

Willowbrook High School
Skyline

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photo by Alexander Schullo

India faces the worst yet of Covid crisis

MARITZA ELENA
STAFF WRITER

A vicious second coronavirus wave has made India the worst-hit country in the world with new cases having reached about 400,000 a day, a grim world record with more than 2,000 people dying every day.

Many people are dying because of shortages of bottled oxygen and hospital beds or because they couldn't get a COVID-19 test, according to *The Chicago Tribune*.

In recent months, officials made decisions that have come back to haunt India. Residents relaxed Covid-safe practices like social distancing, and authorities were looser in their enforcement. Although some states stayed cautious and made preparations for a second wave, none of it was enough, as stated by CNN.

Though India is a vaccine powerhouse that ships vaccines to 85 countries globally, they didn't purchase enough doses to protect itself. Instead while COVID cases remained low New Delhi exported more than 60 million shots. The Indian government overestimated the country's capacity to produce vaccines. Less than 2% of its 940 million adults have been fully vaccinated has caused exporting vaccines to come to a halt, as maintained by *The New York Times*.

Consequently, even as cases rose, President Modi let big groups gather to help his ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. His government al-

lowed a Hindu festival, Kumbh Mela, where millions took a swim in the Ganges river causing cases to surge across India, along with Mr. Modi staying silent and not ordering lockdowns sooner. India is now running out of ICU beds and oxygen masks, according to *The New York Times*.

Independent health experts and political analysts blame Mr. Modi's overconfidence and his continued campaign in mid April when cases were above 200,000.

Sanjay Kumar, professor at the Center for the Study of Developing Societies, told DW News, "People are greatly disappointed. The common man is unable to understand this sudden change in attitude. When there is a need to take a lot of initiative he is not at the forefront."

India won't be exporting vaccines for a while, and that's very bad news for the developing world. Nations such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal are relying on the Serum Institute to deliver supplies of vaccines. India has paused vaccine exports since mid-April and it is not clear when they will start distributing again, as reported by *The Guardian*.

The World Health Organization published a report stating the Covid-19 variant spreading in India is known as B.1.617 is more contagious and is contributing to the crisis there.

While B.1.1.7 is thought to be highly transmissible and potentially more lethal than other known variants, it's still unclear how con-

tagious B.1.617 is and if it induces severe disease, according to *ScienceNews*.

As infections increase, much of the country is under full lockdowns or under some form of restriction, according to CNN.

The renewed outbreak in India

has led several countries to tighten travel restrictions and that's bad news for airlines, airports as well as other businesses that depend on the travel industry, said Uma Kambhampati, an economics professor at the University of Reading in the U.K, according to CNBC.

Letter to the editor

Dear Skyline Staff,

Thank you so much for covering the proposed hijab ban in France (April 29, "Is the French hijab ban more Islamophobia?")

As a teacher who has worked in France for two years, I remember being appalled by the laws that supposedly "protected" secularism by banning all religious dress and symbols in public schools. In reality, these laws are discriminatory towards all those who did not practice a Christian faith.

At my old school, a small public school in rural France, I got into a heated argument with a coworker about students being prohibited to wear hijabs in school. While he claimed that the school's responsibility was to remain neutral and eliminate any "distracting differences" among students that might result in unfair treatment, I pointed out that the school was still allowed to observe Christmas, going so far as to set up Christmas trees in the hallways during the month of December. Furthermore, I was required to teach Christmas-re-

lated vocabulary in my English classes, yet I was reprimanded for asking my students if any of them wanted to share a non-Christian tradition or holiday they observe.

Even though this hijab ban is taking place outside of the USA, I believe that this story serves as an excellent example of how unchecked Islamophobia can quickly infiltrate the government and influence public policy, even in a country that claims to support "Liberté, égalité, fraternité": liberty, equality, and brotherhood. It is a great reminder to our Willowbrook community of why speaking out against injustice is important.

I was very impressed by this piece of journalism and applaud you for using your platform to educate our staff and students on this important issue, especially following Ally Week. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
Isabel Juvan
ARC Literacy Aide & English

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Lisa Cuscaden looks forward to ping pong

LILY MORGAN
STAFF WRITER

After years of coming to Mrs. Cuscaden's classroom, walking into it for this interview felt heart-breakingly different. Her room has always been a bright spot in the building, a place that any of her students past or present could come if they were looking for a break, or an update on her beloved pup, Dave. Looking around now, the room was half empty, only a fraction of the colorful decorations and student creations still lining the walls. Seeing it this way made the reality of it all that much more tangible.

"Gotta start packing it up," she remarked somberly. Even the half of the room that was left decorated held decades worth of memories, and when asked about some of those memories she was thrilled to share that she had a fond recollection of many of them.

