

WESS students learn about job safety and employee rights

Tiffany Terpstra, community program youth worker from Employment Services Elgin, facilitated a well-attended job safety workshop for students from the Wildcats Employment Skills Training program at West Elgin Support Services on April 1. Tiffany related horror stories in the workplace. The Young Worker Awareness Program focuses on "Seven things you'd better know." There are hazards in every workplace and you -

young and inexperienced worker - are especially at risk. You need to be able to identify the hazards in your workplace. You have the legal right to protect your health and safety. Your employer, your supervisor(s), and you all have legal responsibilities to make sure the workplace is healthy and safe. Your employer and your supervisor must ensure you have the information or required training and equipment you need to protect yourself. If you are

injured or become sick at the workplace, you must report it to your supervisor or employer. It's not a game. You need to protect yourself. Tiffany made everyone aware of three basic rights. The right to participate in keeping your workplace healthy and safe. The right to know the hazards in your job. The right to refuse unsafe work. Other topics covered included, the law requires your employer, your supervisor, and you all have legal

responsibilities to make sure the workplace is healthy and safe. An awareness video was shown to the students on the right to know and what happens when you refuse a task. Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS), symbols were reviewed. The WHMIS symbols tells you the kind of hazard in a container. Employees should be able to recognize each of these symbols and know what they mean.



WESS holds plant sale

Chris Smith, left and Craig Bowery, Grade 12 Horticulture students at West Elgin Secondary School helped out at the plant sale Friday at the school greenhouse. The sale held May 13 and 14 raised money for the class and beautification projects around the school.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE



Health fair held at WESS

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Jessie Lowes, right asks Elgin Community Nutritionist Charlotte McDonald a question about the Canadian Food Guide while Matt Nash, second right, Jeff Else, Matt Parezanovic and William Drummelsmith listen at the third annual health fair at WESS May 4.

Youth get answers to questions at annual health fair at WESS

West Elgin Secondary School students got answers on pressing health issues at the annual health fair in the gymnasium May 4.

About 22 social and health workers and advocates provided information on issues facing students from alcohol to the environment.

It was a chance for students to ask specific questions.

"There's a lot of things you wouldn't go looking for information about but it's all right here," said student Brittany Jewell.

Students received a health fair passport at the door which could be signed at each display and used to enter a draw.

Along with information pamphlets students received health and safety items such as free condoms and tooth brushes.

Addiction Services of Thames Valley quizzed the students on drugs alcohol and gambling.

Students got to try on beer goggles, which when worn distorted the students vision.

Students were challenged to walk a straight line with the

goggles on.

Katy Miller found many of the displays boosted what she already knew.

However she learned a few new things.

"I learned what to do when someone passes out from being drunk," said Miller. "Roll them over on their side so they don't choke."

Many students hadn't heard this. Someone who has passed out may have alcohol poisoning said Cathy Irwin, an addiction counsellor.

"With prom and May 2-4 coming students may go overboard," she said. "If someone passes out, laying on their stomach or back, they could choke to death."

Students also learned about transmittable diseases from sex or unclean needles from piercing or tattoos.

"Some of the pictures were really gross," said Kirsten Landry. "They work."

Images on displays illustrated how bacteria can spread to an infection with out properly cleaning around piercings.



Track team ready for WOSSA

WESS track and field athletes are at the line, during practice Monday night. This week 10 students were to compete at WOSSA for the first time in five years at TD Waterhouse Stadium in London.

Track and field team returns to WESS

► 10 going to WOSSA

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

For the first time in five years West Elgin Secondary School has a track and field team.

And the Wildcats have roared back into the fray, sending 10 athletes to the Western Ontario Secondary School Association track meet at TD Waterhouse Stadium in London May 17-18.

First time coach and teacher Danny Kajan was proud to see the 16 player team compete at the Thames Valley Regional event last week.

"We have some great athletes at WESS. They've been really committed," said Kajan.

The last five years coaches at the school have been busy with mainstay club teams, young teachers like Kajan and Teresa Dacoste, the other track coach stepped up to help the athletes train for local meets.

"I never had any expectations but I've been impressed to see the numbers of kids come out and put in an effort," said Kajan. "They've put in the time now they're seeing the rewards."

Going to WOSSA are Tyson Smith, Jon and Matt Dietrich and Robert Jones on the Junior Boys 4x100 relay team who posted a 51:31 time at the TVRAA competition in St. Thomas last Tuesday.

"I don't think we have a chance to medal but to be there will be good," said Robert Jones.

"I've never been to WOSSA, it's kind of intimidating," said Tyson Smith.

The girls are more relaxed, with many of them having gone to WOSSA in other sports.

Kaitlyn Duplessis, Jessica Kalita, Stephanie Dos Santos and Tracy Donaldson, the Junior Girls 4x100 relay team is going after posting a 1:01.10.

