

SPRING 2021 WCS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
www.willsboroalumni.org

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

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 or staff at WCS, as a member of the Willsboro Alumni Association.

2021 WAA Officers

<i>President</i>	<i>Sue (Collins) Thompson '84</i>	<i>suema1965@gmail.com</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Kyli Swires 2013</i>	<i>kyli.swires@willsborocsd.org</i>
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<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Valerie (Wells) Daniels '82</i>	<i>sissy8252@gmail.com</i>
<i>Immediate Past President</i>	<i>Doug Ferris '76</i>	<i>dferris@zebratechllc.com</i>

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<i>Dick Blanchard '57</i>	<i>richmad1937@willex.com</i>
<i>Jane (Feltt) Reynolds '65</i>	<i>jreynolds392@comcast.net</i>
<i>Larry Allen '79</i>	<i>willsboro@willex.com</i>
<i>Sandy Gardner Delong '92</i>	<i>sandygardner@yahoo.com</i>

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

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

*(Or by using PayPal or your Credit Card on our website: www.willsboroalumni.org
Just click on "Donations")*

THE PREZ SEZ.....

Another year has come and gone! What a year it was! 2019 and 2020 were certainly a challenge for all of us. I think the Covid-19 era proved that we are a country, a community, a school, etc. who could come together and do what was the best thing for all. It is so sad that so many families were adversely affected with the loss of loved ones, jobs, and a sense of normalcy. But how great that most of us were willing to wear masks, stay home and quarantine when necessary. And how wonderful that scientists were able to develop a vaccine so quickly, coordinate its delivery and are helping us to get our lives back to the new normal.

Our schools, including Willsboro Central School, were amazing throughout this pandemic. Teachers, principals, students and parents developed and carried out virtual learning and "zoom" has a new meaning!

I certainly look forward to resuming a more "normal" way of life, as I'm sure you all do, too!

Sending positive thoughts, good health and love to all WCS Alumni in the coming year!

Sue

IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE WAA COMMITTEE, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT ME.

ANNUAL BANQUET

As you have probably figured out by now....There will NOT be a 2021 Alumni Banquet.

This past year has certainly been a challenge for most of us. It was impossible to plan and reserve a venue with so many uncertainties in the world. And.....does anyone think it would be a good idea to put 100 old people (with masks) in the same room???

We will not be getting together this year, but are hoping and praying that Covid will let up its grip on our country and that we will all be vaccinated in the coming year and can be together in 2022.

As soon as we have a plan for 2022, we will let you know!

*Jane and Dick
Alumni Banquet Committee*

MR. GARDNER, WCS SUPERINTENDENT SEZ.....

The 2020-2021 school year has been unique in many ways and unlike any other in the history of Willsboro Central School. All of our students returned to daily in-person instruction this past fall after many modifications and adjustments were made to increase the health and safety of everyone on campus. Despite all of these changes and challenges, our entire school community pulled together to make the best of a difficult situation and persevered for the benefit of our students. Without the hard work and dedication of all our WCS employees, in addition to the patience and support from our parents and community partners, the success our students have had this year would not have been possible.

Despite the challenges described above, the school year has flown by at WCS! Our students have excelled in the classroom, on the stage, and in athletics. They continue to impress us with their hard work and accomplishments. We are preparing for the end of the year and look forward to all of our end of the year celebrations of achievement, including graduation. This year, graduation will be held on Friday, June 25th at 7:00 pm. The ceremony will have limited in-person attendance by invitation only due to COVID safety guidance but will be streamed live online for anyone that isn't able to attend.

This spring, a budget will be presented that reflects a 1.55% increase on the tax levy. This increase allows for all current instructional and extra-curricular programming to be maintained. We will be using some fund balance to remain within the required tax cap and believe that the proposed budget is educationally sound and also fiscally responsible. This budget also includes a small capital outlay project that will allow us to replace the fire alarm system in the main building.

This year, we have several employees retiring from WCS. Margie Jaquish and Randy Swires are retiring at the end of this school year and Laura Bridge retired this past January. Each of these long-time employees will be greatly missed by our students and staff. We thank them for their commitment and dedication to our school.

On behalf of the students and staff at WCS, I would like to thank the Alumni Association for their dedication to our students. We greatly appreciate all of the ways that you continue to support our school!

MIKE DOUGLAS, DEAN OF STUDENTS/ATHLETIC DIRECTOR SEZ.....

I would like to recognize ALL of our student-athletes (Fall, Winter, and Spring) who have gone above and beyond this school year to ensure that we are able to have as many athletics opportunities as possible. The responsibility and commitment to following the safety guidelines that the student-athletes have shown has been incredible. A special thank you to all the coaches, parents, and custodians who have also been tremendously helpful in making these opportunities possible.

A big congratulations goes out to Coach Spring and the Boys Varsity Basketball team on their MVAC Tournament Championship! The boys defeated Schroon Lake in the championship game by a score of 47-36. We look forward to the day when we are able to have fans attend all of our sporting events again!

Sign ups for sports for the 2021-2022 school year (grades 7-12) will go out next week. Please continue to encourage our students and their families to consider signing up for sports! One of the biggest challenges schools our size are facing are getting enough kids to sign up for sports to maintain their teams.