Mrs. Cuscaden's successful 34 year teaching career is coming to an end in a week. Of those years she spent four teaching at Proviso East, one at an "interestingly different" high school in Arizona, and the other 29 here at Willowbrook. Cuscaden stated that her time at Willowbrook was the highlight.

"I've been here since 1992," said Cuscaden. "I really found my niche here."

Throughout her long career, Cuscaden shared that she has made hundreds of connections and meaningful memories. One such memory that particularly resonated with her was the work she did with her students following the tragic Sandy Hook shooting in 2012. She explained that as the Sandy Hook students planned to come back to school, albeit in a different building, students from across the country made decorations for the new classrooms. Her students were among those that were part of the effort.

"There was this big campaign to make decorations, so my students made beautiful snowflakes to hang around the building for the kids when they came back in, and we mailed them off," said Cuscaden.

It's that kind of constant connection to service and the world around her that Cuscaden has

always valued, and tried to foster in all of her classes. Anyone who knows her knows all about her dedication to raising the most money for the Warrior Project every year.

"I turn these kids upside down and shake the change out of their pockets," she joked. "I don't mean to toot my own horn, but every year we win, we collect thousands of dollars." Cuscaden has always been focused on giving back to the Willowbrook community, and there is no question that she has been one of the most dedicated staff members in the building for the last thirty years.

Besides her penchant for service, Cuscaden is known mostly for the way she brightens up a room, and makes everyone feel welcome. She told me, quite honestly, that in most cases she was unaware of just how much her kindness positively impacted those around her, but that treating her students this way was always a no brainer to her.

"For some kids I think Willowbrook is the only bright spot in their days. Those years can be lonely years, even if you're close to your family and you have friends, they can be very lonely, hard years. It gives me great joy to hopefully make most of them feel like they're wanted and comfortable here, and that they can be themselves."

Her true dedication to her students is something that any person can admire. Which is why I was far from shocked when I asked what she'd miss most, and her answer was, "The kids. I'll miss the kids so much."

And the kids are going to miss her just as much. If Mrs. Cuscaden still has doubts about her impact on the people in this building, she's wrong to have them. Many of her students both current and former reached out to talk about their experiences with her. Senior Rocco Caruso expressed his well wishes for her.

"Mrs. Cuscaden is as close to a perfect teacher as you can get, and deserves every good thing coming her way."

Katie Corsini who told me about how much Cuscaden has helped her with her struggles over the years.

"I'll miss her so incredibly much when she retires," said Corsini. "She's one of the best teachers I've ever had."

Senior Sean Shepherd talked about how much he cherished having her class during his sophomore year.

"She was so easy to talk to about anything and was more of a friend than a teacher," said Shepherd. "I wish her the best of luck in the future."

As for her plans after Willowbrook, Cuscaden said she's working on her own time now.

"I had a lot of stress. And then I decided about a month or two ago, I'm not gonna do anything until after the first of the year, nothing about my future."

She shares that her schedule will be plenty busy this summer and into the fall, packed with plenty of trips and events that will allow her to spend even more quality time with her family. These

plans include her oldest daughter's destination wedding, helping her younger daughter get into law school, babysitting her new niece, Lucy, taking a trip with Mr. Cuscaden, taking a road trip along the coast with her mom, dad, and aunt, and, of course, spending a lot more time with Dave.

"Then I'll enjoy the holidays, and then decide what I'm gonna do when I'm a grown up. That makes me more excited to enjoy these things."

Cuscaden shared a lot of interesting possibilities for what she might like to do, connected to some of her hidden talents. One of those talents is that she has a ping pong serve that, according to her, cannot be returned.

"Maybe I could be a ping pong shark, bet people. Here comes this fifty six year old lady, y'know? I could probably make bank!"

WB loses longtime nurse, Denise Birkner, to retirement

MARITZA ELENA
STAFF WRITER

"You are a nurse, a mom, and sometimes just someone to talk to that isn't their parent," said Denise Birkner, Willowbrook's school nurse, who will be retiring this year after 40 years of nursing.

From the beginning Birkner knew she wanted to be a nurse. Her mother and her aunt were both nurses. She attended Bradley University and graduated with a degree in nursing.

From there, she worked at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago on the Pediatric unit, and occasionally in the Peds ICU.

For five years after that, she worked at Continental Bank in Chicago for CPR and first aid. She recalls this as an entirely different experience in nursing, but she really liked working there nonetheless.

Birkner next stayed home with her three children for a few years

and then started subbing at her kids' school district as a school nurse. She moved on to work at Downers Grove South for nine years. Birkner then came to work at WB, and she has been here for a total of 13 years.

