and the Valedictorian speech.

2001



WILDCAT SPORTS SHORTS

by Alan Youngash
Athletic Director, WESS

The Fall Sports Schedules are fast coming to completion and teams are working hard to close out their seasons with dignity. Congratulations to the young athletes who bravely took on the task of playing Junior Football at the entry level.

The benefits of involvement in team sport at this level are intrinsic and the rewards will be in future teams where we could become the team to beat as players garner more game toughness. Our Junior Boys wrapped up their season on Monday, October 29 against Laurier on their field after a botched effort to play the game on October 24 at home. Josh Duplessis scored six points on a 25 yard pass from Quarterback, Karl Schramowsky and then added two more with a gutsy end run on the extra point effort. We lost the game but a great second half effort set the tone for next season when many of the boys will return to Junior Football as veterans. Thanks to Coaches Spiro Grima, Jonathon Douglas, and Alex Foster for their commitment and dedication.

league is separating to allow for playoffs in WOSSA. A, AA, AAA and AAAA. Our teams compete in "A" level competition as our current school population is less than 900 (about 525). The Junior Volleyball Finals are at Lucas in London at 4 pm on November 8 and the Senior Final is at Beal in London on Friday November 9 at 4 pm... just have to get there.



Ann Wrobel

Ann Wrobel is our "go-to gal" for a number of different things. She is always willing to go the extra mile for our students and student-athletes whether it be catering a meal or coaching a team. She is currently involved with our Senior Girls' Basketball Team and is a dedicated, devoted, and highly respected Coach among the players and with her fellow Coaches... Thanks Ann!!

The week of November 5 to 9 will see playoff action in Girls Basketball and Boys's Volleyball. Actual dates, times and locations are not available at this time as the teams are currently vying for position and



The West Elgin Secondary School Wildcats had their final game of the season last week, when they played St. Joe's. The Wildcats played a good game, but unfortunately lost the match. NOV. 5, 2001

Nov. 2001
WESS Students are saying "Yes we can!"

West Elgin Secondary School students are going on a charity blitz next week in an effort to raise food during this needy, Christmas season.

On Tuesday December 4, from 6 pm to 8 pm the students will be going door-to-door with their 'Yes We Can!' campaign. The food-raiser will include the communities of West Lorne, Dutton, Rodney and Wallacetown.

WESS teacher Berta Prelaz tells *The Chronicle* everyone involved is really excited about the campaign that asks people to donate canned foods and non-perishable food that will be given to the Daffodil Society.

Their goal is 10 pick-up truck loads of cans.

Prelaz said the local businesses have been very supportive and for example, the three grocery stores in the area will have bins available for customers to donate to, if they live outside the area, or will

not be home on December 4.

Within the school there will also be home room challenges that incorporate the can theme.

Prelaz says the idea for the can drive generated within some of the staff at WESS. She says in the past the students have done a phenomenal job of raising charitable money during the Christmas, but the recent economy was a concern for this year. Instead the can drive was raised.

Helen Mooser of the Daffodil Society says they think it is "a-ma-rvellous thing" the students are doing. Mooser says it is a great idea during these tough economic times.

On December 4 the 240 students and volunteers will be carrying identification tags to prove they are part of "Yes We Can!" Letters will be going out to parents and guardians on Tuesday, that outline the food raising campaign.



West Elgin Senior Elementary School Students' Council. *Class Reps* Front row (7A)- Patrick Waylon, Rachel Humphrey; (7B)- Sarah Sharpe, Sarah Johnston; (7C)- Shobha Sharma, Steven Penney; (7D)- Erin Sheedy, Courtney Arvai; (7E) Caren Campbell, Jeff Kosciak. Middle Row (8A)- James Stone, Brittany Bint; (7B)- Kory Timmermans, Ryan Grant; (7C)- Justin Walker, Cassie Clark; (8D)- Amanda Pelcz, Jaime Hale. Back row, *Executive:* Katie McIntyre, Treasurer; Mike Lyons, President; Brittany Jewell, Vice President; and Danella Fordham, Secretary. Absent are Staff advisors- Krista Price and Beth Peternel.

