

*Willowbrook High School*

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cartoon by Rachelle Paulsen

# Child stars need greater protection

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NEWS EDITOR

Family classic films, shows, entertainment have left a lasting impact on pop culture, but the greatest impact might be left on the child stars who made the media that we know and love today. Yet where we see a family classic, we can almost always see a horror story.

Vulnerable children, whether they want to be stars or not, are exposed to an array of dangers. More child stars have been coming forward to detail the struggles and awful situations they were put through. But, even with all those coming out against the Hollywood dream, it does not appear that much has changed to protect those minors.

Jennette McCurdy, well known as Sam Puckett in Nickelodeon's *iCarly*, is an example of how fame has a damaging effect on minors. With the *iCarly* reboot well underway, many of its former leads are all set to return. However, McCurdy has not publicly mentioned returning, or even acknowledged the reboot, according to *Newsweek*.

McCurdy, in a now deleted bio from her website, jennettemccurdy.com, wrote, "I started out as a child actor...that certainly lent some psychological trauma (sound guys can be especially creepy!)"

McCurdy has been quite open about her personal struggles. She has come forward about how her acting jobs triggered her eating disorders. She felt immense pressure to be a role model for kids.

She developed an eating disorder working on *iCarly*, which she struggled to overcome. But when she started working on her new show, *Sam & Cat*, she relapsed.

When interviewed about her work on the Nickelodeon show, *Sam & Cat*, McCurdy told the *HuffPost*, "the shallowness of my success...made me resent it. That resentment festered, providing even more fuel for my disordered eating. I actively began to engage in anorexic behavior again."

McCurdy is just one of the many former child stars exploited by stardom. Some young stars have been exposed to the dark side of the media through other means, like YouTube.

The Shaytards are one example of a family vlogging channel that has caused family problems.

The family channel, with 4.89 million followers, has been actively posting since 2009. The channel is run by Shay Carl Butler and his wife Colette; together they have five children.

Their vlogs mainly revolve around the family's daily life, which, as it is, seems harmless. But when you take into account all the ups and downs families go through, it is a lot. In 2016, the family was caught in a scandal. Shay Carl was exposed for having an affair with an adult performer. The family stayed silent on the matter, but nine months later, Shay Carl came forward with an apology.

He claimed full responsibility, and apologized profusely, later adding he was dealing with alcoholism and going to rehab, accord-

ing to *Metro*. The channel was on hiatus for thirteen months.

During that time, there were rumors of divorce spreading amongst their fans. Many people were focused on the Shay and Colette relationship, but imagine if you were one of their children. Your parents have immense pressure on their relationship due to infidelity, your father is dealing with alcoholism and is going away to rehab, and the whole internet knows.

Even with child privacy laws, such as the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), which protects children under the age of thirteen by placing their guardians in control of what information can be collected on them, not all kids are protected under this law. Thus, many apps and programs have special settings for child content and child content producers, but the Shaytard children are not protected.

Children are not legally able to consent: it is up to their parents or guardians. The Shaytard kids, as well as other child stars, are at the mercy of their parents or guardians.

Besides the cyberbullying and harassment done to the family and children through their social media, it is likely they faced similar issues in their personal lives, and even at school. All the children were minors at the time.

Should it be legal for children to be stars when they are put under enormous pressure, sometimes even put in dangerous situations? It would be nearly impossible to outright ban them since their parents or guardians consent but more

laws could be put in place to protect them.

For example, with the crippling pressure Jennette McCurdy suffered, which led to an eating disorder, why were there no child psychiatrists on set monitoring the child actors' wellbeing? This could have helped prevent the progression of her illness. It could also give child actors a safe outlet to vent any problems they may be having, whether from the job pressure or problems with other actors or the show's crew. It could protect their lives.

Their parents or guardians have the option to sit in and observe, but is that enough if the parents' intentions are not known? The parent or guardian could easily dismiss the child's welfare if it means they get a fat check; in fact, it happens often enough that it is not at all shocking.

Some notable names of child actors who were used for financial gain by their own parents include Macaulay Culkin, who lost a great amount of his fortune due to his parents divorcing, and Shirley Temple, whose parents spent most of her \$3.2 million earnings by the time she was old enough to get into her own bank account, leaving her a measly \$44,000, according to *Insider*.

There are no laws in place protecting the minor's earnings for them. Imagine having no control over your earnings, and then being used by people you think you can trust, for money.

There need to be more protections put in place. There are too many instances when kids are emotionally, mentally, and physically exploited for financial gain.

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# More Americans receive Covid vaccine

MARITZA ELENA  
STAFF WRITER

The first supply of COVID-19 vaccine receiving Emergency Use Authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) began distribution in the U.S. on December 14, 2020. During the initial period, referred to as Phase 1a, supplies were limited, and therefore allocated to health care personnel and long-term care residents and staff. By January 21, the vaccine supply was increased in order for Phase 1b to begin.