During her time at WB Birkner looked forward to each day of work because it brought new situations and memories. She also looked forward to each day for the newness and what it would entail.

What Birkner loves most about her job as a school nurse are the students. She enjoys talking with the students.

"Teenagers have the best sense of humor too," said Birkner. "It really keeps you on your toes, and young at heart."

Although Birkner will miss many students, and colleagues, she is now ready to spend some quality time with her four grandchildren, and be able to do something different everyday.

Known for her dancing, Special Education teacher Beth Stady looks ahead to retirement

TESSA GOODMAN
STAFF WRITER

Willowbrook Special Education teacher Beth Stady just felt like dancing. She didn't expect anyone would see her.

"I was in room 117 with the class in the greenhouse, and somebody put music on," said Stady. "I didn't think anyone was looking at me, and I was dancing! A kid was filming me and then they showed it to a ton of other kids and they all had seen me dancing. It was funny after the fact."

One of Stady's favorite parts of teaching is feeling like she's getting through to a student.

"I showed a video, and I was trying to get an answer out of anybody, and finally a kid said exactly what I wanted and it was like, 'You get it! Oh my gosh!'" said Stady. "So it happens all the time, and it's really great when it does happen, you're so excited that they get it. At least one person gets it."

Stady states that she will miss

WB, especially her students.

"I just like talking to them!" She went on to say that she likes getting to know kids, what they like to do, and hear about their families. "There's a lot of interesting people out there."

Stady is looking forward to her first plan for her retirement.

"To go on vacation the first week of school, because I can... It'll be weird!"

Besides vacation, Stady has other things to look forward to.

"A long list of things I want to do," said Stady. And she finally has that opportunity to accomplish her bucket list.

Stady also has memories from her own high school days.

"So I went to Catholic high school, and there's a lot of memories of outsmarting the nuns. You had to be a little more clever than they were, (not that they were clever)," Stady said. "There were a lot of rules, so you learn how to make it fun!"

Like everyone else, there are

things people might not have guessed about Stady.

"I used to be very shy, like painfully so," she said.

Stady has been teaching at WB since 1998, and has taught at other schools such as Harper Community College and Farmington High School for a couple years each.

Stady has four grown kids, but she isn't done caring for others.

"I am looking forward to getting a dog," said Stady. And she plans to become a lifeguard in Florida.

"I like telling people what to do."

(She also told me to mention that if anyone knows her they'll

Skyline note:

Physical Education teacher and longtime basketball coach Troy Nelson, and Special Education classroom aide Corazon Luis are both retiring but could not be interviewed before deadline.

Skyline regrets the omissions.

After years helping students in D88, Patti Reher will enjoy spending time with her first grandchild

As the end of the school year approaches, along with the graduating seniors, we have some teachers and staff who leave Willowbrook with us. This year, a secretary in the guidance office, Patti Reher, will be retiring.

Once a former kindergarten teacher and then a staff member of Addison Trail's Library Media Center, Reher joined WB's guidance team seven years ago. Her familiarity with the role of a counselor is thanks to her dad, who had been a Director of Guidance, and her husband, retired coach and teacher Jeff Reher. Both influenced her decision to take on this job. Since then, she has enjoyed helping students and their families find answers to their questions.

That's something Reher says she is really going to miss, along with the atmosphere--the "caring and friendly" staff, and the "daily interactions." Although she won't have to wake up early to come to school every day anymore, Reher has enjoyed watching students grow through their high school careers and move on to do bigger things.

Reher, too, has fun plans upcoming for her.

Right now, she looks forward to the birth of her first grandchild, with whom she hopes to spend a lot of time after her retirement. There are also plans to travel to Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.

Before she leaves, there's one message she wishes to leave behind.

"The most rewarding experiences can come from things you've never tried before," said Reher. "High school and college are the perfect opportunities to jump in and try new things. You'll meet interesting people, make new friends and develop talents you never knew you had, and you'll carry that confidence with you in everything you do!"

~Mahira Shujathulla

Bernie Nash will enjoy recess after 24 years

OLIVER NELSON
GUEST WRITER

After 24 years at Willowbrook, Special Education teacher Bernie Nash is retiring.

As a child, Nash went to St. Francis for elementary and high school, along with her nine siblings. In high school she was one of the students who never wanted to miss or be late to a class.

However, her friends once convinced her to skip Easter mass and go to McDonalds. They ended up getting caught, and Nash still remembers the feeling of a pit in her stomach that she felt that day.

After high school she attended Quincy University and then taught seven years before coming to WB. Due to life circumstances she went home and started teaching

1st grade at St. Matthew. She was there for three years, then taught three more years at St. Petronille.

