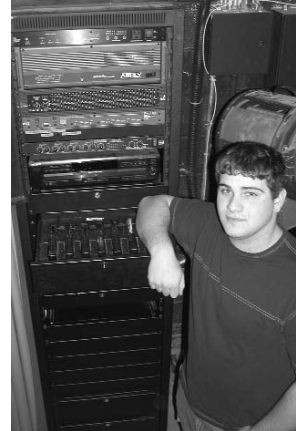


from the Heart

Students are making school A better place to be



Backstage, David Singer shows off the rack he and Kevin Krautle put together.

Kevin mans the sound booth at a high school assembly.

Amazing is how technicians from the Paramount Theater in Peekskill described the lighting and sound system in Westlake High School's theater. As the designers of the top-of-the-line system led the technicians through the maze of wires and equipment, they explained how they researched and built it from scratch. The Paramount people were impressed, not only with the system's sophistication, but the fact that its creators were students.

At Westlake, you see, students are not only encouraged to seek out what interests them, but are actively supported. The opportunity for students to explore an interest, create a niche, fill a void or tackle a project is there for the asking. And many do.

Here are some students who through their own initiatives are making their school a better place to be.

Masterpiece theater

The students responsible for the aforementioned sound and lighting system, and for breathing new life into the theater experience are seniors **David Singer** and **Kevin Krautle**.

In their four years at Westlake High School, the two have transformed lighting and sound from a 'cumbersome operation with broken and inadequate equipment' as Kevin described it, to a plug and play marvel that surpasses some off-Broadway theaters (really!).

Continued on page 2



GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY!

Education Foundation's
Spring Dinner Dance
Friday, April 21

The Fountainhead in New Rochelle
Tickets \$100 each · Dancing · Silent Auction
· Raffles

CALL 914-309-6733 (MPEF)

WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

Grease

March 24 & 25 at 8:00 p.m.
March 26 at 3:00 p.m.
March 31 & April 1 at
8:00 p.m.



Tickets: \$10 (\$8 students & seniors) – Call 741-6171

GRAB A FOURSOME FOR

Westlake Athletic Club's
1st annual Golf Outing
Wednesday, July 12
Branton Woods Golf Club,
Carmel, NY
\$150 per golfer / \$50 dinner only
Includes 18 holes, cart, dinner, cash bar,
and prizes

Call 747-4379 for tickets

Students improve school

Continued from page 1

"They got their start building sets," remembers theater coordinator Heidi Cole. "But their interest in electronics gave them the idea to learn about sound and lighting."

As sophomores, they reconfigured the antiquated microphone system in the library for the Board of Education meetings. And things just spiraled from there.

When the bond was passed David and Kevin were there to make suggestions for theater improvements. With monies from the bond and the Westlake Players theater club, they began to organize and list what needed to be done. Gradually, the two began to work their magic.

They built patch panels to organize the wiring, researched sound equipment at other schools and theaters, and spent countless hours configuring wires and microphones and assembling receiver units. The new system is one both they and the school can be proud of.

In addition, at every assembly, play, meeting or presentation, David and/or Kevin are in the booth running the show. They can't even begin to estimate the hours they have volunteered during their four years.

"I put in all my free time," said David. "I'm always in here doing something."

This year, the two blew away principal Frank Viteritti by producing a live telecast of the homecoming football game on the District's cable TV channel. "It was phenomenal!" said Mr. Viteritti. "They actually had multiple cameras and monitors set up, like you were watching a pro team!"

Clearly the school will miss these two, but the feeling is mutual. "This has been one of the best times of my life," beams Kevin.

To ease the separation, Kevin is writing a manual of sound for those who will have to fill their huge shoes.

And David, who was accepted into an exclusive technical theater program at Purchase College will be "a comfortable shout away," sighed a relieved Ms. Cole.

A sporting chance

Eighth grader **Walter Hickey** is one determined guy. His passion is lacrosse, and he would love to play for his own school team. The only problem is that Westlake doesn't have one.