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has an efficacy rate of 95%. This means that about 95% of people who get the vaccine are protected from infection with the COVID-19 virus. This vaccine is for people age 16 and older. It requires two injections given 21 days apart. The second dose can be given up to six weeks after the first dose if needed, as specified by Mayo Clinic.

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine has an efficacy rate of 94.1%. This vaccine is for people 18 and older. It requires two injections given 28 days apart. The second dose can be given up to six weeks after the first dose if needed, also according to Mayo Clinic.

A COVID-19 vaccine can cause mild side effects after the first or second dose, including pain, redness, or swelling where the shot was given, fever, muscle pain, chills, nausea and vomiting, and swollen lymph nodes. After getting a vaccine there is a possibility of being monitored for 15 minutes in case of any immediate reactions. Most side effects happen within the first three days and typically last only one to two days.

The COVID-19 vaccine may cause side effects similar to signs and symptoms of COVID-19. If there has been exposure to COVID-19, and symptoms develop for more than three days after getting vaccinated, or the symptoms last more than two days, it is recommended to self-isolate and get tested, as specified by Mayo Clinic.

On February 8, Illinois public health officials said 58,189 COVID-19 vaccinations were administered, bringing the state total to 1,417,156. The number of Illinois residents who have been fully vaccinated, meaning they have received both of the required two shots, reached 311,569 as reported by *The Chicago Tribune*.

The daily number of vaccinations was significantly higher than

it was in late January. 32,559 vaccines were administered on February 1, as reported by *The Chicago Tribune*. Over the first week of February, an average of 55,455 vaccinations had been administered daily in Illinois. The next week, the average was 45,787.

The federal government has delivered 2,385,950 doses of vaccine to Illinois since distribution began in mid-December and 1,549,108 doses had been administered. So far, 346,773 people had been fully vaccinated by mid-February, according to *The Daily Herald*.

"It's exciting that more people are getting vaccinated than there are new cases. That's definitely good news," said Dr. Jonathan Pinsky, medical director of infection control and prevention at Edward Hospital in Naperville, to *The Daily Herald*. "But it's still a very small percentage of the population that has received a vaccination, and to have an impact on transmissions, you need a lot more people immunized."

In suburban Cook County, an estimated 2.3% of the population was fully vaccinated as of Monday, February 8. In addition, 7.7% of the population had received at least one dose of the vaccine. Since mid-December,

37.8% of the doses administered went to residents in the suburbs, according to IDPH. About 8.3% of the state's population had then received at least one dose of the vaccine, and less than 2.4% of the state's has been fully vaccinated, as stated by IDPH.

"There's still a much higher likelihood that someone is not immunized, and we need to get to 70% to 80% to achieve herd immunity," Pinsky said.

A relative of WBHS student Hiba Mirza has been vaccinated. Mirza described their symptoms.

"The first dose was not too bad, as in no sickness, but the second dose was really bad for his health for a few days. He had a lot of headaches, chills and a huge fever, and a lot of muscle soreness and dizziness," said Mirza.

Another WBHS student, Iza-bella Carmona, has a brother who has been vaccinated.

"He had the Pfizer vaccine; he said it felt like any other shot he's gotten. His arm hurt the next day from where he got the shot, but it didn't last too long," said Carmona. "He did feel a bit fatigued, but that also didn't last too long, and after getting his second shot he said he didn't feel any side effects."

## Hybrid learning is the next phase around the area

NEERAJA KUMAR  
STAFF WRITER

District 88 Willowbrook and Addison Trail High Schools are still contemplating the timing of their move to hybrid for a variety of reasons, including concerns over teacher vaccinations and safety, parental preferences, COVID-19 rates and recommendations of the state and DuPage County. Nearby Fenton High School, which is in the same conference for most sports, is in a similar position and is still completely remote, according to their school website.

According to the CDC, communities need to plan safe delivery of in-person instruction in K-12 schools in which they protect students, teachers, and staff and slow

the spread of SARS-CoV-2. This can be complicated, as schools must open as safely and as quickly as possible, and remain open to achieve the benefits of in-person learning.

Hybrid schedules allow a transitional period for students to adjust back to normal in-person learning. In addition, they provide many of the common and missed benefits of in-person learning.

Meanwhile, many local area high schools have already adopted a hybrid schedule, including both York High School and Hinsdale School District 86 ever since October of 2020. As of February, both District 45 and 48, WB's feeder districts, have returned to an AM/PM hybrid schedule in which students spend half their class time

learning in person.

Students seem thrilled with the return as supported by multiple social media posts on the District 45 and 48 social media pages. Hybrid scheduling has also given these schools the ability to use remote learning on days of inclement weather. Snow days may be a relic of the past.

