

RAIDER NEWS

Vol. 2, Issue 2

West Roxbury Academy

February 2017

Our Future

By Alanna Star Bannister with Ismael Aristilde

Our school numbers state that 14% of students do not attend school on a daily basis; however, as students, we look around our classrooms on a Friday or a half day or the day before a break and see the empty seats and quiet hallways, verifying that 14% is an inaccurate representation of our community's dedication to education.

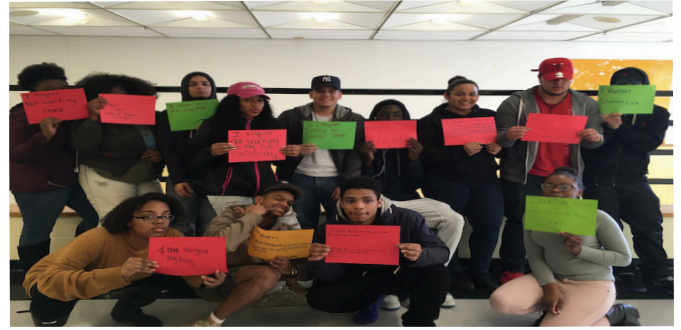
We can change, but it takes more than one person to change WRA into the school that we all hope for. Teachers need to make students feel curious and excited in the classroom instead of teaching mediocre lessons make each and every learning experience spontaneous! When a student feels that they will actually learn skills and information that is going to further them in the real world they instantly become that much more engaged in what a teacher has to say. Giving students the easy way out too often or at all will lower everyone's expectations and level of motivation.

Students at WRA have the mentality that it is okay to fail a couple of classes or that it's okay to skip school because that feel like it—simply because their parents did it, because they know others who got out the easy way, because they just do not want to try, or is it because it's all they have ever known? We need encouragement.



I interviewed a student at WRA who used to have a low attendance rate, but turned it around. His name is Ismael Aristilde and this is what he had to say about motivation: "My motivation for coming to school is not necessarily a motivation, it's more of a reminder. I just simply found myself a reason to come to school on time, and a reason to come to school in general. My reason will be left unsaid, but I believe that anyone and everyone can find their own personal reason, use it to constantly remind themselves to come to school, and persevere to achieve their goals, even when their aspirations seem implausible."

We all know how it feels to be unmotivated, frustrated, and irritable, but learning how to get things done and attend school when you feel all of those emotions is what will ensure your success. It is an amazing skill that will push you to reach goals that are in such high places. It is 2017, are you still making the same immature choices that were made in 2016? Or will you choose to finally grow up and take on responsibilities; making life easier for yourself and more organized for your future? Everyday is a choice and a second chance to start over or change something about yourself.



Senior Regrets

By Ashley Wiggins

Regret is an intense feeling that most do not enjoy experiencing. For me, I face this feeling every single time I sit down in my classes. I do not blame my school under any circumstances. The only person I have to blame is myself. Freshmen year, teachers and staff will repeatedly attempt to enforce you to join a club, enroll in AP classes, take SAT prep classes, yet many of us do not listen. We tell ourselves, "I have three more years." But when you are at the end of your four years, with a below-average GPA, and struggling to earn competitive SAT scores, you would do anything to go back and start over.

I am a senior here at West Roxbury Academy. I never prepped for my SAT's, I never participated in clubs, I never did any sports, and I never cared about my grades. My mindset was, "I just need to pass," which is the worst mindset to have as a student who had plans for a successful future. But I never put forward all of the intelligence and effort that I still have to offer. And here I am: senior year.

Senior year is supposed to be the year where you gather everything you need for college, write your essays, get letters of recommendations, and somehow manage to get into your dream school that you have supposedly worked so hard to get into for twelve, long, stressful years. But when you deny any help that comes your way, refuse to get a job, and lack any type of motivation for school, you cannot achieve getting into the school of your dreams. The regret becomes overwhelming. It overwhelms you for the fact that you were handed these resources and turned them down to go out with your friends instead. All because you did not get a job until last minute and never saved a penny to go to school. And for the fact that you never said, "I need help."

My advice to you: do what you can to be what you want to be. Do not procrastinate. Do not push aside priorities to instead go out with your friends. Do your work to the best of your ability. Be wrong; that is how you learn. And that is okay. Do not replace schoolwork with a job. Balance is important. Do not deny help if you know—deep down—that you need it. Take advantage of the resources that are handed to you because life is not going to be this simple forever.

