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Learning During a Pandemic

by Xithlalic Vasquez

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, students and teachers had to choose if they wanted to do in-person learning or e-learning. All students and teachers have to use Schoology for work and Microsoft Teams or Zoom for live streaming of classes and meetings.

Although students just marked off whether they wanted to attend school via online or in-person, teachers went through a different process on whether they could teach from a distance.

“Polk County Public Schools set up a requirement that in order to teach from home you had to file paperwork with the county showing a medical need and filling out an Americans with Disabilities Act request,” said Mrs. Keep in an email after finally being cleared to teach from home.

Students who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 have to be quarantined for two weeks. According to Polk County Health Department spokeswoman Nicole Riley, “Anyone within a six-foot radius of the positive person, who was exposed for 15 minutes or longer is considered close contacts.”

There were cases of positive individuals at WHHS on August 31, September 2, 14, 16, 23, 24, 30, and October 2. From these 11 cases, plenty of students were sent to quarantine. This is in compliance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC.)



Senior Jose Gutierrez finishes lining up the dog treats to bake them as Junior Tyler Luby washes the dishes.

As of early September, the CDC released the following: “Critical infrastructure workers may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure to COVID-19, provided they remain asymptomatic and additional precautions are implemented to protect them and the community.” This is why many teachers of positive case students were not quarantined.

There have been some problems to arise from e-learning in addition to technical issues.

Ariel Thompson, a senior who was among those quarantined said, “E-learning made it harder [for teachers] to immediately relay information which leaves room for miscommunication. It has made it a little harder to get in contact with administrators or counselors since we are directed to send them emails and there is a long wait if they even see the emails.”

Almost every teacher has to teach in-person and online classes simultaneously. Electives also faced various problems because of social distancing guidelines.

Continued on Page 8

Blue Devil Television Wins Big

by Loc Dinh

Winning the Best In Show award for the ninth time, Mrs. Mizelle and the Blue Devil Television (BDTV) staff from last year took part in the 2020 Polk County Video Awards. They also placed first in news shows, music video, documentary video, and instructional academic video.

BDTV also received the Judges' Award for movie, technical mastery, announcing team, and female solo. The announcing team consisted of Seniors Kennedy Chambers and Kylie Hannigan.

“I’m very proud and delighted with my BDTV crew from last year and I’m even more excited for this year’s group,” said Mrs. Mizelle.

The video award ceremony was hosted online live on YouTube due to the COVID lockdown last spring. The ceremony highlights the many great broadcast journalism programs and packages by schools around the county, but BDTV came out on top.

The BDTV staff also boasted finalists in Commercial and Male Solo categories. Finalists for Commercial were Seniors Kara Cassidy and Ellie Marshall, and recent graduate Lauren Campbell.

“As a group last year we all worked very well,” said current senior Michael Palacios, who was the finalist for male solo. “It was difficult because we were always on a time crunch and focusing on how we could improve our videos.”



BDTV staff celebrates their victories.

NOTICE TO BUILDING OCCUPANTS AND PARENTS

NOTIFICATION OF INSPECTION FOR ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIALS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a final rule, 40 CFR Part 763, Asbestos Containing Material in schools, commonly referred to as AHERA. This rule requires all Local Education Agencies (LEA's) to identify asbestos containing materials (ACM) in their school buildings and to take appropriate actions to control release of asbestos fibers.

All inspections for Winter Haven High School have been completed and a Management Plan describing the results of the inspection and the action plan to control any asbestos found during the inspection, where applicable, has been submitted to the Governor for approval. A copy of this plan is located in the administrative office of this school and at the District School Board of Polk County Maintenance Department and is available for review upon request.

AVISO A LOS OCUPANTES DEL EDIFICIO Y A LOS PADRES

NOTIFICACIÓN DE LA INSPECCIÓN DE MATERIALES QUE CONTIENEN ASBESTO EN LAS ESCUELAS PÚBLICAS

La Agencia de Protección Ambiental (EPA) ha emitido una regulación final, 40 CFR Parte 763, Materiales que Contienen Asbesto en las escuelas, comúnmente referidos como AHERA. Esta regulación requiere que todas las Agencias Locales de Educación (LEA's) identifiquen los materiales que contienen asbestos (ACM) en los edificios escolares y que se tomen todas las medidas adecuadas para controlar la liberación de fibras de asbesto.

Todas las inspecciones de Winter Haven High School han sido completadas y un Plan de Manejo describiendo los resultados de la inspección, donde fuese aplicable, ha sido sometido al Gobernador para aprobación. Una copia del plan está localizada en la oficina administrativa de esta escuela y en el Departamento Ambiental y de Seguridad del Distrito de la Junta Escolar del Condado de Polk y está disponible para revisión si así se solicita.

Issue One Congratulations

Congratulations to our 2019-2020 Girls' Softball Varsity Team for being named Academic Team Champions in 6A for the entire state of Florida.

Congratulations to Seniors Philrosen Monfiston Sejour, who will be serving as president of Suncoast Region East for HOSA (future health professionals) and Kamya Williams, who will be serving as secretary of Suncoast East for HOSA. Congratulations to Senior Kendall Booker for earning Honorable Mention at the first debate competition for our new debate team!



Sophomore Madison Fletcher, Junior Jonathon Gauthier, Senior Da'nyra Richardson, and Brian Hughes are cutting the ribbon to announce the grand opening of the Aspiring Aviators Aero club in Hangar 50 at the Winter Haven Airport.