NOV. 2001



WESS grade 9 students Dan Soos (at top) and Reuben VanDerzon were busy last week painting windows of local West Lorne businesses. They were part of 24 art students of Mrs McLagan who spent last Thursday decorating windows.

DEC. 2001

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The Dutton Advance

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West Elgin Secondary School

Ontario Scholars

The principal has recommended to the Minister of Education that the following students be recognized as Ontario Scholars



TIFFANY BARBER
Daughter of Jim and Denise, Wallacetown, is attending Carleton University, Criminology and Criminal Justice.



TINA BOYD
Daughter of Tab and Cindy, Dutton, is attending McMaster University, Nursing.



LEANNE CARROLL
Daughter of Alan and Karen, R.R. 1, West Lorne, is attending University of Western Ontario, B.A. in Art History.



AMY CHAMPIGNY
Daughter of Marcel and Lyn, R.R. 1, Rodney, is attending University of Western Ontario, Music.



AMY COATES
Daughter of Nick and Jane, Rodney, is attending University of Toronto, Forensic Science.



ERIN DEYLE
Daughter of Jacob and Cate, Rodney, is attending Brescia College at University of Western Ontario, Honours French.



NATALIE FORD
Daughter of Thomas and Lynda, R.R. 1, Rodney, is attending University of Guelph, Agricultural Business.



JEREMY KARN
Son of Robert W. and Ruth, Rodney, is attending Waterloo University, Software Engineering.



TIM KOSCIK
Son of Richard and Heather, West Lorne, is attending University of Toronto, Arts & Science.



SARAH LANGELAAN
Daughter of Emiel Langelaan, Wallacetown, is attending Wilfrid Laurier, Honours Bachelor of Music.



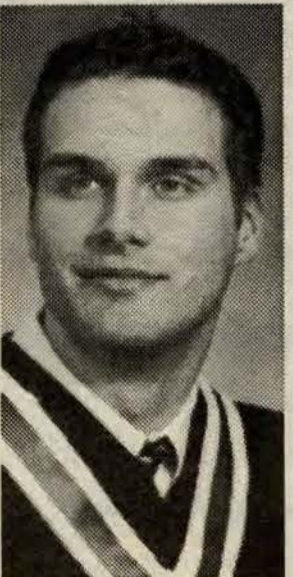
SARA McCALLUM
Daughter of Tim and Freda, Dutton, is attending Queens University, History.



SARAH MOLNAR
Daughter of Rob and Lou Anne, R.R. 3, Iona Station, is attending University of Guelph, Animal Biology.



KRISTA MOOSER
Daughter of Ruth and Henry, West Lorne, is attending University of Western Ontario, Social Sciences.



STUART MURRAY
Son of Brenda and David, R.R. 1, Iona Station, is attending University of Western Ontario, Health Sciences & Business.



EMMANUEL RODRIGUES
Son of Antonio Rodrigues and Maria Santos, is attending Carleton University, Computer Science, Software Engineering.



SOFIA SALGADO
Daughter of Manuel and Maria, is attending University in Portugal, E.C.E.



CHRIS SEDGE
Son of Debby and Jack, Iona Station, is attending Queen's University, Life Sciences/Xray Technology.



DARRYL MATTHEW SWAIN
Son of Darryl and Sue, West Lorne, is attending Carleton University, Software Engineering.



NATHAN WRIGHT
Son of David and Raina, Rodney, is attending University of Waterloo, Biochemistry.



W.E.S.S. SPORTS SHORTS

by Alan Youngash, Athletic Director

WOW!!!! This expression has always been an acronym for anything I have wanted it to say. In this case it is an expression of kudos for our Junior Boys' Volleyball Team and their efforts in the Fall Season that just ended in Mitchell on Saturday the 17th.