Design and layout by Jade Sledge with Alanna Bannister

Hi, I'm a Woman

By Ashley Wiggins

Hi, I'm a woman and I am...
tired of being told my shorts and my skirt are
not an appropriate enough length and I need to
cover up because the boys cannot help but look at
my legs and up my skirt.

Hi, I'm a woman and I am...
drowning in fear of going to college and
becoming another statistic.

Hi, I'm a woman and I am...
very certain that your catcalls are not
compliments; they are disrespectful, sexual
phrases to catch my attention
that will stick to the back of my brain for the rest
of my life.

Hi, I'm a woman and I am...
tired of dressing to be safe from the monsters on
the streets and not dressing
the way my heart desires.
I cannot scrub off the disgust I feel from your
hands being all over me.
I cannot simply forget this damage you have
caused me.
I cannot bare to hear the sentence, "It was
consensual."

One. More. Time.

Hi, I'm a woman and I am...
so tired of hearing my accusations are false be-
cause I was alone,
because I did not listen when they said, "Don't
wear that skirt."
I am so sick of my accusation being denied be-
cause I was "asking for it" because I "led him on."

Hi, I'm a woman.
And I do not want to be ashamed of that.



If Everyone was Equal

By Alanna Star Bannister

If Everyone was Equal
We would still have war.
Because equality does not replace greed or foreign
affairs.

We would still take others for granted.
Because we are selfish human beings.
We would still find a blemish to bring each other
down.
Because we cannot outrun the chains. To them we are
bound
To the same routine as before when we were an in-
equality.

But if we were equal we would not have to be
ashamed:
About our color, or our sexual orientation, or who our
parents are and where we came from.
If everyone was equal all of those who died for our
rights will rejoice for their victory.

But will equality last?
Will it nearly be a fad that we obsess over for a limited
amount of time, while hate reenters our hearts?
To that there is no answer.

LGBTQ Club

The LGBTQ club is a new
extra-curricular activity that our
school offers to show pride and
alliance for all students.

Come Visit: Wednesdays after
school at 2PM

Where: Hall of Flags with
Ms. Hankey and Ms. P.

They discuss LGBTQ history, im-
porance and equality, as well as
how we as a school can spread
LGBTQ awareness and pride.



Raider News Editorial Board

The following students
served as the newspaper's
Editorial Board during term
2. These students attend
weekly newspaper club
meetings or are enrolled in
the Journalism elective class.
Each student has a specific
role; as a team, they are re-
sponsible for producing a
professional publication for
our school. Please see Ms.
McCarthy in room 429 to join
the Editorial Board this year.

Darrius Allen
Ismael Aristilde
Alanna Star Bannister
Derek Bertucci
Scath Bogard
Khyaire Mack
William Matos
Luis Merced
Shaleeya Owens
Christina Phillips
Jade Sledge
Ashley Wiggins
Ms. McCarthy, Advisor

Want to submit your writing
to *Raider News*?

Come by room 429 or
contact Ms. McCarthy, at
jmccarthy6@bostonpublic-
schools.org

We need YOU -- your voice
and vision -- to make our
newspaper possible!

Thank you to Ms. Smoak,
Mr. Humbert, Ms. Grillo,
Ms. Diggs, and Mr. Weekes
for help with this issue.

Raider News is made
possible this year by the
generous support of The
Dunham Foundation. This
foundation selected our
school to receive a grant to
publish *Raider News* this
year because it believes in
you, our students, and the
power of student leadership
through journalism.

Hope

By Luis Merced

We each have problems: Our problems will either shackle us and leave us emotionally scarred, or teach us to trust ourselves that we are worth it. I am sharing my story of perseverance with you so that others may feel encouraged even when struggling.

The hardest day I ever had was when I left my house for somewhere that was everything but home. My brother and I made the decision to leave our home because of too many family problems, and we had a choice to either give up or keep looking towards something better. Even though we chose to leave our home, we still had hope.

When people think of the word homeless, they think of someone on the street asking for money. That image is ignorant; they are not seeing that some homeless people are going through something hard in their lives and they are trying to pull through. When I was homeless, we had a friend who helped us, and I started picking up more hours at work and looking for a place to live. I would get home at 3 a.m. and get up at 6:00 a.m. My problems taught me how to persevere. Students need to realize that through life there will be more problems and sometimes they will come all at once. There was a point when I wanted to give up...like on days when I start thinking and it's too much. I think about how my

how my dad is in jail. On those difficult days, I remember that there is always a solution. You have to embrace the idea of overcoming your fears, and in order to do that, you need hard work and time.