Editors-in-Chief - Bella Blind, Loc Dinh

Layout Editors - Bella Blind, Loc Dinh

Copy Editor - Xithlalic Vasquez

Distribution Editor - Cassandra Henderson

Publisher - Principal Gina Williams

Advisor - Stacey Schubele

Reporters - Bella Blind, Erik Clemmons,

Loc Dinh, Cassandra Henderson, Luci Lippelgoos, Ty Nguyen, Erin Thrift, Diego Valdez, Xithlalic Vasquez

Trident

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Winter Haven High School
600 Sixth Street, S.E.
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(863) 291-5330
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The mission of the Trident is to keep the students, staff, and community of Winter Haven informed about news related to Winter Haven High School in order to entertain, congratulate, and motivate our readers while promoting a positive atmosphere

Senior Calendar



Yearbook Sales:

08/31 – 09/30 \$60

10/01 – 10/31 \$65

11/01 – 01/31 \$70

02/01 – 04/30 \$75

05/01 until sold out \$80

TBA: Graduation Announcements/Cap'n Gown Orders

3rd period (8:45) in the cafeteria to discuss ordering of announcements and cap'n gowns. Prices will vary on announcements. cap'n gown unit will cost ____ Herff-Jones representatives will meet with seniors during 2nd block

TBA: Parent Order Night

Herff Jones will be on cafeteria patio to receive cap'n gown payment from 4-6pm

TBA: Sr. Parent Info/Financial Aid Night, yearbook etc.,

6 pm auditorium

TBA: Announcement/Cap'n Gown Orders/Payment

Herff-Jones representatives will be in the cafeteria during all lunches to pick up announcement/cap'n gown orders and receive payment.

TBA: Announcement/Cap'n Gown Orders/Payment Herff-Jones will be in the cafeteria all lunches to pick up announcement/cap'n gown orders and receive payment.

TBA: FAFSA Workshop – 5:30-7:00 guidance lab

November 12: Senior Class Group Panoramic/Picture Gymnasium during 2nd block

November 17: Cap and Gown Pictures:

(by appointment only) sign-up link on www.winterhavenhs.com

(contact Cynthia.Jaime@polk-fl.net)

TBA: Announcement/Cap & Gown Orders/Payment Herff-Jones will be in the cafeteria all lunches to accept announcement/cap'n gown orders and receive payment

February 11: Deadline for Yearbook Senior Recognition Ads: Ad completed online www.jostens.com.

Contact Mrs. Jaime, Cynthia.Jaime@polk-fl.net

TBA: Graduation Announcement Delivery – Graduation announcements will be delivered in the cafeteria during all lunches

TBA: Prom -

TBA: Senior Meeting/Cap n Gown Delivery

Senior graduation meeting, 8:30 auditorium; cap/n gown orders will be delivered in the cafeteria following sr. meeting

TBA: Grad Walk, voluntary-Denison Stadium (seniors arrive 7am) 7:30 am walk the field with classmates, wear cap'n gown, parents invited, park on Denison side of field.

TBA: Chain of Lakes Grad March voluntary-seniors walk the halls in celebration of the Class of 2021 in cap'n gown attire cheered on by elementary students

TBA: Grad Bash-Universal Studios & Islands of Adventure: tickets-____ no bills larger than a \$20, ticket sales _____

TBA: Senior Exam dates

TBA: Official Senior last day

TBA: YEARBOOK PARTY TBA-Mrs. Jaime

May 1 Community Service Hours due for award purposes

TBA: Baccalaureate – The Winter Haven Ministerial Association sponsors this senior event. First Presbyterian Church, 637 6th Street NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881, 4 pm (lineup for seniors 3:30)

TBA: Senior Awards: Winter Haven High School auditorium, 6 pm, invited seniors arrive 5:30 (individual scholarships)

TBA: Mandatory senior breakfast, 9 am, Nora Mayo Hall, 500 3rd St. NW, Winter Haven, sr. accolades distributed

TBA: Graduation Practice Mandatory Practice, 9 am RPFunding Center 701 W. Lime Street, Lakeland, FL 33815

TBA: Graduation 7:30 pm, RPFunding Center, Seniors arrive 4 pm, doors open to the public 4:00 pm

Contact Information:

School Website: www.winterhavenhs.com

School Phone: (863) 291-5330

WHHS Facebook page – search @winterhavenhs

Leonard's (Senior Portraits): 1(888) 224-5045

www.leonards.com

Jostens (yearbook) 1(800) 567-8367

www.jostens.com/

Herff-Jones (Cap n Gowns): (727) 545-3288

www.HerffJonesTampaBay.com

Senior Class Sponsors: Cindi Jaime (Cynthia.Jaime@polk-fl.net #291-5330 ext. 421)

Gina Cea, Rob Fritz





ANTHONY VAZ
Cell: 561-302-1351

Email: AnthonyVaz403@gmail.com
Dealership: 863-294-3571
Fax: 863-299-1104
www.JarrettFord.com
3015 Lake Alfred Rd (US17) • Winter Haven, FL 33881

Senior Becomes National Merit Semifinalist

by Loc Dinh

Senior Nicholas Lopez has been named a semifinalist with six other students in Polk County for this year's National Merit Scholarship. The National Merit Scholarship Program has chosen around 16,000 academically talented seniors this year.

“Receiving this honor means a lot to me,” said Lopez. “Being a National Merit Semifinalist brings lots of opportunities!”

Semifinalist for the National Merit Scholarship Program is earned through a high PSAT score taken junior year. Colleges take the award very seriously as the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, or NSMC, mails colleges a list of their semifinalists every year.

The program honors students who show “exceptional academic ability” and allows selected semifinalists to compete for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$31 million.

Lopez is hoping to win a National Merit Scholarship and earn the title of Merit Scholar.

“I’m very hopeful that it will assist in my college application and be a great way to show my hard work and commitment.”

Mrs. Mizelle, who teaches Broadcast Journalism and the BDTV Program, described Lopez as “a hard worker,” and “always willing to help.”

These semifinalists are expected to fulfill certain requirements to advance to the title of finalist where about half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship. Potential finalists have to fill out a full application which includes a personal essay.

“Nick has tremendous work ethic and is a role model student,” said Mr. Erb, who teaches Computer Science and Biology. “I was lucky to have him three years in a row and fortunate to watch him grow into a strong academic student and an amazing young man.”



Nicholas Lopez for Physics at Polk State.

Trident Changes Its Style

The **Trident** has changed design programs for the 2020-2021 school year. For the past several years, the school's newspaper used the Quark program, which forced students to design the newspaper while using only one apple computer. The new program allows students the freedom to design the newspaper on multiple computers. Editors Loc Dinh, senior and Bella Blind, junior used this new program to give the **Trident** a more modern look. Elearning students may now access the **Trident** through a link embedded on the school's web page.



