



Drama Club: Recap of the Year and Preparations for the Freddy's

By Chelsea Kun

On March 11th, 12th, and 13th, the drama club performed their production of *Gigi*, and it turned out to be a success.

The play started out as a group of high school students, anxiously waiting to audition, and wondering what role they would receive afterwards. While some students remained calm, many students were very nervous. One student even carried a stress ball! After the auditions, members of the management team and the vocal coach for drama club decided who would get which part.

Once the cast was made, the other drama club members would not find out what that list looked like until the next day. As part of that team, I was instructed not to tell anyone, especially my sister, Leah Kun, because she would find out that she had the lead role. The next day, others would rejoice to find out their roles. Leah felt "thrilled" when she received the part of *Gigi*, and Alec Buttner,

who played Gaston Lachailles, felt "ecstatic." Also, Bailey Washburn was "surprised" when she learned that she would play Aunt Alicia. With the cast decided, the drama club began to plan their production that they would perform in several months.

The play was outstanding, and many have argued that it was the best since *Fiddler on the Roof*, which was performed four years ago. Creating a masterpiece like that requires months of intense hard work, with some added stress. From coming to rehearsal on Saturdays for three hours to staying late at night the week before the show, it's safe to say that the drama club felt an immense amount of pressure. But every year, it pays off, and it especially paid off this year with a show as magnificent as *Gigi*.

Now that the show is over, there is one more event to prepare for: The Freddy Awards. The Freddy Awards are an award show, similar to the Tony Awards, but it praises

high school students for their performance in drama club productions. On May 12th, the drama club will watch the nominations in the auditorium. *Fiddler on the Roof* was nominated for six Freddy's, and many people are hoping to match that number or even beat it. In addition to the nominations, several of the drama club members are performing in the awards show. There are high hopes for everyone in drama, and everyone in WAHS wishes them luck.

- Taylor Garrison: Editor-in-Chief
- Michael Jablonski: Managing Editor
- Scott Marceca: Asst. Editor



Alec Buttner
Leah Kun

The Echo

Michael Fabian: Heart of a Warrior

By Kalynn Betts

In January, Michael Fabian received the “Heart of a Warrior Award.” He was chosen out of several other wrestlers in a tournament, where all their coaches wrote letters nominating them. The award was created by a young child named Logan, who was diagnosed with a heart defect that interrupted him from being able to participate in any of his beloved sports (wrestling). He had one goal in mind: to help other kids like himself. His family created “The Heart of a Warrior Award” to pay forward all of the love and generosity they have received from Logan’s injury.

During his junior year of high school, Michael Fabian was forced out of the district wrestling tournament due to a skin infection. After recovery, he began training and working hard for his upcoming senior football and wrestling seasons. However, in May he faced yet another injury, this time more severe. He was participating in a competition of ultimate Frisbee and during the activity, he completely ruptured his achilles tendon. Doctors told him the chances of him playing sports his senior year was *very* slim. He said, “It was definitely difficult sitting out my senior year for the sport that I loved the most.

But I am happy that I was able to support my teammates throughout their season.” All the while, Mike has had his head high, maintaining his leadership positions and continuing to work hard toward his bright future.

Michael was accepted into Worcester Polytechnical Institute and will be attending there in the fall to receive his masters in Fire Protection Engineering. On top of that, he is going to be participating on the wrestling team. Michael mentioned, “I was very honored to even be considered for the award, let alone receive it. I wish Logan and his family the best of luck.”



Michael Fabian accepts his award.

Edition 93, Issue 6

Juniors: The Process Begins

By Brenna Blanke

Juniors! Are you feeling anxious about senior year? Perhaps a little excited to be graduating soon? Whether you plan to go to college or not, here is a timeline to help you excel throughout your senior year ahead! I'm sure you may be feeling a little bit nervous, but the guide coming your way will help to ease some of your anxiety and help you prepare.

Throughout the duration of your senior year, you should continuously be working to perform to the best of your abilities and be sure to stay involved with extracurricular activities.