Under the more-than-qualified direction of Mr. Mike VanDyk this team won a tournament and went on to win all the honours in Thames Valley and then capped off their season by winning the WOSSA "A" title in fine fashion. Our school is filled with WOSSA Volleyball plaques, the hall outside the gymnasium is lined with these mementos from the days of John McIntyre and Dave Inglis and continues with Mike Vandyk and Kelly Welch.WOW?????.....W.E.S.S. Owns WOSSA Congratulations to Mike and his Team! I would be remiss if I didn't mention that many of the plaques contention (looking great on paper) are Coach Lori Clinton, and Coach Meegan

Campbell...Senior and Junior respectively.

Fall Sports have wound down and the winter teams are now gearing up for their season openers. Hockey opens at home on the 27th, Curling opens at Glencoe on the 28th, and Boys' Basketball and Girls' Volley will open in early December. Hockey has 5 games before Christmas, and the other have 4 games before Christmas.....so we'll be busy at the West.

My featured Coach this week is the outgoing Mentor of our Senior Girls' Basketball Team and the incoming Slavedriver of our Senior Boy's squad. Mr. Jamie Fraser has taught and coached at W.E.S.S. for 14 years as a Teacher of Physical Education, initially, and now is the Head of our Guidance Department.

He was our Golf Coach this past season and it gives me pleasure to know that I have influenced his personal game to

the point that he now puts everything.....there are now more "4 foot gimmers"....I am also the proud owner of a vintage Ping putter that never worked for him, when he owned it, but has taken strokes off my game.... he wants it backahh????.....No!!



Jamie Fraser

Jamie lives with his wife Johanna and his two girls, Sarah and Katie, in Strathroy and I am told it takes him 52 minutes to get to work..... he rarely misses and is a wonderful, enthusiastic Teacher, Friend, and Mentor for our young people.

I look forward to some fine Basketball in the Wild West this year and invite our faithful readers to come and meet Jamie and his Team.....Thanks Jamie, we appreciate your efforts and wish you well in the up-coming season.



WESS students Richa Sharma at left and Anthony Birklemans recently won a 'tolerance,' writing contest sponsored by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Here they are pictured with their teacher Brenda Cowan.



West Elgin Secondary School Junior Boys Volleyball -WOSSA Champs! Front row with Thames Valley Plaque and WOSSA plaque is: Pete Thompson and Wade Munn. Mid-row: Lance Peskar, Anthony Berkelmans, Craig Hoglund, Andrew Coates, and Jason Enns. Back row: Justin Oliveira, Adam McKillop, Jon Dryhout, Drew Roberts, Dan Barry and Coach Mike VanDyk.



Director of Education, Bill Bryce (centre) visited WESS recently to talk about current events and check out the school. Here he is flanked by WESS student heads, at left Sarah Fischer (Music), Paul Tunks (Pres. Student Council), Janneke Fleuren, at right (Co-President SAA) and Catherine Schneider (Co-President SAA). Bryce said he was very impressed with the school's spirit during these troubling times that is exhibited by the students, staff and parents.

A sure sign of winter!-- high school hockey



The Wildcats are back on ice, after they played their first season opener against E.E.S.S. (Aylmer) on Wednesday afternoon at home. The WESS Wildcats fought the Eagles to a 2-2 tied after coming from behind. Seen here, a Wildcat forward gets pushed from behind for being too close and dangerous in the net area.

DEC 2001

Principal's Corner- great support seen at WESS



WESS Music Department has received more money to buy new instruments. Here IOOF 337 Dutton hands over a \$500 cheque. Left to right are Music Department head Spiro Grima, WESS President of Music Council Marcie Sharron, Paul McWilliams and Tom Andrews of IOOF 337 Dutton and WESS principal Larry Schneider.

by Larry Schneider,
Principal, WESS

Welcome to the Principal's Corner once again. I hope that all students and parents have enjoyed the March Break, and that as we all return to school today, that we are all refreshed and re-energized as we continue our Second Semester.

