

# INDIAN INFO



Watertown High School

March/April '09

## SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Imagine a job where you wake up each morning knowing today you might forever change someone's life for the better. This is the power of education, and this is why I became a superintendent. I want to make a difference in our world, and I know no better way to improve the future than by opening doors of opportunity for young people. I believe being a superintendent is not just a job, but a calling.

Hopefully, many of you in the community have had the good fortune of meeting so many of our educators in Watertown who model that our work is an "occupassion"; a passionate commitment to educate and enlighten people. Making a difference in children's lives is the driving force behind every action that dedicated educators take. It is the key criterion for every difficult decision that a superintendent makes. Passion, drive and commitment makes our often frustrating work worthwhile and it guides us through the difficult times.

We are clearly encountering a difficult economic time in our community and across this country. Now is the time to become involved and support our education system and the young people of this community. The Board of Education's budget request, seeking a 5.9% increase in spending reflects our vision of improving learning outcomes and opportunities for all of our students. As President Barack Obama said, "In a global economy where the most valuable skill you can sell is your knowledge, a good education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity – it is a prerequisite. The countries that out teach us today will out compete us tomorrow." There is an informed and supportive role that every member of this community can take to improve the future of our children. I encourage you to attend one of the scheduled budget presentations listed in the important dates box and determine how you can have a positive, lasting influence on the future of this community.

Karen Baldwin  
Superintendent of Schools

## THE OTHER CORNER



As the year continues to fly by, we just seem to get busier and busier. At the moment we are in the midst of many important academic as well as school related topics. We just finished CAPT testing, which is a very important time for many students, especially our sophomores. Coming up in April is our Annual Academic Night, which is held to honor those students who have maintained a 90 average or better, so "Achieve Your Potential!"

The administration is in overdrive because we are trying to answer the puzzling question of where graduation will take place. We have also been working on the room locations for next year. With the advancement of the construction, the school will once again have to shift into a new part of the building. Before we know it, the school year will be over, so administration has also paired up with the Guidance Department and together we have been working diligently on next year's schedules.

New Link Crew leaders are being recruited to help the incoming freshmen in September. Also in September, "The Truth About Hate" program will, hopefully, be coming to Watertown High School.

## JUNIOR PROM

It's almost that time of year again, time to get your tuxedos and dresses and prepare for the night of your life! Junior Prom will be held this year on May 8<sup>th</sup> at the Grand Oak Villa, an elegant place to dance and dine on exquisite food. It will start at 7:00 PM and end at 11:30 PM.

Tickets will be on sale at all lunches April 20<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> for \$45 per person. We would also like to remind all girls that if you choose to take off your shoes, you **must** have flip-flops to put on. Thank you, and we hope to see all juniors attend this year.

## SENIOR PROM

Plans for this year's Senior Prom are already underway. The prom will be held at the Aqua Turf on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7 PM to 11:30 PM. Tickets will cost \$50 a person or \$100 per couple. The prom committee often has meetings in Room 117 after school to plan for a flawless evening.

At this time, the committee is choosing the Senior Prom song. If interested in helping, students are encouraged to see Mrs. Kreuzer in room 117 and listen to the announcements to hear the time of the next meeting.

## SAINT BALDRICK'S

This is the second annual St. Baldrick's event being hosted by Watertown High School. Saint Baldrick's is a head-shaving fundraiser for childhood cancer research. This year's event will be held on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, from 6 PM until 8 PM at Swift Middle School.

Mr. Balanda, the events coordinator, has 6 students participating and 4 staff members, including himself, Mr. Sorenson, Mr. Holtman, and Mr. Geary. He is hoping to get about 30 students plus more staff members. This is a great cause, so let's get more participation.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Fri.....	4/3.....	Teacher In Service
Mon ....	4/6.....	7 PM Gold Circle of Sports-Oakville Library
Tue.....	4/7.....	5 PM College Fair
Thu.....	4/30.....	Deadline for permission slips for physical
Sat.....	6/6.....	Free physicals @ Polk

## TOOMEY'S TEXT

It's been a long winter, but Spring has finally arrived and with it the warmer weather. Thanks to Mrs. Monti-Bovi and Mr. Zoni's Interdepartmental Publishing class for designing and making the great dress code posters that you see posted around the school building. Now everyone can see what is acceptable to wear in school.