Kalita finished fourth in the junior girls high jump, moving on to WOSSA.

Tyson Smith moves on in the junior boys 100 metre sprint after posting a 13:13 sec run at TVRAA.

Matt Dietrich moves on for the midget boys long-jump after finishing third at TVRAA.

His brother Jon moves on for junior boys javelin. Kaitlyn Duplessis moves on for junior girls long jump and javelin.

Her sister Jessica advances for midget girls javelin. Jordan Gallant advanced in the midget boys javelin event after placing fourth throwing 29.36 metres.

Kajan said the athletes continue to work hard and some may have a good chance at advancing to the Ontario finals.

"We have some raw talent here and a lot of these kids are really competitive," he said. "The bar has been set higher now. We can go out and meet the bar and maybe even get over it."

Kajan has already been finding interest to continue the team next year.

"Some of these kids are real fireballs," said Kajan.

Kennedy calls for new era for small, rural schools

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

A new funding formula for small schools can be expected next week said Minister of Education, Gerard Kennedy at Ridgetown District High School May 9.

Kennedy was asked to come to Ridgetown by the Coalition of Small Schools, an advocacy group organized locally to help support the quality of rural education.

While Kennedy didn't drop any hints about the fate of the formula he said small schools will get adequate funding regardless of size.

"There is no longer a magic number. If it's a good school it will stay open," said Kennedy in a press conference held in the Ridgetown school library after the public meeting.

Listening was Sarah Doub, student at Glencoe District High School.

Her school is targeted for closure yet she said the rural atmosphere at her school has helped students achieve literacy rates higher than the board and provincial averages.

"After hearing Minister Kennedy, I am feeling more optimistic," she said. "Our school embodies what the entire board stands for."

"The most important thing we heard today was the formula will no longer be one size fits all," said Doub.

Students, Kory Preston and Craig Watterworth from West Elgin Secondary School presented the minister with post cards supporting rural, small schools filled

out over the last few months.

A bus load of WESS students made the trip to Ridgetown to hear the minister and make sure he heard them.

"I don't know if it will make a difference but it is important that he hears a unified voice from students," said Michael Vandenbrink, WESS student. "In the long run the politicians make the decisions but if they see students care it will help them understand."

Kenny McMurchy, WESS student was impressed so many students came from other rural schools.

The minister "is getting to hear from the other side of the coin," said McMurchy.

Please see more about Minister Kennedy's visit, page 3

Small schools rally together

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

The province is changing the way school closure decisions are made, the Minister of Education Gerard Kennedy said at Ridgetown District High School May 9.

While Thames Valley District School Board is waiting for a report on how space in schools is being used, and specifically whether Glencoe District High School should remain open, Minister Gerard Kennedy said the province will support the board's decision as long as it follows new school closure policies.

School boards deciding to close schools are being urged by the minister to look at the impact on the community and educational strength of students.

"We want to support the school boards but they need to look closer at these studies," said Kennedy.

CN Watson is presenting the report on board facilities May 31 to trustees.

"Every recommendation from their report will be subject to our new policies," said Kennedy.

While he said the province will not be enforcing their policies, he said the province could look at legislation to protect schools from closing.

A moratorium on school closures was lifted by the province earlier this year but the province asked school boards to slow the process of closures.

"There is no benefit in closing schools," said Kennedy.

He said past governments have given money from two pockets, rewarding boards



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

WESS represents

WESS student Craig Watterworth presents a box of postcards from people concerned about the future of small schools to Education Minister Gerard Kennedy as Kory Preston prepares to ask a question during a conference at Ridgetown District High School May 9.

that build new schools with capital funding but not looking at the cost of transporting students from closed schools to the new schools.

Linda Stevenson, TVDSB trustee was at the conference and said the board won't be making any decisions based on the CN Watson report until next fall.

She was against the board moving forward with the consultant at first because the province said they were working on new funding formulas.

"When we get the new funding formula we're going to have to go right back and

change the consultants report," she said. "It won't be in front of the board until next September."

Robbie McNaughton, chair of the GDHS council, said when the report is finished, he will need as many people as possible to go through it and jump into action based on its results.

He was trying to get answers on how the province will enforce its new policies on the school boards, who make the final decision on closures.

"Ideally I would like to see the province make the decision. Whatever this report finds, we're going to need people ready to do what it takes to protect our school," said McNaughton.

Kennedy said the province will not interfere with board decisions but hopes there will be more community involvement in decision making.

An appeal process has been developed by the province to give people a chance to ask the province to review any decisions made by school boards to close schools.

Stevenson said the province will definitely get a say in decisions to close schools made by TVDSB.

"It will be open to the ministry and the public for anyone to question," she said.