But Walter is hoping to change that. He went to athletic director Josh Wagner and together, they are trying to find a way.

Start up for a new team is no easy feat, as he found out. When proposed merges with surrounding middle school teams fell through, Walter persisted.

And, this spring, the middle school will hold lacrosse intramurals for the 37 boys and 18 girls who expressed interest. If the numbers stay high and the district OK's it, they could form a modified team as early as next spring. But being one, maybe two years ahead of a possible team, Walter may not be able to fully realize his dream. But that doesn't matter to him.

"It will benefit the kids that want to play," he said. "It may not be there for me, but it will be there for them."

No club ... no problem!

Expressing herself through dance is **Victoria Tagarelli's** love. The freshman knew she wanted to get involved when she started high school this year, and it was her feet that did the deciding.

"I was thinking of clubs to join because I wanted to get involved. I like to dance and I thought of starting a club."



Her big sisters were a major influence on her. Kaitlin started the PALS peer mentoring program four years ago and Maggie was heavily involved in the theater.

Guidance leader Donna Garr, a dancer herself, helped Victoria write a proposal and agreed to become the moderator.

The Dance Club officially began in October. Members teach each other steps to ballet, lyrical, jazz, alternative and tap. Guest choreographers are invited to teach them also. The club will perform at the spring talent show and Senior Citizen's High Tea.

"At first you think 'I can't do this,'" she said. "But I talked to Ms. Garr and Dr. Lodovico and they convinced me that I could."



Band-Aid II

Like many teens, **Freddy Farella, Justin Huffaker, and Nick D'Addessio** (above) love music. They play in bands with their friends and write their own songs. They also face one of the major problems high school bands lack: a venue to play.

So the trio decided to organize an event that would showcase the talent of Westlake's student bands as well as benefit the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The Battle of the Bands featuring Pandora's Mistake, The Society Above, Head First and The Hang-Ups was held in the high school theater in the fall, and raised over \$500.

"They did this all on their own," said their impressed principal. "We set the date and provided the chaperones, the rest came from them."

It may have been their idea, but the three graciously acknowledged assistant princi-

Continued on back page

Victoria Tagarelli, center, is surrounded by members of the newly formed Dance Club.

District seeks willing citizens



WILLIAM CAREY
PRESIDENT

"It's a great feeling to know you had a hand in preparing roughly 150 graduates, each year, for their adult lives."

The Mount Pleasant Central School District is in a vibrant and exciting phase of its history. But, these are challenging times for public education. School boards across our nation are seeking men and women who find excitement and satisfaction in confronting tough challenges and working collegially to overcome them. The Board of Education is a uniquely American institution, consisting of elected citizens that serve without financial compensation. It keeps the country's public schools flexible and responsive to the needs and values of local communities. A member of a Board of Education in New York State takes on one of the most important responsibilities that can be assigned: Helping to shape our communities' public school system and provide our youngsters with the educational foundation to become productive members of society.

The Mount Pleasant Central School District has a seven member Board of Education. Each elected member serves a three year term. Each year two or three seats are up for election. This year three board seats are up for election. After twelve, very gratifying, years of service, I will not seek reelection. Mr. Matystik has stated he would also not seek reelection after many years of service, and Mrs. Bello has stated that she will probably run again. I have always felt that contested elections are in the best interest of the community, but if not contested, that Board members attain the position because they are willing to unselfishly contribute their time and effort for such a worthwhile endeavor.

Successful school board members will always have

To become a board candidate

To be eligible to run for a board position, candidates must be:

- at least 18 years old
- reside in the district
- submit a nominating petition signed by at least 25 qualified voters to the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on April 17. Petitions are available at the District Office.

*** There will be a Workshop for Prospective Board Candidates on Saturday, April 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Education House, 5 Homeside Lane, White Plains. To register call: 883-0094.*

the communities children as their main focus and work with other members to accomplish the following:

- Create a shared vision for the district
- Set student standards
- Adopt an annual budget
- Adopt and maintain district policies
- Foster a healthy environment for working and learning
- Ratify collective bargaining agreements
- Hire and evaluate the Superintendent
- Maintain high ethical standards in all dealings.

