
WOLVERINE PRESS

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NEWS & FEATURES

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Winning or Losing?

By Sean Burns Jr.

The Woodside varsity football team has won the majority of their games this season, but many people believe that these teams are merely warm up games for tougher opponents. The real question is, can they beat the good teams, and if not, what is the reason they are losing to them?

I've talked to players that say that this year's Woodside Wolverine varsity team is not as good as past seasons but some players say this year's team is very good. Basically some players are used to being on a better team, so they don't like this team, but others are just fine with the team's performance. There are also suggestions that the best players are not on the field, and are in fact on the sidelines. I also asked the players about their winning record and many of them said that the team will get better after each game. "If we had had better practices we would play better." said one of the players.

It is definitely a mystery how they will finish the season, Woodside students can only hope for a winning record. The team is currently 4-1, which gives positive thought about the team moving forward. The season is not over yet, and we will see what the football team will end the season with, and if they make the playoffs.

COVID-19 vs. the Field Hockey Team

By Isabella Monge

What hits harder, the field hockey girls' sticks or COVID-19? Covid has struck the field hockey team, and this could possibly be detrimental for their season.

Everything was going well for the field hockey team in the first half of the 2021 season. The team was working hard at practice, and they worked even harder in games. As they were preparing to take on their second half of the season, covid came around and messed everything up. As we all know, covid has been spreading like a wildfire since schools opened back up, which isn't good news for the student athletes.

Woodside's field hockey team was forced to undergo a two week quarantine after their covid case was announced. This meant no practice, no games, and no team bonding during this time. Being in quarantine put the team at a serious disadvantage compared to the other teams they would play against once their quarantine was over. While Woodside's field hockey team was out, all of the other field hockey teams were practicing and gaining experience from games.

COVID-19 vs. the Field Hockey Team Continued

Senior and varsity captain Angel Drake had some mixed feelings on the whole quarantine situation. "Quarantine, I believe, has brought the team closer together and improved our skills. The small groups are becoming bigger ones. Also, everyone has mastered a new skill, whether it's driving or passing, they were better than before," Drake says. Drake reflects on how her team has improved, but she also addresses some negative aspects that can be fixed. Drake states, "However, we did have flaws, such as a drop in speed, which we will solve with time." Varsity captain Angel Drake will continue to work to improve with her team as they approach their last few weeks of the season.

Despite covid being a major set-back, not everything that came out of this situation was bad for the team. It allowed the girls to shake off the mid-season slumber and go back into the season with new energy and new light. The field hockey team was thrilled to be back at practice and fully motivated to play better.

During their first few days back at practice, the girls were given a chance to rekindle their skills and even learn some new skills. With senior night coming up and multiple games to go, Woodside's field hockey team is prepared to face the tasks on hand. Covid may have set them back two weeks, but the girls are prepared to do their best for the rest of the season!

The Football Team Who Will Make History

By Noah Scott

The football team this year will have to face some challenges that no other football team in history has ever had to deal with, as their situation is completely different compared to any other football season. As they play this sport they love so dearly, they need to be cautious and thoughtful about what they do at any given moment.

But at the same time, they really want to enjoy this sport they love and care about. The Woodside football team this year has worked hard to develop and form habits about how to handle the protocols involving the covid-19 precautions, although this year might not be the same as those previously mentioned, it will for sure not be forgotten by anyone.

High school football teams are going through many different trials, and things will probably be more tense due to all of these regulations, but I'm certain they will succeed in the end. The Wolverine football team has a lot on their mind this year involving covid, because they have to know what they need to do not just to protect themselves but also their friends and family.

For example, this year the football team might not be able to have a banquet as they usually do after a game. During the banquet, the football team celebrates their wins and they eat food and spend time celebrating with friends and family. This year they might not be able to do the banquet, but it's ok, because the students of Woodside will hear about their victories this year and we will make them feel like stars.

The Football Team Who Will Make History Continued

The football team this year also has scouts on their minds, but they're not sure that things are going to go as smoothly due to the many things that are happening to stop the spread of covid. There is also a potential that the football scouts from colleges may be limited, and that many of those who are on the team now will lose their chance to play on a college team. But who knows, this year is just starting and anything can happen at any given moment.