WESS clobbers Arthur Voaden

Wade Munn kicks the soccer ball towards the Arthur Voaden net in a league game May 6 at West Elgin Secondary School.



Hoops for hearts

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Students at St. Mary's Catholic School raised money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation by collecting pledges and playing basketball May 6. Here, Vanessa Paiva protects the ball from Candace Conway.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Aldborough students speak about their heros

Students at Aldborough Public School held a speaking competition qualifying round on Feb. 3. Taylor Cundy, Alex Kirshner and Ben Gormley, front row centre, received certificates. Back row left to right: Brandee Blanchard, Daniel Wittek, Abbey Fleming, Jessica DeGraw, Taylor Moorby-Blain. Front row left to right: Haley West, Madison Redmond, and far right, Bryan Johnston. Some of the students competed in the West Lorne Optimist Club's Oratorical on Tuesday, Feb. 22



Tree planted for tomorrow

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Michael Lewinsky, Gina Toth, Tara Smith, Alex Goos, Breyanne Serleand Taylor Gibson are joined by Grade 4 teacher June Ford at Aldborough Public School for the Trees for Tomorrow program, initiated by the Stewardship Councils in Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford Counties. The program was held at APS and Dunwich-Dutton Public School Jan. 26. The red and burr oak will be kept in greenhouses at the high school for the winter and planted around the school yards and community by students later this year.



Chili cooked

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

A chili cooking class was held at the West Elgin Community Health Centre last month. Here Shannon McDonald and Tracy Reaume cook a vegetarian chili with raisins.



Cold rain cancels school buses on Monday

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Kids found something to do at the West Lorne Library on Monday after a day of sitting around because buses were cancelled across much of the school board due to freezing rain in the early morning. Forecasts call for snow to return before the weekend. The after school program runs in West Lorne Mondays and Rodney on Tuesdays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.



Native dance

Students at Aldborough Public School were treated to native culture with music and dance by the Kanata Native Dance Group based out of the Six Nations Jan. 24. Here, Naomi Powless shows some of the colourful dress worn at pow wows.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Warriors bring home silver



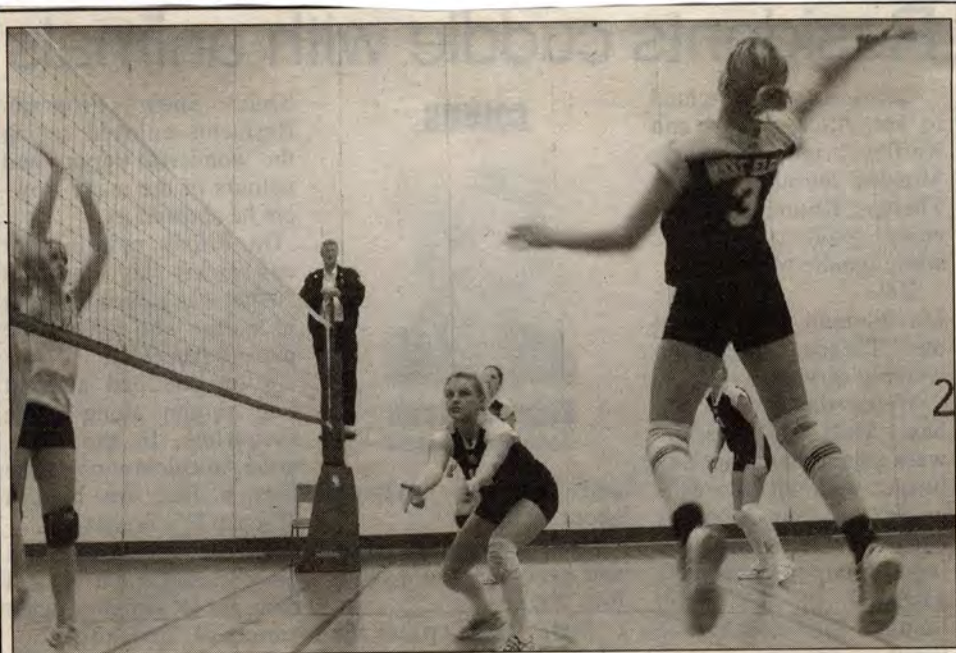
SUBMITTED

Warriors win silver metal

The West Elgin Warriors girls' Under-14 volleyball team from West Elgin Secondary School won a silver metal at the Ontario Volleyball Association volleyball tournament in Stratford. The coaches Dave Burke, right and Kasi Kleihauer, left are joined by players the Warriors after winning being awarded their metals.