When she first came to WB, Nash taught health and English to the bridge students. For health, she always wanted to be a teacher that a student knew they could ask anything, and she even had a box for anonymous questions.

She remembers one day her boss came in to sit in on the class and had to sit and watch her answer some of those questions.

Nash enjoyed the feeling of getting through to students.

"I could always tell when they had that lightbulb moment," said Nash. "They would start nodding, and I knew they were starting to understand after explaining it a million different ways."

For the start of her retirement she will be working on planning

different family events, including baptisms and weddings. She is very excited to actually have August off since she normally started coming in on August 1st to prepare for the beginning of the school year.

A couple years ago she used to stress about what she was going to do after she retired, but now Nash is here and doesn't know just yet what she will be doing. But she thinks "it will be really exciting because I am going to be doing something fun."

Next school year she will still have to be get into the back-to-school mode--though this time only for her son. She feels that she is so blessed to have had this job and really feel accepted. But she is also ready for the break.

"I'm looking forward to this kind of eternal recess."

Schullo's tips for doing high school

ALEXANDER SCHULLO
STAFF WRITER

Walking into the building on the first day of freshman year and identifying that you do not know anybody there, not a single person. Panic.

Questions start filling your head: "Will I get to my right class?" "Where is my class?" "What will everyone think about me?" Etc. Fast forward to senior year, and you get to see some of the freshmen do the stupid things you did when you were in their shoes.

Welcome to a weird period of time in your life.

I won't spend time sugarcoating you with a story, so I am going the get straight to the point and tell you some pointers about "surviving" high school.

Tip one, "Study first. Fun later."

I know that not that many people want to do that, but I say just get your homework done first, then you will have a lot of time to do what you want to. But maybe you are like me and have horrible timing of things that you end up doing homework late at night, the night before it is due.

Tip two, "Get some good sleep." For most people, they are less productive when they are tired, which includes me. It seems like you don't have enough time to do things and have to take the whole night to them, but you do have time, and many teachers are willing to extend and take in late work. Not that you should do that nor do I condone that, but I ain't your guardian, so do whatever works for you.

That goes into tip three: "Don't conform to work styles that do not work for you or cause trouble for

you." It is fine to get advice from people on how they do their work, but most of the time, what works for them may not work for you. Find out what works for you.

One more obvious tip, "Don't let people better than you kill your motivation. Grow from that." There is always going to be someone better at something than you, and you may feel like you aren't good enough. Well, that can be true, but you can definitely improve the skills you want to learn and yourself.

I want to develop my own games, and one of the skills I need is art, since I am stubborn and want to do things by myself. I took Intro to 2D Art to help me improve, and everyone's work in my class was ten times better than what I could do. Did I let myself get down from it? You bet so. I was not motivated at all after seeing everyone else's

work. I wanted to give up, and I did. I started not paying attention and not working my best because I was unmotivated, but I learned from this and know that skills are hard to learn. People aren't born with "talent"; they are only motivated over time.

Well, this is getting long, and as of writing this, I am currently experiencing the effects from my second COVID shot, so a lot of this will read like it was written by a fifth-grader. I hope that my tips were somewhat helpful to you. Hope you survive school and don't get too worked up. School likes to do that to people.

Last thing though, join *Skyline*. You don't have to be great at writing or have to love it. There are many things you can do, like layout pages. Anyways, see ya. :)

Elena reflects on the past four years

MARITZA ELENA
STAFF WRITER

I thought when I left high school I would be happier and with a sense of relief and a clearer picture of what the future would hold.

I am glad I have memories to look back on. Friday nights when I would perform for color guard.

High school was filled with many unnecessary anxious moments. If you want to enjoy or at least get the most out of your years in Willowbrook, try to make them nice and at least bearable. I joined color guard and other clubs for fun and also because I thought colleges would like it, but looking back those clubs were enjoyable and sometimes probably the best parts of my high school experience.

Then there's that: college.

Don't stress about it. Do try in school and work to better yourself, but there's really no point in getting upset at yourself because things get better, and maybe your interests about the future change

as well.

I liked most of my classes, and even ones that I didn't like were bearable. I took everything in the classroom as a learning experience because at the end of the day I was just a student trying to make good grades.

High school for me was also learning about myself. You are probably going to go through difficult friendships and relationships, and you don't need to take any of them personally because you are young and you're still growing up. I wish I had cared less about what others thought or may have wanted to see from me because I was naive, and it didn't help me at all.

Looking back I'd say try to have fun in responsible ways. You're still young, and allowing yourself to focus too much on the negative outcomes is not going to make you happy, and it won't make your life easier. If anything it'll make things much worse because you lose sight of all the good things you do have. You'll just end up making yourself sadder for no

reason. So don't waste your energy.