I work sometimes up to 45 hours a week, and I go to school every day. I don't want to be like my dad and mom; I want something more in my life. I don't want to struggle like my mom in a hotel, lifting beds to change sheets every day. I see her after work and it's hard for me to see my mom suffer physically. I'm trying to be something in life where I can look up to myself and say, "I have this, and I worked for it." I know that I could do better academically, but that hasn't stopped me. Even if I have to go to school another year, I will graduate because that's my goal.

I shared my story so that other people can reflect and think about how even though we may feel helpless during hard times, we are not alone. Even when you are stripped of everything and are without a home, and even without family, you have your heart and the power to choose the good path or the bad path: You have the power to give up or keep going. I choose to keep going.

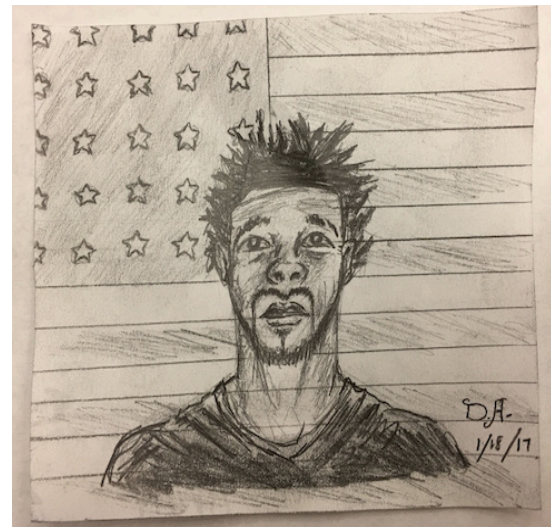
American Dream

By Ismael Aristilde

The night of J. Cole's live performance his words were: "When we young, and even when we old the world is constantly pumping us with images of what life is about and what we need to make us happy. In the US we call it the 'American Dream' but... I started to notice that all that is all wrong... you got a family with worst conditions than what we come from and they couldn't afford a ticket to this show if they wanted one but yet somehow they have more happiness... he got everything they told us we need to be happy and he's miserable and they ain't got s**t, but they happy. What do they got that he don't got? Love."

With the help of J. Cole, I believe as a society we should consider the way we think about "The American Dream" and "success." We look at the people who we think have obtained this dream lifestyle, such as celebrities and athletes, and we follow them. We want to have the money. We want big houses. We want the fancy cars just like them, but it's all wrong. It isn't the materialistic things that truly makes us happy, that the American Dream promises us, and we often forget that.

We should put our value, instead, in the positivity of the people around us, and lose the value we put in famous lives in social media. Even when some do attain this "dream," they often forget where they come from. They get drowned in the fortune and think about themselves only. The American Dream, according to James Truslow Adams in 1931 is where we need to be today in our thinking: "Life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement" and not just a materialism. The real American Dream should be about idolizing the people who support us and using that support to achieve our goals. That is the American Dream.



Is Hip-Hop Dead?

By Khyaire Mack

Some may believe that Hip-Hop is slowly dying, while others believe that it is in a game of hide-and-seek and it's winning. The 2016 XXL Freshmen Cypher, which highlights the most popular new rappers, had an interesting lineup of artists such as: Lil Dicky, Dave East, Lil Uzi Vert, Kodak Black, and Denzel Curry. XXL Cyphers are designed for rappers to show off the hottest 16 bars they can create.

Although these rappers have achieved the dream of making music, they fall short with freestyling. In fact, Hip-Hop fans all agree that the 2016 freshmen list was terrible. The list may have had its up's, but overall, the performances and punch lines did not deliver. Some examples of the Cypher's downsides are when Kodak Black forgot his line in the middle of his verse, Lil Uzi was just really repetitive, and the same goes for Desiigner. Despite these detriments, Cypher had some great freestyles from Dave East, Lil Herb (G-Herbo), both of whom trying to bring the culture back into the industry alongside J.Cole, Kendrick Lamar, Logic, and Joey Bada\$\$.