Personally, I think that this year for the football team will only get even more interesting, and while many good and bad things might happen, I'm sure this will only help them develop and become even more successful not just in this year of football, but in the many more years of football if they choose to continue this sport as a college student and as a career.

The Combined Forces of a Woodside Game

By Jakayla Harris

As you arrive at Todd Stadium, the sounds overwhelm you. The band is playing an arrangement of melodies. The cheerleaders recite their cheers. An eruption roars from the metal stand. The football team is clanking their helmets together as their play comes to life. This is what a Woodside game looks like! These Woodside forces seem to be joined in harmony with one another. But, what happens behind the scenes for a Woodside game to happen? How do these forces make up a football game at Woodside?

The football team is the main attraction. Though they play a mean game on the field, the game is more than that. In the words of Kenneth, a player on the team, football is about “proving the type of skill set you have and showing leadership on and off the field.”

This season, the football team has some mixed emotions about playing this year. According to Kenneth, “We’re nervous because we don't know how it's going to end due to covid. It's also exciting because we get to play together with teammates we’ve known since middle school. We enjoy every moment, so overall we are excited.”

For some of the players, it is their final year playing high school football. The Wolverines are going to give it their all and not disappoint. Currently they have only lost one game and they don't plan on stopping their winning streak!

The Combined Forces of a Woodside Game Continued

The cheerleaders also play an important role at games. Maggy from the cheer team says, "Our role is to encourage players, hype up the crowd, and promote school spirit." Without a cheer team, the game would be played out in a divergent way. Can you imagine what it would sound like without the cheerleaders rustling their purple and teal pom-poms?

Maggy says, "Without the presence of a cheer team: the players might be less encouraged to do their best at a low point in the game, there would be less crowd involvement, and the game would be dead." The performance of the cheerleaders has a big impact on the crowd and the team. Their attendance is needed to make a great game.

The marching band has a role of entertainment at games according to the band director, Mr. Lawson. "The band's role is entertainment. They get the crowd into the game, energize the people, the team, and be a supportive role." Without the band, the crowd would be less involved in the game and the crowd would be bored.

According to Mr. Lawson, "Without the band, they would have to find some other way to entertain the folks." The band performs for both the team and crowd. Without this performance there would be less crowd involvement, this would impact the teams performance. "The band has an impact. Without them, it would be a much different atmosphere." Explains Mr. Lawson. The band's attendance is essential because of their impact on the team and crowd.

The Combined Forces of a Woodside Game Continued

The crowd's job is unlike the others. They don't need to practice or put much effort into their role. They simply show up to the stadium with a positive attitude and excitement. Though this is the case, they still play an important part in the stands.

Mrs. SheeSmith has attended many football games at Woodside. During school hours she is the magnet director. At games though, her job switches to a supportive fan. "In the crowd, my job is to support the students. Whether they be the football players on the field or the band in the stands." Mrs. SheeSmith elaborates, "I'm also there to be a supervisor of safety and the community."

The crowd is a very diverse force. Anyone can attend games to support the team, band, or cheerleaders. The crowd is there to support and be entertained. They have the easiest and most effective role.

As you can see, football games are more than just football. It is a performance put on by the combined forces of Woodside. Each force has a job that they must acquire. Their role and how well they do it has an effect on the team, crowd, and themselves. Woodside games are a chain reaction of fun, support, energy, and entertainment. These games make up an atmosphere at Woodside. The combined forces allow there to be an atmosphere at all. The combined forces are more than just fun and games. Together they are the game!

Have you Heard of Key Club?

By Jalen Bryan

As the new year is upon us for Woodside High School, in the era of Covid-19, it is hard for the school to have a lot of activities. With risks of people getting covid and others already with covid, it's hard for anyone to meet new people or participate in after school activities.

Fortunately, there are some activities that students are still able to participate in. One activity that I believe is the best for students to engage and meet new people is Key Club. Key Club is a program that allows students to provide community service. The program is led by Ms. Ryan and Ms. Persson, and is even a little student-led.