Being a part of this important team can be very rewarding experience and is an excellent way to give something back to our wonderful community. It's a great feeling to know you had a hand in preparing roughly 150 graduates, each year, for their adult lives. If you have an interest, Please contact any Board member or the District Clerk for details on the process of running for a Board seat.

Your district needs you.

Education Foundation awards \$15K in grants

As a direct result of the generosity and support of the Mount Pleasant Education Foundation's fundraising efforts in 2005, we allocated \$15,000 for this grant cycle. Each school received a \$1,250 grant and \$10,000 went to a district-wide project:

Hawthorne Elementary: A SmartBoard for the Science Room submitted by **Kerri DeCrenza**.

Columbus Elementary: A SmartBoard-680 for the Library submitted by **Phil Cutrone**.

Westlake Middle School: A Steel Drum Ensemble, Double Guitar Classic Trinidad Brushed Chrome Pan Drums submitted by **Charles Zeuren**.

Westlake High School: **Claire Iannone** submitted a proposal for a contribution towards "The National Save A Life Tour". an alcohol awareness program. MPEF was one of four contributors to this project.

District-wide: \$10,000 was allocated to sponsor a "kick-off" fundraising campaign for phased renovations and improvements

to the **J.S. Whearty Theatre**, a facility used by virtually everyone in this community for various functions.

Phase I includes a variety of upgrades to various theatre equipment, including improved lighting, sound and stage improvements.

Phase II – which will be announced shortly, involves replacing the theatre seating, an ongoing fundraiser, sponsored by the Foundation.

— *Debbie Pagliaro, President MPEF*

A good thing keeps getting better



ALFRED J. LODOVICO
ED.D.
SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS

As you will note by the articles and recognitions in this newsletter, there are many exciting things going on in our district. For example, five of our high school juniors scored 100 percent on the New York State English Regents exam this January.

In the area of theater arts, it was absolutely amazing to watch our students performing in the recent middle school play, "Fame." It was fantastic! In addition, everyone is looking forward to the high school's production of "Grease." I have already heard that tickets for this show, which will be at the end of March, are selling out quickly!

Athletically, our teams and the community are enjoying the new track surface complemented by the Roy Jiannott Memorial Field.

The new paradigm at the High School is enjoying its third consecutive year of making outstanding changes in the high school concept, which by the way, is supported by national research studies. This upcoming school year, we will see the greatest number of advanced placement courses that the District has ever offered to our students.

There is a "buzz in the air" capturing the attention of many community residents and students. Mount Pleasant Central School District continues to be "The Place To Be!" I encourage all of you to become part of this "buzz," and I welcome any conversation or discussion with you that will help in better understanding the District's outstanding accomplishments.

We are presently in our 2006/07 Budget cycle. Information on public input meetings is included in this newsletter. I welcome your involvement; and if you have any questions, please call me on my cell (490-2332) "24-7."

The District needs your support to continue to move in the positive direction that I feel it is moving. Everyone is important in this budget process, and if you have questions about the District's educational programs, please, I would be glad to share this information with you.

Finally, on a more somber note, the District continues to be alerted to the Level II and III sexual offenders residing in our area. Many of you are reading the newspapers concerning these offenders, especially the fact that housing is now available to them in the Valhalla section of our community. Please take a minute of your time to access this information on the Internet to learn the names and backgrounds of these sex offenders. You can log in on to www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us/nsor/search_index.htm or access this information at the District Office.

Please take the necessary precautions to ensure that your children are not put in a situation that allows these offenders to have access to them.

Mount Pleasant affords families and children a wonderful place to live, attend school and socialize in many different levels. Lets keep it a safe and a special place to be!

Then and now: Westlake's first graduates hold reunion

On Columbus Day weekend, the Westlake High School Class of 1965 held its 40th reunion and invited members from the classes of 1964 and 1966 to join them. The nearly 100 alumni and former staff who attended represented the high school's first three graduating classes.

