

Upcoming Events

- Sep 28: Unified Soccer
- Sep 29 @ 6:30 pm:
Walk 4 Awareness
- Sep 30: Fat Cats Spirit Night
- Oct 5: Picture Retakes
- Oct 13: End 1st Quarter
- Oct 14 – 18: Fall Break

Band, Orchestra & Choir

- Oct 4: Band Bash
- Oct 8: Bridgerland Comp.
- Oct 11: Fall Choir Concert
- Oct 12: Orchestra Concert
- Oct 12: Rocky Mtn. Band Comp.

Cross Country

- Oct 5: Regionals
- Oct 13: Divisionals

Drama

- Sep 27: Shakespeare Showcase

Football

- Sep 3 vs Corner Canyon
- Oct 7 vs American Fork
- Oct 13 @ Lone Peak

Girls Soccer

- Sep 28 vs American Fork
- Sep 30 vs Pleasant Grove
- Oct 7: State – 1st Round
- Oct 12: State 2nd Round
- Oct 14: State Quarter Finals

Golf

- Sep 8: Regionals
- Oct 4 – 5: State

Volleyball

- Sep 28 @ American Fork
- Oct 5 vs Skyridge
- Oct 8 – 9: Skyridge Tourn.
- Oct 12 @ Corner Canyon

JOURNALISM CLUB

Want to write articles for The Thunder News? Wonder how articles get from the writing room to the front page?

Join us Wednesday from 11:45 – 12:30 in C246.

VANDALISM IN WESTLAKE

By Quinn Randall

On September 15th, classes were interrupted by an announcement. School administration was offering a \$100 reward for information relating to bathroom vandalism. This announcement started chatter, with many ideas and theories going around.

This vandalism appears to be connected to a new trend sweeping social media. Originating on TikTok, this trend encourages individuals to steal objects from public grounds. Westlake had experienced incidents for about a week before the announcement. On the 15th alone, three separate incidents had occurred. So far, Westlake has incurred hundreds of dollars in damages.

The announcement on Wednesday offered a \$100 reward for information about individuals involved in the vandalism. According to Dr. Smith, plenty of evidence was shared within minutes of the

announcement. The administration did not identify who shared information or who received the reward.

Dr. Smith is quite



worried about this trend. While Westlake has only seen minor incidents so far, Dr. Smith's concern lies with escalation. He worries that students may injure themselves by stealing larger objects or end up charged with legal damages if the trend continues. To prevent escalation, he believes it is important

that further incidents be reported. He also stated that students caught participating in this activity may be fined and possibly face criminal charges. He stated that such measures are meant to be proactive, preventing further incidents.

The administration implores students to do their part to prevent further vandalism, whether that be reporting information or discouraging friends from participating. Ultimately, Dr. Smith wants to stop these incidents before they escalate and leave people in legal trouble or with injuries.

WALK FOR AWARENESS

By Ciarà Peterson

Westlake's StormCo (formerly Thor Squad) is hosting a "Walk for Awareness" Wednesday, September 29th at 6:30 p.m. The event, which will start at Westlake High School and is open to all students, families and community members, is meant to

bring awareness to mental health and suicide related issues. Several performances will be going on during the event, such as drama, cheer, and more. The event will begin with a silent walk from Westlake High School to
(Continued on page 2)

CLUBS – IF YOU HAVE ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT NEED TO BE POSTED,
EMAIL: WHS_THUNDERNEWS@ALPINEDISTRICT.ORG.

THUNDER CLUBS

GIRL'S FOOTBALL

By Victoria Araujo Alba

Unknown to many students, Westlake has a Girl's Tackle Football team. Our team plays through the Utah Girls Football League, an organization focused and centered around female football athletes. The league, the first of its kind, supports, organizes and sponsors full-contact tackle football for girls. All girls from 3rd to 12th grade are welcomed and encouraged to join a team, in which they can have fun, make friends, and grow as athletes. Our team includes students from Westlake, Cedar Valley and Lehi high schools. Sam Dotson, the team captain, and Coach Aaron, the head coach, invite any interested girls to join. Girl's Football is a spring season sport (February – May), so there is still time to join! Practices are held every Tuesday and Thursday at Westlake's football field, from 6:00 to 7:00 a.m.

