



WILDCAT WOWS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4



4th Quarter- 2024

Western High School

Thank you!

The final issue of 'WILDCAT WOWS' for the 2023-2024 school year is here! The accomplishments shared here are only a small testament to the countless achievements our Wildcats reach daily. We look forward to returning in August to share the successes our Wildcats have made during summer. Until then, relax, recharge and remember, **GO WILDCATS!**

Senior of the month

The following seniors have been recognized for excelling in one or more of the following categories: academic achievement, personal character, leadership in school, motivation to succeed, civic & extracurricular activity, motivation to serve, and community service hours. Congratulations!

March: Olivia Kaplan

April: Ella Glassman

Science Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to **Ms. Simonton** on being recognized as our Science Teacher of the Year! Not only is an integral part to our science program but also spearheads our outstanding SGA.



Silver Knight

Silver Knight Finalists 2024



Honorable Mentions



GO WILDCATS!

The Miami Herald hosts the Silver Knight Awards to recognize the academic excellence and community service projects of South Florida high seniors in public and private schools.

Congratulations to the following:

Reo Gay- Silver Knight Winner
(Digital & Interactive Media)

Honorable Mention:
Kyle Bastos (General Scholarship)
Olivia Kaplan (Music & Dance)
Rachel Gatto (Social Science)
Mana Fisher (Speech)

SGA Accomplishments

At the Broward County Association of Student Council's Convention **Lily Reid** was elected the next President of Broward County Association of Student Councils for the 2024-2025 school year! **Landyn Spellberg** was also recognized for his work as the BCASC Webmaster for the 2023-2024 School year and congratulated again for his elected role as the Student Advisor to the School Board for the 2024-2025 School Year.



Western High's SGA was also recognized for the following:

- Gold Medallion Council of Excellence
- 2nd Place Faculty and Staff Relations: Staff Welcome Back Breakfast
- 3rd Place Membership Motivation: Tigertail Teambuilding Trip
- 3rd Place School Spirit: First Fridays

Congrats to all our SGA Wildcats, and SGA Advisor, Ms. Simonton for leading the way!

ART SHOW



The Fines Arts Department showcased all their students talents at are their annual Exhibition. Some of the pieces included an Eco-conscious Origami Mangrove, 3D Chinese Lantern renditions, sculptures and more. Stay creative Wildcats!

JROTC- Flag Retirement Ceremony

In honor of Memorial Day, the JROTC program hosted a "Flag Retirement Ceremony" on May 28th at the WHS Veterans Monument. The event honored our Nation's fallen heroes and ensured the honorable and dignified disposition of all unserviceable flags on our campus. **Well done, Lieutenant Colonel Johnson and all cadets involved, your efforts do not go unnoticed!**



Athletic Signing Day

Congratulations to the following **Wildcats athletes** for making their athletic scholarships official by signing their National Letter of Intent to continue playing their respective sport at the collegiate level:

Girls Basketball

- **Tamara Elliott**- Eastern Florida State College

Baseball

- **Mason Blocker**- Barry University
- **Aiden Andreu**- Santa Fe College
- **Tyler Jenkins**- Palm Beach State College
- **Geovani Escandon**- Southwestern Illinois College
- **AJ Bertsch**- Southwestern Illinois College
- **Jadyn Perez**- Volunteer State Community College

Wrestling

- **Omar Faris**- St. Thomas University

Coed Cheer

- **Zach Deveza**- University of South Florida

Voter Registration

The High School Voter Registration Drive was conducted on Tuesday, April 2 where students who are citizens of the United States, and aged 16 and older were invited to come to the Media Center to receive information and instructions for voter registration. This event aims to increase voter registration among the youth and ensure our students are prepared to participate in future elections as soon as they are 18 years old. Kudos to **Ms. Spicer** for organizing this monumental event!



Achievements in the ARTS



Representative Debbie Wasserman Shultz awarded Best Acrylic Painting to our very own, **Alexandra Mercedes!**

SENIOR PROM



Class of 2024 enjoyed "A Night Under the Stars" at the Marriott Harbor Beach Resort. The night was filled with lots of dancing and fun, ending with the crowning of our **Prom King (Joel Cortes)** and **Queen (Elly Kaderabeck)**. Thank you to the **SGA Senior Class** officers for planning such a memorable night!

STATE CHAMPS



Western High's **Softball Team** are **Class 7A STATE Champions!** Our Lady Wildcats defeated Seminole High 2-0 to take home the state title. **Congratulations to the coaches and players on this monumental accomplishment- we are beyond proud of you!**

TRACK & FIELD Champions



Congratulations to Western High Boys Track & Field! **Our Boys 4x400 placed 4th overall at States! Way to go Federico Meneses, Omar Suarez-Davis, Diego Tkachenko, and Jeshua Ruskin!**

Battle of the Books Champs



Western High School won the 18th Annual Broward County High Schools Battle of the Books on April 17th- earning 1st place out of 13 high schools!