Prior to the reunion, some of the alumni toured the high school and Hawthorne Elementary School to reminisce and talk to current students.

A Yahoo group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WestlakeHS-60s/>) and web site (<http://www.westlakehs-60s.org/>) have been created to maintain communication

among the members of the classes of '64, '65, and '66. The sites will provide an opportunity to share news, find classmates, rekindle old friendships and forge new ones.

The reunion committee is currently looking for a class roster for the Class of 1966 and someone to represent them for future reunions. If you are a member of the class of '66, or know of anyone, please contact **Veronica Scheer** at showmoney2@yahoo.com; **Fred Broege** ('65) at mbroege@frontiernet.net, or **Nancyann Rella** ('65) at nrella@worldnet.att.net

— Nancyann Rella



PHOTO COURTESY OF REUNION COMMITTEE

Shown in front of Hawthorne Elementary School are from left to right: Veronica Scheer ('64), Rich Hedderman ('65), Marietta Thomas ('64), Joanne Thomas ('65), and Betty Gallagher Agostino ('64).

Recognitions



PHOTO BY CAROLYN FRAWLEY

Hurricane helpers

In January, **Luciano Giannini, Jessica Woods and Ryan Hayes** help principal **Ethel Zai Fiorello** deliver a check to the American Red Cross in the amount of \$900. Hawthorne students held a coin drop this Fall to help victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Regents hat trick for Hansen

As a sophomore last June, **Mike Hansen** scored 100 percent on not one, not two, but



Mike Hansen

three Regents Exams. He aced the Global History, Spanish and Chemistry exams — and he's at it again! (see below) An all-around student, Mike is a member of the varsity basketball team, Math Club, Mock Trial Club, JSA Debate Team, P.A.L.S. mentoring program and school newspaper.

More perfect scores!

The following students received 100 percent on the January 2006 English Regents Exam: **Emily Comerford, Michael Hansen, Jessica Lucchese, Christopher Miller, Laura Reiman.**

National Merit Commendations

Matt Romano, Tara Srihari and Keith Pagello have been named commended students in the National Merit Scholarship competition. This recognition is bestowed on two thirds of the top 50,000 PSAT scorers in the country. Each student received a Letter of Commendation acknowledging their outstanding academic achievement and potential.

Travel scholarship awarded

Deanna Park was the recipient of the 2006 Aimee Chu Hung Braun Travel Scholarship. The \$1,000 scholarship, presented at the National Honor Society Induction in January, is awarded to a high school student who shows outstanding commitment to serving others. Deanna is a volunteer at Rosary Hill Nursing Home and has coordinated blood drives at Westlake High School. She will use the scholarship to travel to Russia with the school in April.



Drs. Norma and Carl Braun present Deanna Park with a scholarship in memory of their daughter Aimee.

PTA 'Reflections' winners advance to state competition

Five Columbus Elementary students were selected as regional winners of the National PTA "Reflections" creative arts program. This year's theme was "I Wonder Why..." The regional winners will now have their work judged at the state level. Congratulations and good luck to: **Aidan Frawley**, Visual Arts; **Samantha Sarno**, Literature; **Aidan Tucker, Charles Grant, Gareth O'Connor**, Photography.

Winners at the local level were: Hawthorne: **Natalie Alfieri, Austin Tucker, Owen Peterson, Anthony Laricchia, Dillon Frawley, George Anastasiou**; Columbus: **Emily Banks.**

Middle schoolers named All-County musicians

Alexis Beland, Amanda Bruno, Siobhan Dempsey, Jacob Davis, Patrick Donnelly, Danny Hammond, Phil Maldari, Kevin Mesquita, Amanda Pichiarallo and Kristen Nichol森 were selected to the All-County Chorus. Sixth grade flautist **Sarah Gruber** will represent Westlake Middle School in the All-County Band.