The West Elgin Warriors girls' Under-14 volleyball team recently placed second in the Stratford OVA volleyball tournament. The girls opened the tournament by beating the Huron Tsunami two games to zero and then dropped a very close set, two games to one, to the host Stratford Stingers. The Warriors then faced the South County Bandits in the first round of the playoffs. The girls won two very closely contested games to move onto the semi-finals. In their semi-final, the girls faced a very strong Forest City team. The Warriors had little difficulty with the Forest City squad in the best of three semi-final and beat them convincingly two games to zero. In the final, the Warriors faced another Forest City team. The opening game was highly entertaining with both teams playing their best volleyball of the tournament. Neither team seemed to be able to build up a substantial lead as both teams fought hard for each and every point. Finally the game ended with Forest City edging the Warriors 29 - 27. The second game was just as exciting, but once again Forest City was able to win 25 - 20.

This is the third tournament the girls have played in this season. They placed fifth in tournaments in Chatham and Windsor. The girls' hard work in practice is definitely starting to pay off and Coaches Dave Burke and Kasi Kleihauer were very pleased with the team's performance. The Warriors players are Meghan Schneider, Jacqueline Lamb, Andrea Goos, Jessica Varga, Kayla Shine, Emma Wilkins, Lauren Sheedy, Melanie Ganhadeiro, Stephanie Leys, Debbie Levesley, and Elisha Peskar.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Senior girls volleyball team plays in Thames Valley final

Taryn Clements spikes the volleyball for the West Elgin Secondary School senior girls' Wildcats during the third set at the Thames Valley Regional Athletic Association 1A semi-final game Feb. 18. The Wildcats won the game 23-25, 25-23, 25-19, 25-19. The girls played at Fanshawe College Feb. 23 in the A group final.



St. Mary's students celebrate winter carnivale

Alicia Krebs, left, Alyssa Paiva, centre and Sara Ross, right try to coordinate their feet in a team skiing event with the help of Candace Conway and Ashely Silva during the St. Mary's Catholic School Winter Carnivale, organized by the French teachers last Friday while Carnivale happens in Quebec City.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Gym club encourages volunteerism

The West Elgin Gym Club is back in full operation on Saturday mornings at the Rodney Recreation Center.

It opened Jan. 15 for the 10-week winter session, with 90 children registered.

The club is run by volunteers, with professional coaches who are trained in all levels.

The club encourages visitors to come watch the action any Saturday between 9 a.m. - noon.

While the club does not ask parents to fundraise themselves, each family is expected to assist with the set up or take down of equipment three times for each session.

This work crew approach is the

fundamental success proving many hands make light work and helps to keep the cost of the sessions to a very reasonable fee.

Local service groups and businesses are also supportive.

The Gym Club received several donations including \$400 from the Rodney Lions, \$200 from the Rodney Legion, \$100 from the West Lorne Masons \$100, \$50 from Full-Line Equipment and Kelloggs Foods as donated snacks.

The club will be using these donations to purchase new mats.

Members come from Bothwell to Dutton.

The program is for children aged two to 12.



Kindergym classes keep kids active

Kaitlyn Bradshaw on the balance beam, centre, takes part in a Kindergym class at the Rodney Community Centre. The class is held every Saturday morning with the help of parent volunteers.

SUBMITTED

Two Aldborough students explain bullies, victims and bystanders

While bullying happens at all ages, learning how to deal with it at a young age is important.

Sheldon Downie and Jamee Ellis, two Grade 6 students at Aldborough Public School answered questions about bullying to shed light on the issue.

According to the two students, bullying is discussed a lot at APS as students deal with bullies on the school yard.

At APS, younger students are split up from older students to prevent conflicts.

What is bullying?

Sheldon: Being teased, beaten up or having things stolen over and over.

Jamee: One or two people ganging up on one person and picking on them every-day.

What is a victim?

Sheldon: Smaller kids, bullied by older kids. They should be split up.

Jamee: Victims can be depressed by bullying because they feel they can't do anything right.

What is a bystander?

Sheldon: Someone who hangs out with a bully because they are afraid to stand up to them.

Jamee: Someone who watches bullying and doesn't do anything to help.

Why don't people tell someone when



Sheldon Downie



Jamee Ellis

they've been bullied?

Sheldon: They could be beat up.

Jamee: Bystanders don't tell because they could get it next.

What could happen if no one tells?

Sheldon: Bullies could go on to cause more problems like

stealing.

Jamee: Victims could commit suicide. They could beat themselves up.

What can be done to stop bullying?

Sheldon: Tell on bullies but don't rat on them for little things. They might get more

trouble.

A fight isn't bullying, fights happen but friends need to stick up for each other.

Jamee: Tell your parents, a teacher or another child.

Once someone is told about it, they should talk to the victim to find out why they are being bullied and talk to the bully to try and help them.

Teachers need to keep an eye on kids who have been told on for bullying.

Students learning about bullying

In Grade 6, students have to make presentations on bullying and go to Web sites around the world for research.