The school renovation project continues with the closing of the gym, locker rooms, and some offices. The P.E. teachers have met the challenge by successfully conducting their classes in other parts of the building, especially when the weather has not cooperated for outside classes. The administrators appreciate the continued flexibility of the staff, faculty, and students during the renovation.

Upcoming events in the last quarter include some important national and statewide assessments, including AP exams, with which many of you are familiar. Many students enrolled in advance courses in some of the technical, business, and medical careers classes will be taking the Career and Technical Exam (CTE) for the State of Connecticut. Last year, Watertown students were ranked #1 overall out of over 160 districts in the State on the CTE test results. We wish the students well this year and hope for similar success.

As a way to help students "achieve their potential" and learn skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, I have initiated a committee to investigate implementing a Senior Project. I am looking for students who may be interested in participating in the discussion. For more information, please contact me via email ([toomeyna@watertownschools.org](mailto:toomeyna@watertownschools.org)) or stop by my office.

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The construction of the school has really come a long way. Everyone had quite a surprise when they returned after break and saw the new windows installed in the front of the school. Along with the continuing work to the front, the construction has now moved to the demolition of the gym and the locker rooms, which has really put the PE faculty in over drive. The plans are to have the front and the gym area finished by August and move onto the next phase.

The next phase of the construction is to head to the left side of the building, where the wing and classrooms are located. With the movement of the construction also comes the commotion of trying to figure out class new locations. Overall, I would like to say everyone has done a great job adjusting to all the changes and expected transitions.



## WEIGHT LIFTING

The Watertown Weightlifting team competed in three tournaments during the month of March. They performed very well at the NVL competition on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> and at the 1<sup>st</sup> annual JV NVL competition.

The final competition of the year was the State Weightlifting Competition on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. The team lifted a total of 11,130 lbs. and finished 16<sup>th</sup> in the state. The top performers were Will Ernst and Dave Omeri.

The team practices Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays after school in the weight room and are always looking for new athletes.

## BOYS' TENNIS

The Boys' Tennis team started their season off on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The team has 12 members, including freshman: Billy Crotty and Kevin Lvovich. Coach Miller named Tom Baker and Jason Barna as the captains for this season.

The boys first meet was against Holy Cross, the number one team in the NVL. The starters were Matt Voghel, Tom Baker, Jason Barna, Ben Runge, Mitch Valente, and Kevin Lvovich. They lost 6-3 but still performed well. The team's goal this season is to finish top 3 in the NVL and to qualify for states.

## DRESS DRIVE

Gina Bianca and Jess Flamengo have been busy helping the less fortunate by collecting prom dresses for girls who can't afford them.

Together, Gina and Jess went around town asking for donations from different shops. They rounded up as many dresses as they could and found racks to hang the dresses on. Girls Inc, in Waterbury was kind enough to welcome both girls with their idea and helped them follow through on the project. The girls got credit for thier hardwork, which was applied to their independent study.

There were a total of 178 dresses gathered and a countless amount of shoes. The dresses ranged from brand new to gently used. The actual event took place on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, but there are still dresses available for close to nothing at Girls Inc.

Gina and Jess hope to continue this next year and would love help from any current WHS students. "It was a learning experience and hard work, but the hard work paid off." said Gina and Jess.

## BOYS' TRACK

The Watertown High School Boys' Track and Field team spent the first two weeks of the season playing catch-up. Watertown is the only high school in the league that doesn't have an indoor track team, so all of their opponents have been training since November. Coach Dane Street decided to use the idea of tribal leaders for the second consecutive season. A tribal leader is similar to a captain in other sports, but because of the large number of athletes on a track team, about 80 boys this season, there needs to be more leadership. Coach Street's tribal leaders are: Jeff Barna, Josh Bartlett, Blaze Cass, Davis Finley, Zak Kuegler, Aj Mucciario, Ammar Omar, Matt Scully, Matt Walsh, and Tom Westcott. Street hopes that these seniors will lead and motivate their teammates, and be great role models for the underclassmen.

Coach Street's goals are to have a good regular season record and to do well at the NVL Championship meet and the Class MM State meet. He believes that hard work and improvement throughout the season will make these goals a reality.

## GIRLS' TRACK

As the 2009 season gets underway for the girl's track team, they will be working under the guidance of a new coach. After more than a half decade as the man behind the stopwatch for the Girl's Track and Field team, Kristian Kuegler will take the role of mentor to first year head coach and WHS track alum Mykal Kuslis.