Rotary Club students of the month

Every month, the Thornwood Rotary Club recognizes a Westlake High School student who exemplifies their motto of 'service over self.' The student along with the Superintendent is invited a luncheon and presented with an award. Recipients from September to March are: **Kelly Moeller, David Singer, Matthew Romano, Kevin Krautle, Robert Buffamante, Jamie Caponera and Christina Westphal.**

Westlake team wins stock market challenge

The senior team of **Matthew Romano, Deanna Park, and Robert Buffamante** were the overall winners in the Fall 2005 Online Stock Market Challenge sponsored by NASDAQ and the New York and American Stock Exchanges. The trio competed against over 150 teams from high schools in the NYC area and finished first in the competition with over 28 percent return on their investments. They will be invited to an awards ceremony held in the Spring at the New York Stock Exchange.

High school sends 3 to Washington D.C. conference

Juniors **Dan Lia, Jessica Lucchese and Michael Hansen** joined high school students from around the country at the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C. from November 29 to December 4. The students were nominated by their teachers to attend the 5-day conference that provided them with the opportunity to build leadership skills as well as discuss current events and issues with Cabinet secretaries, members of Congress, diplomats, lobbyists, and academician.

Hawthorne programs educate parents too

Helping kids adapt to school is a big part of early childhood education. But helping parents adjust to the system is just as important, believes **Ethel Zai-Fiorello**, principal of Hawthorne Elementary School.

That is why the staff at Hawthorne goes to great lengths to tailor programs for parents that help them deal with issues their child may be facing both in school and at home. Workshops are aimed at helping parents recognize and understand these issues and to help guide their children to be successful.

Discussion and support groups led by school psychologist **Elana Back** touch on many subjects that parents find helpful such as divorce, self-esteem, bullying, character education and the special needs child (which could include children with fine motor skill challenges to ADHD; anxiety and depression to asthma and food allergies.)

There are certain parent programs that are repeated from year to year, such as character development. Others, explained Ms. Back, crop up when there are special circumstances within the student population such as 9/11 or adoption.

Through these workshops, parents gain valuable information along with the techniques used in school to help their child. They also make new contacts and form friendships with one another.

Growing up as a child of divorce, and now the parent of a special needs child, Ms. Back can relate to the concerns of these families. "I am acutely aware of the difficulties parents face and that they sometimes



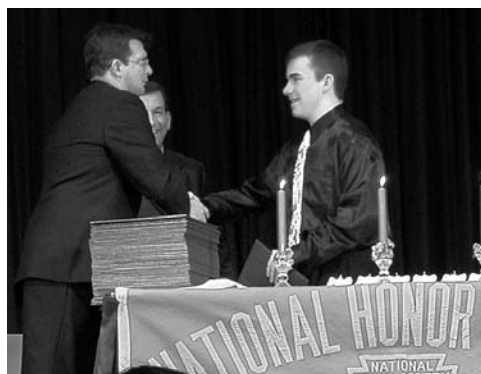
need to know that they're not alone," she said.

In addition, Hawthorne also holds workshops on educational topics that discuss reading, writing and thinking strategies, presented by specialists **Chris Cazes** and **Linda Schwartz**. There is also help for parents of children in dual-language families, in the form of workshops with language specialist **Colleen Maher**.

Earlier this year, Hawthorne opened its Parent Support Center which is a library geared toward early childhood topics. The center contains over 700 books, magazines, CD's and DVD's that parents can peruse there or take home. There is also a computer so parents can search online for resources.

"It is our hope that the books and materials, along with our workshops, will help provide guidance and support to our parents," remarked Mrs. Zai-Fiorello.

Many parents attended the opening of Hawthorne's Parent Support Center.



Newly inducted NHS member Steven Burchard receives congratulations from Assistant Principal, Bruce Ferguson, left, and Principal Frank Viteritti.

