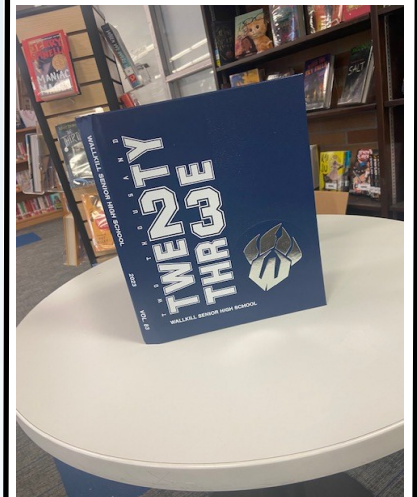


The Panther Press



Fall Spirit Week a Success!

by: Nick Barbosa

Wallkill's annual spirit week was a success! Students kicked off spirit week on Tuesday, October 11th with Pajama Day. Pajama Day appeared to have the most participants of all the themes. Wednesday, October 12th was Adam Sandler Day, where students wore baggy clothes to resemble the style of the comedic actor Adam Sandler, or they dressed in the style of one of his characters. This was Wallkill's first time holding an Adam Sandler-themed day, which caused a buzz among students. Later that day, two annual events were held: the bonfire and the Powderpuff football game. The Juniors beat the Seniors 36-18 in the Powderpuff game. On Thursday the 13th, students chose to dress as surfers or bikers for Teen Beach Movie Day. This was another first for Wallkill students, and many chose to participate. On the final day of Spirit Week, Friday the 14th, students participated in the Color Wars; freshmen wore grey, sophomores wore white, juniors wore blue, and the seniors wore black. At the end of the school day a pep rally was held. On Friday night, after an exciting Homecoming Parade that included students from all buildings and the Mighty Mite football players and cheerleaders, the Wallkill football team beat Pine Bush 42-27 in the homecoming game and advanced to a 4-3 record. The Homecoming Dance was held Saturday night, bringing Spirit Week to a close with record-breaking attendance.

Production of 2023 yearbook in full swing

by: Journalism staff

The WSHS Yearbook Club has been working hard to make the 2023 yearbook the best one yet! Yearbook Club had a record number of sales in 2022 and sold out of copies. The only way to guarantee a copy of this year's edition is to pre-order a yearbook. To purchase online and pay with credit card, visit jostensyearbooks.com. Order forms are available in the main office and library for anyone wishing to pay by cash or check. (Checks should be made out to WSHS Yearbook Club.)



Emma Dilemme goes to cross-country State competition

by: Emily Jaffee



Wallkill Junior, Emma Dilemme, ran in the Cross-Country State Championships and placed 161st out of 459 runners after placing 6th overall at the section 9 Class A Championships. This was her first season on the Wallkill Cross-Country team. Dilemme is also on Wallkill's soccer, basketball, and lacrosse teams; she is also a member of NHS and the Leo Club.

I was afforded the opportunity to interview Dilemme before the state championships and get some insight into how she was feeling about her upcoming race. She expressed her excitement and said, "I know it's going to be a tough race since there's a lot of competition, so I'm just going to try my best and keep working hard." Hard work is important to Dilemme, especially when it comes to her sport. She shared that throughout the race, her coach kept her updated on her place so

the challenge of maintaining her position in the competition was constantly on her mind. "Once I crossed the finish line, I felt relieved and proud that all my hard work paid off in the long run." Of course, on top of sports, Dilemme also maintains good grades in order to be included in the National Honor Society. When asked how she balances everything, she said that, "being a student-athlete comes with lots of responsibilities, and at times it becomes hard to juggle. Going from one practice to the other after school doesn't exactly leave enough time to get homework done, study, and relax. Creating good time management and allowing yourself to get the 'important things' done first, such as schoolwork makes everything much easier and less stressful." Dilemme found a balance that works for her, and although sometimes it is hard, she never backs down in the face of adversity. She is a perfect example of a true Wallkill Panther.

Be-YOU-tiful Day for Tennis

by: Kyle DeGroat

The Be-YOU-tiful Club here at Wallkill Senior High School is meant for everyone; this is a club that welcomes students of all abilities, backgrounds, and beliefs. The club is run by Mrs. LaRocco and meets on Tuesdays

after school every week. Each week's meeting has a different focus, and one of the best events so far was playing tennis with the girls' tennis team.

On Tuesday, October 18th, the Be-YOU-tiful Club played tennis with the girls' tennis team, and it was one of the most heartwarming things I've seen in a long time. Every one of the girls on the team welcomed the club members, and it was

a great time. Mrs. Gravelle, the coach of the tennis team, was a big part of setting the event up and helping the students learn the fundamentals of tennis. Mrs. Gravelle had her players help each student one-on-one and the players did a terrific job in helping teach the game correctly and much more. At the beginning of the afternoon, club members started by just trying to hit the ball over the net. Once they were able to get up to par, they were challenged with hitting the ball back and forth with a tennis player.

While all of this was happening, there were breaks for the students to get rest and hydrate. During downtime, there were brownies and water bottles for both the tennis players and club members. After the downtime, everyone returned to the court to continue to get better and learn some more about ten-

nis. The club members practiced ball control by walking around the perimeter of the court with a tennis ball on the racket. This was challenging for some when Ms. Gravelle made it into a competition to see who could control the ball for the longest. It's safe to say that this competition became intense, and you could tell people were in it to win it!

This was an exciting and meaningful event for the Be-YOU-tiful club, and they are looking forward to doing this again with other sports teams.



Ms. Gravelle named Adaptive Phys Ed Teacher of the year!