SHARK CLUB

By Jonah Bradshaw

Westlake has a lot of clubs this year and one that's getting a lot of attention is Shark Club. Shark Club is run by Gracee Barnes and Mrs. Barney is the club advisor. Their goal is to make sure that the Shark Club is awesome. The club is not about sharks but is a place for students to socialize and make friends. When asked about Shark Club's purpose, Gracee said, "To meet new people and have fun!" Gracee and Mrs. Barney hope to plan engaging and fun activities. A "key" part of Shark Club membership will be the shark key chains that club members will receive. If you want to join Shark Club talk to Gracee Barnes or Mrs. Barney. You might even be able to talk about sharks.

WALK FOR AWARENESS

(continued from page 1)

By Ciarà Peterson

Neptune Park in remembrance of those who have been lost to suicide. Taryn Hiatt, the Area Director at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, will address the crowd. Additionally, t-shirts will be sold, with all proceeds going to mental health awareness.

Storm Co is very excited for this event, as it is their very first event as a club. Due to the amount of advertising they have done alongside the Westlake Counseling Center, they are expecting a large turnout and successful event.

Donations towards the event are open, as they are asking for help with the t-shirt supply. Several other clubs will also have representatives present. Storm Co hopes to see you all there in support.

Sports Scores

Cross Country

Sep 10 @ Park City

Sep 11 @ BYU

Football (2-4)

Sep 3 vs Herriman: 14-17

Sep 10 @ Mountain Ridge: 7-14

Sep 17 vs Skyridge: 2-44

Girls Soccer (5-8)

Sep 2 @ Corner Canyon: 1-2

Sep 9 @ American Fork: 2-1

Sep 14 vs Skyridge: 2-3

Sep 16 @ Lone Peak: 0-4

Golf

Will be reported & updated after regional qualifiers.

Tennis

Will be reported & updated after regional qualifiers.

Volleyball (2-12)

Sep 2 vs. Copper Hills: 0-3

Sep 7 vs Delta: 0-3

Sep 9 @ Skyridge: 0-3

Sep 10 – 11 @ Rocky Mt. Trny: 1-4

Dixie: 2-1 Eagle: 2-1

Union: 0-2 Cedar: 1-3

Mountain Ridge: 0-3

PRINCIPAL'S WORD OF ADVICE

"Don't take yourself too seriously – learn to laugh at yourself. I think that takes a lot of stress away. Sometimes all you can do is laugh."

THUNDER LIFE

WESTLAKE'S CHROMEBOOK ROLEOUT A SUCCESS

By Julio Rojas Loo

Many things have come out as a result of the previous two years of COVID-19. Online resources in the classroom have increased and many more teachers have transitioned their curriculum to Canvas. Most recently, for the first time in Westlake history, each student was assigned a personal Chromebook at the start of this school year. The purpose of one-to-one technology (every student having a laptop) is to allow all students to have access to their classes and schoolwork, even when they are not at school.

The idea of schoolwide Chromebooks arose about two years ago at the district level. At the start of the pandemic, schools throughout Alpine School District, including Westlake, started providing students with Chromebooks so that they could participate in virtual classes and complete their homework. This success, along with the need that arose during the pandemic, sped up the process to provide a Chromebook to every student within the school. With funds from a Facebook Grant and the State of Utah, Westlake was able to purchase enough Chromebooks to supply the entire student body.

In interviewed about their experiences with their school-issued Chromebooks, many students reported that they use their Chromebooks daily, though some still choose to use their personal computers at home. Aside from the occasional report of slow bootups, very few students have suffered technical troubles with their Chromebooks. One student said that their first laptop had an unresponsive "T" key, but that the school replaced their Chromebook with a fully functional one.