Information on school scheduling and hybrid programs is varied across district websites. Some are more clear than others in their hybrid planning. Students in hybrid school districts such as York and Naperville School 204 feel there are benefits to the hybrid schedule. One student from York participating in hybrid learning, Sejal Reshamwala, gave her opinion of the learning modality. York originally

began full hybrid learning around late October and closed promptly after new restrictions were put in order from the Illinois State government. The school went back into hybrid learning after winter break.

"It involves me going into school twice a week," said Sejal. "It's pretty straightforward with a few changes to the schedule when unexpected circumstances happen."

According to Sejal, the school has also begun to open up the school for sports activities. Academic extracurriculars have been strictly remote.

"It's all about adapting to all the new changes," said Sejal. "Things are confusing but I'm sure students will get used to this eventually."

# ISBE adds a new learning standard

LILY MORGAN  
STAFF WRITER

With the majority of Illinois schools closed for almost an entire year as a result of the pandemic, tensions around the state have been running high. To add to these unique educational circumstances, a new controversial issue was introduced at the end of last year.

In December, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) proposed a new rule that would require culturally responsive teaching and learning standards to be incorporated into all Illinois teacher training and professional development programs. Ideally, this rule would expand training to include issues of equity and equality, imperative when it comes to teaching children of all backgrounds.

But some critics throughout the state believe otherwise. Many have said that this rule requires educators to embrace left-leaning ideology and prioritize political and social activism in classrooms at a time when Illinois schools are already struggling.

While some are up in arms about the left and right regarding

these rules, here's what the standards really accomplish. This proposed rule amends the section of the Illinois Administrative Code that governs standards for Illinois teachers. Because all public school teachers in Illinois must become licensed before obtaining a job in a school, this rule would affect almost every educator, and future educator.

Most "controversial" provisions of this rule do not differ from the pre-existing provisions, but the wording in others has the opposition concerned that teachers with certain ideological views may feel unwelcome in schools after being asked to "embrace and encourage inclusive viewpoints." To the opposition, the idea of training educators to appropriately interact with students of all backgrounds, ethnicities, sexualities, and gender identities does not matter as much as ensuring that they're smart enough to educate these children in the first place. An op-ed published in the *Chicago Tribune* stated, "With these new proposed standards in place, a teacher in Illinois will need not demonstrate competency in their basic knowl-

edge of academic material but will have to demonstrate knowledge in concepts that are not only contentious but push an overtly political ideology."

This story hits particularly close to home, as one Willowbrook junior, Eric Veal Jr, is a member of the ISBE Student Advisory Council. Veal was chosen for the position to specifically work in the Diversity and Equality subcommittee, helping inspire the Board to make important decisions about diversity and inclusion for all Illinois students and schools. This new rule is something he and the other members of his subcommittee advised on, making the controversy surrounding it devastating to many in our community. When asked about the controversy, Veal stressed that most of the opposition was due to inadequate information about the standards.

"A lot of people don't know what the standards are for, and what they do," said Veal. "The standards are not something responsible for indoctrinating students, rather giving teachers tools to make their classrooms more equitable and more inclusive to every

student."

For some, though, the issue isn't lack of education; it's simply lack of tolerance for the issues these standards bring forward.

"The biggest argument I've seen is, 'Most teachers were already doing this, why does it need to be standard?'" said Veal. "If most teachers are already incorporating these practices, why is it an issue that we're proposing them?"

On February 17th, the Joint Committee of Administrative Rules (JCAR), which consists of twelve lawmakers from the General Assembly, ruled in favor of the culturally responsive teaching and learning standards, approving them and passing them into law.

"I feel elated that standards across our state are now made to include all students, especially students who look like me and identify as minorities," Veal explained. "These standards will impact teachers and students for generations, so I'm ecstatic that lawmakers are actually putting forth effort to make sure that everyone is receiving the highest quality of education."

# Store-bought baby food may be dangerous

MAHIRA SHUJATHULLAH  
FEATURES EDITOR

In a recent report to Congress from the House Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, investigators discovered that many of the ingredients found in baby food have harmful amounts of toxic heavy metals like arsenic, lead, mercury, and cadmium. These metals were found in both organic and inorganic baby foods.

According to *The New York Times*, these metals consumed over time can lead to brain damage, behavioral issues, and death. Their effects on a growing child are detrimental to their mental development, as young children are sensitive to these neurotoxic chemicals.

This report came about after gathering information from four different baby food manufactur-

ers and their testing data: Gerber, Beech-Nut Nutrition Company, Nurture, and Hain Celestial Group.

There were still many other companies that refused to cooperate with this investigation: Walmart and Sprout Organic Foods were some of them.

Raja Krishnamoorthi, a Democratic Representative from Illinois, is the head of the subcommittee that carried out the investigation. He has said their decision to remain uncooperative "raises the concern that perhaps they have evidence of even higher metallic content in their baby foods, compared to their competitors," as reported by *The New York Times*.