By: Willow McGlynn

This September, one of our physical education teachers here at Wallkill, Ms. Jennifer Gravelle, was named New York State's Adaptive Physical Education Teacher of the year. She has been working for the Wallkill Central School District for twenty-one years, including the last five years at the High School. Ms. Gravelle says her favorite parts about being an Adaptive physical education teacher are "watching students grow, celebrating big and little milestones with them and seeing

the joy on students' faces when they achieve an athletic goal. For example, making their first basket in basketball, scoring a goal or getting a strike in bowling!" Her whole life, she had a love for sports which led her to teaching P.E. She also says she has always loved helping younger peers and athletes find success on the field. It's good to see teachers who take great pride in their job, like Ms. Gravelle does. Congratulations, Coach!



Sherriff Figueroa visits Wallkill Senior High

By: Madilyn Becker

On Tuesday, November 15th, Ulster County's Sherriff Figueroa came to visit Wallkill Senior High School and speak with students taking the Criminal Justice and Forensic Science classes. He enthusiastically talked to students about everything from what his job is like as a sheriff to how policing has changed with recent events. He even told some stories from his own life, including how he grew up locally and graduated from Wallkill High School. On the topic of modern policing, Sheriff Figueroa talked about how technology has changed the field. He touched on how police look at social media now and explained the thin lines and rules that officers must be aware of. He also told the classes about how body cameras have changed police work. Sheriff Figueroa discussed how a person may make the occasional error in judgment or get "tunnel vision", whereas

a camera does not. As Sheriff Figueroa went on to mention, we have seen police body cams contribute to recent news events, such as the George Floyd case. Continuing the discussion,



he shared some positives and negatives that he sees with these new body cameras. Everyone present was captivated as he told stories from his work in the police field. The Ulster County Sherriff gave examples of different crimes scenes and cases he has worked on. Furthermore, Sheriff Figueroa told students all about what

duties his job entails and how he runs the Sheriff's Office. Many students found it interesting to learn that Sheriff is an elected position, meaning that he has his own office to run. Sheriff Figueroa explained how he personally runs the Sheriff's Office, including details about his relationship with the District Attorney's Office and who he decides to put in positions of power. Sheriff Figueroa was proud to share that he puts in great effort to make his office inclusive by saying that he has made sure to appoint people of color and keep his staff diverse. He was also honored to tell classes that he is the first Puerto Rican sheriff ever elected for the position in New York State. This, along with the effort he puts into running his office, was a very inspiring part of his visit. Finally, he opened the discussion up to questions from students, happily answering many thoughtful questions. Our school and all the students who visited with Sherriff Figueroa thank him for spending time here and giving such a wonderful presentation!

New teachers bring enthusiasm and experience to WSHS

by: Isaiah Perez, Emily Jaffee, and staff

Ms. Ramos-Avila

Miss Valeria Ramos-Avila is our newest Science teacher at Wallkill Senior High School. She teaches Conservation and Chemistry. She attended SUNY New Paltz and SUNY Geneseo to get her Master's Degree. Before attending school, she, was long-term substitute teacher. Here at



Wallkill, she wants to, "... make good connections with students. To help them to do better academically

and to help them find more confidence in what they do and who they are. I hope to make strong connections with my fellow staff so that we can work together to make the school community even better than it already is."

She also said that she loves all her students that she currently has, and that they all make her laugh.



Ms. Perry

Ms. Lisa Perry is a new global teacher at Wallkill High School. She started off as a substitute teacher but gained a permanent position

in December of 2021. She knew she wanted to be a Global teacher since she was young but went through a phase in kindergarten

where she was considering becoming a singer. Ms. Perry enjoys spending her free time outside. She always keeps a kite and a frisbee in her car. "So I have activity for windy and non-windy days," Ms. Perry explained. Before getting a job at Wallkill, Ms. Perry was a substitute teacher at Pine Bush and did a leave replacement at Goshen. As a teacher, Ms. Perry describes herself as caring. She tries to find ways to keep classes engaged in the lesson. While she is very patient, one rule she stands by is that her students must be respectful of each other and treat everyone kindly, which they have no problem with. She says that the students and other teachers at Wallkill are great to work with and charismatic.



Mr. DeCarlo

Mr. Zachary DeCarlo is our new Global and Freshmen Experience teacher; he also coaches football and baseball. He decided to become a teacher because he "wanted to be the teacher that [he] wished [he] had when [he] was in high school here at Wallkill. Coach says-"There's no doubt that I had some amazing teachers during my time here as a student, but I feel that the positive energy I bring on a consistent basis coupled with my enthusiasm to get to know and build relationships with each individual student I cross paths with is a one of the main reasons why I chose to become a teacher."

In his free time, Mr. DeCarlo enjoys listening to podcasts, watching the Jets/Yankees, golfing, playing flag football, and most importantly, spending time with family and friends.



ASL class off to a strong start

by: Cailey Greiner

The newly added ASL (American Sign Language) class, taught by Mrs. Melissa Mourges, is currently in its first year at Wallkill High School. The class was introduced by Kayla Best, a 2022 graduate. Once approved, Mr. Masopust approached Mourges to teach the ASL class. All the curriculum was written and brought up by Mourges herself. She has been the district's teacher of the deaf

and hard of hearing since 2018 and has been teaching since 2003. The choice to teach this class came from her passion and love of language. She also feels that it is a good opportunity for students to learn sign language, a language most people are underexposed to. The topics being covered so far have been is the learning the alphabet, numbers 1 through 15, introductions, giving com-

mands, how to describe a person, and basic communication. Moving forward, Mourges would like to offer the course to sophomores and juniors. With the ASL class, students can connect to those who are deaf and hard--of-hearing and learn many things along the way.