Congratulations to **Jadyn Harrison, Anh Nguyen, Natalia Lopez Villegas, and Yanella Fernandez Teusen**, we are so proud!

FSPA State Convention Winners

After returning from the 2024 State Journalism Convention in Orlando, our Wildcats are bringing home some awards:

2023 Yearbook Staff: ALL-FLORIDA Yearbook & SUNSHINE STANDOUT award

ALL-FLORIDA:

- **Madelyn Goraczko**- (Student Life Spread)
- **Caroline Walsh**- (Sports Profile x 2)

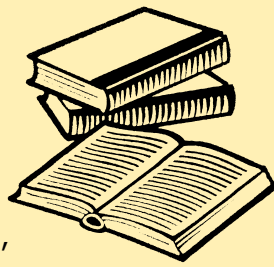
EXCELLENT

- **Sanaiya Pinnock**- (General Feature Story x 3 & Yearbook Copy)
- **Alexis Pesquera**- (Yearbook Copy)
- **Caroline Walsh**- (Feature Photography, Sports Game Coverage & Yearbook Copy)
- **Madelyn Goraczko**- (Student Life Spread)
- **Aaysia Williams**- (Review Writing)

HONORABLE MENTION

- **Taaliyah Bacchus**- (Academics/Organizations Photography)
- **Jaden Delerme**- (Campus News Story)
- **Nayamari Novoa**- (Review Writing)
- **Bianka Vassaux**- (Academics/Organizations Photography)
- **Alexis Pesquera**- (Non-student Profile)
- **Sanaiya Pinnock**- (Campus News Story, Non-student profile & Feature story)
- **Caroline Walsh**- (Sports Action Photography & Sports Reaction Photo)
- **Ashley Smith**- (Sports News/Feature Story)
- **Caroline Walsh**- (Sports Reaction Photo, Campus News Story, Academics/Organizations Photography & Non-student Personality Portrait)

Literary Fair



Out of 850 total entries at the District Literary Fair competition, these seven students won top placements! Congratulations to the following:

1st place:

Sierra Mercado Hamm- Poem for 2 Voices
Isabella Pardo- Fable
Ella Glassman- Informal Essay

2nd place:

Hoda Barakat- Rhymed Verse Poem

3rd place:

Sierra Mercado Hamm- Cinquain
Samuel Figueroa- Poetry Interpretation Poster
Stefan Zbant- Myth
Chailyn Fagundes-Hyde- Ekphrastic Poem

Teacher Appreciation Week



The Wildcat community came together to show appreciation for our teachers in a number of ways- including, sweets treats, thoughtful letters, and delicious meals. A **special shoutout to PTSA, SGA, Peer Counseling, Administration and ALL the clubs** who assisted in making Teacher Appreciation week one to remember.



Soak The Teacher



SGA's 1st annual Soak The Teacher event, was a huge success! Congratulations to **Mrs. Fisikelli** for raising the most funds. She was awarded the GOLDEN BUCKET and a \$50 Publix gift card. Can't wait to see who wins next year!

SECME Club

The Western High School SECME Team took first place overall in the county- Congratulations to all!

Electrical Generator:

1st place- Maurizio Bettoli, Hugo Ryan, and Zachary Skalberg

2nd place- Andrew Marino, Stefan Zbant, Gatlin Hames, and Patrick Pearse

1st place- 9th & 10th grade Bridge Category- **Nathan Magandal, Christopher Lachaviec, and Kaden Warren**

1st place- Bionic Hand Competition- **Yaakov Berman and Zachary Skalberg**

1st place- Water Bottle Rocket Competition- **Alexander Valencia, Louis Dalcomune, Christopher Ryan, and Crutchley M'Cayle**

2nd place- Mousetrap Race Car Competition- **Yaakov Berman and Zachary Skalberg**

The Water Bottle Rocket Winners and Mousetrap Race Car Winners will be continuing the competition at the national level.

A huge shout out goes to the phenomenal teachers that made this happen- **Mr. Craw, Mr. Barbu, and Ms. Wehrell.**



WOW Worthy Wildcats



Throughout 4th quarter, many of our Wildcats have been recognized by their peers for going above and beyond! Take a look at our students and staff who have made an impact in our school community.

As always, it's great to be a WILDCAT!