In a conversation with CNN, Kishanmurti has said the numbers showed hundreds of parts per billion of dangerous metals in baby food; that number should stay within the single digits range.

The FDA has not set official standardized guidelines and regulations for baby food regarding this yet. There are some limits placed on arsenic in rice cereal, and some limits on arsenic, lead, and cadmium in water, juice, and candy, as mentioned by *The New York Times*.

The investigation also revealed reports on a secret presentation given to the FDA by the Hain Celestial Group back in August 2019. This presentation revealed that this company, like many others, conducts tests on their food prior to the finished product and usually on each ingredient separately. However, the complete product is what should be tested to get an accurate number on the metal levels, as the actual numbers of toxic metals, in the end, turned out higher than the data collected from the ingredients on their own.

A representative from the company has told various news sources that this meeting wasn't a secret and was done to figure a solution to the growing toxicity problem. They even provided documents and information about what is in their food. Since the meeting, the company has tried to reduce those high numbers through ingredient changes and more testing, with some level of success thus far, according to CNN.

No official actions have been taken as of now, but the subcommittee is calling on the FDA to set standardized guidelines regarding heavy metals in baby food and testing on finished products. Parents and guardians are being asked to watch what they are feeding their children and take precautions.



# WB observes Black History Month

LILY MORGAN  
STAFF WRITER

This February, Willowbrook, and the world, celebrated Black History Month. This month is an annual celebration of achievements by the African American community, and it's also a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history.

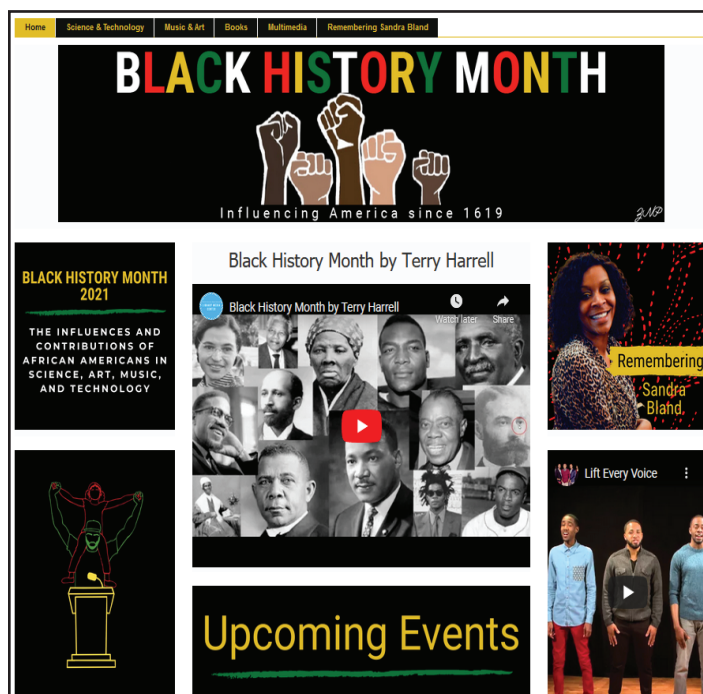
Every year, Black History Month has a theme around which the celebrations are centered. The theme for 2021 is, "Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity." This theme intends to explore the diversity of all different types of black families across the country, in an effort to unite and educate everyone.

Keeping in accordance with the official celebrations, Willowbrook set up some events of its own, in order to celebrate within our school community and educate everyone on these important topics, even while virtual. Willowbrook Junior and B.O.S.S. president, Eric Veal Jr., was heavily involved in the planning and execution of said events, and he discussed his feelings about being able to partake in this celebration with our school community.

"I feel fantastic. In the world we live in that's so divisive, where everything is polarized and politicized, seeing our school come together to celebrate a huge piece of the rich culture of America has been amazing," said Veal Jr.

All February long, students could access a special subsection of the school website, dedicated to Black History Month, created by Ms. Jackson-Petrella. From there, students had access to dozens of resources to further their education on black history, and the people of color who paved the way in various fields, including science, technology, music, and arts. The website also featured suggestions on books by African American authors, and films that included black history and showcased diverse characters.

Also on that website, students



**With web pages designed by Kim Jackson-Petrella of WB's library, the community had access to resources and a full calendar of activities, including a Zoom with the family of WB alum Sandra Bland.**

could find a calendar full of events planned by B.O.S.S. to continue the celebration. These events included Movie Day and Movie Discussion Day, where members of the staff and students alike could attend a Zoom meeting and watch Pixar's *Soul* together, before coming together and having a meaningful discussion about it two days later. The movie was released on Christmas Day and has since been heralded as one of the best of the entire year for its important themes and its inclusion of African American characters and culture.