46 inducted into Westlake National Honor Society

In a ceremony on January 11, forty-six juniors and seniors were inducted into the Westlake chapter of the National Honor Society. Inductees maintained a minimum of an 88 average over their high school career and demonstrated exemplary leadership, character and service. Newly inducted NHS members are:

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Christine Bartlett</i> | <i>Shaina DiCarmine</i> | <i>Daniel Lia</i> | <i>Michelle Nicholson</i> | <i>Amy Tenaglia</i> |
| <i>Alyssa Bianco</i> | <i>Laurel DiGianni</i> | <i>Jessica Lucchese</i> | <i>Patrick O'Connell</i> | <i>Jessica Troiano</i> |
| <i>Kristina Birch</i> | <i>Lindsay Donofrio</i> | <i>Adam Macaluso</i> | <i>Thomas Olsen</i> | <i>Ponnu Varghese</i> |
| <i>Shannon Broder</i> | <i>Joshua Goldenberg</i> | <i>Ariana Marano</i> | <i>Jaclyn Osinoff</i> | <i>Thomas Vetere</i> |
| <i>Steven Burchard</i> | <i>Michael Hansen</i> | <i>Timothy Marmol</i> | <i>Trevor Pasieka</i> | <i>Joanna Wilson</i> |
| <i>Francesca Calarco</i> | <i>Jessica Harrison</i> | <i>Angelo Mascia</i> | <i>Gino Picano</i> | <i>Amanda Zefi</i> |
| <i>Dana Carelli</i> | <i>Lauren Hartnett</i> | <i>Christopher Miller</i> | <i>James Ponton</i> | |
| <i>Emily Comerford</i> | <i>Michelle Kim</i> | <i>Nicole Mingione</i> | <i>Laura Reiman</i> | |
| <i>Samantha Corrado</i> | <i>Bryan LaMonica</i> | <i>Max Miracolo</i> | <i>Stephen Schmid</i> | |
| <i>Valerie Crotty</i> | <i>Andrew Lane</i> | <i>Kristen Nelson</i> | <i>Dominique Studer</i> | |

Global Market brings the world to WHS

On December 7, Westlake's **English Honor Society** held a travel auction in the Westlake High School/ Middle School library. The "Global Market" consisted of two parts: a silent auction, where the articles were bid on and sold to the highest bidder, and a 'global market', where the items were sold immediately to the buyers.

Articles that were auctioned consisted of artifacts from various countries around the world, all donated by teachers. The auction, marked by enormous excitement and holiday spirit, was a great success.

Over \$600 was earned to support future literacy activities and donations were also made to various educational institutions including Norbulingka Institute, an organization in India; the NYSUT Hurricane Relief Fund, a relief effort for union members and their students who were devastated by hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and the Children's Storefront, an independent school in Harlem.

A special thank you goes out to the advisor to the English Honor Society, **Janet Matthews**, as the event would not have been successful without her organization and careful planning.

— *Jessica Lucchese*

Sea-ing is believing: fifth grade dives into marine science

Swimmingly.

That's how Columbus Elementary's fifth grade unit on marine science is going. Developed in conjunction with the District's science curriculum and a partnership with the **Maritime Aquarium of Norwalk** and **Fuji Photo Film, US** this program in oceanography and marine science was adapted by the Aquarium specifically to enrich the curriculum developed by Columbus teachers.

Students visited the Maritime Aquarium to not only observe marine mammals in their environment, but also for hands-on lessons and guided tour. They dissected and analyzed marine mammal scat at the aquarium's education center. Using a live website, they kept records of seal activity in Norwalk Harbor and checked on the daily weather and wave activity.

Educator, **Jim Paul** of the Maritime Aquarium, came into the classrooms and guided students in dissecting a squid. The following week he brought marine mammal artifacts and students moved from station to station examining and experimenting. At one station, students used a mitty of simulated whale blubber and another mitty containing no blubber and submerged their hands in ice cold water to feel the insulating effects of blubber. It's lessons like these, explains science teacher **Pat Torpie**, that give students the opportunity to experience what it's like to be a scientist while building a firm data base in science.

She emphasized that inquiry based science programs put the emphasis on teaching the scientific process rather than handing out facts. Using the inquiry method, students learn by exploring and discovering.