In this week's column I want to focus on one area of the many fine programs offered at West Elgin Secondary, namely the Arts. At West Elgin we offer Visual Arts, Drama and Music, and all three of these programs are quite active right now. Our Visual Arts department, led by Mrs. McLagan, recently created the backdrops for the skating carnival at the arena, and have submitted a number of works to a show to be held at the St. Thomas-Elgin Art Gallery later this month. Further details will be published in the near future. Support our wonderful student artists in the local area by visiting the gallery. On Wednesday, March 20, at 7 p.m. our drama department, under the direction of Ms Quinn, will be presenting "Thin Schemes" as part of the Sears Ontario Drama Festival. "Thin Schemes" was written by WESS student Jen Van Dyk and is presented by the West Elgin Drama Club. General admission will be \$5, available from Drama Club members, or at the door. Please support this event if you are able to do so.

At 7 p.m. on Friday, March 22, at the high school, our music department will be hosting a Jazz Dinner and Cabaret for your enjoyment and entertainment. The cost for the evening is \$10 per person. This event will showcase our fabulous Jazz band, and will be used as a fundraiser for the purchase of new instruments for the band. Once again, please attend this event and support our excellent music program.

Thank you to *The Chronicle* and the service clubs who have already reached out to support our campaign to save our music program by raising funds to purchase new instruments. As recent articles in the Chronicle have outlined, most of the musical instruments are

twenty-four years old, and many are irreparable, have very poor tone, play only one note, and are often held together by elastic bands, after repeated repairs. Please come out to the Jazz Cabaret if you can to support the band. A table will be set up at the entrance where donations to the Band Fund can be made (tax receipts will be issued within a few weeks of any donation being given) and we hope that individuals who cherish music, service clubs, businesses and others will feel moved to help support this very worthy cause. The band does perform regularly for the public, and has committed to even more often in response to a generous show of support from the community. If you cannot make it to the school this Friday, and still wish to contribute, please contact Spiro Grima, our dedicated and inspiring Musical Director, or myself, Larry Schneider at 768-1350.

There are many other great programs at our school, which I will focus on in future columns. Many of these programs are also in need of financial support, and individuals will be invited to support those mentioned above and many others as part of our 50th

Anniversary celebrations.

Our hard-working WESS 50th Anniversary committee is busy organizing an exciting, fun-filled weekend for August 9, 10, and 11th, 2002, and their next meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19, at the school. All former staff and students are urged to send us their current address and e-mail information to: www.wess50th.org or to Reunion committee, Box 370, West Lorne, ON N0L 2P0: include your name, maiden name, address and phone number, and e-mail address, and a registration form will sent to you via the mail, or will be made available to you on the internet, as is applicable. Please check out our website at the above address, to see who has already sent in data, to view the calendar of events, and to enter your information. Thank you for doing so promptly, to assist the committee in its planning. Also, please let us know if you would be willing to help out on the weekend, as we will need lots of people to help run the many events, but you do not need to actually be on the committee to do so.

A Health Fair/Carousel will be held for all students on

Wednesday, March 20 throughout the school day to provide current and relevant information to our students about a variety of health issues. On Tuesday, March 26 John Davidson, of Jesse's Journey, will be at WESS for two assemblies, at 10:30 and 11:00. Visitors who wish to take in this inspiring presentation may do so by coming to the school office and signing in as visitors. Progress reports will be handed out to students on Tuesday, March 26 as well, and parent-teacher interviews will be held at the school on the late afternoon and evening of Wednesday, March 27. Exact times will be printed on the Report Cards.

We have many students who still need to complete a portion or all of their 40 hours of Community Service for graduation in the new Secondary Curriculum (currently Grades 9 - 11). Please contact the Guidance Department at the school if you have such opportunities available for our students.