Many resources can be found online at www.gecdsb.on.ca/d&g/nobullying/resources.html.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

St. Mary's students learn about community policing

Students from St. Mary's Catholic School were awarded by the West Elgin Community Policing Committee for their safety posters in December. The winners were, front row left: Cal Horva Sierra Poels, Nicolas Mendonc. Second row left to right: Ryan Leys, Tiffany Kriter, William Weeks with organizer Sylvia Logan.

Book on veterans in the works

A local book is being planned to celebrate the Year of the Veteran.

West Elgin Senior Project Action Committee is partnering with West Elgin Secondary School to have students interview veterans and hopefully publish a book to preserve their

stories.

"We were trying to think of what we can do for the year of the veteran," said Jill Soos, WESPAC chairperson. "One of our goals is to be involved in intergenerational projects like this one."

As part of their Grade 10 his-

tory program, students will learn writing, interviewing skills, and be part of a valuable experience to learn and capture wartime stories.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for veterans to pass their stories on to younger generations to be captured forever," said WESS Principal Larry Schnieder.

Following the success of Tapestry of Timeless Tales, a book written by Grade 8 students about local seniors, Soos hopes this new book will recognize the contributions of many men and women who gave themselves to be involved in the World Wars, other conflicts and peace-keeping missions.

Students will be seeking story ideas and veteran or family members to conduct interviews during the month of May in hopes the book could be published during the summer.

The high school will have creative direction over the book with senior English students editing it and art programs able to provide images.

"We are committed to making this a reality and trust it will be a valuable experience for our community and all those involved," said Soos.

Anyone with wartime stories to share or anyone who would like to be involved in this project can call WESS at 768-1350 or Jill Soos at 785-0460.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

St. Mary's enhanced readers awarded

Alex Sara and Shannon Pyka front centre, read *The New Boy* during the reading enhancement program at St. Mary's Catholic School. Grade 2 and 3 students enrolled in the program were awarded certificates for completing the program. The program is taught by Joanne Anderson with parent volunteers, Karen Weeks and Darlene Stacey. Other students who are in the program are Kaitlyn Oliveira, Luke Stacey, Rachell Frizzell, Daniel Sekaris, Will Weeks, Kent Vandenberg, Joseph Solomon and Brad DaSilva.

Historic images online

Over 50,000 local scenes and images of Elgin County's past are now available on the Internet.

Elgin County Archives has put searchable catalogues on www.elgin.ca.

These include the Scott-Sifton Photograph Collection and several new galleries that have been added to the Web site.

The archives are the official repository of records of Elgin County and its municipalities.

It houses private collections and official documents of the County's history and citizens.

Elementary teachers approve strike

BY SUN MEDIA

Elementary teachers in the Thames Valley District School Board approved strike action Monday night to back demands for increased preparation time.

In voting at the London Convention Centre, 96 per cent of teachers who cast ballots gave a strike the green light.

The board and union have met four times since the contract expired Aug. 31, most recently this month.

The union is seeking 200 minutes a week of preparation time by 2007 — an amount comparable to that allotted to Ontario high school teachers. Thames Valley elementary teachers get 150 minutes for preparation a week. A news release issued by the union's

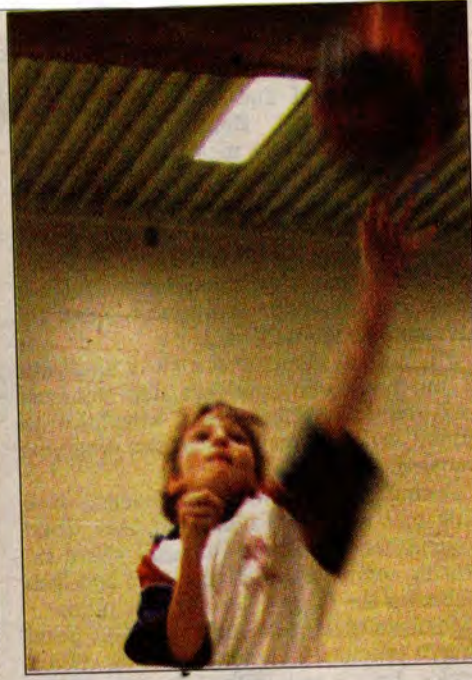
head office in Toronto said teachers would start working to rule in March if there's no deal.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Free throw championship

Knights of Columbus hosted a free throw championship at St. Mary's Catholic School Jan. 26, with youths 10-13 years-old from area schools competing. Left, Jasmin Brewer, middle Kent Vandenberg, right, Tina Lettner shoots.



Free throw champs moving on

Local Knights of Columbus brought back its annual free throw championship to St. Mary's Catholic School last Friday.

With 10 students qualifying from each area school, youth aged 10-13 competed with a chance to advance

in the championship that leads to a North America-wide final round and the next round, district, in Thamesville Feb. 10.

