

Fall/Winter 2019-2020 WCS Alumni Newsletter

Willsboro Alumni Association
% Valerie Daniels
27 Carver Lane
Keeseville, NY 12994
www.willsboroalumni.org
Facebook: WillsboroAlumniFriends

The mission of the Willsboro Alumni Association is to create, maintain, enhance and promote Willsboro Central School and its students; to unite, inform and involve alumni and friends in fellowship and support of education.

2019-2020 WAA OFFICERS

President
Sue (Collins) Thompson '84 suema1965@gmail.com
Vice President
Kyli Swires kyliswires1994@gmail.com
Secretary
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Doug Ferris '76 dferris@zebratechllc.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Janice (Calkins) Allen '51 allens@willex.com
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Shirley (Strong) Ferris '56 phillipss1016@hotmail.com
Dick Blanchard '57 richmad1937@willex.com
Jane (Feltt) Reynolds '65 jreynolds392@comcast.net

The Willsboro Alumni Association recognizes ALL who have, at any time, attended Willsboro Central School or its District Schools and anyone who has been a teacher at WCS, as a member of the Willsboro Alumni Association. To become a member of the Willsboro Alumni Association, go to www.willsboroalumni.org and click on "Join" or send a note to Jane Reynolds, 115 Kylie's Way, Colchester, VT, 05446 with your name, postal address and email address, if available.

The Willsboro Alumni Association charges NO membership fee and relies on donations from its members to carry out its mission, maintain its website and to help support the annual Alumni Banquet. You can make a donation by sending a check to:

*Willsboro Alumni Association
C/O Valerie Daniels, Treasurer
27 Carver Lane, Keeseville, NY, 12944*

Or make a donation by using Paypal or your Credit Card on our website:

www.willsboroalumni.org

Just click on "Donations"

AND NOW FOR THE NEWS

THE PREZ SEZ.....

Another WAA year has gone by! I made it through my first year as President! I even made it through my day as Mistress of Ceremony at the Annual Banquet! It was a pleasure to see so many Alumni, especially the Ladies of 1949, enjoy getting together, reminiscing and just having fun!

The current Alumni Officers and Board continue to make our Agenda work! But, we are always looking for new Alumni to join us. There is definitely a need for more Board Members. If we are to do more for the students and staff of WCS, we MUST have more active Board members. All Alumni are welcome to attend any Board meeting. Check our Facebook Page for meeting schedules. Contact members for more information.

Your continued support of the WAA is appreciated. If possible, please attend our events! If not, check them out on our Website or Facebook Page. I look forward to being part of the 3rd Annual Ralph Marcotte Basketball Tournament, the Book Reward Program, the Spread the Warmth Project, the 2020 Alumni Banquet and any other events that we may dream up this year!

Thanks for your support! Sue Collins Thompson, Prez

WCS SUPERINTENDENT SEZ.....

The 2019-2020 school year is off to a great start! Our students were welcomed back on the first day with all of our staff waiting for them on the sidewalk cheering them on as they stepped off the bus and into the building that morning. Our buildings and grounds staff did an excellent job and our classrooms and hallways were shiny and clean as teachers and students arrived this fall.

There are several new initiatives this year that are having a positive impact on both our students and our school community. A full-time school resource officer (SRO) has joined our school community. Deputy Kaycee Kolodzey is employed by the Essex County Sheriff's Department, but is on our campus full-time. She has already started to make positive connections to students, staff, and families. Her position ensures that we have an increased safety presence as she is both a trained law enforcement officer as well as a certified EMT. In addition to the increased safety presence she provides, Deputy Kaycee also works with students in many ways, including going into classrooms and teaching students about a variety of topics.

Another new program that started this fall is the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which provides free meals to all students. This federal grant program allows us to ensure that all students, regardless of income level, receive free breakfast and lunch daily. So far this year, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of meals served, and know that many more students are now being fed healthy nutritious meals to help them learn better at school.

This year, we have many new faces at WCS. Ms. Michaela Comes (1st Grade), Ms. Molly Rascoe (Special Education), Mr. Kade Sewell (Special Education), Mrs. Erin Rasco (Science), Mr. Travis King (Cafeteria Manager), and Mrs. Allison Sucharzewski (Treasurer) have all joined our school this year. All of our new staff members have been positive additions to our school community.

Last spring, we said goodbye to two long-time WCS employees. Ms. Sheila Vanags and Mrs. Lorilee Sheehan have both started their very well-deserved retirement this year after many great years of service to our school district.

Thank you to the WCS Alumni Association for your continued support of our students and our school community! I look forward to sharing more updates this spring.