WHHS Welcomes New Staff

Viandra Pryce is a new dean of students at WHHS. She was the previous dean at Lake Gibson Middle School for six years. Pryce used to teach third grade, and she was also a PE teacher and a student success coach. She decided to switch to a high school environment because Pryce stated that she related more to that age group. Another factor that made Pryce decide to come to WHHS was Mr. Jones, who was her previous supervisor. “He [Mr. Jones] did such a good job, and I wanted to work with him again in a high school setting,” stated Pryce. Pryce likes that “the kids are so well behaved and respectful.” As well as being a dean, Pryce coaches girls’ basketball at Santa Fe Catholic School. She also enjoys making Tik Tok videos and dancing as long as there is “good music going.”

Upstairs building 35 is where **Robert Brown**, a returning social studies teacher and alumnus of WHHS, resides. Brown has taught for four years and taught at WHHS two years ago. Brown then left to teach abroad for the EF (Education First) company in China. He stated that he returned because he loves the staff and he “feels at home here.” Brown has taught World History, Cambridge Economics, US History, and English (as a foreign language abroad). Brown was also a previous substitute for a Geometry class at WHHS. “I want to make learning a fun process.” As well as being a teacher, Brown enjoys going to Disney and, when he gets the chance, to draw, paint, and build things out of Legos.



Mr Brown dresses up for Spirit Week.

Out of all the amazing new staff this year, one of them is **Mrs. Phillips**, a new secretary. Mrs. Phillips used to be a teacher. “I’m trying to finish my degree while also enjoying less stress,” said Mrs. Phillips. Before coming to Winter Haven High School, she was subbing at Jewett Academy Middle. “I started off as a sub. They liked how I was in the classroom, then offered me a job,” said Mrs. Phillips. In addition to her skills as a secretary, she’s also the loving mother of senior and varsity girls’ basketball player Shomari Phillips.



Mrs. Gill mans the phones in the front office.

Mrs. Adelson is a very welcomed addition to the Winter Haven science department. She’s very excited to be here and make a difference in how her students see science. “This year, science itself has such a huge impact on our lives,” said Adelson. Adelson has high hopes that she will be able to teach her students valuable lessons in and out of the classroom.

Winter Haven High School, is filled with exciting teachers. One of our new math teachers, **Ms. Woodside**, is excited to teach and take a break from basketball. “I stopped coaching to become a full-time teacher because of the convenient schedule,” said Ms. Woodside. She’s been teaching math for about five years. “I’ve been back and forth with algebra, geometry and pre-algebra. I also taught at McLaughlin last year.” Although she loves teaching and basketball, she also enjoys swimming and loves visiting the beach on weekends.

Mrs. Brantley is this year’s new addition to the medical academy. This is her first year teaching after being a nurse for 17 years. One of her goals for this year is to start her students off with a strong foundation. “I’m really enjoying the experience,” Brantley said.

Mrs. Lajoie is new secretary at WHHS. Mrs. Lajoie, a graduate from Winter Haven High in 1985, was inspired to become a secretary because it fit her children’s school schedule. She loves being part of the Winter Haven Blue Devils and assisting students. She is a mother of two beautiful daughters, as well as a grandmother of her grandson and a granddaughter.



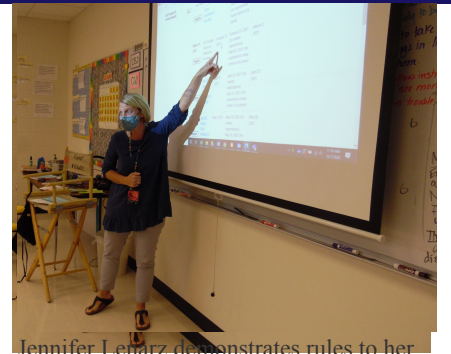
Ms. Carpenter checks a student's records.

Amanda Carpenter is a new school counselor at Winter Haven High School. Ms. Carpenter has been a school counselor for seven years. Ever since Ms. Carpenter was in high school, she knew that she wanted to be a school counselor. “I come from a long line of educators,” said Ms. Carpenter. “I liked the idea of helping kids but didn’t want to be in a classroom.”

Avis Douglas is a new counselor at Winter Haven High School. Ms. Douglas has been a school counselor for ten years. Ms. Douglas said that she wanted to become a school counselor because she “wanted to help students academically [and] further their education through collage or job training.”

Jennifer Lenarz is a new English teacher this year at Winter Haven High School. She has been teaching for 18 years. She enjoys teaching and “helping students find their true potential.” She said, “There is nothing quite like seeing a student finally understand something after struggling to understand it for a long time.”

One of our new English teachers this year is **Mrs. MacCalla**. Mrs. MacCalla has been teaching for nine years. “I love the kids,” says Mrs. MacCalla. “I started teaching elementary school and have gone up grades over the years.” Mrs. MacCalla’s daughter attends WHHS and is a junior.



Jennifer Lenarz demonstrates rules to her English Honors class

Mr. Mesider is a new English teacher in building 6. This is his first year of teaching. What he likes best about Winter Haven is how helpful everyone has been to him since he’s so new, including the students and other staff members. He was inspired to work here because he likes working with youth. He wants to be able to relate to and help the students as much as he can. In high school, he was a star basketball player.

Ms. Vaughn is the new art teacher. She teaches 3D art and AICE digital media and design. Every day she looks forward to seeing students saying, “The students are awesome.” She graduated from Winter Haven High School in the 1990s, which inspired her to come work here herself. Other than doing art, she’s also a musician, being able to play bass guitar. She stated that she feels “honored to be here.”



Mr. Reeves teaches the JROTC cadets.

The new secretary **Mrs. Gill** has been adjusting to high school after working at Denison Middle School. She has enjoyed the responsibility of the students and the positive environment. “My favorite part of the school is my coworkers because everything runs so smoothly in the office because everyone does their assigned task.”

Mr. Reeves recently retired from the military and is now teaching his first cadets outside of the military. He’s enjoying being able to get to know the cadets as well as teaching, mentoring, and training them. “I want the cadets to know how much I care about them and am glad to be a part of their progression in the program.”

After 20 years of teaching in Michigan and three in Florida, **Mr. Rosinski** is teaching math for the first time. He’s enjoyed getting to teach face-to-face once again and continue to have a positive influence on his students. “I have a lot of successes and failures in life and I hope my students know that even if they fail at something at first that they can still achieve their goal

Additional new staff members not featured include Amanda Sherman, Cassandra Kitchens, Devin Siebold, David Sparling, and Yeila Velazquez.

