

## Upcoming Events

- Dec 20 – 31: Winter Break
- Dec 4: Dancing Up A Storm
- Dec 10: Movie Night (Elf)
- Dec 16: Performing Arts Assembly

### Christmas Jars

- See highlight on page 2

### Band, Orchestra & Choir

- Dec 1-2: Percussion Sectl.
- Dec 6: Band Hol. Concert
- Dec 8-9: Percussion Sectl.
- Dec 13: Choir Hol. Concert
- Dec 15: Orchestra Concert
- Dec 15-16: Percussion Sectl.
- Dec 16: Choir to Capitol
- Dec 16: Guitar Concert

### Basketball

- Dec 2: Var. Girls @ RSL
- Dec 7: Girls vs Bear River
- Dec 7: Boys vs Layton
- Dec 10: Girls @ Bonneville
- Dec 14: Boys vs Cdr Valley
- Dec 15-17: Girls @ Beetdigger Tournament

### Drill & Dance

- Nov 30: Showcase (7 p.m.)
- Dec 9: Dance Company Concert

### Swim

- Dec 3: Silver Rush Invtnl.
- Dec 17: Alpine District Invtnl.

### Wrestling

- Dec 2 vs Skyridge
- Dec 3-4: Thunder Classic
- Dec 8 @ Corner Canyon
- Dec 15 @ American Fork

## 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.

## SHORTENED LUNCH AVERTED

By Victoria Araújo Alba

In late September, students started to hear rumors that Westlake's lunch schedule was going to change for the 2nd quarter. Then, on the 6th of October, teachers received an email from Mrs. Wilkins, assistant principal, informing them of the new bell schedule that would reduce lunch from 45 minutes to 33 minutes, adding three minutes to each class. The email said this was a result of "discipline issues and kids (students) taking more lunches".

As a result of the email, a few students took action to make change. After listening to their teacher "complain about the situation", they decided to raise their voices and give the Westlake students a place to share theirs. Within hours of the teachers receiving the email, these students had set up an online petition and a

social media discussion board, on which students were arguing both for and against the schedule changes. While many kept sharing the link for

A1/B5	7:45-9:10 (1:25)
A2/B6	9:16-10:41 (1:25)
1 <sup>st</sup> Lunch	1:41-11:14 (33 min)
A3/B7	11:20-12:45 (1:25)
A3/B7	1:47-12:12 (1:25)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lunch	12:12-12:45 (33 min)
A4/B8	12:51-2:15 (1:24)

the petition, others discouraged students from signing it.

Led by Student Council member Preston Jensen, the goal of 500 signatures was met very quickly; by the end of the night on October 6th, the petition

had over 800 signatures from students, faculty members and parents.

On the other hand, many students were compliant with the lunchtime change. A Senior, who asked not to be named, shared that her initial reaction was a more popular one, "this (lunch change) is stupid." However, after giving it more thought, she said...

(continued on p. 6)

## UTAH STATE FAIR

By Abby Bagley

On September 17th, FCCLA, FFA, and ProStart got the opportunity to go to the Utah state fair. At the fair, there was agricultural history, a photo gallery, a cow (which was made entirely of butter!), food trucks, and different animals that are usually pictured in a farm environment; such as cows, goats, and pigs. All in all, it was a learning experience. A fun one, for the students who went on the trip. The end goal for Westlake students involved in the Utah State fair is to learn about the agricultural history of Utah and each

step in the process to get where we are today. As an example, the workers at the state fair guided people through the process in a game. The game consisted of grabbing a basket, growing your own fruit or vegetable, milking a cow, riding a tractor, and taking eggs. Along the way they asked the participants to add each thing to their basket. At the end of the game they gave money to the people who participated and encouraged them to buy something from the mini store. Although, it was not only a learning experience but also an opportunity to make friends.

CLUBS – IF YOU HAVE ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT NEED TO BE POSTED,

EMAIL: [WHS\\_THUNDERNEWS@ALPINEDISTRICT.ORG](mailto:WHS_THUNDERNEWS@ALPINEDISTRICT.ORG).

# THUNDER LIFE

## WESTLAKE'S SPIRIT BOWL

By Brinley Smith

The Fall Spirit Bowl assembly took place on October 22nd between A1 and A2. The Spirit Bowl is a year-long competition between Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors, and Westlake faculty that has been going on at Westlake since the school opened. According to Mrs. Lambert, the purpose of the Spirit Bowl is "to have fun and build unity within each class." There are multiple different competitions spread throughout two assemblies, this first one in the fall and a second one that will happen in February. The student council spends months planning each assembly.

