

THE WATERVLIET CHRONICLE

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HALLOWEEN BOWL-A-THON A SUCCESS BY SHEREA SNARE

On Thursday, October 29th, at Uncle Sam's Bowling Lanes in Troy, students from grades 7-12 faced off in all sorts of different costumes to benefit our school's character education program. Awards were given for best costume: 1st place was Little Bo Peep and Her Sheep, with Ms. Sofrone, Emily Roden, Claire Reinfurt and Andrew Etman; 2nd place went to Ms. Morrissey's team with Theresa Shufelt, Tori Shufelt, and Courtney Normile as Cops and Robbers; Team Living Colors won 3rd place for best costume with Mrs. Spence, Alicia Jones, Amber Dawson and Meghan Urquhart. Amber Dawson stated that,

"it was a lot of fun, every team showed creativity with their costumes." Other awards were given for highest scores: 1st place went to Mr. Capitula's team with James Johnston, Tyler Valentine and Mike Castle scoring a combined 690. 2nd place went to Mr. Halabuda's team with Tom Szczepanski, Sean Daley, and Josh Veshia scoring a combined 597. Mr. Wareing, the event's

coordinator, said "the costumes were unbelievable this year and the event was amazing with a dance type of atmosphere!"



Mrs. Spence's Living Colors team won third place for best costumes

HOW MUCH DO U TXT IN SKOOL? BY DYLAN EDMUNDS

This week I've been asking WHS students about texting in school and received mixed results. While most students polled stated that they do text while in school, many of these students indicated that it is not occurring very much. Others, on the other hand,

stated that they do it constantly.

Not that many students said they do not text at all (only 7), and their reasoning was either they don't have a phone, don't have minutes, or don't want to get caught.

On the flip side, some students said that they text over 100 times a day while in school. One girl said that she had her phone taken away twice already, but that is not going to stop her from texting in class.

When completing this

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Sports Schedule

- 11/6: Boys Cross Country
- 11/8: Powder Puff Game
- 11/11: Boys V. B-ball vs. Mohon
Boys JV B-ball @ Mohon
- 11/16: Boys Bowling vs. Waterford
- 11/18: Girls B-ball @Troy
Boys Bowling @ Voorhees

HALLOWEEN COSTUMES: WHY NOT? BY CHELSEA COMPTON

I recently talked to Ms. Caplan and Mr. Wareing about whether or not students should be allowed to wear costumes to school on Halloween. Currently, school policy states that costumes of any kind are not permitted in school, and both principals agreed with the policy, but for different reasons.

Ms. Caplan stressed that Halloween has no reference to school and is not necessary in the building. Also, she believes that dressing in costumes has the potential to “take away from academics.”

To be exact, the policy states that there is no dressing-up, no hair coloring (unless it is permanent), no masks, and no classroom par-

ties. When asked about the parties, Ms Caplan responded that “we can celebrate and party when our graduation rate is 100% with Advanced Regents diplomas.”

Mr. Wareing referred to our school’s dress code policy as a reason for no costumes. He also brought up the potential for distraction in the classroom and indicated that character education and other activities sponsor days throughout the school year for crazy dressing (i.e. bowling, volleyball, spirit week, etc.).

Of course, many students disagree with this policy and want to have the opportunity to enjoy the day while in school. Some believe that

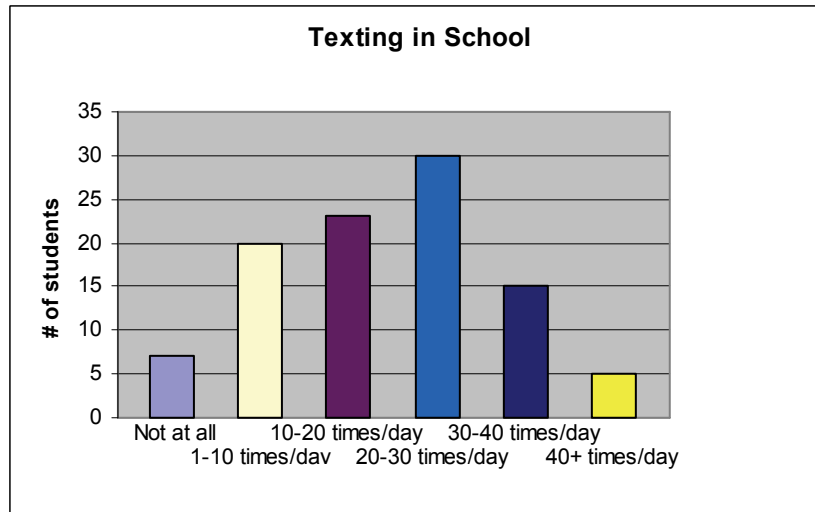
Halloween has gotten a “bad rap” recently. Said one student, “Every other holiday, we can dye hair and wear holiday colors with no problem. We are encouraged to dress up for different events throughout the year. So why can’t we do it for Halloween? Why is dressing up a distraction on Halloween, but not during Homecoming or senior week?”