Veal explained why discussing the movie was just as important as viewing it together.

"We wanted to make sure that people didn't just think we picked the movie because it was good, but also because it had a strong cultural connection," said Veal. A lot of times in movies you get the one token black person, but in this movie there was so much variety and so much to be proud of, it was amazing."

Also throughout the month, Willowbrook hosted Black Parent

Nights and Black Family Nights, both of which included themes for these families to gather and discuss. According to Eric Veal Jr., these nights have been a smashing success.

"For Black Family Nights we've had many families coming out, students and parents alike attending, as well as the administration," he said.

In addition to the great turnout, Veal also explained why these events were so important amidst the celebrations.

"In order to successfully get to black students, we have to also take time to talk to the families, because we're all together. A great African parable says, 'it takes a village to raise a child.' It's important that we reach out to the entire village and make sure that all the people inside these families can also succeed and make sure everyone there has a fair shot," said Veal. "A lot of times not everyone has a fair shot. That's why we're really focusing this year on the black influences of America. It all ties together really."

And just in time to finish off the

month long celebration, Willowbrook hosted a special in-school virtual field trip for the staff and students in all of District 88. *A Conversation With The Bland Family*, was truly the crowning event of this month-long celebration, where students and staff alike were invited to a Zoom meeting to have a conversation with Shante Needham, the sister of the late Willowbrook alum, Sandra Bland.

During this field trip, Needham talked openly with the students about Sandra's life story and what her mission in life really was: to use her voice to address societal injustices she felt impacted her community. Needham's moving recount of the final days of her sister's life showcased some of the injustices Sandra dedicated her life to, and displayed the strength and perseverance of her family. Discussing these last days allowed Shante to touch on sensitive topics, such as the importance of mental health and how to deal with grief, showing everyone in attendance that there should be no shame in suffering.

By speaking with our student body, Needham continued her sister's mission to educate the next generation on the injustices that plague our world, and she had quite the audience. On average 433 students and staff members attended the virtual field trip across the three periods to talk to Needham about her experiences and to learn more about the woman behind the headline, Sandra Bland. The virtual field trip ended with one resounding message from our guest speaker, "Be the change you want to see," and she challenged everyone to use their voices to do just that.

This Black History Month was truly something to celebrate. The main theme of this month was "Black Family," and Willowbrook celebrations showcased just that. Between the Black Family Nights, Movie Night, and the conversation with Needham, our community learned a lot about family and black history.

# Willowbrook students send teachers letters of appreciation

NATALIA GARCIA-AVILA  
STAFF WRITER

In the midst of so much going on, we wanted to thank you teachers for all you do. With this month full of love, here's a couple messages from some Warriors!

## 1. Lia Galindo | Mr. Warren

I truly think that Mr. Warren deserves more than a thank you for all he has done! He suffices at every aspect of being a teacher and then exceeds it. He incorporates many different learning methods so all students can be accounted for, including videos, independent work, group projects, interactive websites, partner work, drawing and taking notes. The subject he teaches (PLTW Human Body Systems in my case) isn't one that would be commonly enjoyed or easily learned by students. Despite that so much of the curriculum involves being in the lab and conducting experiments, Mr. Warren has more than successfully been able to adapt to Zoom. Not only managing to create a classroom environment that is equally fun, but replacing the labs with interactive websites and videos to get a similar experience as if we were doing in-school learning. I always look forward to his class and believe he deserves to be appreciated for all his efforts. Thank you Mr. Warren for keeping my passion for science just as alive as ever!

## 2. Dylan Jenkins | Mr. Bannon

First of all, I want to say thank you to all teachers. They have been working hard to give us the best high school experience possible during these times. However, there is one teacher who I want to give a big thanks to, Mr. Bannon. He has made his classroom exciting, interactive, and most of all, fun. From our warm up videos to Froot Loops, we appreciate him every day in that class.

From, Dylan Jenkins

## 3. Raymond Gajardo | Mrs. Allenspach

Dear Mrs. Allenspach, English class has become the highlight of my day! No matter how stressed or grumpy I may be, I always look forward to 7th period! Thank you for being understanding of us. This has been such a hard time, and you always know how to make it feel worth it. Thank you for all your funny jokes and riddles. Thank you for putting a smile on my face. Of course, I say thank you for letting me show off my origami collection (more to come). You have made a place where we can feel safe and happy; a place where we can connect and laugh together. I am ever grateful for that. I hope we turn out stronger on the other side!

Sincerely, Raymond Gajardo

## 4. Mahnoor Fatani | Ms. Karos

Ms. Karos exemplifies what it means to not only be a phenomenal teacher, but an even more phenomenal human being. In everything that she does, she looks out for the welfare and the health of her students. She discerns that times are hard for a lot of people, with COVID-19 numbers continuously rising and with having to adapt to this remote environment. As such, she implements extremely lenient policies when it comes to assignments and taking tests in her classes. But what truly makes Ms. Karos an incredible Warrior is her ability to empathize. She truly puts herself in her students' shoes and acts in accordance with what would be the most beneficial for them.