The meetings take place at Woodside where they discuss future activities, upcoming service opportunities and other club activities. Some of the many activities that Key Club offers is picking up trash and organizing food drives. Doing these activities allows students to get their community service hours in and also shows colleges, the military and even your parents and teachers that you care about your community. All in all, Key Club is a great opportunity to get community service hours, meet new people, and help the community with your fellow Wolverine students.

Busch Gardens Opening Again?

By Samadyi Perry

Is Busch Gardens a safe theme park to visit? What are their rules that will hopefully protect us from possibly getting covid? Is Busch gardens just a big feeding ground for bacteria? They may enforce the mask mandate, but how do they prepare for someone positive with covid? With the major crowds and all the exchanging of things is it safe to open such a popular place?

With Busch Gardens' drop in ticket costs, more people will want to attend the famous theme park. That concerns me a great deal, as they are not advertising their health precautions like they are advertising Howl-O-Scream. They didn't enforce the mask mandate but recommended it. The concerning part is that the only place that they "recommend" masking up is while indoors. With how packed the park can get and with the 2.78 million that go through, the mask mandate should be enforced more. With the big events they hold, like Howl-O-Scream and the Christmas festival the safety of their attendees should be important to them.

Another department Busch Gardens is lacking in is its vaccine policy. Only recommending that you wear a facemask indoors and not requiring guests to show proof of vaccination could be dangerous. Even though Busch Gardens continues to raise concerns, they have received some positive reviews. I interviewed a student and they said that "Busch being open is great! It's a fun place to go after school." and while this is a positive outlook on Busch Gardens I want to know how the public's safety was taken into account. Is it safe to go there at this point? We, unfortunately, don't know if it is a safe place to visit or nesting grounds for bacteria at the moment. Even though Busch Gardens says they have guidelines set in place, how do we know that employees and managers will enforce the rules, regulations, and guidelines?

Covid Can't Stop Us: Key Club has First Virtual Meeting

By Kaitlyn Gardner

As the covid crisis raged through the previous school year, club meetings were very challenging to plan. Even if meetings were held through Zoom, it was difficult to communicate with everyone involved or interested in the club, leading to a staggering turnout. This school year, clubs have been able to come up with a virtual after school format accompanied with a large turnout, with Key Club being one of the first to test it out.

On Wednesday, September 22nd, Key Club held their first virtual meeting of the school year. Starting a week prior, information was spread about the club. Flyers were posted around the school, details were shared online, and other information was spread by word of mouth. The addition of in person socializing to this new school year allowed news of the meeting to spread quickly and effectively, creating a decent turnout of club members and individuals who wished to join. When asked about Key Club's virtual meeting, the historian of the club, Latisha Dejon, stated, "Virtual meetings are a great way to stay safe during our current predicament. My only complaint about these virtual meetings is that it's harder to get to know other club members through Zoom."

Although virtual meetings may limit social interaction, they create a safe and easy way to hold meetings during this complicated school year. The success of last week's meeting allows Key Club, as well as other clubs around the school, to begin planning a recurring format for how they will run during the school year. Although it may be impossible for all clubs to meet virtually, some may opt to have Zoom meetings in order to lessen the spread of Covid-19. As long as communication continues, virtual clubs seem to have a bright future for the 2021-2022 year

Top 10 Autumn Dates for You and Your BOO

By Kaitlyn Gardner

1. Visit a local pumpkin patch!

Nothing screams fall more than a stroll through the pumpkin patch with a hand in yours. Have fun picking pumpkins that you can carve together!

2. Go to a haunted house!

Having fun laughing at each other when you get scared is a staple of autumn dates. Don't be afraid to hold them when it gets too spooky!

3. Carve pumpkins!

It wouldn't be autumn without a good jack-o-lantern, would it? Come up with pumpkin designs as a team!

4. Watch scary movies!

Staying home where it's warm and cozy, yet still managing to get chilled to the bone is quite a feat. See who will scream the most!