TEXTING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

survey, students were anonymously asked about their texting habits in school. They were given five possible ranges, from “Not At All,” to “40+ times/day.” The chart on the right shows the results.

The results bring up several questions: Is the texting policy being enforced? Is it effective? Is it even necessary?



WATERVLIIET STUDENTS CELEBRATE A RAINY HALLOWEEN

There was a great amount of excitement about Halloween this year. After all, Halloween was on a Saturday, which meant a full day of fun followed by a day off. Usually, Halloween is a time for costumes and candy, but this year many WHS students traded those for movies, house parties with friends, or even work.

Many students cited the weather as a factor. It rained most of the afternoon and evening, so many were less likely to spend time outdoors.

Instead, many students had movie parties. Amber Dawson had some friends over and watched the Michael Myers

Halloween movie marathon, Ashad Thompson watched “scary movies that weren’t so scary,” and Mike Castle went to see Paranormal Activity.

Other students were content to just hang out with friends. However, not all were satisfied. James Valentin went to a Halloween party, but was disappointed because the party was “dumb.”

Those that did go trick-or-treating didn’t last very long. As April Wells stated, “by the time we (she and her young cousins) reached the tenth house, it was pouring, so we ran back to my uncle’s house.”

The most unfortunate were those who had to work. Akheim Thompson worked all day on Halloween and, after work, just went home and went to bed.

With all the build-up for what was supposed to be a “Halloween to remember,” this year’s turned out to be a dud. One student even went so far as to say that this was “the crappiest Halloween ever.”



WHAT WERE THEY THINKING? BY RYAN SAGE-WAGNER

15 of the strangest laws in America:

1. You can't plow a cotton field with an elephant in North Carolina.
2. It is against the law to whale hunt in Oklahoma (think about it).
3. In NYS, it is still illegal to shoot a rabbit from a moving trolley car.
4. In some smaller towns in Arizona, it is illegal to wear suspenders.
5. In Michigan, it is illegal to place a skunk inside your boss's desk.
6. In Kentucky, it is illegal to carry ice cream in your back pocket.
7. It is illegal in Alabama to wear a fake mustache that causes laughter in church.
8. You're subject to fines and/or imprisonment for making ugly faces at dogs in Oklahoma.
9. In Atlanta, Georgia, it is illegal to tie a giraffe to a telephone pole or street lamp.
10. In Lehigh, Nebraska, it is against the law to sell donut holes.
11. In Breton, Alabama, there is a law on the town's books against riding down the street in a motorboat.
12. In parts of Alaska, it is illegal to feed alcohol to a moose.
13. A local ordinance in Atwoodville, Connecticut prohibits people from playing Scrabble while waiting for a politician to speak.
14. Snoring is prohibited in Massachusetts unless all bedroom windows are closed and securely locked. It is also illegal to go to bed without first having a full bath.
15. In New York, the penalty for jumping off a building is...death.



CHARACTER ED. CANNED FOOD DRIVE BY AMBER DAWSON

The Character Education students have organized a canned food drive. Students are encouraged to bring in as many canned food items as possible. The first period class that donates the most canned food items will receive a bagel breakfast!

Students are always encouraged to help those in need and this is a great way to assist our own community members as all items donated will stay in our community.

In addition, Character Ed. Is also sponsoring a can drive on Saturday. To participate, all you need to do is leave items on your porch to be picked up Saturday, November 7, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Any items need to be placed in a plastic bag and labeled Waterliet High School.



WRESTLING PREVIEW BY AHKEIM THOMPSON

“WE KNOW WHAT IT TAKES...ANYTHING LESS THAN A CHAMPIONSHIP WOULD BE DISAPPOINTING.”