Winners at the St. Mary's event were:

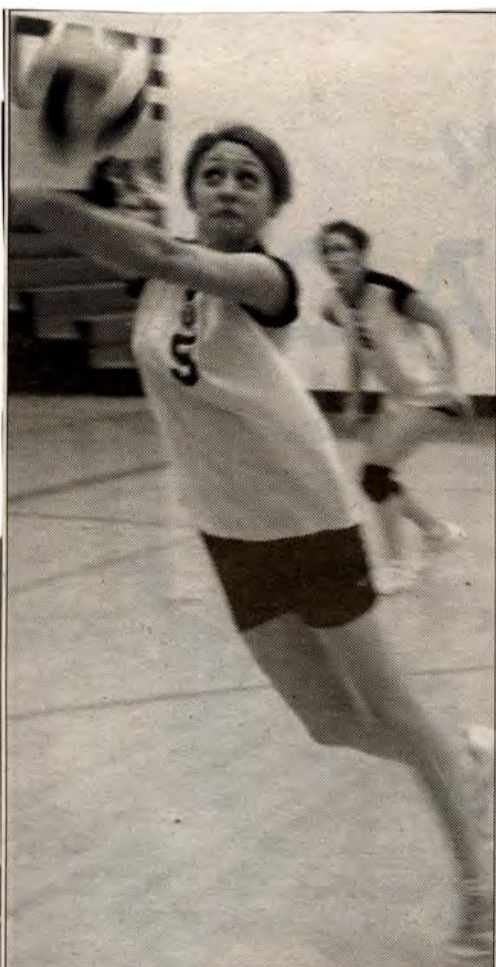
10-years-old: Rachel Frizzell.

Scott Barfett, from St. Mary's.

11-years-old: Bo Horvat, St. Mary's, Alex Goos, APS.

12-years-old: Tabatha Wemp, Malcolm McWilliam, St. Mary's.

13-year-old: Jessica Small, St. Mary's, Robert Johnston, WESES.



Stretch! JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Andrea Goos stretches out to keep the volleyball as her junior girls team beat East Elgin Secondary School Monday to remain undefeated, beating the Eagles in three sets.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Warriors host OVA tournament
Brian Azevedo sprawled to the ground and tipped up the volleyball for his under 18 Warrior teammates at an Ontario Volleyball Association Tier 3 tournament held at West Elgin Secondary School. West Elgin finished fourth.

Warriors battle to fourth

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

West Elgin Warriors battled to a fourth place finish in an under-18 Ontario Volleyball Association Ken Davies Open held in West Lorne March 5.

Hosting top tier 3 teams from across the province, the Warriors played three quick matches in the afternoon and ran out of gas against Ottawa in the semi-final.

"We could have won. We hoped for gold but Ottawa had a strong team," said head coach Tim Lilley.

Despite a big rally with heavy smashes from Wes McLandress and Brian Azevedo, Ottawa took the match 23-19, 25-22 to take the bronze medal.

The OVA is an amateur league, outside of

the school system, where boys and girls who love volleyball can pay to be on the team.

The Warriors features players from Dutton/Dunwich, West Elgin and Southwest Middlesex.

Carrie Ostrom, teacher at West Elgin Senior Elementary helped organize the boys tournament at West Elgin Secondary School this past weekend.

"We have such a strong volleyball tradition in the community," she said. "All of the parents have been so supportive to help put this together."

The boys have finished fourth in three tournaments this year but coaches Lilley and Joe Mylrea believe the boys can do better at the provincial finals April 9, possibly in Sudbury.

The under-14 and under-17 girls won silver at their last tournaments and look for further successes at the provincials in Kingston in April.

Large crowds filled the WESS gymnasium and cheered on the Warriors.

Earlier in the day, Steve Wells, from Glencoe turned his ankle and was taken in an ambulance.

However the Warriors battled on.