Go Warriors!

TO THE CLASS OF 1970 and 1971:

Congratulations on your 50th year from graduating from Willsboro Central School! Where has the time gone?? At the 2022 Alumni Banquet, we will celebrate you all! If any of you would like to plan a 50th Class Reunion and need a list of your classmates, please contact me. (jreynolds392@comcast.net)

TO ALL CLASS CONTACTS:

NOW is a great time to update your class list!! If you will all do your job, it makes mine a lot easier and we won't lose track of our WCS Alumni. Thanks.

Jane Feltt Reynolds (jreynolds392@comcast.net)

LET'S CELEBRATE THE 2021 WCS SENIOR CLASS

Please welcome the Class of 2021 to the Willsboro Alumni Association! Even though Covid-19 seems to be getting under control, social distancing continues. Let's do our part to make graduation for the WCS Class of 2021 a "time to remember" and send them our best wishes!

Please ADOPT a senior from this year's Willsboro Central School graduating class and HONOR THEM WITH A CARD OR MESSAGE ON FACEBOOK (WillsboroAlumniFriends) to let them know "We are all in this together!"

Post your Congratulation on Facebook or send your card(s) to your "adopted" Senior to:

Kyli Swires, PO Box 808, Peru, NY, 12972. She will deliver the mail to them!

*Kyle Jacques-Britton
Taylor Spear
Regan Arnold
Brenon Farney
Jade Phinney
Stephen Leibeck
Nicholas Reithel
Devin Meachem
Desiree Cassavaugh*

*Trenton King
Hunter King
Robby Drollette
Myah Green
Robert McShane
Brady Sweatt
Chase Souza
Jacob Flora*

NEWSWORTHY

The Willsboro Central School is thrilled to be the recipient of three Cooperman Rope/Tension Drums. The donation was organized by William G. James, on behalf of the Aiken's Volunteers Fife and Drum Core. The drums, consisting of a large bass drum, a large snare drum and a child size drum, have a value of about \$1,875. William is on the lookout for fifes and plans to also donate them to WCS.

For many years, WCS students, faculty and board members played in the Drum Corp. To name a few...some of the ones who played were Antonia Ballard, Andrea Robare, Fred Hudson, Marion James, William G. James, Tom Spierto and Susan Barnes.

IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT US

June 2020-May 10, 2021

"When someone you know becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure."

Lorraine Singleton	Shawn Gay '92
Michael Blaise '74	Robert Murphy '88
George Ori, Jr. '62	Roger Crowningshield '66
Roy Rodenhiser '64	Harvey Lobdell '65
Robert Jacques '68	Dirk Jaquish '76
Russell Mason	Russell Morgan '80
Marilyn Hoskins '64	Roger Sharrow '58
Michael Lacey '72	Aaron Young '79
Darryl Rabideau '85	Steve Cross '69
Jim Cushing	Theresa Cushing Knaupp '45
Etta "Toots" Moynan '59	Doris Sullivan (Faculty)
Ann Choate (Faculty)	Kent Cauley (Principal)
Patrick Wells 2011	

Doug Ferris' Tribute to Mr. Kent Cauley.....

Sad to hear of the passing of one of those Few Good Men from Willsboro. Some are born and raised here, and some choose to be here. This man arrived c. 1972 by choice. He hailed from Carthage fresh from his GI Bill stint in the Marine Corps, and was tapped by then Principal Barnes, who was being overwhelmed at Willsboro Central (WCS) trying to fill Ralph Marcotte's shoes, to be Vice Principal.

The void left by Ralph was huge, and timing was critical, the Baby Boom was peaking and drugs had worked their way into the North Country. After one year of training wheels, Kent F. Cauley was left holding the bag, so-to-speak, as Mr. Barnes resigned and left the strapping, grimacing Marine in charge.

Mr. Cauley stayed at WCS as Principal for one of the longest tenures, if not THE longest tenure in WCS history. Furthermore, in leading the school from the early 70s to the early 90s, he manned the helm during the time when the "Old School" had the most kids ever packed into its environs (main building, old bank building and bus garage), 651 (1975 -76); AND he oversaw the graduation of the largest class ever, 68 Seniors (1980).

His tenure saw WCS excel academically, interscholastically, musically, and socially. He and his wife, Linda, raised their two boys here, and amongst other achievements built a successful sugarbush, a cadre of lifelong friends, and an indelible stamp on thousands of children...who are better people for it.

TO ALL NEAR AND FAR.....

As always, the Willsboro Alumni Association Board THANKS you for your continued support which enables this organization to keep serving Willsboro Central and the Willsboro community. Without your donations, we can not provide for the kids and staff at Willsboro Central School!

**PLEASE HAVE A SAFE AND HEALTHY SUMMER!
WE PLAN TO SEE YOU ALL FOR THE 2022 ALUMNI BANQUET.....**

WAA Committee

I would love to make a donation!

\$ _____

*Send a check for donation to Valerie Daniels, 27 Carver Road,
Keeseville, NY, 12944 or Donate Online with PayPal or credit card @
www.willsboroalumni.org*

I would like to join the Committee _____