Last year, our wrestling team established itself as one of the premier programs in the area by winning it’s first Colonial Council championship, going undefeated (8-0), and sending two wrestlers to the state tournament. This year, expectations are high as they gear up for another successful campaign.

Led by John Delaney and

Brian Walsh, the team returns many of the wrestlers from last year’s program as it looks to build off of last year’s success.

“We know what it takes, now. We try to stay grounded, but I’d have to say that we are the favorites this year. We won’t be able to sneak up on anyone,” one team member said.

Another wrestler agreed, stating, “Our expectations are high. Anything less than another Colonial Council championship would be disappointing.”

SWINE FLU UPDATE BY KRISTA LEACH

With all of the media coverage lately, the swine flu (H1N1) has become a topic of discussion at WHS.

The swine flu is a respiratory infection caused by the influenza virus. This flu spreads very quickly and easily.

Our school is trying very hard to make students aware

of the threat of swine flu. An official letter has been sent home instructing parents to keep their children home if they are not feeling well. Furthermore, our superintendent, Dr. Padalino, advised us all to wash our hands frequently, cough or sneeze into our sleeves and, most importantly, stay home if we are sick.

If you have a fever or high temperature and two or more of the following symptoms, you may have swine flu: unusual tiredness, headache, runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath or cough, loss of appetite, aching muscles, diarrhea, or vomiting.



WATERVLIET JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

1245 Hillside Drive
Watervliet, NY
12189

629-3200
Advisor: Mr. Snyder
msnyder@vliet.neric.org
www.watervlietcityschools.org



EDITORIAL

SHOULD SAT'S BE REQUIRED FOR COLLEGE?

BY DESIREE HOLLAND

Just about every college requires SAT scores, which means if you want to go to college, you have to pay the \$45 fee, practice as much as possible, and take the test. Usually, with the test comes a huge amount of pressure and stress. If you don't do well, you risk not getting into your first choice college. Some students even pay to take classes that will help them to be even more prepared for the test.

I asked fifty students, some in high school and some out, if they think colleges should require SAT scores, and every person responded "no." Some of the college students I spoke to didn't get into the school they dreamed of attending because their scores were too low, yet their grades in high school were high and they were active in sports and activities. Is this fair?

Should there be such an importance placed on these tests? I don't think so. I don't believe you can tell what kind of student one is or how smart a student is by taking one test. Some people cave under pressure, and there is a lot of pressure in trying to finish 20 questions in 25 minutes. As a student, when taking any test, I like to take my time and review all of my answers carefully, but that is not possible with this test. Therefore, the SAT favors those that are quick thinkers and fast test-takers.

I don't believe this test is a fair requirement for college acceptance. It seems more like a business than anything else. This test has the potential to hurt your college chances, lower your self-esteem, and take your money.

DEAR PHOEBE

I'm not a loner and I have friends. I suffer from depression and anxiety. I am on medication and go to counseling, but for the past month I have been severely depressed to the point where I can no longer talk to anyone about what is bothering me. I am having a lot of problems right now and I don't know what to do. Please Help!

Depressed and Confused

Depressed and Confused,

This is the hardest entry I have gotten so far and I've given this much thought. I say you should continue with counseling, even if it is only helping a little or not at all. Also, you

should try to talk to your friends about this. Sometimes it is easier to talk to our friends. The fact that you have friends means that there are some qualities about you that people like. The fact that you are asking for help is a step in the right direction. Why not take some time to sit by yourself and think about what specific issues you are having and then write them down so you can then address them with your counselor?

I really hope you are able to see your qualities and focus on your positive traits. As difficult as it may be to talk about our problems, it is always better than keeping everything bottled-up inside.

Dear Phoebe is an advice column for all students. In each edition of the Chronicle, one question will be selected and answered. To submit your questions, write them down and place them in the box in room 203.

Halloween Flix by James Valentin

A favorite Halloween tradition is watching scary movies. Recently, though, anyone who wants to watch a good vampire movie has a very limited selection from which to choose.

I recommend *30 Days of Night*: This is an intense vampire film about an isolated Alaskan town that is shrouded in darkness when the sun sinks below the horizon for a month. This is a brutally gory movie that puts little "teenie-bopper" vampire movies like *Twilight* to shame. Honestly, what kind of vampires sparkle in the sun? I am sick of this emo vampire-kid craze where every vampire falls in love with some emo girl. Vampires don't date humans, they EAT them.