During the fall, you should start to meet with your guidance counselor to inform them of your goals and plans. They will also let

you know if you are on the right track to graduate. During this time you should also register and take your final SAT/ACT to boost your score, if needed. Applications and transcripts will start being due during this time! Don't forget!

As winter approaches, your FAFSA should be completed and submitted to make sure that you are getting as much help towards college as you can. Once you submit that, you should receive your SAR (Student Aid Report), which lets you know how much student aid you are eligible for. If you plan on attending a private college, you most likely will also have to fill out the lengthy CSS Profile provided by the College Board. After that, keep in mind that scholarships are always

available.

Once the warmth of spring arrives is when senior year is in full gear, and rapidly ending. During this time the colleges that you have applied to should start to get back to you. If you have not visited any of these schools yet, now would be a good time. You may find that you have been accepted by more than one school, so be sure to compare financial aid and scholarship offers which have a big effect on your decision!

After committing to the school of your choice, put your deposit down to guarantee your spot! Now all you have to do is keep your grades up, prepare for graduation, and ready yourself for the new adventures ahead of you!

Advice From the Seniors

By Taylor Garrison

The school year is coming to a close and the seniors will be graduating soon. Before the seniors leave Wilson, I thought it would be opportune to ask them for advice for the underclassmen. Who better to give advice than those who just finished going through it all! I asked many of my fellow classmates what their best pieces of advice were.

The most common piece of advice said amongst seniors was to be kind and thankful towards your teachers. Nearly everyone echoed this sentiment as they said the teachers at Wilson really do care about us and they have been instru-

mental in writing college recommendations and giving college advice. Seniors also suggest not being afraid to ask for help from teachers! It can be intimidating to ask for help, but seniors agree that asking for help is much better than struggling through a class.

Another common piece of advice is to join clubs. One of the most common phrases repeated in clubs at Wilson is "I should have joined sooner," so many of the seniors say join clubs as soon as you can. Other seniors' advice is to make the most of your high school years! There are so many opportuni-

ties and experiences to have and seniors say you should take advantage of those before you regret not taking them!

Seniors also advise to do your homework and the sooner the better, such as on Friday nights so your weekends are homework free. On the topic of classes, seniors suggest not overloading your courses, especially in your senior year. Challenge yourself, but know that the college admissions process can be very stressful and you may not want a very heavy course load on top of that.

The Echo

Superstars



Pictures courtesy
of Google

By Allison Reiter

Superstars is a huge school event that takes place every year toward the end of April or beginning of May. Superstars is put together by the Student Council every year. The whole school gets together in the gymnasium and everyone sits with their own class. The seniors, juniors, sophomores, freshmen, and faculty all compete against each other to see who can earn the most points. Bonus points are also given out to the classes with most school spirit and t-shirts were thrown into the crowd at the

most enthusiastic people.

Students sign up for Superstars and compete head to head in all different activities. Reoccurring activities from year to year include ping pong, obstacle course, pie eating contest, musical chairs, weightlifting, dodge ball and many others. Musical chairs and ping pong seem to be a favorite among many in the past years. The competition between the grades and faculty is intense. The faculty automatically gets second place if not first, making them the inevita-

ble winners almost every year. Though in this year's competition, the seniors won.

Superstars was bigger and better than ever this year. With Student Council president Chavi Sharma and vice president Luke Mette, it was a really fun time. New activities were added this year too. Superstars overall is an extremely fun event, taking place in the last month of school getting students excited to finish out the rest of the school year.

Should Athletes Play In College?

By Rachel Torres

It is difficult to be one of the 460,000 or 6% of college athletes that continue their athletics past high school. With that being said, should athletes play in college, even after all the hard work they have put in to get there?

Plenty of high school athletes find that there is a point in their junior or senior year that they would like to be recruited to play at the next level. This stage is called being a prospective athlete. At this point coaches are looking at you to make sure you have the talent to be considered. Recruiters seem to look at grades and athletic experience at this point in the process. After all, recruiters only have so many spots to fill, so they want to pay close attention when choosing

new athletes.