The effect on the students is evidenced by their reactions.

"When we dissected the squid, we learned about all of the body parts including the organs," said **Michael McGlynn**. "I think the most interesting body parts were the pen tip and the ink sac."

To finish the unit, Mr. Paul will return in the spring to share tide pool specimens, then students will put all this knowledge to use on a trip to Pelham Bay Park to study the beach at low tide.



Devon Haywood, Matthew Buckley, science teacher Pat Torpie and Christopher Puma examine a whale vertebrae brought in by the Maritime Aquarium.



'Fame' flies high
Westlake Middle School's musical 'Fame' delighted audiences in four high energy performances on Feb 2-5. Directed by Lawrence Partelow, and under the musical prowess of Michael Hood, the play showcased the tremendous singing and dancing talent of over 70 sixth, seventh and eighth graders.

Calendar

Budget sound off!

The opportunity to affect change in the 2006-07 school budget is yours by bringing any considerations or concerns to the Board of Education's

BUDGET INPUT SESSION

Wednesday, March 22

8:00 p.m.

Westlake High School Library

Budget discussions will also take place during Board Work Sessions, which are open to the public at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office on the following Wednesdays:

March 8, March 15 and March 22

The public budget presentation will be held on **Wednesday, March 29** at 8 p.m. in the WHS library.

The Board urges the community to attend these important meetings and let your voice be heard.

Calling all 4 & 5 year-olds!

The big day is coming! Kindergarten registration will take place **March 7, 8 and 9** at Hawthorne Elementary School, 225 Memorial Drive, Hawthorne from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Parents of children who will be five years old on or before December 1, 2006 should call the school at 769-8536 for a list of forms and documents to bring.



Andrea Folkerts, left, and Kelly Moeller have taken school spirit to new heights.

Students improve school

Continued from page 2

pal, Bruce Ferguson, guidance counselor, Jason Geller, and the theater staff for their help with the production.

Putting the 'life' back in student life

School spirit and participation is at an all-time high at Westlake thanks, in part, to student council president **Kelly Moeller** and senior class president **Andrea Folkerts**. The two have worked tirelessly with their boards to organize activities that promote spirit and togetherness.

As president of the student council, Kelly has the job of creating events that will get all of the students involved and excited. And there were many. There were clothing and backpack drives, pep rallies and Homecoming, just-for-fun assemblies and over-the-top events such as an Academy Awards night planned for May.

The amount of school spirit has gotten better, Kelly noticed. "You have to make the most of high school," she said.

Andrea's efforts for the senior class has created a sense of fun and togetherness. She organized a co-ed volleyball tournament

(25 teams entered) to raise money for the class. They designed senior sweats, ran compatibility surveys, organized a senior trip, and for Andrea, the best part of all ... Homecoming.

"Each grade decorates a float and your hallway and everyone gets involved. "It's so much work," she said, but added "We do so much more than other schools. I have friends at other schools and they're jealous of what we do."

They both credit their principal and assistant principal for helping them with any ideas they have.

Mr. Viteritti, who loves the participation shown by the students, sends the praise back to them.

"They come up with some really good stuff," he smiled. "We can make suggestions, but when the ideas come from them, it really builds school spirit."

* * * *

*This article got its life from an interview last summer with **Josh Goldenberg**, a junior who designed and cleared a cross country course on the middle/high school campus. He was featured in the September newsletter. While interviewing faculty and administrators, there was an overwhelming acknowledgement that there were many students, past and present, who improve the school through their time, effort and determination. These are but a few examples of the caliber of student that Westlake enjoys calling their own.*

BUY A BRICK BUILD A FUTURE

Purchase an engraved brick for Westlake's Alumni Walk to commemorate a past, present or future graduate, teacher or family and your donation will help the Westlake Middle/High School library receive some much needed improvements.

To order, call 747-3465 or log on to <http://teacherweb.com/ny/westlakehighschool/pta>

Mount Pleasant Central School District

Westlake Drive, Thornwood, NY 10594

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