Hip-Hop has devolved drastically over the years. Artists used to have a meaning behind their music, but now they just make music for fun. I personally don't think Hip-Hop is dead, all that drill music is cool, but there are still rap artists who put their heart and soul into every verse they spit. Some artists still rap about positivity and putting themselves and their family in a better position. Two great song examples are "My Moment" by 2 Chainz, Jeremiah, and Meek Mill and "Some How Some Way" by Pnb Rock, Lil Bibby, and Meek Mill. Even legends are coming back with hits, bring back how Hip-Hop used to be but with just a whole new beat.

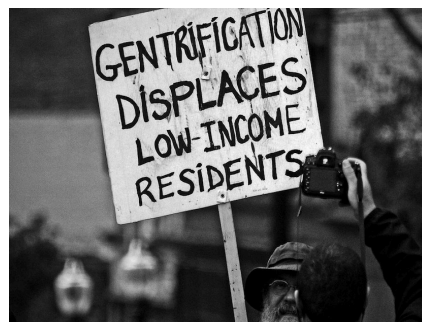
One of my favorite beats of all time is "Sky's The Limit" by the Notorious B.I.G. A classic, old-school beat, Biggy delivers a soothing instrumental which makes you think positive and stay forward. Biggy's beats are contrast to today's really rowdy beats and rapping that make you feel ready to destroy and demolish. Hip-Hop is more than violence and being a gang-banger; it's a meaning and story that is about the artist's lives. It's an honest message, urging people to not make the same mistakes and to give hope that everyone can make it out. Today's Hip-Hop is moving away from this honesty and reflection in personal stories. Hip-Hop has transformed into an escape from reality. Although Hip-Hop is going through a little fall-out, everything will come back to normal. Like they always say, "History repeats itself."



The Good, the Bad: Gentrification

By William Matos

The loud noises of million dollar condos being constructed in your neighborhood can either be the sound of progress or the sound of you getting forced out. Progress or eviction? Well, that depends on your viewpoint. Gentrification has in more recent times, become a dirty word in the world of neighborhoods that are homes to the lower middle class. The word Gentrification comes from the old French word *gentilise*, meaning people of gentle birth, i.e. the privileged. Gentrification has been happening since the days of ancient Rome, but today's gentrification is more like hyper-gentrification. Modern gentrification is happening faster than ever before because wealthy people are moving back to our cities. Why are they? Well, the perpetrators will tell you it's because living in the city is closer to their jobs. While victims of gentrification will tell you it's because of greed and wanting to buy houses in poorer neighborhoods for less money.



So how does gentrification happen? It only takes a few people who are willing to move into poorer neighborhoods and "invest" in the neighborhood. From there, it's a snowball effect that won't stop until whole demographics of neighborhoods are completely reversed. As richer people move in, property values skyrocket. In Boston, which some believe is now America's fastest gentrifying city, properties in Dorchester are being sold for millions, when not too long ago they were only in the hundreds of thousands. So, what do people think of this hyper version of gentrification? According to the website, The New Boston Post, Bob Van Meter, Executive Director of Boston Local Initiative Support Corporation, believes that African American residents who stayed behind in the gentrified neighborhood of the South End "feel dislocated or alienated from their neighborhood." The reason? So many local, black-owned businesses were put out of business when the median property value skyrocketed in the last 20 years (newbostonpost.com).

Many people feel completely different on the idea of gentrification. Some see it as a way to retake neighborhoods that were once prime real estate or clean up dirty and abandoned neighborhoods, while others believe it pushes out culture and identity within a neighborhood. One thing is for sure, the more gentrification expands around the city, the more poor and middle class people are being pushed out toward the suburbs. It is this perverse flipside of white flight that should if not cause fear, provoke a call to action in our communities.

My Story

By Anonymous

You don't know my name, and you don't know my story. You see me in the hallways, and you may even have class with me, and you would never know that I have a one-year old baby girl. You look at me and think nothing but "She's just a regular student."

What you don't know is that I get up every morning before 6:00 a.m., get my daughter in her bathed, fed, dressed, packed and for school until I put her on the bus to day care. Only then do I finish getting ready to leave my house for school. Even if I'm exhausted, I get everything done, and I care for my baby girl and myself. I only get two hours to myself after school, and I use my time wisely because after that, it's not about me anymore. Then, I do it all again the next day. And when I step on the school bus every morning, I can finally breathe because I feel accomplished.