Eight seniors returned this year's spring season. Senior captain Hannah Collier and senior Vicki Ranuado will be leading the way for the Indians in shot-put, discus and javelin. In the jumping events, seniors captain Ashlee Lecchi and Kristina Schultz will be teaming up with fellow senior and jumping/sprinting specialist Mandy Cronin as they look to sweep as many points as possible. On the track, senior captain Andrea Szarkowicz, a state open competitor last year, will look to run her way back to the top of the NVL in distance events. Senior hurdler, captain Brianna Pitino, will prove to be dangerous in the 300 and 100-meter hurdles as well as in multiple sprinting events.

## RECYCLING PROGRAM

Mr. Valletta's Conservation classes are working to establish a recycling program here at the high school. To get the program started, only paper is being collected at this time. We ask that everyone, teachers and students, help by using the designated basket for paper only. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated, and we hope this is a success.

# APRIL

## HOME GAMES ARE BOLD

Wed, 1 <sup>st</sup>	JV Boys' Lacrosse @ Cheshire Academy.....4:00 PM	Thu, 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>V Boys' Tennis</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>
Thu, 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Battle of the Bands.....6:30 PM		<b>JV Baseball</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>
Fri, 3 <sup>rd</sup>	In Service for Staff .....No School For Students	Fri, 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>V Baseball</b> ..... <b>11:00 AM</b>
Sat, 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>JV Boys' Lacrosse</b> ..... <b>9:00 AM</b>		<b>JV Boys' Tennis</b> ..... <b>11:00 AM</b>
Mon, 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>JV Boys' Lacrosse</b> ..... <b>4:30 PM</b>		<b>FR Baseball</b> ..... <b>11:00 AM</b>
	Gold Circle of Sports @ Oakville Library .....7:00 PM		V Baseball @ Woodland.....3:30 PM
	Town Council Meeting.....7:30 PM		V Girls' Tennis @ Woodland.....3:30 PM
Tue, 7 <sup>th</sup>	College Fair.....5:00 PM		JV Softball @ Woodland .....3:30 PM
	Junior Parent Night .....6:30 PM		JV Girls' Lacrosse @ Bristol Central.....6:30 PM
Wed, 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>V Boys' Track &amp; Field</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>	Sat, 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>JV Baseball</b> ..... <b>10:00 AM</b>
	<b>V Softball</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>		JV Boys' Lacrosse @ New Milford.....3:30 PM
	<b>V Girls' Tennis</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>		JV Girls' Lacrosse @ Westover.....TBA
	<b>JV Softball</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>	Mon, 20 <sup>th</sup>	Classes Resume.....7:45 AM
	V Baseball @ Holy Cross .....3:30 PM		<b>V Boys' Golf</b> ..... <b>2:30 PM</b>
	V Boys' Tennis @ Holy Cross .....3:30 PM		<b>V Softball</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>
	FR Baseball @ Holy Cross.....3:30 PM		<b>V Girls' Tennis</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>
	PTO Meeting.....7:00 PM		<b>JV Softball</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>
Thu, 9 <sup>th</sup>	V Boys' Golf @ Wilby.....2:30 PM		V Baseball @ Sacred Heart .....3:30 PM
	<b>V Baseball</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>		V Boys' Tennis @ Sacred Heart .....3:30 PM
	<b>V Boys' Tennis</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>		FR Baseball @ Sacred Heart.....3:30 PM
	<b>FR Baseball</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>		<b>JV Girls' Lacrosse</b> ..... <b>4:00 PM</b>
	V Girls' Track & Field @ Sacred Heart .....3:30 PM		JV Boys' Lacrosse @ Bridgeport Central.....6:00 PM
	V Softball @ Torrington.....3:30 PM		Town Council Meeting.....7:30 PM
	V Girls' Tennis @ Torrington .....3:30 PM	Tue, 21 <sup>st</sup>	V Boys' Track & Field @ Kennedy.....11:00 AM
	JV Baseball @ Holy Cross.....3:30 PM		JV Baseball @ Sacred Heart.....3:30 PM
	JV Softball @ Torrington .....3:30 PM	Wed, 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>V Baseball</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>
	Academic Awards Night.....6:30 PM		<b>V Boys' Tennis</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>
Fri, 10 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday.....April Recess Begins		<b>FR Baseball</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>
	<b>JV Baseball</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>		V Girls' Track & Field @ Kennedy.....3:30 PM
Mon, 13 <sup>th</sup>	V Baseball @ Crosby.....11:00 AM		V Softball @ Wolcott.....3:30 PM
	V Boys' Golf @ Sacred Heart .....2:30 PM		V Girls' Tennis @ Wolcott .....3:30 PM
	<b>V Softball</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>		JV Softball @ Wolcott.....3:30 PM
	<b>V Girls' Tennis</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>	Thu, 23 <sup>rd</sup>	V Boys' Golf @ Crosby.....2:30 PM
	<b>JV Softball</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>		<b>JV Baseball</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>
	V Boys' Tennis @ Crosby .....3:30 PM		<b>JV Boys' Lacrosse</b> ..... <b>4:45 PM</b>
	FR Baseball @ Crosby .....3:30 PM	Fri, 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>V Softball</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>
	Board Of Ed Meeting.....7:30 PM		<b>V Girls' Tennis</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>
Tue, 14 <sup>th</sup>	V Boys' Track & Field @ Torrington .....11:00 AM		<b>JV Softball</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>
	JV Baseball @ Crosby .....11:00 AM		V Baseball @ Ansonia.....3:30 PM
	<b>JV Boys' Lacrosse</b> ..... <b>5:30 PM</b>		FR Baseball @ Ansonia .....3:30 PM
Wed, 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>V Baseball</b> ..... <b>11:00 AM</b>		JV Girls' Lacrosse @ Lewis Mills .....4:30 PM
	<b>JV Boys' Lacrosse</b> ..... <b>3:15 PM</b>	Sat, 25 <sup>th</sup>	JV Baseball @ Ansonia .....11:00 AM
	<b>V Girls' Track &amp; Field</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>		JV Boys' Lacrosse @ Avon Old Farms.....2:30 PM
	V Girls' Tennis @ Seymour.....3:30 PM	Mon, 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>V Boys' Golf</b> ..... <b>2:30 PM</b>
	JV Softball @ Seymour.....3:30 PM		<b>V Softball</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>
	<b>FR Baseball</b> ..... <b>3:45 PM</b>		<b>V Girls' Tennis</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>
	V Softball @ Seymour.....3:45 PM		<b>JV Softball</b> ..... <b>3:30 PM</b>
			V Baseball @ Wilby.....3:30 PM
			V Boys' Tennis @ Wilby.....3:30 PM

## FEBRUARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Lauren Taylor was very excited to hear that she received the honor to be the Senior Student of the Month for February. She believes that she received the award because of her hard work and her involvement in activities, plus her positive personality.

Lauren's favorite class this year is Interdepartmental Publishing, because it helps her learn valuable skills about the journalism industry. This is important because it is what she will be majoring in at Quinnipiac University next fall. Lauren's role models are her parents because they are always there for her and support her. Lauren's favorite thing about WHS is being with her close friends every day. The advice she gives to her fellow peers is to, "...not let the little things in life get you down."



## FEBRUARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Senior, Jason Barna, was excited to hear that he was named one of February's Students of the Month. He believes he was given this honor because he has, "...challenged myself in my senior year and tackled most problems with a positive attitude." His favorite things about Watertown High are the sports and events, especially the variety show and the Mr. Watertown pageant.

His favorite class this year is AP Psychology. He is also on the Boys' Tennis team. Outside of school he participates in Ultimate Frisbee and Boy Scouts. His role model is Bear Grylls. In the future he plans to study Interactive Digital Design at Quinnipiac University, and his dream is to someday hike the Appalachian Trail. In the words of Peppy Hare, "Never give up. Trust your instincts," Jason advises others to live their lives by this.

## JUNIOR CLASS

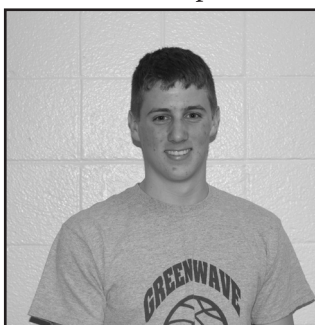
The Junior Class is currently holding a Dues Drive. All students planning on going to Junior Prom will need to have up to date dues paid, or they will not be allowed to buy a ticket. Even for juniors who do not wish to go to prom, dues still need to be paid up, or you will be unable to participate in your senior events.