There seem to be various positives and negatives if and when you are chosen to be a collegiate athlete. For starters, being a Division I or II athlete allows you to have money deducted from your tuition, but keep in mind that not everyone gets the same amount! You are also forced to stay in shape, so there will be no worries about the "freshman 15"!

On the negative side, playing a college sport is extremely time consuming. Your schedule ends up being sleeping, eating, and playing or training for the sport. So you, as an athlete, should consider all of these aspects before making the decision. Student athletes should consider the circumstances

before choosing to play a sport in college

Pros:

1. Scholarship Opportunities (but not everyone gets the same amount)
2. You need to maintain a certain GPA to play, all athletes are given a mandatory study hall
3. You have a "set group" of friends
4. Keeps you in shape

Cons:

1. Freshmen & playing time
2. Very time consuming
3. Sleep. School. Sport. Repeat.
4. Breaks are cut short
5. Fear of missing out
6. Potential stress
7. Potential injury

Edition 93, Issue 6

Choosing a Major

By Alexis Vitko

Do you feel like you are stranded at sea trying to figure out your future? Well do not stress yourself too much; there are some steps you can take to find your way ashore.

First, take a minute to breathe and look at which classes you enjoy and decide which branch you would excel in and would enjoy as a career focus. Whether it is math, science, English, or history, there are a variety of jobs in that field awaiting your arrival! After you have picked your field of interest, think of things you would like to do that

fascinate you. When picking a career, it is very important to pursue your passion. Take into account what you do or encounter every day that could potentially help you pick your career choice.

However, if you really don't know who you want to be or what you'd like to spend the rest of your life doing, spend some time doing research to find things out about a field you would be interested in following. Being curious is good, and it will not hurt you at all, as long as you don't spend too much time pondering. When the time comes, you can tell

a college advisor what you would like to pursue.

If you really don't know what you want to do and it's already too late to figure it out before you go off to college, start off your college years taking your Gen Eds, or required college courses like English and math. Don't worry, when you're finally off to college, you won't be alone. You can talk to professors or counselors who will help guide you. You might even be able to figure it out on your own after gaining more experiences and giving it more time.

Apple vs. the FBI

By Andorra Bastien

The legal issues between Apple and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) due to access to the iPhone used by shooter in last year's San Bernardino is now resolved after authorities accessed the device.

A federal judge asked Apple to help the FBI unlock an iPhone belonging to Syed Farook, who was responsible for the shootings in San Bernadino which left 14 people dead. Apple declined to help the FBI. Apple chief executive, Tim Cook called the order "chilling" because it would require Apple to create a new writing software that would be "a master key," capable of opening hundreds of

millions of locks. The argument was that if the FBI could have access to this iPhone, they could have access to many other iPhones.

The government said that it found a third party that was able to unlock the iPhone. The Department of Justice managed to access the data on the iPhone in question and asked the judge to drop the case. In a statement by the FBI they said they would not comment on the "technical aspects" of how the iPhone was unlocked nor the third-party involved. Apple said they will "continue to help law enforcement with their investigations, as we have done all along, and we will continue to increase the secu-

rity of our products as the threats and attacks on our data."

Apple stuck to its principles on defending civil liberties. "From the beginning, we objected to the FBI's demand that Apple build a backdoor into the iPhone because we believed it was wrong and would set a dangerous precedent. As a result of the government's dismissal, neither of these occurred," Apple said. Disagreements between technology companies and the government are likely to continue, but Apple will eventually want to know how the FBI got into the iPhone to increase the security in its software and devices for the near future .

The Echo

The Panama Papers

By Sam Houser

Perhaps you've heard of the "Panama Papers" in recent news. This massive and controversial leak of confidential documents puts a lot of important people in the spotlight and offers a lot more questions than answers at this point.

In case you don't already know, the Panama Papers are a series of over 11.5 million financial documents that expose various acts of corruption carried out by a secretive offshore company. The documents were leaked anonymously to a German Newspaper by someone who claimed their life would be put in danger if their identity was ever exposed. The documents were then shared with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ). The contents of these papers

reveal a secret collection of "shell companies" and offshore accounts.