I did not choose to be a mom at a young age, but my actions did leave consequences, and I made those consequences my priority. Life does not end the minute you get pregnant; it just becomes less of your own life to live. Everywhere I go my daughter goes with me; whatever I do can affect both our future. Some days I don't know how I'm still on my feet. I don't get to do normal things that teens do like stay after school, go to the movies with friends, or sleep during the day. Wherever I go my daughter goes with me. Even with my responsibilities as a young mother, I am able to maintain B to A+ grades by paying attention in class and finishing my homework. Stress is everywhere for me constantly, but I have to deal with it because it's not about me.

My future plan is to always support my daughter and to go to college to become a nurse or doctor. My goal is to create a better future for her and me. If I don't do well in school and if I am unable to complete high school, then how will I provide for my child with a minimum wage at a fast food restaurant? I want my baby to know that she should never give up when something in her life does not go as planned, and I want to be her role model.

I remain anonymous not because I am ashamed, but because my personal life should never be talked about among my peers. I am proud to be a mother of a beautiful little girl, but to you, I am that girl next to you in class, doing what you do, just trying my best.

Juniors and College Planning Updates

Start studying now for the May/June SAT.

Link your PSAT scores to Khan Academy to get personalized study plans based on your PSAT.

Visit KhanAcademy.org/SAT to get started.

Just 20 minutes a day will boost your SAT score.

Your SAT dates are either May 6 or June 3, so now is the perfect time to begin a study plan.

Interested in SAT prep? See Ms. McCarthy in room 429 for study packets.

After-school SAT prep will begin February 15 with Ms. McCarthy in room 429 and continue each Wednesday from 1:50-2:30.

POTUS?

By Eddy Baez

Donald Trump. Regardless of how you feel about him, he is the President of the United States of America, so get used to the idea. How do I feel about Donald Trump? As a first-generation American whose parents came here with nothing but a baby, you could say I'm not a fan of Trump. For one, his blatant racism and disregard for anyone who isn't white--not to mention the fact that he is not even qualified to be an elementary school teacher, let alone the leader of our nation--does not definite leadership at the level of POTUS.

He has displayed distasteful qualities such as arrogance, disrespect, and hate that lead me and most of America to believe he is a loose cannon. Following the presidential Debates, Trump's low-brow antics did not amuse me; rather, they made me question this country and the people who call themselves American. He inexplicably and relentlessly attacks religious groups, people with disabilities, and minorities, while people actually laughed and cheered. And they're still laughing and cheering. He panders to the lowest common denominator: People who are not smart enough to know human beings are created equal.

Whatever your beliefs are about Trump, one thing is for certain: If you are American, he is your president. Although I am not happy about it, there is no doubt Donald Trump's election will usher in a new era in this country's history... and it may not be a good one.

February Vacation MCAS Boot Camp

Gain the necessary skills to beat the MCAS

When: 2/21, 2/22, 2/23

9am-12 noon

Space is limited

Register ASAP
With Ms. McCarthy in 429



Want to be a Doc?

By Kamila Abdi

Boston Area Health Education Center (BAHEC) is a great opportunity for high school students who would like to pursue a future career in the medical field. I have participated in this program during the school year, and my friends have participated in the summer program. This program pays you to learn about your own interests! You meet students with the same interests as you from all over the greater Boston area, while learning new things about the field you may be interested in as a major or minor.

When I was in BAHEC I took the class called Health 101. In this class, I learned about the different types of doctors, what they do, how many years of schooling it took to become which ones they are, what kinds of classes they took, and how much money I would make if I was in that field of work. During the summer, you get to go more in depth about the careers. Students take college level courses and even have internships at hospitals with real people in the medical field. This program is paid and you also learn to do real world things like taxes and building resumes.

You will be surprised on how many jobs are in the medical field, jobs you didn't even know Existed. You can apply for this program on the BCYF website at the same time that all the job listings for teens come out in March. Depending on the program you may have to write an essay on why you would like to participate or reflect on an important doctor or scientist that changed the world of medicine. This program is great for high school students who are interested in becoming a pharmacist or a pediatrician or even a physical therapist in the future and it adds a great amount of credibility to your college applications.

Sign up now! Email: bahec@bphc.org. Website: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/boston-centers-youth-families>

Reach Out

By Shaleeya Owens and Ashley Wiggins

4,400 deaths per year: The number of people we are losing due to depression each year. Twenty percent of adolescents will experience suicidal thoughts before they reach adulthood. It is an epidemic, but we can work through it with appropriate supports.