Students often complain about the perceived bias in the current judging and point system. Caleb Nelson, a member of Student Council, is attempting to address this issue and told The Thunder News, "There has never been a set way to determine the points and that's been something I've been trying to fix. For the next spirit bowl, we plan on adding a scoreboard and a judging panel with members from all teams."

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## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

By Victoria Araújo Alba



The National Honors Society (NHS) is an organization centered on service and academic excellence. Westlake has its own NHS chapter and club; this club is a pillar of example and leadership. The official acceptance email emphasizes this: "You are now part of a premier service organization that recognizes students with exceptional backgrounds in scholarship, service, leadership, and character." NHS members applied in early September, and the annual Introduction Ceremony happened a few

weeks later. So far, there's been one meeting, in which the members did service for different Westlake teachers. There are many more meetings to come.

The biggest event organized, managed, and directed by the NHS club has always been Thanksgiving Baskets. Every year, members collect food and create baskets for families in need around our community. This big service project is a collective effort to which every Westlake student has the opportunity to contribute to. A food drive is currently in place and will end on November 17th. NHS is asking for donations, including canned foods, jams, boxed mixes, and stuffing. Students are to deliver their donations to the Main Office or Counseling Center, where collection boxes are located. Overall, the National Honors Society has a great part in Westlake's leadership. We thank and applaud the members, presidency, and advisors for their efforts.

## CHRISTMAS JARS

Christmas Jars is an annual FCCLA and Student Council ran Westlake fundraiser that incorporates the entire school from students, to teachers, administrators, parents, and the local community.

Funds raised go directly to assist local families in their financial struggles. This year, the school has set a goal to raise \$40,000. To meet this goal, Westlake hosts a number of events between the Thanksgiving and Winter breaks.

This year's Christmas Jars event schedule is as follows:

November 29 – December 10

Christmas Jars Fundraiser

December 2<sup>nd</sup>

Christmas Jars Assembly (7:45-9:45)

December 8<sup>th</sup>

Stuff the Jar Night (5 pm – 8 pm)

Nov 30, 31, Dec 7, 2

Muffin Man during 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Period

Other Events

Nov 30: Empty your Ashtray

Nov 30: Quench It! Spirit Night

Dec 7: Costa Vida! Spirit Night

Dec 10: Cocoa & Cram

Dec 11: CJPJ Dance

## PRINCIPAL'S WORD OF ADVICE

"Be grateful for what you have, don't focus on what you don't have"

# THUNDER SPORTS

## WESTLAKE FOOTBALL SEASON COMES TO AN END

By Jonah Bradshaw

The football season for Westlake High School has come to an end; all 13 games were played with all of Thor's might. The first game was on August 13th with Westlake playing Hunter. Points were hard to come by in this game, Westlake made a total of 3 points while Hunter had 0, meaning that Westlake won their first game!

Second game was against Alta on the 20th of August and Westlake was falling behind by 13 points in the second quarter. We showed resilience, though, and were rewarded on the rest of the game with a 27-13 victory. At this time, our Westlake fans had faith that we would have a lot of victories throughout the season. Westlake's third game was on the 27th of August and it was against Syracuse. Westlake's only score this game came on a 98-yard interception return by Cooper Cowen just before halftime, the final score being 23-6. Westlake fans and the football team were a little unhappy with our first loss of the season, but the fans had faith that we would have the next game in the bag.

Our fourth game was a total loss against Herriman on September 3rd with the score ending on 17-14. Westlake was up by 14 in the fourth quarter, but with 58 seconds on the clock, Herriman's Michael Falatea intercepted the overthrown pass and returned it 85 yards for the winning touchdown with 8 seconds remaining.

Westlake's next game was at Mountain Ridge, the score being 7-14. On September 17, the game was against Skyridge with the score being 44-2 with Westlake losing. On the 24th of September, Westlake played Pleasant Grove, one of the plays was by Zach Allen and had a 40-yard interception return for a touchdown, later winning the game at 38-21.

On October 1st, we lost to Corner Canyon, the score being 56-0, and we don't talk about that one. The 7th of October was against American Fork, again losing with a final score of 41-0. On October 13th, we played at Lone Peak with the score ending at 7-42.

We finally returned to winning on October 22nd against Roy High School, with a final score of 30-28. Our last game was at Skyridge on the 29th of October with the score being 14-58.

Our team had a rough season but stayed true to Westlake. Our fans were proud of the team for how much work and effort they put into each and every game, so we'll see the Westlake football team in action again in the 2022 season.