Justin Gardner, Superintendent

HERE'S WHAT IS COMING UP IN 2019-2020:

1. *3rd ANNUAL RALPH MARCOTTE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
March.....Dates and more information to be released soon.*
2. *SLIDING/SKATING PARTY.....February/Weather Permitting*
3. *BOOK READING REWARD PROGRAM.....WAA gives kids who read gift certificates for their participation. Contact Lorilee Sheehan for more info.*
4. *"SPREAD THE WARMTH PROJECT" Provides HATS AND MITTENS to any student! Donate new or gently used hats and mittens, so that our kids will be cozy and warm on the playground!!
Do you knit or crochet?
If so, here's the perfect place to donate.
Drop off at School...or
Contact Kyli Swires, VP
kyli.swires@willsborocsd.org
518-963-4456 WCS*
5. *Anything else we can think of! Any Ideas? Please share with us.....we are listening!!!*

WILLSBOROALUMNI.ORG AND FACEBOOK-WILLSBOROALUMNIFRIENDS

By now you probably know that the Willsboro Alumni Association has a Website (www.willsboroalumni.org) and a Facebook Group Page (WillsboroAlumniFriends). If you have not checked these out, please do! If you do not have access to the Internet, ask someone who does to share these sites with you! On the FB Page, you will enjoy seeing the photos of WCS Alumni-then and now! Also, lots of neat things are posted about events sponsored by the Town, the Boosters Club, the School or the WAA. On the Website, you can see all Alumni names listed and you can read current and past Newsletters, sign up to join, donate, or sign up and pay to attend the Banquet.

Both the Website and the Facebook Page keep the WCS Alumni connected! Here is an example of that connection; Please read the following letter, posted on Facebook/WillsboroAlumniFriends. Over 60 Alumni posted a comment and 100 Alumni viewed this post. This is what the Facebook Page is all about....Connections!

From Cherie Wright, daughter of Alum, Linda Balwochus Wright ('69).....

"I wanted to write and say thank you. I was recently accepted as a member of your group in honor of my late Mom Linda Alice Balwochus (Wright), Willsboro Central School Class of 1969.....My dear mama passed away in 1992. Before her death, she and my family including her parents John and Alice Balwochus who some of you may have known, lived in Centerville, TN, near Nashville. She worked in the advertising/newspaper business which she was really terrific at. In fact she told me often how proud she was to win the award for best business student when she graduated! I am sure her background and education helped her to be successful. I enjoyed seeing the pictures from what would have been her 50th class reunion. Mom spoke often of many of her classmates and friends quite fondly and showed me her yearbook many times. I know she would have loved seeing you all! Mom adored her hometown and school days. Even though she moved south, part of her heart was still "up north". I am positive her experiences made her the wonderful lady and mother she was. I really look forward to following your page... "

WILLSBORO ALUMNI BANQUET

The 2019 WAA Banquet was held for the 3rd year at Harmony Golf Club in Port Kent, NY. This year's Banquet celebrated the 25th year of the current Willsboro Alumni Association. (There was an Alumni Association that existed in the late 40's and 50's.)

125 persons attended, 86 of them WCS Alumni! It was a fun event, led by our President, Sue Collins Thompson. The weather was great and we all enjoyed the nice summer day?? We celebrated with lots of great food, including a delicious birthday cake! There was a large display of old yearbooks and lots of old Willsboro Central School memorabilia, courtesy of Town Historian, Ron Bruno. Joe Ferris drew some great caricatures and Ramelie Reithel took some wonderful photos. Our annual Banquet Raffle was, once again, a success. Thanks to all who donated items for the Raffle and to those who bought tickets.

One of the highlights of the Banquet was the introduction of the "Ladies of the Class of 1949," whom have attended most of the WAA Banquets together at the same table! They were each presented with a rose to celebrate their 70th High School Reunion. And it is always a delight to have in attendance Mr. Richard Connor, member of the Class of 1943 and one of the youngest ever to graduate from WCS. Mr. Connor has indeed attended all of the Alumni Banquets! (Read about Mr. Connor @willsboroalumnifriends)

The Class of 1969 was well represented as they celebrated their 50th WCS Class Reunion. It sounded like they had a lot of fun reminiscing and catching up! They were very excited that their Swedish exchange student classmate, Karin Sjokvist, made the trip from Sweden to celebrate! And, at the conclusion of the Banquet, their classmate, Fr. Alfred Fish, made a surprise visit.

The members of the Class of 1959 who attended enjoyed their time together. Their question??? Where have 60 years gone?

NOW.....TO THE 2020 WCS ALUMNI BANQUET.....

According to a survey filled out by Alumni who attended the 2019 Banquet, 100% of you liked Harmony Golf Club and did not want to change the venue. Most of you did not want to change the date.....SO.....

The only dates Harmony has open for 2020 that will accommodate our Banquet requirements are on Sundays. After much discussion, the Board has decided to go with it! Our 2020 Alumni Banquet will be held Sunday, June 28, 2020.

Look for more information on our Website, our Facebook Page and in the 2020 Spring/Summer Newsletter.

CLASS CONTACTS

If you are a Class Contact. PLEASE update your classmate's information and email Jane Feltt Reynolds with changes. jreynolds392@comcast.net This is the only way we will continue to have a current, accurate database of WCS Alumni.

IN CLOSING....

As always, the Willsboro Alumni Association Board thanks you for your continued support. Your generous donations and participation enable our organization to keep serving Willsboro Central School and the Willsboro community.

TO ALL ALUMNI, NEAR AND FAR:

May you all have a wonderful holiday season! Stay safe, be well and enjoy life to its fullest.....

*Willsboro Alumni Association
Jane Reynolds
115 Kylie's Way
Colchester, VT 05446*