Hunt and Eldridge Gain Recognition

by Bella Blind

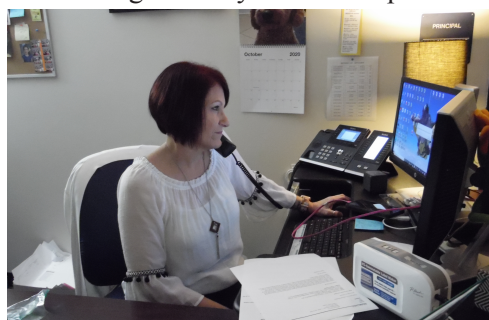
WHHS staff voted and nominated Mary Hunt as the Teacher of the Year and Toni Eldridge as the Support Staff of the Year. This is Hunt’s first year of winning Teacher of the Year and Eldridge’s second year of winning Support Staff of the year.

Hunt is a social studies teacher who teaches Cambridge European History and Cambridge Global Perspectives. Hunt stated that she has taught for about twenty years. She commented that there are “so many different things” that she enjoys about teaching.

They include helping students succeed, teaching students how to research, preparing them for college, and aiding students in analyzing documents and in becoming stronger writers.

Hunt stated that she there are many challenges for her this year such as “definitely time management,” she stated. “Doing both online teaching and in classroom [teaching] is so difficult!”

Hunt’s goal this year is to help as many students as possible succeed in all her classes.



Toni Eldridge handles her secretarial duties for Mrs. Williams.

Eldridge is Principal William’s secretary. She has a variety of different jobs including doing payroll for the school, directing subs, handling all absences, searching for coverage for teachers, handling temporary duty assignments for staff, and completing any work that is needed by the Principal Gina Williams.

“My favorite thing [about the job] would be the interaction with the principal and the staff,” stated Eldridge.

The first time Eldridge won the Support Staff of the Year was in 2013. She started as Guidance Secretary in 2010 at Denison Middle School. Eldridge transferred to WHHS in 2017 as the principal’s secretary.

Eldridge stated that she enjoys going to the movies, being outdoors, and spending time with her grandchildren. Eldridge and her husband also run a children’s program at her church called AWANA.

“My goal is to be the best employee I can be and also the best team player,” stated Eldridge.



Ms. Hunt demonstrates rickets to her European History class.

Homecoming Finds Royalty and Fun

by Erin Thrift

Homecoming Week started with various dress-up days. The week started in pj's and ended with the Blue and Gold. The reverse homecoming parade took place on October 1, 2020.

Different club and organizations created booths that were set up along a route that weaved from the north parking lot and around the practice field track. Students and members of the community drove by all the creative booths.

During the drive-by parade, different booths cheered and celebrated. The Medical Academy booth sprayed silly string, and the Drama Club danced to songs such as the "Cha Cha Slide."

Out on the field the cheerleaders and Devilettes danced and celebrated as the band played.

Isabel Jaime and Chase Walden were both crowned Homecoming Queen and King on Friday October 2, at the Homecoming football game against Poinciana High School.

Erik Clemons and Paige Horstman won first runners up. Desean Harris and Haley Pittman won second runners up.

"I want to thank everyone for voting for me," said Chase. "It's been a great experience!"

"I'm really surprised," Said Isabelle, minutes after she was announced queen. "I've wanted to run for homecoming court since freshman year."

After the homecoming winners were announced and halftime was over, the varsity football team won the game convincingly 49-3.



Isabel Jaime and Chase Walden poses as king and queen.



The medical academy presents a booth for the homecoming parade.

Covid Cancels Homecoming Dance

by Erin Thrift and Luci Lippelgoos

Winter Haven High School did not host a Homecoming dance this year in order to keep staff and students safe from Covid 19.

Although students were not able to have their dance, the homecoming parade and game still made the week special.

"Honestly, I literally saved my homecoming dance for senior year but I understand that because of coronavirus, it would have been hard for us to social distance at the dance," said Senior Xaria Lopez



Who's in that Costume?

It's no secret teachers can be scarier than any ghost or ghoul, but before they became the spooky beings we know today, these Blue Devil teachers had some pretty creative Halloween costumes. Match the teacher to their suspected childhood costume.

- A. Dumbo
- B. Static Cling
- C. Wonder Woman
- D. Train Conductor
- E. A Box of Kleenex
- F. King Kong
- G. A Pumpkin
- H. Plague Doctor
- I. King Arthur
- J. Green Witch
- K. A Garbage Bag
- L. Marie Antionette
- M. ACE from KISS
- N. An Outhouse

- ___1. Miss. Newton
- ___2. Mr. Monaco
- ___3. Mrs. Paine
- ___4. Mr. Brown
- ___5. Mr. Rosinski
- ___6. Miss. Schubele
- ___7. Mrs. Roberts
- ___8. Mrs. MacCalla
- ___9. Mrs. Williams
- ___10. Mrs. Sherman
- ___11. Mrs. Alexander
- ___12. Mrs. Keep
- ___13. Mr. Neely
- ___14. Mrs. Layne



ANSWERS ON PAGE 12

Should Covid Steal Our Treats for Halloween?

by Ty Nguyen

Covid-19 has brought only disaster after disaster ever since it came to America at the beginning of the year, even forcing a nationwide quarantine back in March. It has changed everyone's daily lives by making them stand six feet apart and wearing a mask as soon as they step outside. As days and weeks go by, there is one thing that keeps creeping closer and closer: Halloween. Both children and adults look forward to the holiday, but with the circumstances of this year, is it safe enough to go trick-or-treating?

No, people should not go trick-or-treating during this time. Exposure to Covid-19 would be the biggest danger. Face to face, touch to touch, and any form of contact could spread the virus. Trick-or-treaters would not even know who may unknowingly have just given them the disease. Then, they could spread the virus to others. There may be rules and regulations set by the US Government, but not everyone will obey them. One of the reasons the pandemic still spreads to this day is because of masses who defy safety precautions.