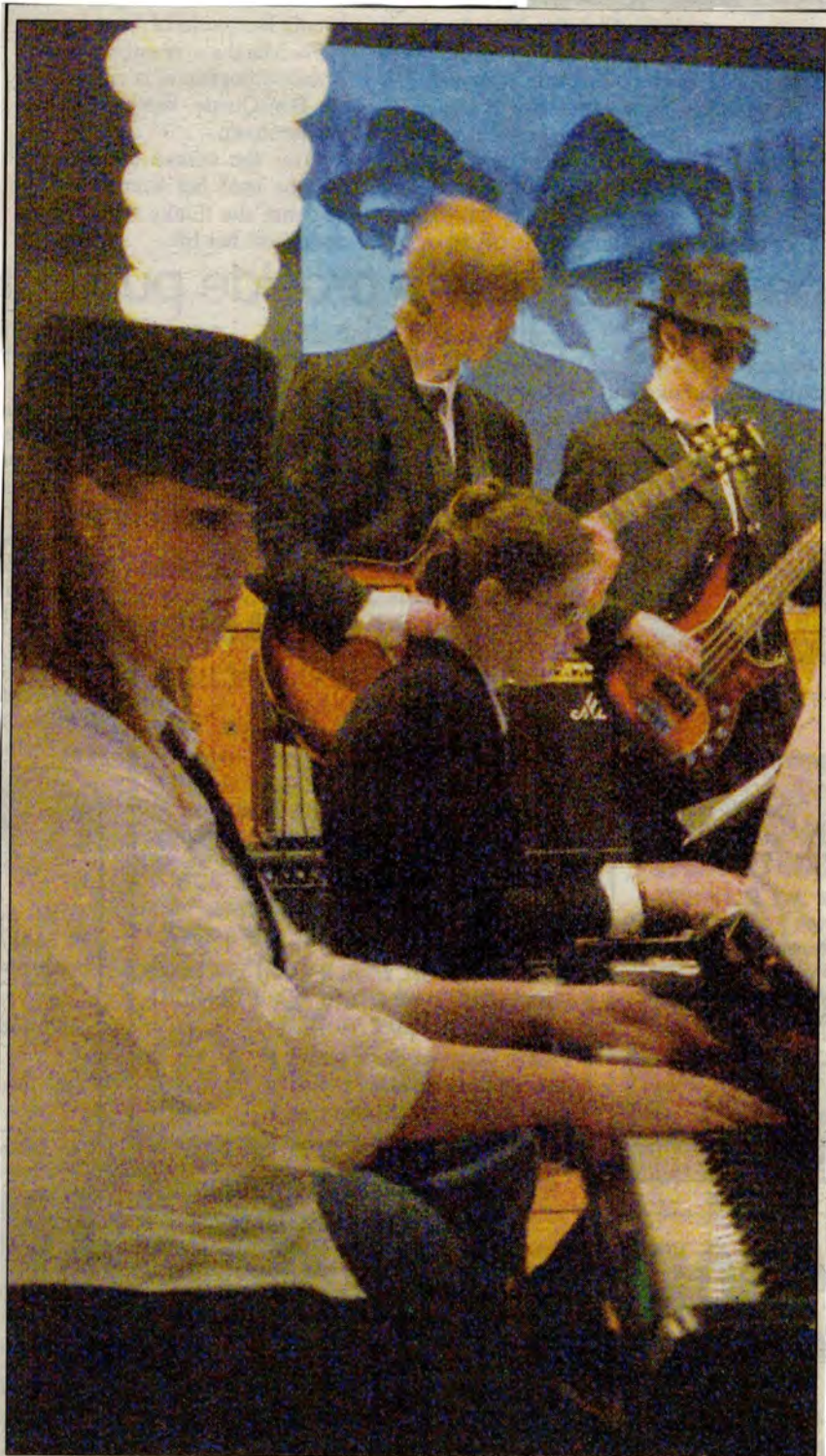
The boys showed great comradery.

William Drummelsmith, Brian Lilley and Mike Lyons kept the team pumped throughout the long day.

Grant Little, Harrison Oake, Kyle Mylrea and David McWilliam pushed the team to beat the number one ranked Midland, Barrie and Waterloo.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Remembering Terry Fox
Students at all local schools took part in a fundraiser for the Terry Fox Foundation, 25 years after his historic walk for cancer research. Above: students at West Elgin Senior Elementary School braved overcast skies to walk around Miller Park. From left to right Robert Johnson, Sarah King, Laura Pinder, Karli Snobelen, Shelby Woolley, Samantha Hamelin, Ashley Willy and Tasha Ferby, were a few of the students out. Below: Robert McLeod, Justin Moll and Hunter VanRaay walked with their Grade 1 class at Dunwich-Dutton P.S.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
WESS band gets the blues
Jen Ford, front, and Rebecca Stone play piano as James Stone plays guitar and Mark Godfrey plays bass during the West Elgin Secondary School band's performance of music from the Blues Brothers movies. A full house enjoyed dinner and music April 8.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Wildcats hit the high seas
West Elgin Secondary School students were busy this week preparing costumes and rehearsing for three performances of Peril on the High Seas.

Wildcats theatre starts Friday night

Merry Ann Sweet, wealth young heiress is being stalked by a kidnapper on the HMS Majestic.

Sweet, played by Dana Kuska, is travelling on a luxury cruise ship to London England from New York in the West Elgin Secondary School Wildcats Theatre performance of Peril

on the High Seas. The play, written by Billy St. John, is based in the 1920s and is full of exotic romance, mystery and mayhem all to a jazz soundtrack.

Directed by students Nicki Stallon and Rachael Kalitas the play is the first student production of the school year. The dinner theatre

performance starts Jan. 21 at 6:30 p.m.