COVID struck like a slap in the face my junior year. It was probably my favorite year because I got to be more involved with school. I had the most memorable classes, like Creative Writing because we shared insane stories about our lives, which made the class feel almost like a family, and Physics because Mr. Tiu and people in class would make jokes, and it made class fun and exciting. I know the

rest of the year would have been great, but COVID happened.

Senior year online was intense in the beginning because there is a lot to be done for college, but overall it was ok since I took fewer classes. I was also more focused on work.

I wish I had been able to finish with a normal school year and spend more time with friends before we move our separate ways for college.



photo of Willowbrook's soon-to-be-empty hallways by Alexander Schullo

Lily Morgan reflects on years at Willowbrook

LILY MORGAN
STAFF WRITER

For the last four years I have walked these halls with the question, “what comes next?” in the back of my mind. Even as I was cramming to study for AP tests, or endlessly rehearsing for the next speech team tournament, the thought was always there.

Usually the thought of “what comes next” applied to which task was next at hand and what the next week might bring. It wasn’t until this virtual senior year that the thought at the back of my mind really took to the forefront.

I’ve always known that one day I would have to leave these halls behind and move onto proverbial “bigger and better” things, but it wasn’t until the very start of May that it became real, because this year as a whole did not feel as if it really counted. Even as I sit here writing this (and probably still as you sit there reading this), I have no idea how to answer that question.

My time here at Willowbrook has had its ups and downs, as life

usually tends to. I have made some amazing friendships that I know will last a lifetime. I have attended classes that I will never forget and met teachers, coaches, and mentors who have changed my life. I have accomplished so many things both academically and otherwise that I would never have dreamt of if not for being here, and to this school and the people in it I am forever grateful, for being in my life at the exact right moment in time. Still, as I reminisce in the last week before graduation, I don’t know exactly what my future is supposed to look like, and I know I’m not the only one.

Senior year is supposed to be the best year of our high school lives, at least that’s what we’re told in the movies. It’s the time when we start planning for the future, we apply to all the best universities, line up job opportunities, or even enlist in the military. It’s also the time when we enjoy ourselves, we throw the best parties, spend all of our free time out with friends having our last adventures, and ultimately decide what we want to devote the rest of our lives to.

Of course, in the movies it all comes together, and we’re shown that once we walk across the stage at graduation, things will have all worked out in the end. But for many of us that won’t be the case, and after four long, impactful years here, it doesn’t feel right to go into this final goodbye without acknowledging everyone out there who is still struggling with the idea of leaving it all behind and starting fresh.

The reality of it is that not everyone is going to cross that stage and have things automatically click for them. For some it may not even feel real until long after, because we’ve all been set back this year, whether we’ve acknowledged it or not. And in the end, that’s okay, because we don’t always have to know what comes next. We’ve lived on a schedule our entire lives, trained to move at the sound of a bell, to come home and open our books after late nights out on the field or in the auditorium, and set our alarms for early the next morning to do it all over again. And now that’s changing, we’re living on our own time,

and the real world is never as easy as following a bell schedule or an APUSH study guide.

No matter what comes next, I know that each and every one of you, Class of 2021 members, will take it in stride. I mean, how could you not? Look at what we’ve accomplished over these last four years! We have gone through high school in a difficult time, one that no others before us have. A time full of chaos and confusion. A time in which we were thrown headfirst into an ever-changing society that made us question who we really were and what mattered to us most, but one that nonetheless united us as one school and one family of Warriors. We have celebrated our victories and mourned our losses, but we have done it all together, and together we are unstoppable.

Take one last deep breath, and let it sink in. Whatever brought you to this point, the good, the bad, the long days and even longer nights, it doesn’t matter any longer. You made it. And that’s all that counts.

And when you figure out what comes next, let me know.

Erika Rich ends run as sports editor and looks back

ERIKA RICH
SPORTS EDITOR

Growth. My biggest takeaway from not only Skyline but my years at Willowbrook is the incredible amount of growth that happens within a person. These quick four years helped shape me into who I am today. I started freshman year with an eagerness to learn, but also had many qualms about nearly everything. I look back and see my timidity and lack of self-assurance and think, “wow, was that really me?” But hey, that’s the amazing thing about growing up and experiencing life.

Though ending in an unexpected and unusual way, these past few years of high school have given me, and all of us, some amazing experiences, allowing us to grow

and flourish as young adults.

I will always look back with fondness on the countless lunch periods where some of us would huddle together and cram before a test, frantically grabbing each other’s notes in utter desperation. It must have been quite a comical sight.