However, there may be a solution. It is understandable why people want to celebrate the season. Receiving a piece of candy, no matter good or bad, (candy is still candy) is still the best. Especially with a lot of activities and events being canceled this year, kids are just itching to participate in Halloween. There are many innovative ideas to have a safe Halloween. An example would be "Reverse Halloween," where the trick-or-treaters stay home, and the candy givers (friends and relatives) visit. This limits contact and avoids any risk of catching the virus.

Taking into consideration the safety of others and the state of the pandemic, it would be best to avoid going out and instead do other activities like watching horror movies all night long with a small group of friends or family. My favorite is As Above So Below. The Halloween spirit does not have to end here; after all, there's always next year.



Voices of the Campus

If you were in a horror movie, which character would you be?

"The person that dies so that I have a short act." - Mathew Hand, 9th

"I'd be the good guy because I would know a lot (of ways) to escape from the dude."

- Marco Martinez, 9th

"I would be the killer because it's fun and stabby stabby." - Isabella Mccard, 9th

"Probably the one that gets killed first, goes to the bathroom, and gets jumped and stabbed." - Colin Gustafson, 10th

"I would be the person who gets killed first because of my lack of intelligence." - Ivy Muller 10th

"I'd be Chucky because he's cool." - Adalin Ramjit, 10th



"Definitely the one running away. I don't see myself as the killer or (as) seeming very brave in the situation." - Josh Lenard, 11th

"I'd be in Madea Boo and be Madea because she's the main character and gets the most attention because she's funny." - Laporsche Hargrove, 11th

"If I were in a horror movie I would be the blonde who is always getting murdered because she's dimwitted to her surroundings." - Kylie Dowdy, 11th

"I would be the person who saves everyone because I like helping people." - Victoria Warner, 11th

"The grandma from The Visit." - Timothy Reich, 12th

"The comic relief because he may die easily but he cracks a joke at least." - Presley Whatley, 12th

"Anabelle, because it rhymes with my name." - Isabel Jaime, 12th

"I feel like I'd be the one that nobody listens to. I probably wouldn't want to deal with any of the scary stuff and just be like "guys we shouldn't mess with this we need to get out of here," and other ppl would be like oh it's not that big of a deal let's check it out and I would survive because I minded my own business." - Holly Smith, 12th

"The villain because I would be too scared to be the antagonist(protagonist)." - Seth Jones, 12th

"Jason from the original Friday the 13th because everybody he chases he catches." - Officer Ryan Neely

"I would be the victim because I don't want to kill anyone." - Ms. Galindez

"Casper the Friendly Ghost, because he's the nicest character in horror movies." - Darrell, the bus driver, Robertson

"I would be Chucky. I'm a joy and I get to terrorize people at the same time." - Mr. Brown

"I would be the villain because it's an opportunity to play a different role." - Coach Cannon

Governor Requires FSA Testing

by Loc Dinh

The junior and sophomore classes have been required to retake their Florida Standards Assessments this year in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics for measurement of educational gains and progress by schools. These retakes, which result in double testing, are caused by the tests' cancellation in the 2019-2020 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sophomores have been impacted greatly by this because they now need to take both their freshman FSA as well as their sophomore FSA all in the same year. The impact is also felt by juniors as the students who usually pass their FSA in their sophomore year and do not miss class time to test their junior year are now forced to take the exam.

"Some of my hardest classes are in the morning, so I definitely missed quite a bit when I was gone for testing," said Junior Bushra Khaliq.

Khaliq, who is doing E-Learning, was required to come on-campus to take the FSA when there were separate days for E-Learners and on-campus students. She was also concerned about attendance because classes in blended classes still went on when E-Learners went to test.

However, she described the situation as "pretty smooth" and explained that the experience made her miss being in school on-campus.

Staff and teachers have also been impacted greatly as schedules for classwork and planning changed. Teachers who usually do not have students missing due to FSA Testing because they teach upperclassmen now miss their juniors in classes.

Double the Testing Is Not Double the Fun

by Diego Valdez

This year's students are going to be double testing for the state. Students will be taking last year's and this year's FSA all in the same year. The tests from spring of 2020 have to be made up this year.

Anthony Valdez, said, "Winter Haven students shouldn't double test. It isn't the students' fault that Covid-19 caused an effect on the school year."

Sophomore Edgar Flores asked, "Why double test when students are all stressed already over one test.?"

This will cause both students and teachers more stress during what is already a challenging year.

Learning During a Pandemic Continued From Page

As of early September, the CDC released the following: "Critical infrastructure workers may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure to COVID-19, provided they remain asymptomatic and additional precautions are implemented to protect them and the community." This is why many teachers of positive case students were not quarantined.

There have been some problems to arise from e-learning in addition to technical issues.

Ariel Thompson, a senior who was among those quarantined said, "E-learning made it harder [for teachers] to immediately relay information which leaves room for miscommunication. It has made it a little harder to get in contact with administrators or counselors since we are directed to send them emails and there is a long wait if they even see the emails."

Almost every teacher has to teach in-person and online classes simultaneously. Electives also faced various problems because of social distancing guidelines.

"The curriculum we use does not match; we have books for in-school learners and an online program for Elearners," voiced culinary teacher Mrs. Brown. "We are not allowed to have cooking labs."

Since there are no cooking labs for human consumption , Mrs. Zinsmeister's Culinary 3 and 4 adapted to the situation and made dog and cat treats which were delivered to the Humane Society. Not only do they receive experience, but they are also helping animals in need.

While classes go on normally for the theater classes, there will not be any performances for live audiences. "Traditionally, October brings the first three Blue Devil Comedy Brigade improv shows of the season, but at this time the district is not allowing live theatrical performances," said Mr. Fritz.

According to Mrs. Hileman, the Medical academy has overcome the need to practice skills on live patients and instead are using their manikins as "patients" for positioning, transferring, and linen changes.

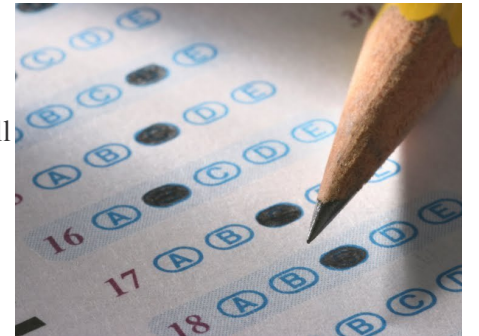
"In my chorus class, we now have to sing with masks and face shields on which changes how we sing," said senior Christopher Hostettler.

