

Ghostwriter in Brief

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Academy seniors reign as spirit champions

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NEWS EDITOR

Once again, the seniors managed to come out on top another year at the spirit rally. Seniors won 8 out of the 10 events with juniors and sophomores winning 1 event each and the freshmen class winning none.

The rally began with senior Leah DeTolla singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" in front of the whole school.

After this, several contests took place. Events

ranged from relay races, tug-of-war, sumo wrestling, sack races, centipede races, balloon popping

competitions, wheelbarrow races, greased melon tosses, limbo, and even jello-eating contests.

The first tug-of-war match was between the freshman class and the seniors. Although both sides worked hard, the seniors won rather quickly and the next match soon began. In the next match, the sophomore class lost to the juniors who then faced the seniors.

In an extremely close match, many were unsure who would win. Both sides pulled back and forth until the seniors eventually won, securing

their first victory.

The next event was the sumo wrestling match. The first few rounds were very short between the junior and the sophomore wrestlers. In a matter of minutes, sophomore Billy McLaughlin defeated his opponent.

It was McLaughlin who then beat the senior sumo in the final round. An impressive victory and their only win, the sophomore class ran onto the field to congratulate their winner.

Proceeding the wrestling match were the

sack races and the centipede races.

For both events, the seniors won.

Next was the balloon-popping competition.

Each class had about 10 students representing them. They had a balloon tied to their legs and the goal was to pop all the balloons on the opposing sides. Several groups got together and singled out the freshmen, eliminating them quickly.

Eventually it all came down to the senior and junior representatives. In the end, the seniors won after a long match.

Another popular event was the greased melon toss. Each class had 2 teams and it was clear that many underclassmen felt they were being cheated out of a fair match. While

the melons for the senior class were lightly greased, the watermelons for the freshmen were white and caked in a fair amount of it.

However, in past years this has always been the case when it comes to who gets the greasiest melon.

In the end, the melon toss was a close tie between the juniors and the seniors until a junior caught one of the melons which broke on impact in his hands.

"My favorite part was the watermelon toss because we were pretty close to winning it," said junior Colette O'Connor.

The jello-eating contest was an interesting event to watch and was also the only victory for the sophomore class. Four students buried their faces in giant bowls of jell-o until they completely emptied it.

The last event of the day, a limbo competition, was probably the most exciting part of the rally. It was a huge event where several members from each class were

bending backwards as far as they could under the limbo stick until it looked like it

was merely 3 feet from the ground.

The seniors screamed louder and louder every time senior

Emma Ennis made it under without touching the pole. Having never competed in the spirit rally before, she was glad she finally did.

"It was such a fun and exciting experience! I honestly wasn't expecting to do very well because I'm so tall but I somehow made it to the final two... it was just really thrilling," said Ennis.

After the seniors had secured their 8th win, they poured into the arena and ran off the field which

brought the spirit rally to a close.

"You can tell the classes apart by who has

the most spirit, the seniors having the most by far and the freshmen not really knowing what to do," said O'Connor.



Photo by Jocelyn Cote

Jay Drapeau in action.



Photo by Jocelyn Cote

Seniors at spirit rally.



Photo by Jocelyn Cote

Sophomores storm the field.

Junior Antes Anchors Defense

KYLE AUGER
SPORTS EDITOR

On nearly every defensive play at every Westford Academy football game, #40 junior Alex Antes is included as a tackler as well as a leader for the defensive unit.

Antes has been a standout his whole career, playing varsity football since freshman year and has been starting since sophomore year.

"It was definitely overwhelming at first, but you get used to it," said Antes.

He is now the anchor of the defense, knowing every play and what almost every player is supposed to be doing on each play.

"I love football, it's a competitive sport, it's really fun to hit people," said the junior linebacker.

Antes is now in the big leagues but he is not intimidated, and he can attribute that to one man in particular.

"Tony Venaria: he is my boss and my football coach. Out of high school, colleges were looking at him so he's been there before," said Antes.

His stats have matched his skills thus far; he recorded 15 tackles against Malden Catholic, and he forced a fumble against Groton-Dunstable.

Throughout his three years he has garnered

respect of all of his teammates on the varsity squad.

"He hits really hard and he has an expansive knowledge of the defensive," said junior Jake Martin, when asked about Antes' best attributes.

Although his dominance has been impressive at this level, he is not sure that he wants to pursue it in the future.

"Not football [in college], it's too tough on your body. I



Alex Antes on the field.

Photo By Jenny Watts

would like to play lacrosse though," said Antes.

Lacrosse is another field where he has been shining, playing varsity as an attack-man and one of the team's offensive weapons. His position on two varsity squads shows his skill and versatility as a student athlete.

Even though he does not want to continue playing at the collegiate level, the football team is not complaining, as he will be the leader and star of the defense for the next two years.

Upcoming Games

10/19 @ Wayland 7:00 PM
10/26 Lincoln Sudbury 7:00 PM
11/02 Boston Latin 7:00 PM
11/09 @ Waltham 7:00 PM
11/22 @ Acton-Boxborough 10:00 AM

Mr. Lucy leaves WA

ELLIE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Mark Lucey is retiring this month after 27 years working as a guidance counselor at Westford Academy. He has shared many fond memories with the teachers and students in the community and will miss working in the building.

After being a special education teacher for nine years, Lucey started working at WA in February of 1986 when Principal Jim Antonelli was finishing the second half of his senior year in high school at WA.

Lucey is retiring this year to be closer to his wife who has lived in Rockport, Massachusetts for the past two years because of her job in Gloucester. This long distance relationship made him retire earlier than he had anticipated.

Lucey has been legally retired since August but came back for the first few months of school for the seniors who are graduating this year. He plans to finish writing recommendation letters for seniors and get them ready to apply to college.

"Physically I won't be here, but I am going to stay online and still counsel them with their college admissions," said Lucey. "I will have a front row seat at graduation to celebrate their achievements."

Though he may be retiring from WA, Lucey does not plan to stop working altogether. He hopes to work for a college

in the area or in another field where he is interacting with others.

"I love people and being around people," said Lucey. "So, I am open to all different opportunities. I'd be happy behind the counter of a small convenience store as long as I was out meeting people during the day."

Lucey's coworkers find themselves reminiscing about the frequent fond memories they have shared with him. Principal James Antonelli is among many who will greatly miss Lucey as he spends his last few days at WA.

"I can't thank you enough for your friendship, your professionalism and just for being the person that you are," said Antonelli.

Dean Betsy Murphy is also finding it hard to let go of the enjoyable past she shares with Lucey.

"There's so many things to miss about Mr. Lucey. We are already missing him and he's not even gone," said Murphy. "He is just the most fun boss I have ever had."

Lucey's retirement will be bittersweet as he will miss many aspects of the job. Most prominently, he is going to miss the teachers, students, and staff that he works with everyday in the guidance office and the jokes and laughter that he shares with them.

"The Westford Academy students are just terrific people," said Lucey. "I have had more laughs, more tears, and more tender moments that have enriched me beyond measure."



Mr. Lucey in his office.

Photo by Ellie Smith