



THE BLUE DEVIL NEWS

The Student-Produced Newsletter of West Haven High School

November Topics

- Seniors Celebrated at College Decision Day
- Gardening Club Brings New Life To The School
- WHHS Clubs Organize Multiple Food Drives
- Unlikely Theater Partnership Flourishes
- News Round Up
- School Flyers

Important Dates

Dec. 7: Half Day for students

Dec. 9: DECA Winter Semi-Formal

Dec. 15: Winter Band Concert

Dec. 17: Theatre Workshop Children's Theatre Players Performance

Dec. 20: Winter Choral Concert

Dec. 23: Half Day

Dec. 26 to Jan. 2: Winter Break

Seniors Celebrated at College Decision Day

By Ausin Carrion, Class of 2023



**West Haven High School
College Decision Day
Fall 2022**



**48 seniors participated;
91 college acceptances
and 7 colleges/universities participated**



Gardening Club Brings New Life To The School

By Takiya Awwal, Class of 2023



The new Gardening Club is bringing new life to the school by growing herbs, flowers and vegetables in planters that the group constructed in the courtyard.

The club, which started last February, is very popular, with about 15 active members.

Nicolle Berthi, a founding mother of this club, said that throughout their meetings they teach their members how to garden, water and more.

Last year the club raised over \$1,000 from a Mother's Day plant sale. This year they are selling gardening-themed hoodies, shirts and crewnecks. See Mr. Martinez in F217 if you want to make a purchase.

The club was a "spur-of-the-moment idea" said Celia Williams, a founding mother of the club.

Vice President Kaylina Jones said she has always loved gardening.

“I have liked gardening ever since I was a kid, I used to do it with my grandma a lot,” she said.

The gardening club is always accepting new members. Join the Google Classroom with the code **pz7g2md** if you’d like to learn more.

“And even if you don’t like worms and all that stuff that comes with gardening, it’s still a really fun opportunity...no matter who you are you can join,” Jones said.

WHHS Clubs Organize Multiple Food Drives

By Emma Ryan, Class of 2023



Several WHHS clubs organized food drives in November to ensure local families in need didn’t go hungry this Thanksgiving.

The Student Government/Interact Club collected food for W.H.E.A.T, also known as West Haven Emergency Assistance Task Force. It is a local food pantry located on Washington Avenue.

"The WHEAT canned food drive was a big success again this year," said Mark Consorte, Student Government/Interact Club faculty advisor. "Thanks to the generosity of so many WHHS students and faculty members, many needy families in West Haven can put food on the table this holiday season."

Another group, Fill-a-Bag Fuel-a-Mind, raised over \$1,000 and over 20 bags of nonperishable foods by collecting food at the football game on Nov. 11. If visitors brought canned food to the game, they got a free ticket. Event organizers said they were extremely grateful to everyone who donated and volunteered.

HOSA, our club for future healthcare professionals, sold candied grapes and the money that was raised went to buying food for the school's food pantry.

The school pantry was also well stocked thanks to the efforts of the internship/life skills program run by Special Education teacher Carissa Anastasio. Mrs. Anastasio's group collected hundreds of non-perishable items in November.

Unlikely Theatre Partnership Flourishes

By Dakota Willette, Class of 2023



If you were to look up “rivalry” in the dictionary, you would find a picture of Notre Dame High School and West Haven High School. The two schools are fierce competitors when it comes to sports. However, it’s a different story in theatre.

The two schools’ theatre programs became close and sharing students in 2019 when WHHS freshman Cheyenne Sebas was invited to perform at Notre Dame-West Haven.

“Theatre is very much a family and so to be able to have two separate safe spaces without feeling as though I’m walking on eggshells with either of them just because of a sports rivalry is nice,” Sebas said about the partnership.

Notre Dame’s theatre director Casey LaMonaca said the partnership has been flourishing.

“Over the last five years, Notre Dame Theater has had an increasing connection to West Haven High School,” Mrs. LaMonaca said. “Actresses and members of the crew have worked on Notre Dame show in the fall and winter seasons, while still being able to participate in WHHS productions as well.”

The directors knew if they were going to make this work, they had to put the decades old rivalry aside for the well-being of the students.

The partnership has lasted and expanded to this day. Now anyone from Notre Dame-West Haven, Sacred Heart Academy, WHHS, and Luralton Hall can perform or work on the Notre Dame or Sacred Heart Academy performances.

The programs have done as much as change show dates, so the students can do both performances. In 2022, West Haven's director Tracy Stratton had the original date for the performance of "You Can't Take it With You" on the same date as Notre Dame's performance of "The Man Who Came To Dinner."