Students

Alan Hubert
Amaria Flukers
Andres Sanchez
Andrew Marino
Angelo Iannella
Asina Matafaci
Austin Gains
Ava Bisset
Conner Downer
Dante Gil
Darian Ramdhan
Emilio Herrera
Gabriel Dominguez
Gabriel Pacheco
Jairo Ferrin
Jordyn Masseria
Jose Amaya

Kassidy Bernero
Kimberly Tengeres
Manuela Romero Velez
Mislen Guerrero
Moises Cancon Sanchez
Neha Pillai
Nicolas Ramirez
Patrick Barker
Rolph Saintil
Roneiry Perozo
Samuel Figueredo
Sebastian Prado
Siria Rivas
Sofia Fuentes
Valentina Robles
Valentina Tovar
Valentino Santomaggio
Yoel Veloso

Staff

Adina Gelnowski
Alissa Elensweig-David
Alyssa Jackson
Amy Oppy
Belasario
Bonnie Robinson
Brett Williams
Chef Frank
Chef Todd
Cindy Depanticis
Cindy Fritz

Enma Leyva
Ginger Viola
Hector Rivera
Kylie Simonton
Laurie Jackerson
Lisa Mitrani
Maria Amaral
Melissa Falco Diaz
Nicole Lombardi
Oliver Black
Ryaad Dinally

STUDENTS & TEACHERS CAUGHT BEING GREAT!



"**Adina Gelnowski** truly cares about the safety of our campus and she is constantly holding the students accountable for their whereabouts during the school day. She is also very nice and very friendly! She does a lot for the well being of our school."

"There is no other person who literally plants the seeds and nurtures growth than **Brett Williams**. He has led his students breeding carp and turtles, germinating spices, recreating the landscaping on campus, flower arranging and supporting all school events requiring ornamentation are only a few representations of his collaboration with students and Western High School."

"In ceramics class, **Austin Gains** always volunteers to help with anything that needs to be done without being asked. Often, students don't enjoy doing the "dirty jobs", however, Austin doesn't mind. He is respectful, kind, and an all-around A+ student!.

"**Dante Gil** always gives an extra hand to help in the media or anyone with any task, always polite and well mannered."

"**Emilio Herrera** always gives his best in everything he does. 100% helping hand to the BRACE club and Ms. Hernandez. Always a smile and a hello to all his teachers!"

"As a new member of the staff, **Mrs. Falco-Diaz** made the trip down to Pace High School to support our Beach Volleyball Team. The players and I were excited to have her there and very much appreciate the effort!"

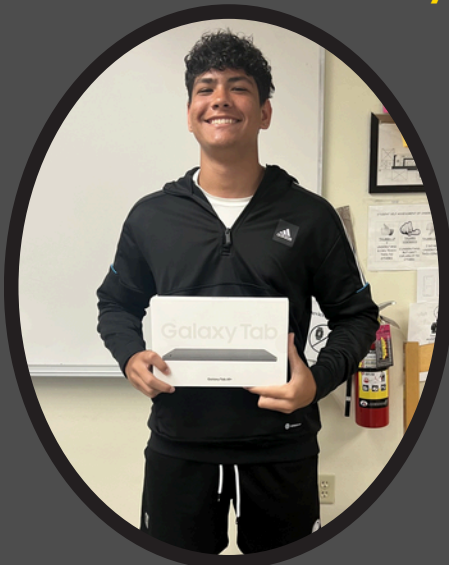
THANK YOU

This years Wildcat WOW celebrations could not have been possible without our collaboration with SAC and PTSA! Their unwavering support to ensuring academic excellence and positive behaviors is without a doubt a testament to the amazing Wildcat family we have.

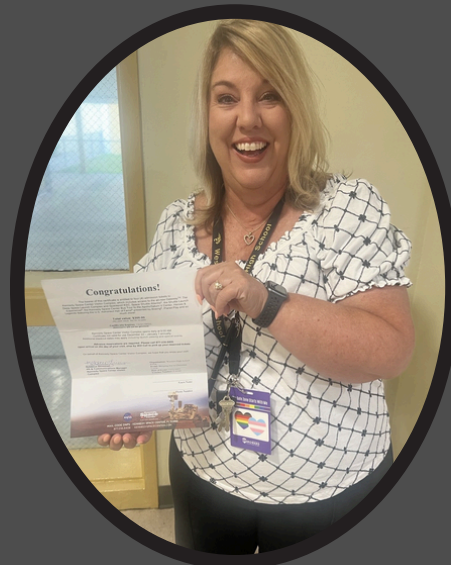
With their support WOW Worthy students each quarter were placed into a drawing to receive Wireless headphones. Additionally, at the end of the year they were placed in a drawing to received a tablet. Teachers who were nominated as WOW Worthy were placed into a drawing for a family 4 pack to Kennedy Space Center.



1st quarter: **Jeremias Bascur**, 2nd quarter: **Rebecca Hoard**, 3rd quarter: **Anthony Reguer** 4th quarter: **Dante Gil**



Student: **Osniel Rodriguez**



Teacher: **Amy Oppy**