## MARCH STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Mike Lopes was excited to hear that he was March's Senior Student of the Month. He thinks he was given this award because of his hard work and involvement in school. His favorite class this year is Physics with Mr. Brown. In school, Mike is an active member of the Boys' Basketball team, the Track team, and is the Girls' Basketball manager. He was also a captain of the football team.

Although he is undecided as to where he will go to school next year, his plans for the future are to go to college and get a job after graduation. His role models are his parents. His favorite thing about WHS are the activities in which he is involved.

The advice he wants to give to his peers is, "Live life to the fullest."



## BAND

Concert Band is not only a class but also a club. They meet during G Block class on A-days. In addition to rehearsals and meetings, the band brainstorms fundraisers to help fund marching band and color guard trips. Soon the band will be going on their annual spring trip to the North American Musical Festival in Cleveland, OH, from Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. They are currently preparing for their summer concert. Officers of Marching Band are President, Alex Drapatin, Vice President, Krista Mancini, Secretary, Joe Favale, Treasurer Liz Sowinski, and Librarians, Caitlin Duffy and Marc-Andre Giroux. Jazz Band is also preparing for their Summer Concert, and meets during H Block.

## MARCH STUDENT OF THE MONTH



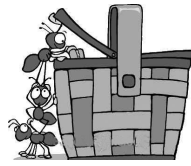
Steven Lewis was named Junior Student of the Month for March. When asked why he received this, he said its because of his hard work, organization, and determination. Steven's favorite class this year is English because even though it is challenging, it encourages him to constantly think and want to learn.

Steven is a member of the baseball team, World Language Honor Society, the National Honor Society, Model UN, and stage crew for the musical; he is always busy. After high school, Steven plans to attend UConn and aspires to major in sports management.

When asked who his role model is, he replied, "I have many role models, but the ones that come to mind are my parents who have always been there for me. Also, I look up to Duke basketball coach, Mike Krzyzewski, for his leadership and good sportsmanship in all aspects of the game." His advice for his peers is, "Stay optimistic. If you come to school with a smile on your face everyday, things will never be as bad as they seem. Success in school starts with a positive attitude and motivation; the rest of it comes along as you go."

## SENIOR CLASS

The seniors recently held one of their biggest fundraisers of the year, the Iflurtz fundraiser. Students pay \$3 to see information about dating, best friends, and astrology matches based on a questionnaire. The senior class profited just under \$1,000 with this.



The end of the year is quickly approaching and senior activities are being planned. The Senior Picnic will be held on Friday May 29<sup>th</sup>. Students will go to Highmeadow, in Granby, Connecticut to enjoy activities, food, and the company of good friends.

Mrs. Spieler would also like to remind students that dues must be paid in order to participate in the activities. This year, seniors that pay their \$45 dues will not have to pay for their cap and gown. Pay dues in Room 116.

## ART STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Christina Weaver is March's Art Student of the Month. Christina feels she received this because of her hard work; She appreciates being recognized. Her favorite class is art and, her favorite medium is pastel and oil paints. Her most memorable project was, "Painting on the floor with a stick."



Christina also plays clarinet in the school band. Since Freshman year she has played in the Pitt Orchestra for school musicals. Christina was also on the Girls' Field Hockey Team and was an escort for Mr. Watertown. She plans on attending UHart and receiving her BFA for Illustration. Her advice to others, "Set a goal and try your best to achieve it."

# SPORTS ZONE

## BOYS SWIMMING

The Boys' Swim Team had a successful past few months. Their captains, Brendan Murphy, John DiPaola, and Mike Magas led their team to a 7-7 record at the end of the regular season. In NVLs the team racked up a 5-3 record placing them 4<sup>th</sup> in the NVLs. The goal of the team was to rank higher, however, they are pleased with the outcome. The State Class S meet was held March 17<sup>th</sup> where the best in the state competed.

Senior captain, Brendan Murphy, broke 2 school records during post season swimming; the Fifty and Hundred Meter Freestyle. The previous record holders were Josh Sklanka and Alex Germaine. During the NVL Finals meet, Brendan won the outstanding swimmer of the NVL League for the second year in a row.

The boys held their Senior Night on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. In the words of Coach Miller, "Senior Night was quite moving." All of the ten seniors swam their "last lap" to the music of their choice. They were then greeted by their parents, accepted a rose, and were wrapped in a bright orange towel by their parents. Everyone agrees that this special group of senior students will be missed.