Mrs. Stratton, without being asked, changed her dates to the week before so WHHS students could participate in the Notre Dame show.

"Notre Dame theatre and West Haven theatre have mutual students this year, so I decided that this year it would be the best to work with Notre Dame's director to give our students the most opportunity to work in live theatre," Mrs. Stratton said.

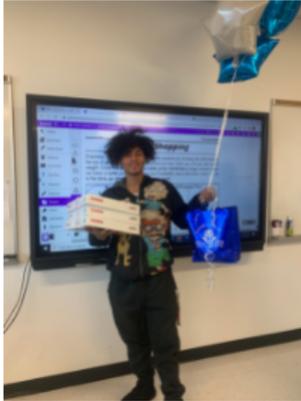
West Haven isn't the only one who's made changes and sacrifices.

Mrs. LaMonaca gave up valuable rehearsal time with the WHHS students so they could get through WHHS' tech week and show days. This year was especially tight due to the shows being back-to-back weekends, resulting in the students going through two tech weeks in a row. Both directors understood and gave the students as much rest as possible.

If you would like to participate in either of these programs please contact the respective directors. Auditions for WHHS' production of "Grease" are on December 20th. Follow @whhstheatreworkshop on Instagram, email Tracy Stratton at Tracy.Stratton@whschools.org, or see her in room H123 for more information.

For more information about Notre Dame's Theatre program, follow @ndwhtheater on Instagram or email Mrs. LaMonaca at clamonaca@notredamehs.com.

News Round Up



Students of the Month

Congratulations to the November BLUE Students of the Month senior Donald Gonzalez (left) and junior Nathaniel Colon (right). Each month the school chooses two students of the month who embody the qualities of a well-rounded students.



Todd Dandelske Receives Fall Class Act Award

The Class Act Council honored social studies teacher and school photographer Todd Dandelske with its Fall Class Act Award. For years Mr. Dandelske has been documenting countless school events with his gorgeous photographs. Congratulations to Mr. Dandelske, this honor is so well earned!



Seniors Win Powder Puff Show Down

The ladies of the senior class came out victorious in the 2022 Powder Puff games, defeating the juniors in the finals. During half time students got to pie teachers in the face. The students got that chance by entering a raffle, and proceeds from that raffle went to a relief fund for victims of the recent Hurricane Nicole in Haiti.

(Photo courtesy of Todd Dandelske.)



Beauty and the Beast Basketball

The basketball teams hosted a Beauty and the Beast basketball skills competition on Nov. 18th. There was a great turnout, with high school students, parents and young kids from our town rec program and community all participating. Thanks to everyone who came out to support the event. *(Photo courtesy of Todd Dandelske)*



Ornament Decorating

School Flyers

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EARNING COLLEGE CREDIT LEADING TO CERTIFICATION?



You can take a course this spring in any one of the following certification areas.

Bookkeeping Certificate
Entrepreneurial Studies Certificate

Early Childhood Special Education Certificate
Teacher Assistant Certificate

Computer Servicing Certificate (IT)
Computer Science Certificate

Hospitality, Meetings, Conventions and
Special Events Management Certificate

Retail Management/Fashion
Merchandising Certificate

Quality Control Certificate

Sign up now to enroll in a course at Gateway Community College. Complete the Powerschool form "Gateway Spring Certificate Courses". Submissions will be reviewed in order received to meet criteria.

WHHS THEATRE WORKSHOP
BRINGS TO YOU

SINGING *Telegrams*

BIRTHDAY? ANNIVERSARY?
BAD DAY? COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE?
DO YOU NEED A HOCO OR PROMPOSAL?

PURCHASE A SINGING TELEGRAM!
CHOOSE ONE OF OUR CHARACTERS AND
THEY WILL SURPRISE YOUR PERSON!

COME FILL OUT A FORM IN H123 (BLACKBOX)
TO SIGN UP!

CHARACTER
OF CHOICE

\$20
COST

INCLUDES
GOODY BAG

WHHS GARDENING CLUB SALE



\$35



\$25



\$15



\$25

PAYMENT METHODS

CASH TO MR. M IN ROOM F217

VENMO

CASHAPP

PAYPAL

} @WOLFHAVENGARDENS



WEST HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL BAND

WINTER CONCERT

Thursday, December 15, 2022

West Haven High School Auditorium

7:00 PM

Free Admission

How many days
of Christmas
are there?



**SATURDAY
DEC. 17TH**

10:30AM

WHHS AUDITORIUM

**PRESENTED BY THE WHHS
CHILDREN'S THEATRE**