## 5. Esmeralda De Anda | Ms. Martinez

Thank you for understanding that lots of students struggle with e-learning. I appreciate you trying to still find a connection with students even though it's hard to do so virtually. Biology has become the highlight of my day.

Sincerely, Esmeralda



image by Natalia Garcia

## 6. Emma Rattana | Mr. Tiu

Dear Mr. Tiu, I don't even know where to begin to express my gratitude towards you. Through my brother, you have known me since I walked into Willowbrook's doors as a freshman. Since then, you have helped me grow academically and athletically. You always believe in me more than I believe in myself sometimes, and that goes for both on the court and in the classroom! Thanks for everything Mr. Tiu, you're the best.

## 7. Bobby Ernst | Mrs. Wathier

Mrs. Wath, thank you so much for being so great and understanding during these hard times for learning! You have been such a good educator and guide! Thank you!

## 8. Thalia Sanchez | Mr. Maguire

Hi Mr. Maguire!!

You are one of the most positive and engaged teachers I've ever met. Your teaching is on-point, and we can see how much you enjoy your job; it isn't boring, and it's even interesting. At a time like this where school is online, you are putting so many smiles on peoples' faces because of how lenient and patient you are. We all do appreciate your efforts. You are an amazing teacher. Keep doing what you're doing; you are very appreciated by us all, Happy Valentine's Day, and have a good day!

## 9. Alex Tobias | Mrs. Murphy

Dear Mrs. Murphy, Thank you for all you have done to help me this year; you truly are one of a kind. You are such an amazing, energetic, and confident teacher and always have my best interest in mind, and I'm so glad I got to spend my senior year with you.

## 10. Samantha Solis | Mr. Shanahan

Happy Valentine's Day and thank you so very much for being such an understanding teacher Mr. Shanahan. Having you as a coach freshman year was honestly an enjoyment, and you were always pleasant to speak with. This year, I am luckily a disciple of yours once again. While I do not get to take your class in person, I do enjoy reading the novels and poetry you have chosen for the class. They really do resonate. I am also so very grateful to you for not docking points off of late assignments. This has truly saved my grade time and time again. Once again thank you so much and *Oedipus Rex*. :)

Samantha Solis

I'd like to finish by saying that we can never thank you enough for being more than just an educator. It has not been easy, whether personal or regarding school, but you all have showed up ready to make our day the best it can be. I'm so proud to be apart of such a giving school. Wish you all the best, know that your students appreciate you, a lot!

# Speech team finishes season at state

LOGAN FAULK  
STAFF WRITER

As the seasons begin to transition from winter to spring, certain clubs, sports, and other activities undergo a period of a falling action. Some teams have smooth transitions into the end of the year with little concern. The speech team, however, is not that type of team. Sending two members to state, senior Sean Shepherd and sophomore Amelia Tortorici, this year's speech team was determined to finish as strong as any year before, despite the unpredictable circumstances.

The Willowbrook speech team started right on schedule this year in September, and spent the majority of September and October preparing and practicing. In a usual year, competitions would start at the end of October and finish at the end of February depending on if a member reaches regionals, sectionals, or state. Several participants who made it to regionals

include Sean Shepherd, Michael Poirier, Siobhan Heneghan, Melanie Gercone, Neeraja Kumar, Emily Maher, Katie Wentworth, Marchello Berlin, Caitlin Brennan, and Amelia Tortorici. Sectional finalists include Sean Shepherd, Katie Wentworth, Michael Poirier, Caitlin Brennan, and Amelia Tortorici.

Normally, tournaments would be held in-person at various schools, hosting around 30 schools per tournament.

This season, having its differences, has been held virtually with participants pre-recording their events during the week prior to "judgment day," or the Saturday of that week when the judges look at all submissions and make assessments. Out of the 10 competitions they were involved in, they finished 5th or higher, with individual students consistently finishing in first or second place for their respective events.

Sean Shepherd, a current senior on the team, competed in Humor-

ous Duet Acting and Dramatic Duet Acting. Shepherd explained that these partnered events, along with others he has done in the last four years, allowed him to use his creativity.

"I'm so glad that I've been a part of the speech team over the last four years because it really gave me a creative output," said Shepherd. "Also, I definitely have learned the values of public speaking, and being on the speech team helped build my confidence."

Additionally, Shepherd spoke on the success of the team.

"I think our team as a whole has set a high standard for ourselves this year. We have set a lot of team records and had a lot of success this year," said Shepherd. "Overall, I think we are all proud of what we were able to do this year based on how many obstacles we had."