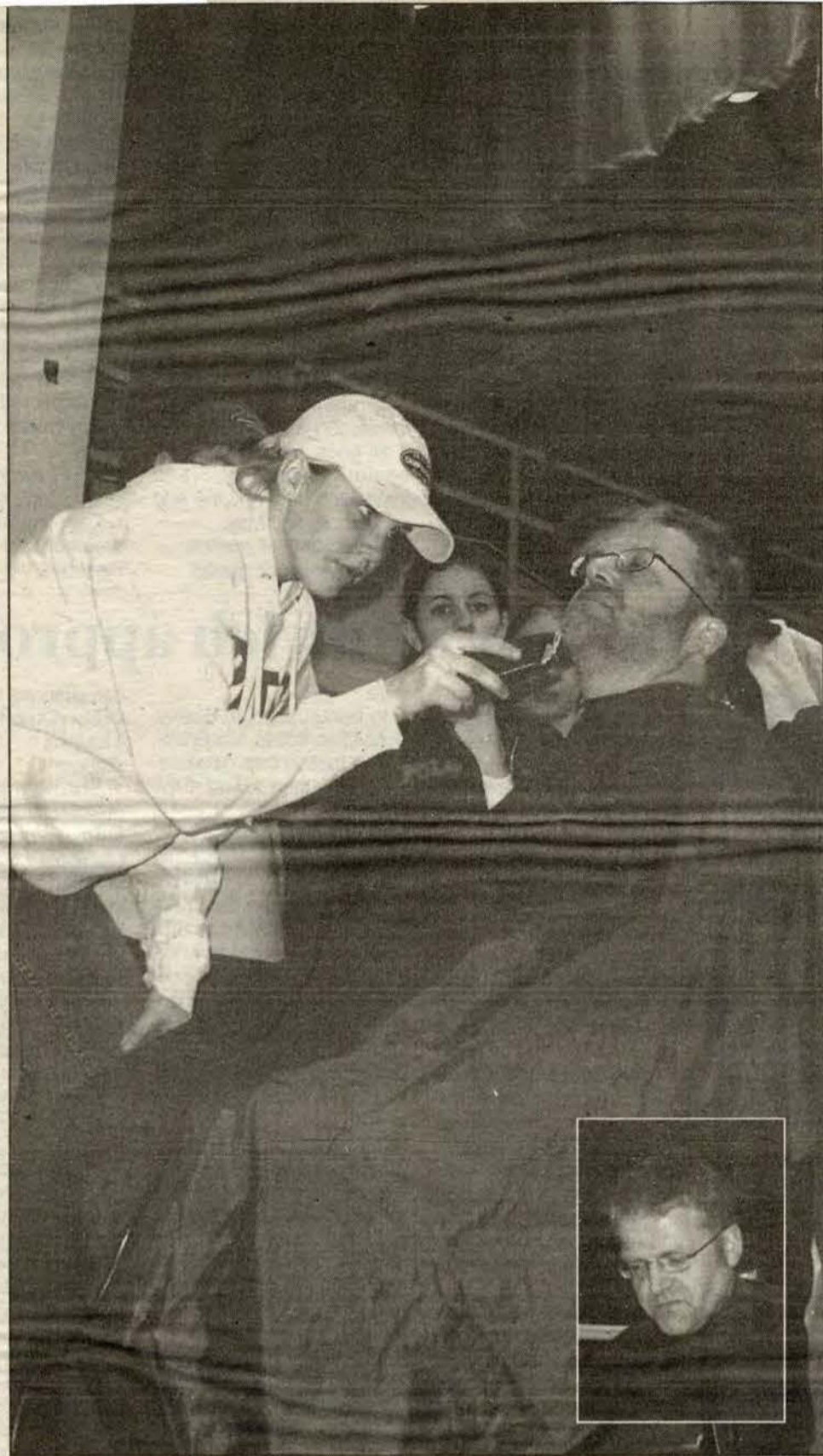
Once again, thanks to the community for their ongoing support of our school. Please do support us in any of the ways mentioned above. We Wildcats really do appreciate it!



The West Lorne Women's Institute also donated \$500 to the WESS Music Department. Left to right to WESS's Spiro Grima, Marcie Sharron, Mary Bell Cook and WESS principal Larry Schneider.