5. Make a pumpkin pie!

Spending time with the one you love while simultaneously making a tasty treat is a win win! Maybe play some Halloween tunes in the background?

Top 10 Autumn Dates for You and Your BOO Continued

6. Go apple picking!

During the cooler months, apple orchards are only slightly less crowded than pumpkin patches. Grab yourself and your significant other a snack from the trees!

7. Decorate the house!

For a more relaxed date, stay home and get out the spooky stuff. Join together and make your home as festive as possible!

8. Go to a Halloween party!

If you and your partner are a couple who like going out, then this is a good sweater weather date for you! Have fun with your friends and each other as you join together to celebrate this fall holiday.

9. Shop for Halloween costumes!

Shopping for some isn't ideal, but for those who enjoy it, this date is for you! Take a trip to the party store and see what best suits each other. Maybe even choose matching costumes?

10. Work on spooky crafts!

Although last on the list, it can still be lots of fun! Creative couples can brainstorm fun arts and crafts that embody the feeling of the season!

Pandemic Painters: Inspiration in Absence?

By Zaacc Jenkins

Isolation: emptiness, void, or lack thereof; can a new type of beauty bloom from dry soil? Concerns of our current generation have all but spiraled into a common source of discussion and controversy within our current society; especially now in the midst of a pandemic. This leads us into what can come out of long durations of alone time for those in the creative field, specifically art; will it thrive or fail to survive?

In regards to our questions and concerns, our team managed to get into contact with one of Woodside's art teachers and interviewed one of their many students. First, when asked on their opinion on if quarantine benefited their student's artistic creativity, Mr. Henley replied with great confidence,

"I think it benefited, because it gives you more time to create more art."

Now, while we may have gotten a view from the perspective of a professional, we're more focused on our current generation of artists; that's where Griffin, our volunteer interviewee, comes in! Below this will be our Q&A, along with pieces of their art from before, during, and after quarantine.

Pandemic Painters: Inspiration in Absence? Continued

Q: Did you gain any artistic vision during quarantine?

A: Lesser so, because of my hobbies, thoughts of the future, and more focus on education.

Q: How would you describe your art pieces during the quarantine?

A: Experimentive and highly detailed. For the most part, I'm pretty satisfied with my work.

Q: Would you say that the quarantine benefited your artistic creativity or stunt it?

A: For me, to a certain extent, yes, I think it did. Especially since I use art as a coping mechanism, and I had a lot going on for me during quarantine. So, my art helped me a lot.

Q: Did you ever lose your interest in art during quarantine?

A: During the beginning, I wasn't very inspired, but as time went on, more and more art just kept being created.

Q: What did quarantine teach you as an artist?

A: It taught me that a lot of my art had a lot more potential than I thought, and that everything I wanted to try was now possible. So, it opened a lot of artistic doors for me.

That is the end of the Q&A portion, so let's display the dazzling works of our wonderful Woodside student!

Pandemic Painters: Inspiration in Absence? Continued

BEFORE QUARANTINE



Pandemic Painters: Inspiration in Absence? Continued

DURING QUARANTINE



Pandemic Painters: Inspiration in Absence? Continued

AFTER QUARANTINE



Pandemic Painters: Inspiration in Absence? Continued

Remarkably, the will and passion to create can still resonate within the youth of today, even in times of desperation and struggle. Even so, art is immortal and universally connected throughout all of us, whether we create, interpret, or critique it. It will never truly die, as long as we have our hearts, minds, and lungs.

All Work, Good Plays

By Zorie Cockrell

Lights, camera, action! The Woodside Wolverines are preparing for their plays and bettering their skills in the Theatre Magnet Program. They will be virtual this year, but that doesn't stop them from preparing for upcoming performances. Since school has opened up, the theatre kids have been preparing for future plays and staying after school to practice. They are given passes to stay after school and work until it's time to go home. You can tell they are working hard!