Virtual learners also do not have as much of an opportunity for community service hours as on-campus students do. Since the distance learners chose to stay home because they or someone they live with is at risk, they cannot risk going to shelters or clubs to perform community service. In spite of this, some clubs such as Key Club have online meetings for e-learning students who want to be part of the club. They send out links that the students can join to sit in on the meetings.

"It just feels isolated to be by yourself while you see everyone on campus doing activities," said e-learner and Key club member Senior Michelle Flores.

Even with all the efforts done to make sure everyone gets the best educational experience they can, many students - whether they be e-learners or on-campus - have a hard time focusing on their studies.

"I have a hard time focusing with e-learning. I feel like I'm not really retaining information. I miss feeling like I have friends," e-learner Senior Savannah Hooks emotionally confessed.



Covid Safety Precautions and Changes

by Erin Thrift

Winter Haven High School put forth new rules in order to keep staff and students safe from COVID 19.

Outdoor stairs are only used to go up and indoor stairs are only used to go down. Face masks must be worn at all times unless eating or drinking, and at lunch students are to sit on one side of the table facing forwards. Many students have their temperatures taken when arriving on campus, and every teacher must report their temperature every morning.

Masks, however important to keep everyone safe, are at times unbearable. They make it harder to communicate with people, they make it more difficult to breath in the hot humid air, and due to the bacteria caught in the mask when breathing, students' faces are more likely to breakout.

"I personally don't like wearing masks," said freshman Kendall Hobbs, " but I understand why we have to wear them."

Nevertheless, face masks have also provided a new way for students to show their fashion sense or even school spirit. The swim team sold out of WH face masks early in the year.

What's New with the Blue Devil Battalion?

A New School Year

By JROTC Cadet Janessa Thomas; JROTC PAO

After 9 years of instructing the JROTC program alongside our Sergeant First Class (retired) Ronald O'Bryon, Army Instructor, our former Senior Army Instructor Sergeant Major (retired) Rudy Carter has retired from his teaching career at Winter Haven Senior High School. Using the knowledge and skills he acquired with his 22 years of serving in the United States Military, he spends his time giving back to the community and instructing future generations. With open arms the Winter Haven JROTC program welcomes Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Kevin Reeves, Senior Army Instructor, to the Blue Devil Battalion. LTC Kevin T. Reeves was born in Dothan, AL to Jimmy and Johnnie Mae Reeves. He is a 1999 graduate of Troy University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. He was commissioned through the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps into the Signal Corps and branched detailed to the Armor Corp.

Senior Night

The time has come for a bittersweet end to an amazing group of our JROTC seniors for the 2020-2021 school year. As a way to commemorate the soon to be graduates of Winter Haven Senior High School our teams ranging from JROTC, band, and our varsity football team walk with family and relatives in recognition for their achievements academically and physically. "Senior Night was fun, and I had a great time walking with my family. Many parents were proud of what their students accomplished" said cadet Garrett Dibling. After years of dedication to the program and contributing to many mass events and fundraising occasions it is with a heavy heart, we wish our seniors to have a prosperous future leading the future generation. As a farewell and a thank you from the program to our seniors Reenie Allen, Fenil Barot, Garrett Dibling, Lilicea Milne, Marc Morales, Abriana Palma, Da'Nyra Richardson, and Yaaziel Rodriguez.



Cadet Garrett Dibling seen walking with his family representing the JROTC program.

Homecoming Football Game

The centra of team spirit heavily circulates around the annual homecoming football game at Winter Haven High. The rowdy stands and adrenaline filled football team are all catalysts to the energy that circulates around the stadium the entirety of the night. Our JROTC program every year puts together a team composed of exemplary cadets to represent the school for ceremonial events conducted by the school. The team itself presents the homecoming court to the stadium full of students and countless supporters. Our saber team was composed of Cadets Mitchell Villanueva, Da'Nyra Richardson, Gabriel Vazquez-Sanchez, Harry Joseph, Genevieve Walker, Bryson Govey, Edwin Lugo, Yazziel Rodriguez, Omeara Hadley, Fenil Barot, and Joshua Johnson. All are pristine cadets that show tremendous amounts of potential and dedication to any task they are given. "Joining JROTC was the best decision I've made. I say this because I get to do amazing things like being a part of saber team and be a part of the work force used for football games" says Cadet Da' Nyra Richardson. Along with input by Cadet Edwin Lugo "After getting on the field and holding my saber up, I felt amazing and proud to be on the saber team this year".



A singular squad from the Saber Team standing prepared to present their sabers.

Blue Devils Take the Stage

by Cas Hendron

Hats off to a few Blue Devils for an amazing comedy show Saturday October 3, at Lake Wales Little Theatre.

The first Out of the Box improv show of the season went well featuring Mr. Fritz, drama teacher; Mrs. Ross, French teacher; and Holly Fritz, junior. Tickets were \$8.00 for the crowd of about four dozen people who filled the theater with laughter at the many skits performed. One of the favorite skits of the night was a laugh and go scene with a student, a woodshop teacher, and a teacher's assistant. Mr. Fritz was very proud of how it turned out and was glad that he was able to perform with his daughter Holly.

"It's always special when I get to perform with Holly," Said Fritz.

With their last season ending in February, it had been a while before the group could perform again, but this season is starting off strong though covid-19 has brought about a few challenges. One of those challenges being how to rehearse over zoom.

"It's very exciting. We're happy to be back on stage," Said Fritz. He and Mrs. Ross are excited to be able to perform and get back out into the community doing shows.

Being fairly new to performing with this being her only 4th performance, Mrs. Ross is happy to be enjoying the reaction she gets from the audience.

"I liked making them laugh. If they laughed, I was happy." Said Ross.



Mr. Fritz, Junior Holly Fritz, and Ms. Ross perform the Out of the Box improv show.

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Creative Corner

Paranormal Busting: Room 34-000

by Xithlalic Vasquez

For years rumors went around about building 34 being haunted. Students and teachers would report whispering, laughing, and screaming coming from the lower floor after sundown. A few people tried and failed to find the cause. The few who got close to the source fled fearing the sound from the concrete wall between rooms 101 and 103.