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## GOLF SEASON IN REVIEW

By Binley Smith

Some students may be wondering how this year's golf season went here at Westlake. If you are one of those students, then this article is for you. Golf has gone through a couple of changes in the past year, which has really affected this year's season. Westlake golf used to be teamed up with Cedar Valley's golf team; however, last year the teams split, so now we were on our own!

The golf team did well this year, considering we lost a lot of players when we split from Cedar Valley. Mr. Gordon, the coach of the boy's golf team, stated that "We had a decent season... If we had been in another region, we would've been the number two team in that region; It's just we're in a little tougher region. I felt like we had a good year, it just didn't work out the way we wanted it to."

Mr. Gordon mentioned several students that stood out in this year's season, but the one that stood out the most was Kaden Butterfield. "Kaden was kind of a help this year because it was someone we didn't expect." Kaden is a senior who had never played golf before but decided to try it out this year. He really helped out the team, making it onto varsity and being one of the top four scorers in multiple regional tournaments!

The coach talked about wanting to "build up" the team after the split. If anyone is interested in joining the golf team, simply reach out to Mr. Gordon for more information. Congratulations to the Westlake Golf Team on their most recent season!

# THUNDER SPORTS

## WESTLAKE HOSTS UNIFIED SOCCER TOURNAMENT

By Jonah Bradshaw

On the 28th of September, nine different schools came to Westlake to participate in the annual Unified Soccer Tournament. Started at nine thirty, all of the schools came out of the tunnel looking ready to play. Each team made their way to their designated field as fans started filling the bleachers to watch and cheer our awesome soccer players compete.

During lunch players and were able to have their photos taken with Lightning McQueen, Batman, Batgirl, The Mandalorian, and Mr. Incredible.

After the lunch break, each team ran back out to the field to warm up before competition resumed. The teams played wonderfully and kept great sportsmanship throughout the entire day and it looked like they all had a blast.

Thank you to all of the amazing thunder crew and student council for setting up this awesome event for these special kids from Westlake as well as from the schools who came from all over the valley. Westlake's soccer team made state for the unified soccer tournament and was celebrated for that on Wednesday, October 13 with a Thunder Alley celebration.

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## WOMEN'S TENNIS SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

By Julio Rojas Loo

The Girls' Tennis season has wound to a close, and our team stands strong. Many of our team members earned medals in their divisions, and we won two separate games against Cedar Valley. There were some troubles with more practice teams, but overall, we stood our ground well.

One bright moment in the season came during the regional tournament. Brianna Pickering, one of our team members, ranked high enough to attend the state tournament. It has been a few seasons since any of our team members have made it to state, so we give our congratulations to Brianna!

While the girls' season has come to a close, the boys' season is coming up. There are still openings available, and the team is looking for new members to join the team. Players of all skill are welcome, and special practice regiments will be given to new players to get them accustomed to the sport.

The team has a welcoming atmosphere, so I invite any individuals interested in picking up a new sport to apply for the team!

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## SOPHOMORE ENGLISH WRITING COMPETITION

Continued from Page 5

Please see the explanation of the recent writing contest as found on page 5. This following piece was selected as the best poem from this contest.

### Jumping Jack By: Caleb Hurt

Once there was a man named Jack,  
who had a great back.  
He could jump from here to there...  
to anywhere!  
Once he ran into a hitch,  
with a nasty little witch.  
He jumped right on her house you see,

and that was not a place you wanted to be.  
So she cursed his bouncy spine,  
to transform into a vine.  
And his head,  
fell into a flower bed.  
Where his last face,  
took the pumpkin's place.

# THUNDER VOICE

## SOPHOMORE ENGLISH WRITING COMPETITION

Sophomore English students recently competed in a "Spooky Stories to Tell at Westlake" writing contest. Here is the winner as selected by the Sophomore English Teachers and Thunder News staff.

### "Black Cat, White Lie" by Haydn Oborn

Bright amber eyes stared unblinkingly up at him, a small slender form taking shape as his eyes adjusted to the darkness.

"It's that time of year, isn't it?" He looked over at his companion, her eyes flicking upwards briefly from her book. "The black cats are showing up, bringing bad luck wherever they go."

"I don't think black cats are bad luck," he said, looking back down to the creature. It hadn't moved, though he could now see its tail curled neatly around its paws. He bent down and stroked the cat's head. It leaned into his touch slightly, though its eyes stayed locked on him. "I think they're just misunderstood."

"Hey," she said sharply, her book snapping shut. She froze at the noise, looking around, though the park they were currently trekking through was empty and silent but for the gentle chirping of the crickets. She seemed to shrink in on herself, placing her hand on his shoulder. "Leave it alone. Let's get out of here."