The documents also reference 12 current or former world powers, as well as 182 other politicians and VIPs. The papers hint towards a "clandestine network" which involved associates of Vladimir Putin, as well as a business interaction between a member of FIFA's ethics committee and several individuals accused of corruption. While shell companies and offshore accounts don't always correlate with illegal activity, they can certainly be used to hide financial transactions. On top of this, the papers referenced plenty of people and companies previously linked to drug trafficking, corruption, and terrorism. Associates of Putin have

dismissed the correlation between his partners and a clandestine network to be "a series of fibs" put in place to discredit Putin before Russian elections. FIFA denies any relation to the documents and claims them to be "ridiculous" and "outrageous".

Meanwhile, the U.K., Mexico, France and Australia have sworn to investigate the files and the individuals they reference for cases of tax evasion. It's hard to say much about the Panama Papers, as most information at this point is being argued and disputed at this point by various people and companies. Hopefully, the future will show a clearer portrait of just what these documents paint.



Pictures courtesy of Google

Edition 93, Issue 6

Words of Wisdom on the Keystones

By Vanessa Fonseca

The Keystone exams are coming up, so it's important to know how to prepare for this big exam. This is why I asked some upper level classmates for some words of wisdom.

When asked how she prepared for the Keystone, Alexis Vitko said, "I made a lot of flashcards, and I skimmed through my notes every night. I also paid attention to Keystone reviews, it helped." Kalynn Betts said, "A lot of teachers had study sessions, so I went to most of them." Studying is the

key to success for this important test.

Teachers offer a lot of help too. For example Mrs. Burd holds study sessions every Thursday in her room, and the night before the Keystone she offers a two hour study session. I asked students what they thought about her intense preparation. Brenna Blanke said, "I had Mrs. Burd for biology, and she just drilled everything into our heads." Sarah Mengel said, Mrs. Burd gives us all the information she can give us. She really

gets into it."

Here are some words of advice from other students. Rachel Torres said, "Stay calm, and realize you know what you're doing. Stay focused." Kalynn Betts said, "Don't take it as a joke. It's a serious test." Learning how to prepare for this exam will help you prepare for bigger tests in the future.

On behalf of the freshmen class we'd like to thank all the teachers, especially Mrs. Burd for all their hard work and efforts for getting us ready for the Keystone.

Lapping the Competition

By Annabelle Gaardsmoe

The Wilson Area High School track and field team started another year off strong for the 2016 season. While the weather has been temperamental, the track team has been able to remain victorious. The girls finished the regular season with a winning record of 7 wins and 4 losses, while the boys' team was undefeated with a record of 11-0. The last regular season meet was May 5th at Wilson and was against Catasauqua and Palmerton. That same night was also senior night for the athletes who will be graduating at the conclusion of this year.

The week of May 9th will be the League championships at Whitehall and after

League's, Districts will begin. Districts will determine which runners, throwers, jumpers, and pole vaulters will go to states. While most athletes will not qualify for states, students in every event have been successful in achieving personal records and conquering preset goals made by the coaches. Additionally, many members of the team this year are the best Wilson has seen in years! The boys' 4x100 team broke the school record, and junior, Aimee Badman, also broke the girls' 100 m record. The team is looking to finish strong this year and continue to reach goals and break more records!



Kylee Kalnas and Joe Espinol race to the finish while their teammates talk strategy.

The Echo

Villanova's Win

By Annabella Bastien

On April 4th, the Villanova Wildcats played an epic game against the North Carolina Tar-Heels. The championship game which was a part of March Madness, took place at the NRG stadium in Houston, Texas where fans gathered to watch the game.

The winning basket came from the team's forward Kris Jenkins who sank a three point shot just as the buzzer end-

ing the game leaving the total score seventy-seven to seventy-four. Villanova guard Josh Hart blocked free throws allowing the score to be 74 to 71 with only 13 seconds left on the clock. They scored a surprising three pointer putting the game at a tie 74 to 74. With only four seconds left in the game, Jenkins shot the winning basket. The second seed wildcats beat the first seed tar heels; Villanova fought their way with their

strong defense and shooting making the game close throughout the game.