"I'm excited for the play, a friend of mine is in it and she says it's going to be good," a fellow classmate stated. They're not the only ones to feel this way, many students of Woodside are excited for the play and ready to see what the theatre program has been preparing for. The fact that some plays are going to be virtual doesn't seem to bother anyone in the slightest. As long as they can see the plays that the theatre students have to offer. I've spoken with a student in the program and it isn't confirmed, nor denied that the plays they plan on showing are the best Woodside has ever seen.

The uprising question though, is money. A lot of people; including parents, are wondering if money has to be spent. If so, then how much? Most plays come with costumes and props. Costumes and props that cost money. Some parents have no problem with helping out and neither does the school. They know that hard work is being done and they also know how much the theatre program wants these plays to happen. Administrators, teachers, other staff members and students want them to happen too.

But overall, the students in the program feel as if they'll put on good plays now and in the future. More information will be out in due time, but for right now, keep on the lookout for updates, and even watch a play or two.

Art: Ups and Downs

By Saisai Wortham

Wow, I can't believe we made it through a whole year of quarantine and doing virtual school! During that time, it has made a big impact on teens. What does this have to do with Woodside you may wonder? Well being in the magnet program, you need to be creative, and during quarantine a lot of kids lost motivation and their creative side died down. But there were some kids that got more creative, and their work got better, like me.

I took a survey and asked some kids at Woodside if they think quarantine affected kids' creative side. One student said, yes, because they sat around and watched TV all day. Another one said, yes and no because they got to be free and talk to friends but it also gave them a lot of time to think about things in their head and make them depressed. A third student said, yes because it put people in a creative block and for some it went deeper than that.

In my opinion, I definitely feel like it is both yes and no. Some kids excelled like me and their creative side just grew as they became more involved in new things. But also it made a lot of kids just go into their shell and they lost motivation on who they used to be or wanted to become.

Here is an example of my art work before and after quarantine.

Art: Ups and Downs Continued

BEFORE



Art: Ups and Downs Continued

AFTER



Art: Ups and Downs Continued

As you can see, my drawings were messy freshman year, but during quarantine and now that I'm a junior I have progressed a lot in my paintings and my drawings. I definitely do feel like there are a lot of ups and downs when it comes to being an artist because of periods when you have that lack of motivation. Like my friend said, "I don't have the drive to do the best that I can and when the teachers start giving challenges on our assignments to do, I don't do them because I can't do them to my full potential". In all I hope that this will change and kids mentally are ok and start being the creative people they want to be.

We Need A Change in the Woodside Halls

By Janiyah Shaw

Let's talk about the last time the art in the Woodside halls were changed. The art hanging up is antiquated... to put it nicely. When coming back to Woodside after months of being away due to Covid-19, the first thing I noticed walking through the halls were the paintings. I've seen them before. As a freshman, I was fascinated by all the art. I noticed certain references like Janis Ian from Mean Girls and I saw paintings of people smiling. But now as a junior, though I was hit with nostalgia for a moment, it got me thinking. When was the last time that Woodside changed the art in the halls?

I talked to a couple of my peers in the junior class and they also agreed with me. One of them stated that, "The work is beautiful, but I'm tired of looking at them," while another student said, "I hope they give us a chance to create and put new art on the walls."

This brings me to another point I had in mind. My peers and I were all freshmen when Covid-19 took over, so we never had a full year of high school. Therefore, those that could've been working on new art pieces for the hall, couldn't finish because our year was cut short. I personally feel that could have been a big factor on why the art hasn't changed. Maybe we'll have new pieces on the walls by the end of the year, who knows?

Overall, even though the art at Woodside is amazing and impressive, I think it's time for a change. Let the new artists emerge upon the walls and let the future leave their mark! In fact, stay tuned for an update in the next edition of the newspaper.

Four Minutes In Between Classes: Students Express Mixed Options

By Bernadette Pimentel

Due to COVID-19, Woodside High School has made the controversial decision to reduce students' time to transition from class to class, giving them only four minutes to fly through the busy halls and stairways at the start of the year. A plethora of mixed opinions have been expressed by Wolverines.

In previous years at Woodside, students were given six to eight minutes in the hallway for the students to go to their next classes, but with the Coronavirus, the school has taken necessary precautions to protect their students and staff from spreading and/or catching the virus. One of which is the reduction of time students spend around each other in the hallways. Wolverines feel very strongly about these occurrences.