We throw around the word depression and suicide like it is nothing, never thinking of the people who are around you. And how they may feel, or what they have faced. People are triggered by different things, and a lot of us need to realize this before it is too late.

J. Abède Alexandre, a psychiatrist who works with Boston students and who has an office at WRA, uses a program called "S.O.S" that helps students with self-harm. According to Dr. Alexandre, "the S.O.S program provides information for people to notice the signs of suicide that we may have or even our friends have. We also show case documents of people who have been involved with depression to give a better explanation." Dr. Alexandre explains what

you should look for in people who you suspect are struggling with depression. "Any changes you see in someone's behavior should catch your attention. For some students, it is their grades dropping. You start seeing them being withdrawn with their friends."

There are not enough people aware of the S.O.S program. A lot of students are struggling and are unsure of where to turn. Students are not aware that there is an entire program dedicated to helping students get through whatever it is they are going through. He feels as though it is difficult to get the program out there and make it known to students.

Overall, communication is a factor that needs to improve in order to help this painful epidemic. Please reach out to Dr. Alexandre, a CFC, or teacher if you or someone you could use support through difficult times. Our school has many resources to help students. The message is: Reach out; you don't have to go through life alone.

Teachers

By Christina Phillips

Why do you think our parents send us to school? The first thing that should come to mind is to learn. They send us here to teach us more than what they know. I would like to acknowledge what the teachers are doing for us. Teachers are here to educate us in order for us to share what we are learning with the world. They are here to help us find who we are and the types of skills that we may not know we have. They are the ones that help you to be successful and help us to have a better mindset in life.

This is why we need to treat them better. We should remember that the teachers have feelings as well and sometimes the way we all behave with them, can make things more difficult. We should always show them appreciation by finding ways to admire their hard work that they put in to help us strive and become as successful as we can possibly be.

The City's Summer Job Registration Opens February for Limited Time Only!

Apply to the City's Summer Job pool through the online application,

SuccessLink, located through youth.boston.gov. SuccessLink not only connects you to summer jobs, but to Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) career development workshops, scholarships, civic engagement opportunities, and more.

SuccessLink replaced the Boston Youth Fund's HOPELINE in February 2015. The SuccessLink application will be available only until the end of March, so apply today!

#SBLI

By Derek Bertucci with Terence Oliver

On Sunday, Tom Brady will trade in his comfy Ugg slippers for his magical cleates. He's ready: Are we? Let's cheer on our Pats to obliterate the Falcons.

This year, the NFL has had one of the craziest seasons in history with lots of changes, twists, and turns. For example, the traditional touchback was originally at the 20 yard line and is now placed at the 25 yard line. What does this five-yard difference make? The advantage gives the offense better yard positioning in order to take down the opponent.

This year demonstrated an outbreak in wins for many teams that do not win so much. For example, the last ten years the Raiders have had a win column in the single digits. Their winning percentage over the past ten years is 3.4%, and this year they went 12-4. This is the best record they have had since 2002 when they finished the season 11-5.

As far as the postseason went, the eight teams that punted in the playoffs showed an intense work ethic that we didn't see in the regular season. These teams fought their best for a chance at that ring.

A good Superbowl shows off teams with superior defense skills. With that said, the Pats should be scared of Falcons' wide receiver Julio Jones' offensive skills. Devonta Freeman, Falcons' running back, is another player the Pats' defense will have to beat. We need Malcolm Butler defending Julio Jones as if his life depended on it. And we don't need to mention the Pats' running defense, one of the best in the League, because they have shown rigorous blocking all season.

Some may argue that the best part of the Superbowl is the half-time show or commercials. I argue that the game itself is worth the wait. Every Sunday, we gather with family and friends to watch our teams make history. The Superbowl is an American family tradition. It's more than Lady Gaga at half-time; it's more than the five million-for-thirty-seconds of commercial time; it's more than chips and dip. It's about hope and coming together for a united cause. Go Pats!



Sofball season begins March 20th
See Ms. Diggs in her office to join

Wake up Westie

By Darius Drakes

Ask 10 students that attend West Roxbury Academy what the worst part of their day is and nine students will tell you that it is waking up to come to school. As a student I know how annoying and tiring it is to wake up to go to school, despite our lack of interest and motivation. Especially when you have stayed up until midnight putting those finishing touches on that project that's due. Teens in high school may not be the most responsible, and yes we do need to learn; But why should we work so hard in and out of school because we aren't adults.

