

Ghostwriter in Brief



The New Driving Rules

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By: *Ethan Walshe*
Managing Editor

Westford Academy principal Jim Antonelli is currently working in conjunction with Massachusetts state representative James Arciero to pass a new piece of legislation that would result in harsher punishments for student drivers caught in possession of illicit substances like marijuana or alcohol.

minors aged sixteen and one-half to eighteen years caught in possession of marijuana or alcohol to pay a \$1000 fine and to have their license suspended pending a minimum of three months of completion of driving instruction.

Antonelli says that over the past five years he has seen numerous counts of students arriving at school under the influence.

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The new bill would call for

Westford's Own Iron Chef

By *Jocelyn Cote*
Staff Writer

Although many Westford Academy students know Jeff Kucaj as a favorite English teacher, he also has a knack for another special talent - cooking.



Chef Kucaj

"It's something that most people don't do, but it makes a big difference between store-bought stuff and making it at home. I like that element of

elevating the quality of it," said Kucaj.

"His sauce is the best.

He makes homemade meatballs, everything's from scratch, it has three different kinds of meat in it, and the

meatballs just fall apart," she said.

"He lets them sit all day long." said wife and english teacher Kyle Kucaj. Besides cooking, Jeff Kucaj also enjoys coaching WA volleyball and track.

Photo by: Jocelyn Cote

"I've always liked to eat," said Kucaj. "But I didn't start to get serious about cooking until I moved away from home after college and was really put in a position where I had to cook. [...] My parents are good cooks, so [I had] to keep my eating consistent with my expectations from when I was a kid."

Teacher Negotiations Impact All

by *Haley Verre*
Staff Writer

You may have noticed the change in atmosphere due to the teacher negotiations for a new contract. Many students have been curious about the teachers' behavior lately and don't know why they have been refraining from staying after school.

The teachers have been attempting to negotiate for a fair contract. Since August 2011, no contract has been present.

Many students have been curious about the teacher contract, but teachers have stated they are not permitted to discuss it.

"We appreciate our students' curiosity and normally we encourage that trait," said Head of the Union Ruth Freeman, "However, we feel it is very important that as professionals we conduct ourselves at work as educators. If we talked to individual students about our perspective, some might complain that we are trying to 'use' the students to promote our point of view. That is why we suggest students discuss the issue with their parents, instead."

The teachers' new tradition of wearing black every Wednesday and a variety of buttons everyday has been noticed by the students as well.

According to "Westford Education Association Enters Right-to-Rule Situation", an article in the Westford Patch, Wednesday

is mediation day. Teachers wear black to "mourn" the fact that there has been no compromise reached.

This week, teachers have been entering the building at 7:25 AM and leaving at 2:12 PM. As a result, little extra help can be provided and certain clubs have been cancelled. The Westford Teacher Association has requested teachers not to participate in any voluntary activities for this week, such as chaperoning and running clubs which they are not paid to advise.

Students' reactions to this practice have not been positive. "It takes away from our education when the teachers are not there. It isn't helping, just hurting us," said freshman Maggie Basinas.

The absence of additional help after school contributes to students' distaste for "Work to Rule".

Junior Caroline Rosinski stated it is "obnoxious", while freshman Marcus Kohnstam feels it will influence the work of students. Freshman Jack Leiber agreed that "[Work to Rule] is bad because [students] can't have extra help."

So far, this is what has impacted students the most.

"I hope students experience limited changes. The sooner the school committee agrees to negotiate the specific parts of our contract, the better we will all be," said Freeman.

Upcoming Games

Friday 2/17

8:15PM Girls Varsity Ice Hockey vs. Newton South High School

8:30PM Boys Varsity Swimming @ MIAA Division 1 State Meet

Saturday 2/18

3:00PM Girls Varsity Ice Hockey vs. Beverly High School

6:30PM Boys JV Ice Hockey @ Acton-Boxborough Regional HS

8:00PM Boys Varsity Ice Hockey @ Acton-Boxborough Regional HS

Sunday 2/19

1:00PM Boys & Girls Varsity Indoor Track @ MIAA Division 1 Meet

2:00PM Girls V Basketball vs. Acton Toyota Grey Ghost Classic (AB vs Wachusett Regional)

2:30PM Girls Varsity Swimming @ MIAA Division 1 State Meet

5:30PM Boys Varsity Basketball @ St. John's Prep School (IAABO Board 130 Tournament)

Monday 2/20

TBA Boys Varsity Basketball @ Tournament

12:30PM Girls Varsity Ice Hockey vs. Masconomet Regional High School

Tuesday 2/21

6:00PM Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Acton Toyota Grey Ghost Classic Consolation Game

7:45PM Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Acton Toyota Grey Ghost Classic Championship Game

7:45PM Boys Varsity Ice Hockey vs. Masconomet Regional High School

Wednesday 2/22

TBA Boys Varsity Ice Hockey @ Billerica Memorial High School

Friday 2/24

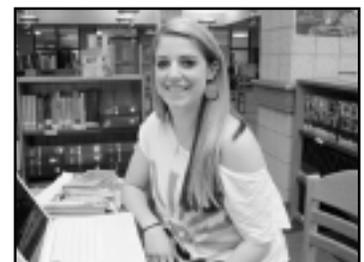
TBA Boys Varsity Ice Hockey @ Billerica Memorial High School



Scan with your smartphone



"I think it's dumb."
Courtney Martin, sophomore



"I'm in full support of them."
Christine Torto, senior

Movies to See This Week

Act of Valor:

A group of Navy SEALs embark on a covert mission to recover a kidnapped CIA agent. The movie stars a cast of active-duty Navy SEALs instead of actors. It follows the group on various missions and how they cope with family life, country and the unit. The release date is February 24, 2012. Rated R for strong violence and language.

This Means War:

Chris Pine and Tom Hardy star as two deadly CIA operatives, who are both inseparable companions. That is until the fall for the same woman played by Reese Witherspoon. The release date for this film is February 17, 2012.

Wanderlust

A Manhattan couple find themselves stressed out following unemployment. Left with no other options, George

(Paul Rudd) and Linda (Jennifer Aniston) must move in with George's brother, where they find themselves faced with some colorful characters embracing free love. This will be released February 24, 2012. Rated R.

Gone:

After a work shift at night, Jill Parish (Amanda Seyfried) comes home to find that her sister Molly has been abducted. Now she must find the killer and retrieve her sister. The release date for this film is scheduled for February 24, 2012. Rated PG-13.

Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance

Continuing on where the previous movie left off, Johnny Blaze (Cage) is called upon to stop the devil, who is attempting to take human form. The release date is February 17, 2012. Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of action and violence, disturbing images and language.

SoundBytes

How do you feel about the teachers not being here before and after school this week?