A matinee tea performance is Jan. 22 and a Saturday evening performance is Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m.

For ticket information call 768-1350.

Athletic awards handed out at West Elgin S.S.

MEAGAN DAVIS

for The Chronicle

Awards were given out at the West Elgin Secondary School student athletic banquet May 27.

In a cafeteria packed, family and friends watched Wildcats receive the 2005 awards.

Graduating student Josh Duplessis took home six awards, competing on five sports teams while balancing his academics.

He received the senior male athlete of the year award, the football team's MVP award, the 75 point award, for most points in game action for a team and multiple awards for participating on sports teams throughout high school.

"I've played soccer since I was little but once I got into high school I pretty much played everything all the way through," said Duplessis, who is going to UWO next fall.

"He is a leader and an excellent ath-

lete," said football coach and teacher Dave Burke.

Senior student Katie Lyons picked up the senior female athlete of the year award, one of two awards for five years of participating in sports, the volleyball team's MVP award and a special award from the St. Thomas soccer club.

"She is never content just playing the game...she plays for the true love of the game," said teacher and coach Lori Clinton.

Heart and hustle awards were given to graduating students Amanda Leonardes and Adam McKillop for being team leaders and for their continuous participation in sports.

"The standards you need to have for this award makes you really proud of all your accomplishments," said Leonardes.

Other awards given out during the

night included:

Laura Park, the Optimist Club award and MVP awards for sportsmanship and dedication on the track and field and badminton teams.

Jeff Else, the Coaches Basketball Award for managing the senior boys basketball team.

Brian Azevedo, male St. Thomas soccer club award.

Junior athlete of the year awards were given to Aaron Cowell and Rhonda Knight, who also won outstanding achievement in girl's basketball.

The 110 per cent award went to Catie Welch, Allison Gumpert, Trena Lebedz, Rachel Humphrey and Stacey Penney.

Penney also received the exceptional senior athlete award and graduating SAA award.



MEAGAN DAVIS/FOR THE CHRONICLE

Athletes honoured

Top: Amanda Leonardes and Adam McKillop won the heart and hustle awards for their efforts on Wildcat teams.

Left: Josh Duplessis and Katie Lyons won top male and female senior athlete awards.

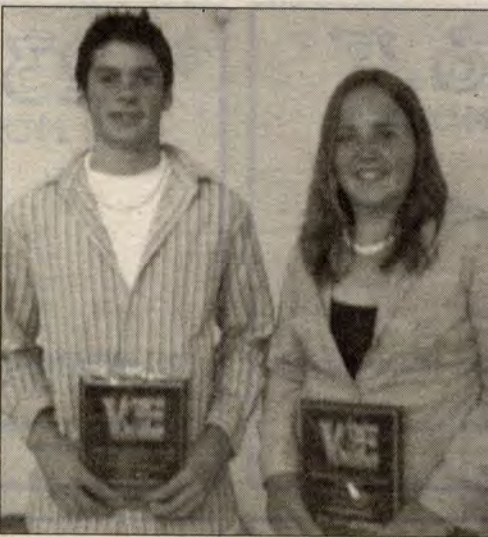
Right: Laura Park won the Optimist Club award for sportsmanship and dedication at the WESS Athletics banquet held May 27.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Triple-jump at WESES

Chris Clark leaps into the sand during the triple-jump event at the West Elgin Senior Elementary School track and field day Friday. Students participated in many running events, high jump, long jump and throwing competition. For more see page 9.



Midget girls unbeaten

Dutton's Midget Girls Fastball team remain unbeaten with recent wins against Byron 22-12 and Otterville 8-7.

The offence has scored 42 runs in only three games.

Home games are Wednesdays in Dutton at 8:30 p.m.



Junior Girls Volleyball team, undefeated going into semi's

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Britany Correia and Caroline Levesley dive for the ball in the third set of the quarter final Feb. 17. West Elgin Wildcats Girls Junior Volleyball team knocked Arthur Voaden Secondary School out of the playoffs with a 25-13, 25-15, 25-21 win at West Elgin Secondary School. The team went undefeated in the regular season and have yet to lose going into the semi-finals Feb. 22. The Senior Girl's team had also made it to the TVDSB



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Career Fair

Katelyn Duplessis shows the hair straightening skills she learned at Judy's Hair Loft in West Lorne on Rhonda Knight. Students at West Elgin Secondary School displayed their experiences from their co-op placements at area businesses. Knight had her placement at Amlin Quarterhorses.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

St. Mary's student honour death of Pope John Paul II

Students at St. Mary's Catholic School in West Lorne held a candle lighting ceremony for the death of Pope John Paul II April 8. Left to right, Hailey Szabo, Emily Ross and Laura Weeks led the school through a prayer.