

WCS Welcomes Peer Empowerment

Students at Willsboro Central School have set their sights on making a difference.

Peer Empowerment Leaders are leading the way at WCS.

Last spring, WCS began collaborating with Tom Bull and the staff of Building Resiliency in Essex County Families (BRIEF).

The program develops a school-district-wide, adult-guided peer-run, positive school culture utilizing an initiative designed to promote peer connection through community and contribution.

Known as PSET (Positive School Environment Team), a mix of sophomores, juniors, and seniors have volunteered to be student advocates that provide a framework for inclusion and acceptance into pre-existing programs and school community events and activities.

Eren Ashline, Gavin Bessette, Cole Gay, Ashton Hathaway, Gavin Hathaway, Syllas LaFerriere, Tess Lobdell, Bradie Morgan, Raegan Morgan, Laney Nolette, Kailye Pfund, and Julia Valachovic are the WCS Peer Empowerment Leaders.

“We have such a small school that it needs to be a community, and we want everyone together and involved in those group events whether it be pep rallies, sports, clubs, or music,” Laney said. “Whatever it may be, we just want everyone to be involved.”

The Peer Empowerment Leaders follow the #RUTH method — Respect, Understanding, Trust, and Honesty.

These four core values have instilled



WCS Peer Empowerment Leaders include (back row from left to right) Ashton Hathaway, Cole Gay, Syllas LaFerriere, Julia Valachovic, Bradie Morgan, (front row from left to right) Gavin Hathaway, Kailye Pfund, Laney Nolette, Raegan Morgan, Tess Lobdell, Eren Ashline, and Gavin Bessette (not pictured).

the proper mindset for each one of them to have a voice and lead the way.

“We are about making this a community and helping others and making everyone understood and accepted,” Eren said.

This school year is all about building a foundation for the future. Last spring, Mr. Bull met with students and faculty to explain the work ahead. As this school year began, the work continued.

“It has been great getting to know this group of student volunteers who have come forward to initiate this work,” WCS Principal Sarah Paquette said. “I have loved to work closely with this group of students. They have great ideas.”

Eren and Kailye used the word unified to describe the work they are doing.

“It’s important that we are all together and create this unity, so when the little kids come up to middle school and high school, these great things we are working on now are in place and part of the everyday routines at Willsboro,” Kailye said.

Gavin Hathaway hopes the PSET work leads to improved academic assistance and sports culture.

Both Gavin and Cole said it’s important their work motivates other students.

“After we graduate, it will be great to come back and see this work in

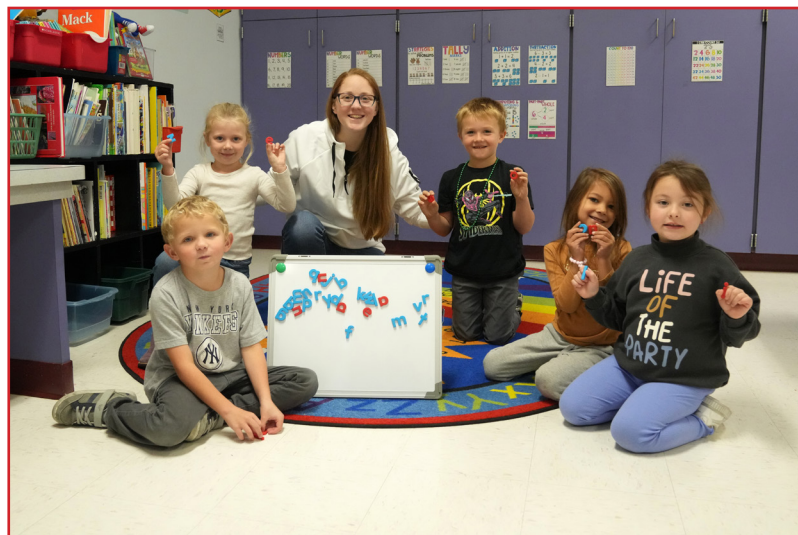
See PSET, Page 2

ParentSquare Updates Available to Community

As a member of the Willsboro CSD community, we welcome and encourage you to join our community updates group on ParentSquare. This group will be used to provide information and updates to members of our school community who are not already enrolled in ParentSquare as students, parents, guardians or staff members. If you already have a ParentSquare account as a parent or staff member, you do not need to sign up for this group. Topics of information that will be sent out include updates on things happening on campus, budget information, board meeting agendas and school event information.

Signing Up for ParentSquare Community Updates

Signing up for community updates is quick and easy. Use the following link or QR Code to get started: bit.ly/WCScommunityupdates



**SCAN HERE TO
SIGN UP FOR
COMMUNITY
UPDATES**



Don't forget to complete the free lunch form here! We rely on this information to assure we receive proper grant funding and can continue to provide free, healthy and nutritious meals for our students every day. Scan the QR code here to complete this form.

PSET, Continued from Page 1

motion and students actively making things better for everyone," Cole said.

As the year continues and plans begin to be implemented, students are motivated to see change and continue

to build upon the already existing positive environment at WCS.

Whether it be increased peer-to-peer interaction, increased after-school activities, or enhanced classroom work, the PSET Team has

high aspirations.

"The PSET initiative is about working with the students to help move the culture and climate here at WCS in the right direction" Principal Paquette said.

Wolfpack Gatherings Start WCS Mornings

Each day at Willsboro Central School starts with new energy and offers students a chance to acclimate to a positive school environment.

As students walk through the doors of WCS each day, they head to the auditorium for the Wolfpack Gathering.

As an alternative to traditional morning announcements, the Wolfpack Gathering allows students the chance to socialize in the morning and listen to the latest news of the school in a structured setting.

“This is a great way to kick off the day for both the older and younger students,” Grace Hamilton said. “It’s a time to adjust to school and get yourself in the right mindset each day. It’s nice to have a positive thing like this in your school life.”



Willsboro students and staff stand to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

On Monday through Thursday, students are instructed to enter the auditorium in a calm and collected manner to get themselves set for the day.

On Fridays, they can let

loose a little bit more.

Younger students are usually breaking out their best dance moves in the front row as they dance along to some of the latest music and dance steps

being shown on the drop screen on stage.

Meanwhile, everyone is getting ready for a good Friday to wrap up the school week on a high note.

Lillian Pike and Kierstin Brown both said it’s beneficial to bring the whole school together each day to get students ready for the day and elevate their energy.

“People pay more attention here than if we were just in our classrooms listening to the morning announcements,” Lilly Santillo said.

Mackenzie Cain also mentioned how there’s a new sense of student pride when they can discuss different school activities and provide sports updates.



From left to right, Kierstin Brown, MacKenzie Cain, Grace Hamilton, Lilly Santillo and Lillian Pike said they all are enjoying the new Wolfpack Gatherings.

See WPACK, Page 4



WPACK , Continued from Page 3

"I love it because it gives me a good sight line of how students are starting off their day and if a student may need something before they head to class," WCS Principal Sarah Paquette said.

"It's a great spot to get a quick glance of everything as a principal, and we really wanted to give students that positive experience every morning to start their day."

The quartet of Natalie McLaughlin, Anna Conley, Ava Leibeck, and Abigail Kaleita all said the Wolfpack Gatherings have led to more school spirit, time to say hi to friends, and chances to learn what's happening in the entire school.

"I love coming to school every day a little bit more now because this is really fun when we get to be all together," Anna said. "We're just like one big family."



From left to right, Natalie McLaughlin, Anna Conley, Ava Leibeck and Abigail Kaleita were ready to start their day following a Friday Wolfpack Gathering.