"What? Scared?" he teased, running his hand down the cat's back. It mewed softly and she jumped, withdrawing her hand and hugging her book to her chest.

"You should be too."

"Of a little superstitious people who claim these harmless creatures bring bad luck?" He chuckled and shook his head, pulling his hand back and looking at the cat, cooing, "No, you don't bring bad luck."

"How many times do I have to tell you? The black cat does not want to be messed with!"

"Now, that's just the-" He froze as the crickets, the only source of noise other than themselves, suddenly went silent, the silence almost seeming to close in on them. He turned his head to look at his companion, his heart jumping in his chest when the only sign she'd even been there was the book laying open on the ground. He leaped to his feet as the black cat suddenly stood up and stalked towards the book, tail flicking behind it. It positioned itself behind the book, looking up at him once again with slit amber eyes.

"Do you bring back luck?" he whispered, reaching down and cautiously pulling the book towards himself. "Are they right?" He looked down at the page, then glanced around the desolate park. He called out for his companion, but his voice fell flat. He yelped and shoved himself backwards when the book was suddenly pulled out of his hands, drawing his gaze back to the cat.

His eyes widened as a shadowy form gently closed the book and tucked it under their arm, bending down on one knee. The black cat jumped on the newcomer's knee, leaping gracefully up to perch on their shoulder. The figure stood up, stroking the cat's chin with their free hand.

"It's that time of year, or haven't you heard?" He opened his mouth, suddenly freezing despite his previous comfort. A wide white smile spread across the figure's featureless face.

"Don't say I didn't warn you."

# THUNDER LIFE

## THANKSGIVING PLANS ARE BACK

By Quinn Randall

Surprising to some, Thanksgiving is celebrated in nations other than the United States. While it is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November in the United States, it is celebrated on the second Monday of October in Canada. Regardless, Thanksgiving celebrations center around spending time with family and eating unhealthy amounts of food.

During November 2020, many individuals had their Thanksgiving plans altered or cancelled due to COVID-19. Visits to family or traveling to fun destinations took a backseat to following advice concerning social-distancing. However, it appears that this year's Thanksgiving plans are quickly returning to normal.

In a small informal poll, over 60% of people were planning on traveling, be it to family reunions or out-of-state entertainment. Over 30% of people were planning on having a regular family reunion. Only two individuals stated they planned on having dinner only with immediate family, and they were doing so for reasons unrelated to COVID-19.

As we settle into a year and a half of the pandemic, many individuals are willing to settle back into their regular habits, at least for Thanksgiving.

## SHORTENED LUNCH AVERTED

By Victoria Araújo Alba

(continued from p. 1)

... that it made sense because, referring to the devious licks issue, "if students want to act out then some kind of punishment needs to happen."

Regardless, the Westlake bell schedule did not change. Two days after the petition went online, Principal Christian Smith sent a follow up email concerning the projected bell schedule changes to all faculty members. Teachers and parents had shared their concerns with Dr. Smith, and a new plan was in motion. The email explained the concerns that lead to the projected changes and asked for six teachers to act as lunch monitors.

According to the email, teachers would not be required to sign up, and would be paid to assist during lunch.

After reading this email sent to the teachers, it is clear the scope of problems was much larger than assumed. During lunch, students had a disrespectful attitude towards the lunch workers, went through the line twice leaving the following lunch with less choices, and caused damage to school property. Now, by having extra teacher supervision, lunches have remained the same. Students are thankful to the teachers monitoring our lunches, to those who took action and to our staff members.

Dr. Smith encourages students to communicate and express their concerns with him face-to-face if the need arises. He said, "The way you work with me is you come in and talk about it", and later said "It's important for me to hear what everyone else thinks". He welcomes all students and prefers to solve conflict this way.

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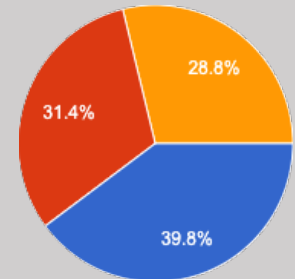
## THE THUNDER NEWS 30-SECOND SURVEY

### Results from last issue:

Question: Do you think school aged children (up to 18) should be required to attend school?

Out of 191 total responses:

Answers:	Yes	76 (29.8%)
	Maybe	60 (31.4%)
	No	55 (28.8%)



### This week's survey question:

When is the right time to start listening to "holiday" music and watching "holiday" movies?



(Scan this QR code to take the survey.)

Results will be posted in the next issue of The Thunder News.

Know of something that should be highlighted in the Thunder News? Email:

[whs\\_thundernews@alpinedistrict.org](mailto:whs_thundernews@alpinedistrict.org)