As a fan of the paranormal, Videl, senior, decided to try and bust the rumors. She turned on her recorder and walked towards the end of the hall.

The closer she got, the colder it got. She felt her heart drop as a shrill shriek of “No” rang through the hall. It was true.

She stared at the wall between 101 and 103, the screams came from there! Videl trembled as she walked to the wall, her stiff fingers gently pressing against the cold, bumpy wall.

“Get off!” A deep masculine voice roared out.

Videl shrieked as she stumbled back, her hand clenched onto the flashlight for dear life. Then, a faint light started to appear from the wall.

“Get away from me!” Videl shrieked as she threw the recorder at the light and closed her eyes tightly.

“Excuse me, why are you on the ground?” a curious voice asked.

Videl hesitantly opened her eyes to see a girl around her age standing in front of a room. Wait? A room!? Where was the wall?

“Come on! It’s just us!” a guy’s voice cried out.

Videl’s eyes darted from the girl to inside of the mysterious room where she saw a young guy clinging onto another guy who looked annoyed.

“I told you already, my mom said ‘no!’”

Videl felt awkward as the other two turned to look at her.

“Am I dead?” Videl finally asked as she stood up.

“I hope not, but at the same time, I do since we are the Paranormal club. We need to get things rolling so more people will join,” the girl said with a smile.

“Paranormal club?”

“Yes, this is room 000. Now, don’t mind those two, I’m the treasurer, Luci Fero. The tall one is our secretary, Abyd. and the clingy one would be our leader...”

“Tansa! Nice to meet you!” Tansa exclaimed as he held out a hand to Videl as though nothing had happened.

“I’m Videl Belu. Since when has this room been here?” Videl asked as she looked around the small room.

It had a dingy, dim lightbulb hanging from the ceiling with a desk and a few chairs. Aside from the skull poster on the wall, the rest of the room was empty.

“It’s always been here. One year as a senior prank the door was decorated to look and feel like the rest of the wall. and I thought it made us look mysterious so we kept it,” Tansa explained.

“Why haven’t any of you tried to clear up the misconception that this building is haunted?” Videl asked.

“This building is haunted?” Luci asked in shock.

“Oh, I knew I should have left earlier!” Abyd groaned.

Videl shook her head as she walked over and picked up her recorder. “This was a bust.”

“Ah, I see. I guess we were the ‘ghosts,’ weren’t we?” Tansa asked as he scratched his head.

“Yeah, I thought I was going to solve something paranormal,” Videl grumbled as she walked out of the room.

“If you like, you could join the club. We go out to paranormal spots to find ghosts. We’re supposed to go to a haunted apartment two streets away. I have to leave now since we took too long researching the place,” Abyd said.

Videl smiled as she looked at them. “Sure, I live there so I won’t leave too soon. Is there a fee to join the club?”

“Oh, just your soul,” Tansa replied.

Luci and Abyd rolled their eyes as they walked out with Videl, “That will never be funny, Tansa!”

“I’m being serious! Also, pizza pretty please! Wait for me guys!”

... to be continued....



Japanese Class Enters Campus

by Bella Blind

The Japanese class was a newly added choice to the list of electives for this school year.

The new Japanese class is taught by Taylor Collins. Collins has taught at WHHS for two years; however, this is Collins’ first year teaching the Japanese class. He previously taught social studies.

“I am excited to teach Japanese because I love Japan, and this is a new challenge for me,” stated Collins.

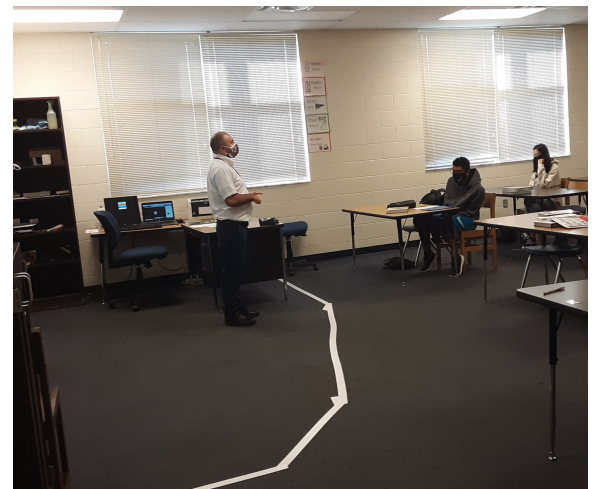
Collins stated that the students really enjoy the class so far and that he hopes more students take the class in following years.

“I think that Japanese was offered because speaking Japanese is a rare and useful skill,” Collins stated. “We want the students to be able to communicate with people from other cultures and be familiar and comfortable with them. Learning a language is a great way to accomplish that.”

According to Collins, students who take the class will learn how to introduce themselves, how to describe their family, and how to explain or describe the direction of objects. Students will also learn about the Japanese culture. By the end of first semester, students will begin to learn how to write in Japanese as well.

There are two Japanese classes with a total of 44 students. Collins stated that his favorite thing about teaching the class is being able to share his interests with students who are also interested in Japan.

According to Collins, once the Japan club starts back up, anyone can join whether or not he/she is in the class.



JV Volleyball Is On A Roll

by Luci Lippelgoos

Winter Haven High School's junior varsity volleyball team is on a roll so far this season, winning their first five matches. Their head coach is excited for what the season holds. This year's team of ten new players brings tons of excitement to the court.

Coach Mariah says she is “excited to help the girls play with intensity and teamwork.” She cannot wait to “watch them grow over the season,” and “work out their problem areas.”

This season the girls will learn skills that will benefit them on and off the court.

The volleyball program at Winter Haven High School has attracted an amazing group of girls who “work hard as a team unit,” said coach Mariah, and “learn from their mistakes.”

With the encouragement of each other, our JV volleyball team will continue to win.



Varsity Volleyball Girls Block Off the Competition

by Xithlalic Vasquez

The Varsity Volleyball team won districts and brought their record of 10-5 to the county tournament in mid-October.

The team consisted of 14 players, eight of whom are returning players from last year. Among the returning players is Sophomore Carissa Michel, who led with 139 kills early in the season, as well as 18 solo blocks. Junior Jeslian Vasquez had 120 digs through September.