Villanova fans can't wait for what's ahead for the fighting Villanova Wildcats after watching the incredible game. This win gave the team its first national title since 1985 making the crowd roared as the final buzzer rang through the stadium making the players jump up and down with happiness.

FBLA States

By Scott Marceca

Every year, PA FBLA hosts its state event at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA. In January at the FBLA Regional Leadership Conference, Wilson FBLA members Morgan Heneman, Chavi Sharma, Amanda Anglemyer, Jeanelle Loiseau, Michael Jablonski, Chris Fernandes, Jada Grant, and Jamie Lynn Allen were notified that they placed high enough to qualify for the state competition. FBLA States is an excellent opportunity for high school students to learn about the business world.

There are many informative workshops held at the Hershey Lodge that are led by esteemed business professionals. FBLA States isn't strictly busi-

ness though; students have some leisure time to visit Hershey's Chocolate World and to explore the gigantic Hershey Lodge. This year, Wilson's FBLA Chapter had some of its students place at states. Jada Grant and Jamie Lynn Allen placed 10th in Public Service Announcement, and Matt Hammerstone placed 8th in Computer Problem Solving. Moreover, the Wilson FBLA Chapter placed 7th in the state for per capita fundraising.

Senior Morgan Heneman competed alongside senior Chavi Sharma in the state competition. For their event of Publication Design, the pair had to create advertisements, such as a brochure and newspaper article, for a gluten free café. When ask-

ing Morgan about her experiences at states, she claimed, "I had a lot of fun. It was a good experience to interact with others who are interested in business. I wish I would've placed in states as an underclassman." Overall, Wilson's FBLA Chapter succeeded at the state level. Congratulations!



Edition 93, Issue 6

The Memory of Light by Francisco X. Stork

By Alyson Ellison

When Vicky Cruz swallows a bottle of sleeping pills, she does not expect to wake up. She does, however, and she is surprised to find herself in a psychiatric hospital, under the guidance of Dr. Desai. She plans to leave the next day, but when she is asked to stay for a few weeks longer, it is the beginning of a journey that might save her life.

One great element of this novel is the characters. The personal growth Vicky achieves is partially due to the other mem-

bers of her therapy group; they each have their own problems to deal with, and they all have something to contribute. They broaden her world view, and through her interactions with them she is able to discover more not only about herself, but also about the world around her.

Through her sessions with Dr. Desai, her experiences with her new friends, and her overall journey in the month following her suicide attempt, Vicky feels, for the first time in a

long time, as though maybe she does have the strength to keep going.

This novel is recommended for all audiences. It may be particularly insightful for those who deal with depression, or those who are interested in learning more about other mental illnesses. This story does not simply focus on what led Vicky to attempt suicide; it reveals how she is able to begin her road to recovery, and how others can do the same.

Ball Lightning

By Michael Jablonski

Weather is full of many unusual occurrences. One of these phenomena, ball lightning, has shocked scientists for decades (pardon the pun).

Ball lightning is... well, exactly what it sounds like. It is a glowing sphere of pure static electricity, usually coming in colors of white, red, orange, yellow, or blue. These floating, watermelon-sized orbs can shine as brightly as a 100-watt lightbulb. Ball lightning is often said to occur during thunderstorms, usually right after lightning strikes. What is most unusual about ball lightning is that it is said to dis-

appear less than a minute after it appears.

Scientists are quite baffled by how something like ball lightning could even exist. Wild theories have been proposed, from extraterrestrials to miniature black holes. There is, however, a scientific hypothesis. Scientists believe that when lightning strikes the ground, the silicon in the ground reacts with carbon and oxygen, forming a glowing sphere. Once the reaction is complete, the orb disperses itself. Scientists have proved this hypothesis by successfully recreating ball light-

ning in laboratories.

So the next time that a ball of lightning appears... just hope that a ball of lightning does not appear.



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