Of course, the primary obstacle that everyone had been faced with was Covid-19. As previously stated, the format was entirely virtual as opposed to travelling to

different schools for meets and for regionals and sectionals, or travelling to Springfield for state.

"Though most of the competitions were different because of the virtual structure, the way that the recent regional and sectional competitions have been held have granted the most normalcy of anything in this past year," said Assistant Coach and WB English teacher Andy Wilhoit.

Wilhoit, much like Shepherd, is tremendously proud of the achievements that this year's team has been able to accomplish.

"We have had two events going to state, five events that qualified for sectionals, and six that qualified for regionals," said Wilhoit. "This is attributed to the many talented underclassmen as well as the number of strong, dedicated members of the senior class."

It is evident that this team has thrived in its own work and dedication.

## Netflix releases final *To All The Boys I've Loved Before*

NICEA SCHEELER  
STAFF WRITER

The infamous *To All The Boys I've Loved Before* movie trilogy concluded on Friday, February 12th with the release of *To All The Boys: Always and Forever*. This movie opens with the Covey trip to South Korea during spring break of protagonist Lara Jean's senior year. It includes Lara Jean's college application process, the class trip to New York City, prom, and her dad's wedding. When Lara Jean is rejected from the college she and her boyfriend Peter plan on attending, there are problems in paradise.

Author Jenny Han was the executive producer of all three film adaptations of her bestselling book series, and she shared during her interview on *The Kelly Clarkson Show* that there is a touch of truth to these books. When asked if there was anything relating to her

portrayed through her work, Han admits that she too wrote love letters as a teenager, and she still has them! If you're sad about the ending of this book series, never fear, as she has another trilogy called *The Summer I Turned Pretty*.

Most of the cast in this movie appeared throughout the previous ones, like Lana Condor, known for her roles in *Alita Battle Angel* (Koyomi) and *X-Men: Apocalypse* (Jubilee), as Lara Jean Covey. Noah Centineo, known for his roles as Jamey (*Sierra Burgess is a Loser*) and Brooks Rattigan (*The Perfect Date*), also continues his role as Peter Kavinsky. In addition to being a Netflix original poster boy, Centineo also stars as the love interest in Camila Cabello's *Havana* music video. Additional familiar faces include Margot Covey (Pretty Little Liars star Janel Parrish), Katherine "Kitty" Covey (Anna Cathcart), Dr. Covey (John Corbett), Lucas (Trezzo Ma-

horo), Chris (Madeleine Arthur), Trevor (Ross Butler), Genevieve (Emilija Baranac), and the waitress named Joan (June B. Wilde). This movie also introduces new characters, such as Mr. Kavinsky (Henry Thomas), and Trina Rothschild (Sarayu Blue). Trina was in the sequel as well, but her role was a lot smaller.

This film adaptation was not quite as accurate as the other movies were. For instance, while I did like that they chose to include the trip to Korea in the movie when it was not in the novel, I did not like that Dr. Covey and Trina joined the sisters on their trip, as the book intended for it to be a bonding experience with their Korean grandmother.

The movies also have a different setting than the books, which did not really matter until the third movie when the colleges that Lara Jean applied to are all different.

While the novel does not in-

clude the trip to Korea, it does include the senior Beach Week, where John Ambrose McClaren makes a reappearance. I was really hoping they would include this in the movie as it introduces McClaren's girlfriend, Dipti. Her role is important in giving his character the closure after his crush on Lara Jean as acknowledged in the second book and movie.

The movies also leave out Peter's lacrosse games, which are especially important in this third movie as it gives insight into Peter's mother's character, who is overly protective of her son and his feelings.

The ending of the book centers around the graduation of the Adler High senior class of 2021, which brings us to recognize our own class of 2021. Congratulations on all you have achieved. We will miss you all!