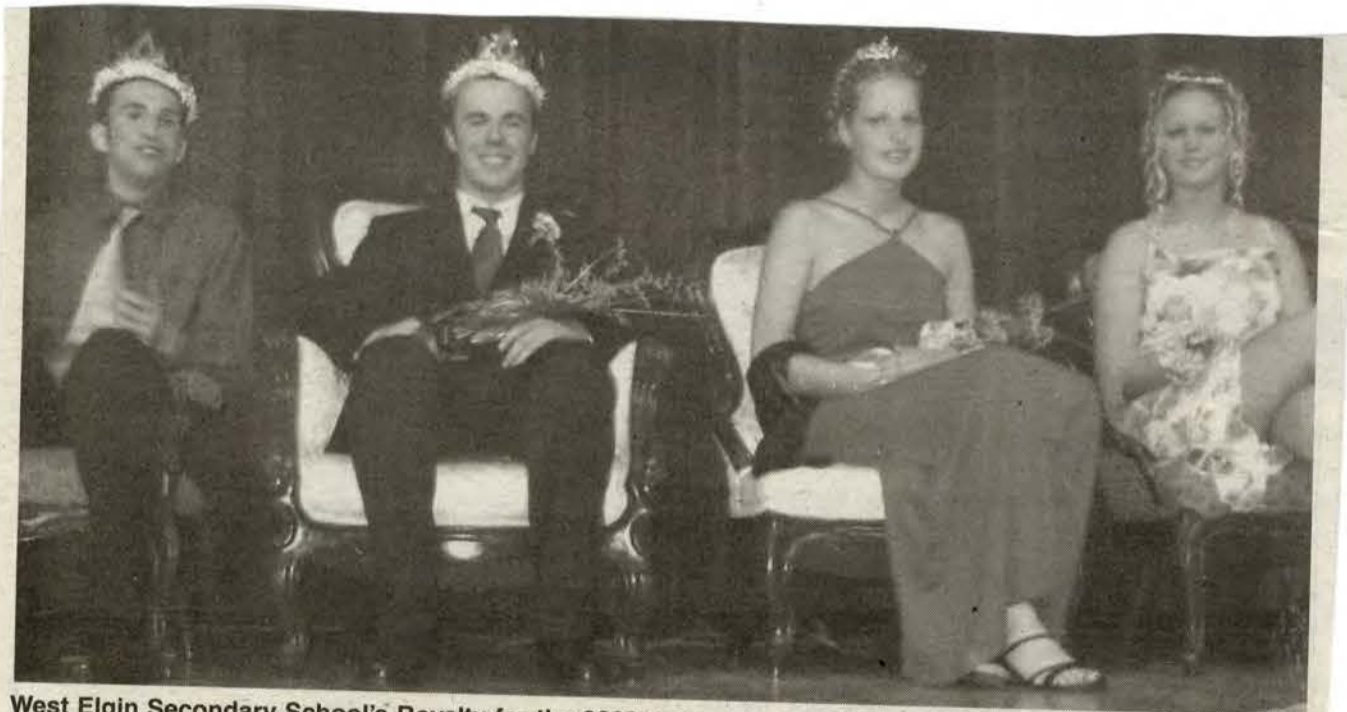


Some really cool cats came out and played March 22 at the WESS Jazz Cabaret and fundraiser. Pictured here the Senior Jazz Ensemble and teacher Spiro Grima, (all dressed appropriately to set the tone) play one of their numerous tunes.



Leave the sideburns please!

West Elgin Secondary School Principal Larry Schneider owned up to his side of the bargain when WESS raised \$1,067.33 for Jesse's Journey. Here grade 11 student Lindsay Webber has the honours of shaving the principal. Schneider who is synamous with his beard and mustache, made a bet with students that if they raised \$800 his beard could go and if they raised \$1,000 the mustache could be shaved also. Schneider says he hasn't been without his mustache since he was in Grade 12. The winning home room was Mrs McCulloch Grade 11's. At bottom right is Schneider with the new fuzz-less look.



West Elgin Secondary School's Royalty for the 2002 prom were voted as left to right Prince Bruno Ferreira, King Andy McGuire, Queen Janneke Fleuren and Princess Kristal DeWit.