I will always cherish the spirit weeks leading up to homecoming and through Brook Olympics. From dressing as babies, to superheroes, to looking like we just went to the beach, to class colors, theme days and the anticipation of who won participation will always hold a special place in my mind. Though there was little to no involvement this past year, I am thankful for having an involved and peppy school.

Then finally after Brook Olym-

pics ends with the Relay for Life event where groups of classmates raise money for cancer patients. In this, from 6 pm to 6 am, we celebrate those who have survived cancer and also remember those who have passed from it. I can recall everybody loading up on sugar to stay awake the whole night. We would all be a little delusional by morning, but that’s the fun of it! I can never forget the Zumba classes in the wee hours of the night, sloppily following along but mainly just jumping up and down and salsa stepping to the beat.

From these school-wide events and also personal challenges, I can see how my character has been shaped and influenced by the school, teachers, and other students alike. Willowbrook’s motto to be respectful, responsible, and

engaged can truly be applied anywhere. Having this phrase in the back of my mind has allowed me to mature, focus on academics, and show my abilities as a Warrior.

As a senior walking the (nearly empty) halls on my final days of school, I can see younger versions of me in each of my past classrooms. I am proud of myself and all of my fellow classmates for all that we have accomplished these past four years. As for my peers, I hope you all can reflect upon your high school career as well and see the growth and improvements you have experienced.

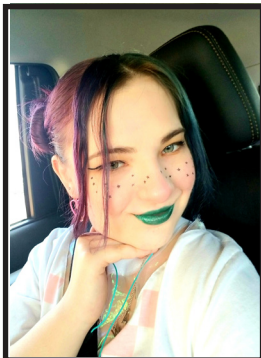
Class of 2021, I wish you all to continue on with your life and grow into better people, being successful and happy with whatever direction you take in the future.

Most Athletic



Tyler King &
Grace Tumilty

Most Artistic



Annika Schramek



Jacob Inoshita

*Most Likely to
Star on Reality
TV*



Amber Jerome

Friendliest



Aidan Alandy

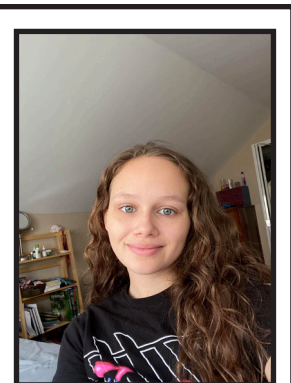


Julia Soto

Hardest Workers



Michael Poirier



Samantha Williams

*Most Likely to
Change the World*



Lily Morgan &
Tristan Alibudbud

*Most Likely to Win
the MacArthur Genius
Award*



Sarah Fairbank



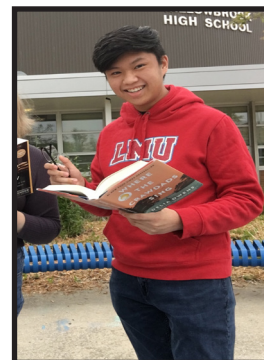
Thomas Florey

*Most Likely To
Rule the World*

Sarah Fairbank



Jake Murray

*Most Likely To
Travel the World*

Tristan Alibudbud



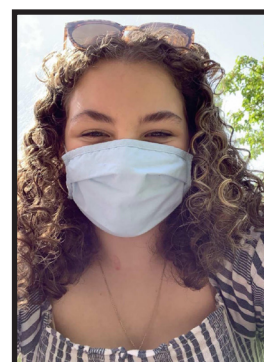
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*Most Likely To
Work at WB*

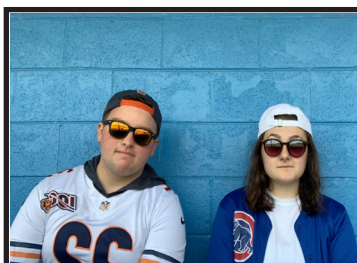
Jenna Meola



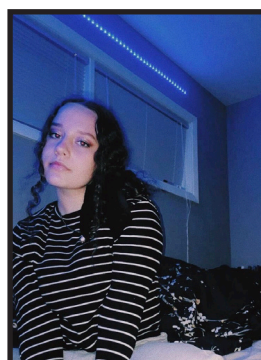
Jack Cullerton

Best at Quarantine

Gabiella Caruso

*Most Likely to
Be on the Cover
of Rolling Stone**Biggest Chicago
Sports Fans*

Rocco Caruso & Emily Kotcherian



Jackie Schiro



Collin Kirby

Celebrity Lookalikes

Shannon McGrann
& Mrs. Ennis



Peyton Mitrick
& Blake Lively

Class Clowns



Jack Cullerton



Sergio Ayala

Best Hair



Sean Kramer



Isabella Walli

*Most Likely to Write
a Best Seller*



Lily Morgan



Orlina Abdulhussain

Best Dressers



Isabelle Solis



Grace Chambers

Cruel Summer keeps fans in suspense

NICEA SCHEELER
STAFF WRITER

Cruel Summer is a new television series that airs on Tuesday nights at 9 p.m. Central on FreeForm before appearing on Hulu the next day. The show follows Kate Wallis, a teenage girl who went missing for a year in the 1990s, as well as the aftermath of her rescue and her accusation towards Jeanette Turner. The show takes place throughout three summers: 1993, 1994, and 1995.