## SOFTBALL

Try-outs for the Girls' Softball team are underway. Co-captains Kelly Blake and Emily O'Connor are hoping to have a winning record as well as advancing into States.

Their first game is in the first week of April against Naugatuck. Practices will be full of conditioning to get ready for this game, and the rest of the season. "We have a young team this year, but we have enough talent to pull through with a strong season," says captain Emily.

## GIRLS' TENNIS

Girls' Tennis is ready to start! Erin Pecka and Meghan Fogarty are this year's captains. The first match will be played at Crestbrook on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> against Naugatuck.

Try-outs will not be held, but Coach Malootian has confidence in all 30 girls that have signed up.

This year the team hopes to improve the team record to at least 10 wins and work on tennis skills, while still having fun.

Mr. Malootian states, "It is important to not only work for results this year but to also build a team for future years."

## BOYS' BASKETBALL



The Boys' Basketball season ended recently and went out with a bang. Led by their captain, Chris Mondak, the team was seen as an improvement from last year.

The boys had their Senior Night on Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> to honor their dedicated seniors.

The team was sad to say good-bye to David Chouinard, Nick Clemente, Kevin Froese, Mike Lopes, Chris Mondak, AJ Mucciario, Besnik Murtishi, and Billy O'Brien. All the seniors wish the team good luck for their next season and can't wait to come back to see a game or play as alumni in the renovated gym.

We would like to especially congratulate Nick Clemente and Matt Quatrano for getting the All-Suburban All-NVL honorable mention.

# CLUB NEWS

## FBLA

On Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, students involved in FBLA will be attending their annual state leadership conference at the Holiday Inn in Waterbury. Students will be competing in personal finance and e-business. The personal finance section is an objective test that students will be taking. The e-business portion is setting up a business website. After results are given, winners will attend the National Leadership Conference in California during the summer.

During the day all students will participate in workshops, state officers will be elected, and breakfast and lunch will be served.

As of right now FBLA is working on activities that will soon be announced for the rest of the year. For any ideas, please see Mrs. Zimmerman.

## ROBOTICS TEAM

The Robotics Team's six-week build period has ended, and they shipped their robot out on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. The team will be traveling to the competition in Atlanta, Georgia if they win the upcoming regional competition being held in Hartford on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>. The team participated in the New York City Regional on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup>, Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> of March at the Javit Center but did not earn their spot in the Atlanta competition. The team qualified in 10<sup>th</sup> place out of 66 but was eliminated in the first round of the quarterfinals.

The robotics team is excited to compete against the best teams nationally and worldwide as 2 of the 58 teams are from the United Kingdom and Brazil this year. More information from the team can be found at [www.Team237.com](http://www.Team237.com).

## INTERACT CLUB

The Interact Club has been busy changing the world one project at a time. They recently held a Battle of the Beards competition, which raised nearly \$2,200 for the Leukemia Foundation. The top fundraising teacher team was Team Tristan, captained by Mrs. Smith and the top fundraising student team was Team Cooke, captained by Ryan Cooke. During lunches members from Interact asked students for donations. Contributors also voted on certain categories for the contestants' beards and had a major say in who the winners were.

The winner of the scariest beard was Mr. Lozaw, mountain man was awarded to Mr. Watson, best goatee was Mr. Hennessey, greatest attempt was given to Angelo Guererra, and the best student beard was Ryan Cooke. Lastly, Mr. O'Connor was voted the best beard overall.

The club would like to thank everyone who participated in the Battle of the Beards either by growing facial hair, raising money, or both. Without everyone's help they would not have been able to exceed their goal by \$1,500.

Even after this successful fundraiser, Interact is already moving onto their next project. Currently they are forming a team to participate in Relay for Life. If anyone is interested in joining, please see Mr. Cerrato or Tom Baker as soon as possible.

The Interact Club meets every other Tuesday in Room 10. All interested students are invited to join the club at any time.

## BATTLE OF THE BANDS

This year's Battle of the Bands will be held on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM in the Cafeteria. Some performing bands in the show will be Flashback, CYX, and Surrender the Dance Floor. Advance tickets are \$3 and admission at the door is \$5. Refreshments will be sold by the Student Council at the event. Don't miss a terrific show!

## COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

The Counseling Department would like to remind students that they need to complete graduation standards if they have not already done so. With only four months of school remaining, time is running short. Also, guidance is running the ASVAB test which is a career inventor tool for juniors and seniors. If you are interested in taking this test, students are encouraged to see their counselor. They also had juniors and seniors attend the "Making it Count" assembly where students learned about the importance of the transition from high school to college.

Additionally, group counseling began in the third week of March and addresses issues such as divorce, grief, boys' decision making, girls' relationship building, stress, drugs and alcohol, smoking cessation, and anger management. Individual counseling is always available. Anyone interested in group or individual counseling should see their school counselor. Guidance would also like to remind juniors that they will be meeting with them individually in April in time for the College Fair which will be held on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.

## TECH ED

The Tech Ed Department was honored to enter two of their best students, Andrea Baughn and Cody Mordenti, in the House Design Awards Program sponsored by the Home Builders Association of Hartford County. Andrea and Cody designed and drew up blueprints and then constructed model homes. The criteria for judging was based on meeting design requirements, originality, logical use of materials, quality, and accuracy of constructions. Although neither contestant received a prize, we are very proud of them for entering the contest.

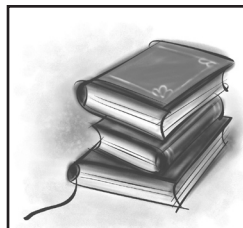
## PEER COUNSELORS

The Peer Counselors held several events thus far this year and are already planning more. They had their Peer Counseling Training Day, visited Waterbury Extended Care on Halloween, and handed out candy and raffle tickets for prizes during Happy Week. They are planning to go to John Trumbull Primary School in early April to perform skits.

The club meets one or two times per month usually on Wednesdays before or after school. Peers are available to meet with any students to discuss such topics as school, friends, and stress. All meetings are confidential. For any additional information please see Mrs. Chunis or Mr. Sorensen.

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The freshman students are now working on Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* or *Merchant of Venice*. The sophomore students can now take a big sigh because CAPT testing is over for this year. The junior classes are working on their 10 page research papers, due soon. The seniors are working on *Death of a Salesman*, which is a modern tragic play, or *Lord of the Flies*, which is a tragic novel. Soon the AP Seniors will be taking their AP tests, and we wish them the best of luck.



## STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council had a successful March Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> Dance. Another upcoming event run by the Student Council in conjunction with the Counseling Department is the College Fair April 7<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 6:30. Immediately following the fair, there will be a College Planning Presentation in the Tech Center. Student Council is also looking for members to be a part of the Memorial Day Float Committee.

Officers are senior President Adam Bartholomeo, junior Vice President Tom Baker, senior Secretary Danna Mazzola, senior Treasurer Jen Shields, and senior Board of Education Representative Ricky Mastroianni. The full Student Council meets during advisory.

## MUSICAL

Watertown High School Musical Theatre Group will present their 15<sup>th</sup> annual musical production this spring. "Once On This Island" written by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, will be performed on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. We have the pleasure of having Foster Evans Reese, who has worked at the Thomaston Opera House with productions such as *All Shook Up*, as our director this year, and our musical director, Sean Lewis, worked recently at the Warner Theatre in *Smokey Joe's Café*. Tickets are \$8 and may be purchased at the high school's main office or the Watertown Park & Recreation office. Students may also purchase tickets in the cafeteria during lunch. Since the auditorium at the high school is under renovation, all performances will be held at Swift Middle School. For additional information, contact Joanne Chenkus, Producer, at WHS 860-945-4810 ext. 2244.

The Musical Theatre Group would also like to acknowledge some of the people who helped to get this show up and running. Gary Reznik from the Tech Ed Department designed the set, and built it with Keith Holtman, Tom Mathews, and Tom Fix, also members of the Tech Ed Department. Linda Bartholomeo of the Art Department is the properties manager, and Daniel Zoni of the Tech Ed Department was in charge of Playbill layout. The Theatre Group would also like to thank Joanne Chenkus for producing the show, and Michelle Goldfarb for being Technical Coordinator.

## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Valletta's Conservation Class has created bluebird houses in order to perform an important nature study. The Department of Environmental Protection provided the wood for the houses. Once completed, the students will place the houses around town and check in on them. They will report their findings back to the DEP. The class hopes to be able to do this every year.

## INDIAN INFO



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Production Managers:

Ricky Mastroianni and Mandy Cronin