"I enjoy being able to have fun with my team because they're like my family, and I like the feeling of being successful," said Carissa Michel.

The girls did not let their skills falter as they practiced every day that they did not have a game.

“What I’ve enjoyed most this season is watching the girls fightback from our slow start, and learning to come together and be resilient,” said second-year Coach Sechrest.

Girls Run for Victory in Cross Country

by Ty Nguyen

This year’s girls’ cross country team with all new members was led by first-time coach, Coach Brian. The team consisted of Freshmen Dalayna Goodwin, Dreana Simpson, and Ruby Miranda; and Jordan Lenarz, a sophomore.

Brian’s goal for the year is to not chase any of the girls away and instead encourage them to return for the following year.

“Covid puts everything into a bit of a turmoil,” said Coach B. He is very appreciative of every meet they have since they could be pulled anytime due to Covid.

He also is “very happy to have four young runners.”

Regarding the team, however, Coach B stated that their biggest obstacle is overcoming distance. Not everyone is starting at the same place since everyone has experienced different levels of practice.

Coach B believes every member of the team is outstanding, and he thinks with more years of practice together, it could all pay off with their talents.

“Our coach is really nice. He’s a nice balance in-between. He really cares for us and makes sure we’re doing well and okay and also pushing us to do better, I really appreciate that. And, he values a community and family aspect in the team,” said Lenarz.

She has plans on becoming a returning member next year.



To the front of the pack runs Jordan Lenarz, sophomore, in a recent cross country race.

Boys’ Cross Country Goes the Extra Mile

By Erin Thrift

The boys’ cross-country team had a meet on September 19, at Ridge Community High School.

Dain Warren, junior and third-year runner, said, “Our main competition is ourselves. We are constantly trying to beat our own time.”

Warren’s surpassed his previous record time of 19 minutes 20 seconds after finishing at 18 minutes and 49 seconds.

Coach Woodside said this year’s goal is to “make sure that the runners maximize their abilities so their times will drop.”

Last year’s team qualified for regionals. This year’s goal is to go to state.

Freshman newcomer Calen Nowroozi said, “It is a really good team. Everyone is pretty fast, and the coach is really inspirational. He likes to push us to improve and is just a really good coach overall.”



Finishing the race strong, Freshman Manuel Miranda pulls away in a cross country race.



Sophomore Tyler Williams runs to the goal leading the Blue Devils to victory.



Senior Jakobe Lane suits up for the homecoming game against Poinciana.

Boy's Golf off to a Swinging Start

by Loc Dinh

Boys' golf is off to a swinging start with only a few losses on their record and a second runners up placement at districts.

"I'm glad that the team has been hanging together even with Nicholas Garber not being there," said Coach Charlie James. "Now that he is back, the team is still friendlier than ever and it's good for building comradery."

They are a close-knit group of individuals who attribute their wins to team chemistry and an overall positive mindset.

Senior Jesse Williams, who is one of the standout players, has a personal record of 36 this season. The team plays 9-holes every meet at Willowbrook Golf Course.

The toughest opponent our boys' golf team has faced this season is George Jenkins. Senior Mark Jarrett explained how he just enjoys the games and does not focus on the opponents.

"I am just playing against myself whenever we're on the course."

Jarrett's goal this season is to shoot even par which is the predetermined number of strokes that a proficient golfer should require to complete a hole, tournament, or course. His personal record is one over par, otherwise known as a "bogey."

"None of this would be possible if our team chemistry wasn't where it is at right now," said Williams.

Williams and Jarrett expect to place high in county and district competitions with the team. They also hope the team places high enough in regionals to make it to state competitions.

"I enjoy just having fun with others and generally enjoy just playing the sport," said Williams.



Junior Nicholas Garber, standing on the green, putts the ball to hit on par.

Girls' Golf Makes Par

by Ty Nguyen

Girls' golf won many matches this fall against opponents such as George Jenkins and managed to place second in district competition.

Coach James coached both the boys' and girls' golf teams. This was his first time coaching for the girls' team.

"The season is doing okay. We've just been having a lot of rain outs. Florida weather is hurting us," said Coach James.

Unfortunately, due to the weather, they haven't had as many practices and matches, making them unable to have as much playing time as they wanted.

Notable outstanding players are Kaylie Arnold, Cyndal Reliford, who are both juniors, and Mariah Dawkins, a sophomore. All three are returning members from the pervious year. The girls' biggest competition is Lakeland.

"I enjoy how golf allows me to think. I like how, as much as it is a team sport, it's also an individual sport and there's always room for improvement," said Reliford.

Some goals Coach James has are to help build up the girls' skills, and heh stated that they are making their way there.



Junior Cyndal Reliford chips up to the green..

New Swim Coach Makes Waves

by Bella Blind

Amanda Shelby is the new coach for the boys swimming team.

Shelby was previously a coach for the Winter Haven Sting Rays in 2015 and an assistant coach for Lake Region in 2019.

Shelby decided to become a swim coach because she was a swimmer when she went to high school and she enjoys coaching students.

"I enjoy coaching," said Shelby. "It allows me to be not only a teacher, but a mentor for kids, and I like to make a difference in their lives."

Shelby likes to see the students' progress and learn, especially learning the strokes.

The team has faced many challenges so far this year. One of the main challenges is that there are not that many students on the team. According to Shelby, this will make it difficult for the team to qualify for the county or district meets. The relay races will also be difficult this year for the team. If a swimmer becomes quarantined, then this will result in weeks of missed practice for that swimmer. This will also affect competitions for the team as a whole because they are already short of swimmers.

Shelby plans to focus on the swimmers whom she does have and help each individual swimmer with his event instead of worrying about the team not doing well.

"The goal is to have my best swimmers make it to states," stated Shelby.

According to Shelby, there are some individuals on the team who should make it to states, but Shelby wants the relays to make it to states this year as well. She hopes for the team to score in the top ten in states.

Senior Seth Jones has been on the team for two years. Jones' individual goals this year is to get a 30 sec 50-meter butterfly. He found it difficult finding time to practice during the pandemic lockdown.

"I've been slammed," stated Seth. "I just need to get back into it [swimming]."



The backstroke is no problem for Junior Cadence Odum.