Kate Wallis is played by Olivia Holt, who is known for her music career as well as acting works including *Cloak and Dagger* and *Kickin' It*. Jeanette Turner is played by Chiara Aurelia, known for her acting in Amazon's *Tell Me Your Secrets* and *Gerald's Game*.

The show is produced by Jessica Biel, known for her acting in *The Illusionist* and other producing works including *The Sinner* and *Limetown*. Fans also may not realize she is Justin Timberlake's wife.

This show is a lot darker than Holt and Barrett Carnahan's (Derek Turner) previous works. Carnahan plays Aiden in Netflix Original



photo courtesy of Eonline.com

nal *Alexa and Katie*. These shows are a lot more lighthearted than the dark and suspenseful *Cruel Summer*.

"I recognized Jeanette's brother Derek immediately from his role as Aiden in *Alexa and Katie*," Ali Brose, a Willowbrook junior, shares. "I also know Olivia Holt, who plays Kate, from *Kickin' It*, as well as Jeanette's mom for her role in *Grey's Anatomy*."

The show has been described by many viewers as addictive, which

is mostly in part to its suspenseful plot line. Each episode leaves its watchers wanting more in its mysterious ending.

"The show's suspenseful timeline always leaves me so curious and aching for more," says Brose. "I started watching the show with my mom after her friends told her about it, and we are hooked."

The show frames Kate Wallis as an abduction victim, as she was locked in a basement for a year. In her traumatic experience, Wallis

recalls that Jeanette Turner saw her in the basement and chose not to rescue her. During Wallis's time in agony, Turner adopted her personality and took her friends and boyfriend with her, so once Wallis revealed that Turner saw her, it turned the town against her.

"I definitely feel bad for Kate," says Brose. "She has clearly been through it and her own friends have sort of turned on her. There is definitely something off about Jeanette as well. I don't trust her at all."

The show's plot kind of switches between times during the three years in which the story occurs, which viewers find both obnoxious and interesting. The viewers have expressed their thoughts in the show's Instagram comments.

For adults and teenagers everywhere, the show is unstoppable in its captivity of viewer attention. There are five episodes of the show out thus far, leaving five left for the season. We can't wait to see what happens next!

Skyline recommends some summer fun

MAHIRA SHUJATHULLA
FEATURES EDITOR

1) (May 13 - July 24) *Viva la Libertad!* exhibition at Newberry Library: This exhibition goes back to the 1820s at the time of colonial rule in the Americas by European countries, like Spain and Portugal. Many colonies in America were seeking their independence from Europe and waged revolutionary wars. It will showcase maps, manuscripts, and rare books from this time period.

2) (July 8 - July 11) Windy City Smokeout: It's a well-known country music and BBQ festival featuring live performances by notable country music artists of the

US. It is a collaboration between Bub City and Joe's Bar barbecue joints.

3) (July 2 - July 4) Anime Midwest 2021 in Rosemont, IL: This convention focuses on bringing attention to and celebrating Japanese culture and anime. It's perfect for those who enjoy Japanese anime, Japanese manga, and video games.

4) X Pot in Chicago: A new Pan Asian style restaurant based off the one in Las Vegas is in Chicago. Along with the robot waiters, 5D projectors, music, and innovative presentations, this restaurant seeks to give their guests an extraordinary experience.

5) (July 15-September 5) Shaghai: Safe Haven during the Holocaust at Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center:

The exhibit showcases pictures from photographer Arthur Roth-

stein that tell about a new side of the Holocaust. There were some Jews who found a safe refuge in the city of Shanghai, which was occupied by the Japanese during WWII.



image courtesy of eventsforgamers.com

WB wrestlers are back on the mat

NEERAJA KUMAR
STAFF WRITER

The wrestling season is in the thick of things.

Like many other high school sports, the season was cut down to seven weeks this year due to the pandemic but is going strong after a late start this year. As a result, the season's Conference Meet is on June 11-12.