With this, I took the time to interview a couple students at our school about their viewpoints on this bell schedule change.

I see the time change as a positive thing," Shaun Tran, a student at Woodside High School, stated, "It makes us students adamant on getting to class early." Though this is an unpopular opinion, it surely is a logical one. Students have also described how this bell schedule change allows students to have more time to talk to their teachers in class."

Four Minutes In Between Classes: Students Express Mixed Options Continued

Another student, Latisha Dejon, stated, "It is an irrational amount of time to give us because we have a ton of students in this building." Many students seem to agree with this statement. Others have expressed that they usually take the time in between classes to use the restroom to avoid interrupting class time, but this unfortunately has been taken away from them. It was also emphasized by Wolverines when interviewing them that they believe that reducing the hallway time by two minutes does not make much of a difference in relation to spreading/getting COVID-19.

It has been a rough transition back to in person school. We have many out of the ordinary rules that both students and staff are having a hard time adjusting to, especially since everyone was switched to virtual learning for over a year. Luckily for the issue of passing periods, the bell schedule was adjusted to allow five minutes between classes as a compromise. Wolverines stay strong and stay safe, I believe in you!

QR Codes at Woodside

By Say'quon Deas

While there have been many changes at Woodside this year, one big change has been the addition of QR codes for seating at lunch. The purpose of these QR codes is to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to track where students are sitting. When students are about to sit down for lunch, they need to take out their phones and open the camera app to scan the QR code. Then a link will pop up for students to sign their name and which seat number they are at.

When Woodside first used this system, it was a little rough. Many students had issues with Wifi or couldn't pull up the link, or had not used a QR code. Junior student Noah Scott said "The internet wasn't working in the cafeteria, so I couldn't use the QR codes. A lot of people were really confused!" Many students were also failing to use the QR codes at all. Luckily Woodside was able to open up a new Wifi network for students to use in the Cafeteria, and more students got into a good routine of scanning the code and documenting their seats.

Overall, the QR codes are working well for Woodside and it's turned into a good system for staff and students. In the future, we may not need QR codes, but for now, the QR codes are a key part of making lunchtime calm and successful.

Homecoming: Say Goodbye Wolverines

By Leea Copeland

Students at Woodside sat attentively at their seats as their teachers turned on yet another morning announcement from Dr. Nichols. Some were doing homework, some were conversing with friends, and others were simply trying to catch up on the sleep they had missed the night before. In almost an instant, a cacophony of sighs, yells, and 'why me's' swept over the grounds of Woodside High School. You may ask: who exactly was the culprit of these complaints? It was the one thing that most students were looking forward to-- the Homecoming dance. Covid had leached into everyone's plans and got one of the most exciting high school events canceled.

Dr. Nichols explained that their request for a fall festival was rejected by the city council because of the pandemic. In place of it, the school will be having a pep rally and a spirit week. The homecoming football game, however, was not canceled. Several students voiced their disapproval of the decision. "I feel like if I was in charge of things around here, people would love spirit week," said Bernadette Pimentel, a student of three years in the creative writing magnet program. Some of these themes for Homecoming week include "Hippie Day", "Mobster & Flapper Attire", and "Woodside Attire."

Homecoming: Say Goodbye Wolverines Continued

Although the loss of Homecoming is saddening, students still have the liberty of nominating fellow classmates for Homecoming Court. Many students voiced disapproval for those running, saying that there was no point. But, others feel that it's a great thing that they still have a homecoming court. "Personally- I don't care. But I know a lot of people were looking forward to it," said Kylan Lockett, an eleventh grader at WOHS. "For me, I feel like homecoming is stale, boring, with some of the worst food I've ever seen. But a lot of people do enjoy meeting people and having that experience. I mean, it's fun. It's a great time. We should definitely have a homecoming this year after having gone through the whole pandemic thing." Although Homecoming will indeed be different this year, the Wolverines should still participate in events and celebrate the Homecoming season. There's also the football game to look forward to!