Overall, it seems that Westlake's rollout of Chromebooks is a success. It appears that funding wasn't a problem and students are enjoying the new supplies. If Westlake continues to focus on digitally-supplemented learning, these Chromebooks will be a wonderful investment for years to come.

STAFF HIGHLIGHT

MEET MRS. JONES & MRS. HILL

By Charles Boulter

The finance office is located in the commons, near the cafeteria; thousands of students pay fees and attend to other expenses there. Today, we get to know the two secretaries who manage Westlake's Finance Office.

Leslie Jones, the receipt secretary has been working at the school for almost 8 years. She used to work at a telemarketing company that sold beauty products called New Skin. Kristina Hill, the finance secretary, has worked at Westlake since its founding in 2012. This is her 10th year at Westlake and she expressed how much she enjoys working here. Before working at Westlake, she worked at Saratoga Shores.



They both enjoy meeting and connecting with the students and watching them grow throughout their years at Westlake. They hate deadlines as much as students do! When asked for advice, they both emphasized the need for students to memorize their student ID, a common and frustrating problem among Sophomores. They said, "We can't help you if you don't know it," showing the importance of the seven-digit number most students forget. Pay attention to announcements, and if you do have a debit card, bring one to school. The school year has begun, and they're ready and willing to help you!

THUNDER LIFE

NEW ATTENDANCE POLICY

By Brinley Smith & Kaitlyn Hanks

For those that are not aware, Westlake has a new attendance policy. Although the new policy looks very different, not much has changed overall. This new policy took effect at the beginning of this year and affects all of the students here at Westlake.

Prior to the 2020-21 school year, Westlake had an attendance policy that incorporated non-completes (NCs) and attendance school. Basically, once a student had four tardies in a single class or an unexcused absence, that class would show as “NC” in Skyward. In order for that NC to be removed, you would have to go to attendance school before or after school, or on Saturdays.

Last year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the flexibility of school attendance, the school did not really have an attendance policy. This was because students and parents could choose to only do online classes. There was also the problem of quarantines and other types of absences, and it would have been unfair to mandate classroom attendance.

Now, though, students are back in the classroom. The new attendance policy has excluded attendance school entirely. Westlake has replaced NCs with

°AW 100.00% °AW

AWs, which stands for “attendance warning.” An AW will appear in Skyward next to all classes in which a student has excessive tardies or absences (five or more). If a student does happen to have more than 4

in one class, a contract will be created between the student, the student’s parents, a student advocate, and a counselor or administrator. The student and the student advocate will then create an attendance plan, which is just an individual plan for improving attendance, grades, and behavior if needed.

When asked the question of *why* the attendance policy has changed, Mrs. Wilkins, one of Westlake’s administrators, responded, “The district required us to get rid of NCs and most other schools went to AWs, so we went to AWs. We are trying to do something to show students the importance of attendance.”

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NEW THIS WEEK:

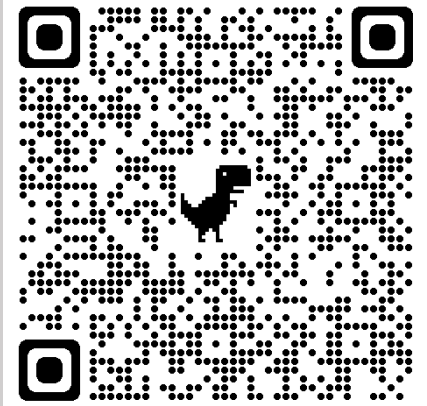
THE THUNDER NEWS 30-SECOND SURVEY

In each issue, The Thunder News will conduct a survey related to issues that affect the students at Westlake High School.

Results will be posted in the following issue.

This week’s survey question:

Do you think school attendance should be mandatory?



(Scan this QR code to take the survey.)

Check the next
issue to see our
survey results.

Know of something that should be highlighted in the Thunder News? Email:
whs_thundernews@alpinedistrict.org.