Earlier in the year, doubts on whether the sport would run were intensified after the IHSA declared wrestling as a high risk sport, since it involves direct close contact. But with the implementation of vaccinations and the possibility of vaccinating younger individuals, wrestling was put back on the high school circuit.

So far, the team has had a rocky start. This resulted from multiple timing conflicts with other sports constraining the number of participants. Usually the team has about 60 members, but this year they are down to about 20 members as other sports, the month of Ramadan,

and contact tracing had cut team numbers.

According to Coach Richard Ortiz, switching the season from fall to summer has led to conflicts with wrestlers already participating in other sports such as track and field, baseball, and travel soccer. Nick Mabutas, a varsity wrestler, says that the momentum is currently picking up and he feels the wrestling team will soon get back to their normal performance level.

As far as changes in practice procedures, Coach Ortiz tries to make accommodations for those participating in multiple after-school activities.

"I tried to do practices this year 5:30-7:30 [PM], so if there are kids doing other sports they have an opportunity to do wrestling," said Coach Ortiz.

The early part of the season and preseason training was different from the usual set up. They could not have the whole team with them all the time and sit down on the bench together. Even though

wrestling is considered a high risk sport, wrestling is the only such sport in which participants do not need to wear masks when they are actually competing. They still wear masks when stretching and warming up, just not during actual competition.

The team is currently slowly eating away its losses and turning them into wins. In the last match against Downers Grove North, there were 27 wins and 42 losses.

There were fears that Elijah Brockie, a senior who went to state last year and placed 6th overall, would not be able to return to the sport this year after sustaining a knee injury from the past football season.

With proper rehab and therapy, Brockie is back and better this year. Currently, he is 4-0 and ranked second in the state at 195 lbs.

Nick Mabutas, a junior, who jumped up a weight class, is currently undefeated and a great leader on the team.

They also have two girls, Gabi

Caruso and Sam Williams, who have completed a whole four years of wrestling for the first time in Willowbrook history and are "trailblazers" according to Coach Ortiz.

"It's tough as a female wrestler this year because tournaments present a much better opportunity for competing against female wrestlers of similar build and talent," shared Caruso. "I love seeing the number of female wrestlers increase when we visit other teams though."

Coach Ortiz is hoping for a regular season next year and wants everyone who has an interest in wrestling to come out and join the team.

"We accept everybody, boys and girls of all ages, anyone who wants to come out and be a member. I know it's a tough sport but it prepares you for the real world, and those are the life lessons that we really try to stress," said Coach Ortiz.

The baseball program remains competitive

LOGAN FAULK
STAFF WRITER

In light of the hiatus in months passed, the Willowbrook athletic department has found many different areas of promised land in terms of success. Some recognize the football program for their conference victory as the epitome of that. However, there is another sport that can be viewed in the same position: baseball.

With varsity having an overall record of 8-3 (7-2 in conference), the baseball program has found itself at an arm's length away from winning the conference. According to many individuals on the team and coaching staff, including Coach Scott, having a record of 7-2 in conference is a good position to be in.

"There's always room for improvement," said Coach Scott.

"Although we're 8-3, there's always a way that we can grow as a team to get better," said Scott. "We

didn't play last year, so we're trying to figure out who we are as a team."

Varsity has many key contributors who have bought into a style of play that has gotten results. Notable players include Jake Cieslak, Jake Kutella, and Hayden Kingsbury. Senior pitcher Cieslak is among those currently critical in the pitching rotation alongside David Rojo and Jake Kutella.

Though varsity has had a great amount of success in an otherwise turbulent season, the junior varsity team, composed mostly of freshmen and other underclassmen, has also been fairly prosperous as well. They've gone 5-5 in their last 5 games, and 6-8 overall. However, it can safely be assumed that this season has presented its challenges for the team. The majority of the team is underclassmen, which presents a tough situation, as most of their schedule revolves around playing

teams filled with upperclassmen. Yet with their recent string of victories, the prospect of climbing the ranks in conference is not too far gone.

Finally, the freshman program is off to a jump start, with a record of 10-2. They currently rest at fourth in the West Suburban Gold conference behind Hinsdale South. However, with the amount of wins they have collected, that position could only improve. The freshmen have held multiple games that one could deem as a blowout, including an 18-1 win over Leyden, an 8-2

win over Downers Grove South, and a 12-2 win over Hinsdale South. Impactful players include Dylan Casteel, Ryan Cuccinotto, and Vincent Aiello, who have been able to keep the bats warm for the team.

The Willowbrook baseball program has shown a fair share of dominance this year, despite having a lack of play prior to the season. Though nothing is certain, there is likelihood for all levels to finish strong and make the remainder of this year successful and historical.



photo by Alexander Schullo