As a BPS student I have experienced these feelings on a normal basis. The school day at Westie ranges from 7:20 to 1:40. If we pushed school times it would interfere with sports (n my case crew). The real problem is the work load we are expected to deliver, forces us to lose sleep which affects our health and mental state. It has been known for a while that students and school hours have become a largely debated topic, especially in BPS schools. Students in high school usually wake up ranging from 5 to 6 to get to school, in some situations this is before any adult wakes up or starts to even leave for work.

Scientific studies show that this is way too early and can damage the under developed brain, and cause stress or depression. Your brain reaches full capacity and function at age 20, If students wake up the same time if not earlier than an adult, isn't this an issue? Students should not have to deal with this sort of stress or anxiety over school-don't you think?

New Country

By Scath Bogard

When moving to a new country, you will miss your home, family, and friends. I had to learn to adjust to a new country and school system, and I knew it would not be easy. Christina, a junior at WRA spoke of her transition from Jamaica to the United States. "Every student has to wear a uniform no matter what school they go to and they wear certain uniforms depending on what grade they're in. Unlike America, the students stay in the same classroom all day while the teachers are the ones who change classrooms every period."

Adjustment is one of the many things I struggled with when moving to America. For me, it did not take a lot of time to get used to the new environment. When I came to America last January I came with only a sweater because I thought it would be warm, but I was not expecting it to be this cold. I didn't even think about the snow. When moving from one country to another, you will need to learn the language, adapt to the environment, and get use to the culture, but that doesn't mean you have to change your culture.

Be a Rockstar, join the debate team!
Room 529 on Mondays & Wednesdays

Quotable Quotes

If you had one wish, what would you wish for?

By Jade Sledge and Khyaire Mack

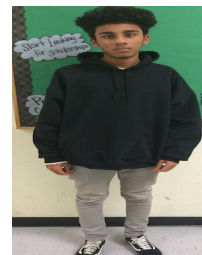
"I'd wish for my nana back"

-Keiara Henderson,
10th grade



"I'd wish for the super power to stop time"

-Ryan Ramlogan,
11th grade



"I wish to find the fountain of youth"

-Alanna Boykins,
11th grade



"I would wish for eternal happiness and 100 puppies"

-Ms. Smoak, 11th grade Chemistry



"That I could live to 100 and see my daughters graduate from college and get married."

-Mr. Abelard,
Director of Partnerships



All about Flores

By Carlos de los Santos and Nick Cetoute with Khyaire Mack and Ashley Wiggins

We interviewed Mr. Flores, a new Community Field Coordinator, and this is what he has to say.

Why did you choose to become an educator, specifically at our school?

I choose to work in the field of education because I feel this is the best way to target the future. I know that if I have a positive effect on the future and the following generation, they can accomplish great things.

You grew up in Boston. Can you tell me about your journey to success?

Success is definitely rented every day. So, it is not a place that you just get there and you are done. It is an every day thing that you just have to continue to strive for. It was just a whole lot of sacrifice to get to where I currently am.

What did you have to sacrifice or give up as a young person to reach success?

My mindset and my time. The time where I wasn't in school, I was in the gym practicing and playing basketball. I didn't really have a lot of time to hang out and do what a lot of my friends were doing.

What advice do you have for young people struggling in school?

To persevere and find somebody to look up to, somebody who is doing well for themselves. I am sure they would work hard and dedicate themselves if they find that person.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

I see myself continuing to live life in a positive manner, being able to support students, or possibly being a coach at a university.

How would you describe your connection with students at West Roxbury Academy?

I feel like I have a good connection because as a graduate of the Boston Public School system, there is a lot of stuff I understand, and I see where students are coming from, so I am able to connect on that level.

Why are role models important? Did you have one?

Role models are huge because you need something to look at and kind of mimic, and most importantly, find some type of direction. If you don't have that, you are pretty much bound to do anything, so it is important to find something you are interested in and find ways to make it happen. That's why the role model is important. In fact, I did have one myself. I had people whom now I call mentors. I had people in my life stirring me in the right direction, as a high school basketball player and the college athletes I became. Mentors helped guide me and told me things I needed to do to get to that certain level. Even now, I have colleagues I look up to that have great wisdom and advice, and I definitely take that, and I consider them role models.