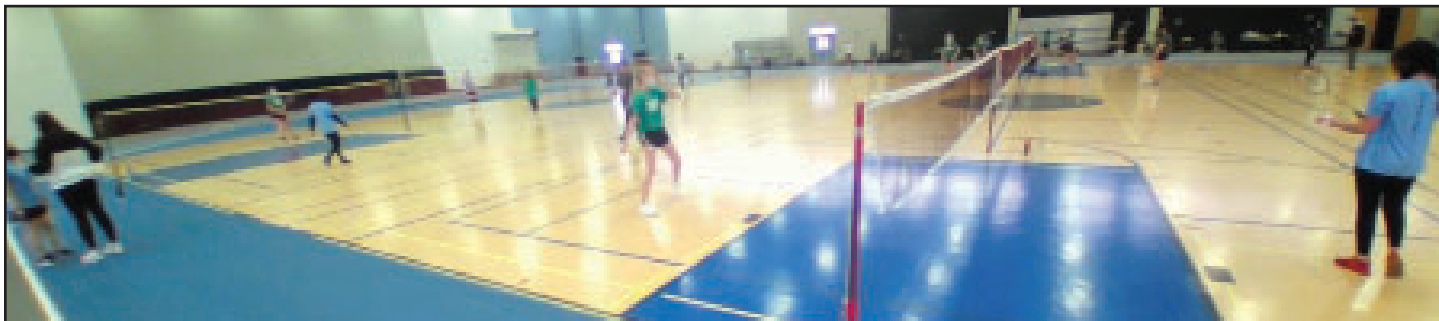


photo by Patricia Goodman

WB fans can watch live streams of events and games at @WB\_ATHLETICS on twitter, and the website, [il.8to18.com/willowbrook/](http://il.8to18.com/willowbrook/).

## Girls Badminton adjusts to the Covid changes

ENANA ABDULHUSSAIN  
STAFF WRITER

Being a low-risk sport and with schools easing Covid restrictions, badminton at Willowbrook is back in session. The team has been back about three weeks and had their first match against Hinsdale South on February 10th.

"Unfortunately we didn't come out with a win, but Coach Tiu simply didn't care," said singles player Rebecca Lopez-Egan.

"He just kept reminding us how we are finally back, and it brings him so much joy just seeing us after so long playing the game we love."

Coach Tiu's optimism is shared

by all of the athletes as they make it through the season.

"This season is going really well, I believe. Playing a high-intensity sport with a mask is definitely a challenge; however, we take more breaks during matches and practices," shared doubles player Emma Rattana.

Along with this, other adjustments have been made to ensure safety. From temperature checks, health surveys, cleaning sprays, and even a new protocol where everyone is issued their own birdie, many measures have been taken.

On top of this, the season has been slightly shortened, and the team can only play against WSC Gold and Silver teams. This means

they won't be playing against as many different schools as they typically do.

These changes have made things more difficult, whether it be the masks or keeping track of whose birdie is whose. However, the players are always ready to adapt to any obstacle. Rather than dwell on their circumstances, they are now focusing on what matters most. While it is nice having people support from the sidelines, their absence can't be helped.

"Previously, you could have parents and other spectators come to games, but now there's no one. Only the coaches and your teammates, which sometimes is all you need," said doubles player

Amelia Gesicki.

"Sure it might not look the same as past seasons; however, it doesn't mean we can't work hard and compete," said Rattana. "My experience with the sport for my past 3 years has all been positive, my teammates are some of my best friends and we get to be together from 2-3 hours a day, which is something I used to take advantage of, but now it is such a blessing."

This sense of bonding goes a long way and has allowed the team to push forward. While everyone is a bit under the weather, the badminton team continues to persevere.

## WB bowling team has a promising start

ERIKA RICH  
SPORTS EDITOR

Under recent instruction from the IHSA and the state government, school sports and activities are able to resume and compete once again. After nearly a year of quarantine and stay-at-home orders, it is refreshing to know that so many dedicated athletes are able to practice and improve in their sports. With that being said, updates and live stream links for many sports and activities can be found on Willowbrook's twitter page, @WB\_ATHLETICS, and website, [il.8to18.com/willowbrook/](http://il.8to18.com/willowbrook/).

Along with a slew of other sports beginning their season, the WB girls bowling team has recently started up and is already show-

ing promise of a strong season.

Covid-19 restrictions and the shutting down of the majority of public facilities held all athletes at a disadvantage, but especially the bowlers. Bowling lanes were shut down along with everything back in November of 2020 and have recently opened at partial capacity in late January.

Technique and practice are the keys to being successful in this sport, and with bowling alleys closed, the practice in between seasons was lacking. Thankfully, through zoom meetings and video calls, the team was able to get to know each other and work on at-home drills before the season actually started.

Now practicing in person, the head coach, Kevin Allen, and his team are strengthening their skills

and preparing for a competitive season.

Junior Megan Beausoleil recalls her previous season and hopes for more success in upcoming competitions.

"I had gained the most momentum towards the end of last year and earned some of my highest scores," said Beausoleil. "At our regional competition, I had a game of 247, which was my highest series of the year."

As a team, the players strive to collect 3,000 points per series and individually reach games above 200. As of February 22, the bowling team has had three matches, and some players have already hit their goals of surpassing 200 points.

In their competition on February 18 against Downers Grove

South, the WB girls showed great dedication, for they collectively reached their goal of 3,005 points. Though losing the match in the end, this achievement so early on in the season is exciting.

Behind every good team is a strong leader and coach. Beausoleil shared that Coach Allen always encourages the players to stay confident no matter how well they are doing.

"He's not only a leader, but a friend to everyone," shared Beausoleil. "His experience in bowling inspires my teammates and me to be more like him."

With a positive atmosphere, talented bowlers, and hard work, WB bowlers expect this season to have a favorable outcome with many victories.