



September 2015

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Dedication

This inaugural edition of the *Wilson Wildcat Times* is dedicated to long-time Wilson Newspaper Staff Advisor Dr. Breandan Connor who retired last June. Your knowledge and creativity is missed.



Back to School

September 30, 2015



Mariah Rucker
Wildcat Times
Correspondent

Even though the weather is currently nice and summer break is long gone, a lot of students are still struggling to get back in the habit of waking up at the crack of dawn to prepare for their 6-7 hour school day. That means catching up with old friends you haven't seen in a while, visiting old teachers and meeting your new ones.

As students enter Wilson they see teachers greeting them to bring in the new school year. They also notice many changes that occurred over the summer like the first floor bathroom by the security desk, that huge nicely lit hallway on the 2nd floor and even how the 10th, 11th and 12th graders aren't even allowed to be on a certain part of the 3rd floor (and if you are caught rumor has it you get in school suspension!).

As students enter each class on the first day they listen to the teacher's rules and regulations while screwing up their face and thinking, "I need to get to my counselor and drop this class." Students don't even give the class a try. They just don't like the rules.

As we listen to what the teachers expect from us, the one the rule that sticks out the most is "absolutely no cell phones." We all have cell phones and feel the need to constantly check them as if they are more important than our education. That is probably the thing teachers struggle with the most with students throughout the whole year.

The first few days of school are always the best; it's just about dressing nice, taking pictures with friends and going to class to do nothing. That is, until reality sets in.

But welcome 2015-2016 school year!



Gun Violence in Rochester

September 30, 2015



Luther Smart
Wildcat Times
Correspondent

As of August 16, 2015, there have been 142 shootings, including the drive by shooting on August 19th on Genesee Street. A local Boys and Girls club faces tragedy after a basketball game let out.

After a basketball game had just ended at the Genesee St. Boys and Girls Club, Johnny Blackshell, one of two shooters, shot into a crowd of people just after 11p.m. leaving three dead and four wounded. As the perpetrator shot into the crowd, the crowd rushed to take cover in a nearby clinic.

Blackshell, a Chili resident violated his parole numerous times along with his latest charge of first degree murder along with a list of charges from previous crimes. He has been linked to robberies at Eastview Mall and local 7-Eleven along with illegal possession and possession of stolen property.

As of now, the other shooter is still at large. Police Chief Michael Ciminelli said, "We have an active search going," and "We will run down and find who did this." Both Mayor Lovely Warren and Ciminelli were quoted as saying that they will find and bring the perpetrators to justice in the quickest means available. Warren says, "We will do everything in our power to hold those responsible and bring them to justice.

Federal Magistrate Johnathon Feldman calls this a complicated case largely due to the fact that it may be connected to the state charges against Blackshell. Defense Attorney Joe Damelio says that more details will come as the case gets clearer.

As more information is known, the clearer the case will be and easier to convict Blackshell and to find the other perpetrator.

This is just one incident in a string of violence in Rochester over the summer. In the past five years, shooting victims rate has risen to 22% (Division for Criminal Justice Services). This increase leads to a 20% increase in shootings here in Rochester (Rochester Police Department).



Preparing For College

September 30, 2015



Jordan Allen
Wildcat Times
Correspondent

Waiting until last minute to start applying for college is a mistake that many high school students make.

Getting into your dream college may be a bit of a competition but keeping up with your schoolwork and grades are just as important. You need to make sure that you achieve all of the requirements for the colleges you choose. But for those who aren't sure at all which college they want to attend, a good way to start is by doing your research.

Research is one of the easiest steps when applying for college. A good place to start is www.collegeboard.org. This website helps you choose colleges that are specifically meant for you. For example if you want to go to college that allows you to play a sport while studying Business, College Board lists several colleges, in your hometown or abroad, that may be perfect for you.

Many students may wonder, “How am i going to pay for college?” One way is applying for Financial Aid, which is also available through College Board.

Financial Aid may not be enough. Another way to get free money is to apply for scholarships.

There are a lot of scholarships that you may not even know about. Billions of dollars go unused in scholarships each year, simply because no one asks for them. A good website for looking about scholarships is www.scholarships.com. After making an account, and answering a couple of questions, [scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com) will find scholarships that you are eligible to apply for.

Writing your college essay is important and the earlier the better. There are deadlines so you want to make sure to send all required forms to the colleges in time.

If possible, another good thing to do is to go on college tours to see if you like the school before applying.

Finally, it is important to plan how you are going to manage your time once you get to school. Many students may have to take part-time jobs. You want to make sure that you have time to study and finish any assignments.

Although college may not be for everyone, it is definitely beneficial. It can expose you to many different career ideas or give you a back-up plan while you try to make a living from something your passionate about or a hobby. College is important for pretty much everyone. It is never a bad thing to expand your knowledge.



Rochester City School District Career Based Program

September 30, 2015



Ariam Alomar
Wildcat Times
Correspondent

RCSD students are benefitting from career development program based on the four public safety entities: Fire Department, Police Department, Emergency Communications Department, and Emergency Medical Services.

Juniors and seniors from Rochester city schools have an opportunity to explore the four public safety entities through a 2-year program called Career Pathways to Public Safety (CPPS).

The students come in as juniors. During this exploratory year, students are introduced to the aspects of the program and what it has to offer. Calvin Mathews, a junior at Joseph C. Wilson Magnet High School, states that CPPS is an interesting program that gives you feedback on the opportunities you have.

This program is run like an actual training class with specific and strict dress codes and classroom rooms. It is coordinated by Robert Poles but supervised by the City School District. As students enter their senior year, they will choose a specific career choice.

In their specific career choice, the students are taught by experienced public safety employees the skills, knowledge and abilities to be viable candidates for employment in one of the entities.

Three out of the four entities hire eighteen-year-olds. They are the Fire Department, the Emergency Communications Department, and Emergency Medical Services. The Police Department hires at 21.

Each entity has different entry-level positions. Firefighter is the entry-level position for the Fire Department. Telecommunicator and Dispatcher 1 are the entry-level positions for the Emergency Communications Department. Emergency Medical Technician is the entry-level position for Emergency Medical Services. Police Officer and Jail Guard are the entry-level positions for the Police Department.

Students in the program have been employed, gotten their security license, drivers permit or license, and have even taken a civil service exam.



Senior Year

September 30, 2015



Julisa McGuire
Wildcat Times
Correspondent

Senior year is awesome because you start thinking of college and how fun it will be. But it's not easy for everyone to take in. Senior year includes a lot of stress for every twelfth grader that wasn't realized until the first day of school.

The thing that stresses seniors out the most is thoughts of college. Some seniors lack the knowledge of how to do college applications or how many to mail in. Also what students don't know is that college could be hard at times but all you have to do is work hard to be successful. If you don't try, you won't get anywhere.

The SATs, graduation, and work are also the main worries of seniors in high school. They're constantly thinking about if they will pass the SATs the first time or second time. Maybe they won't even pass it at all. Or maybe they won't register on time.

Graduation day is only one day, but it's a day that means a lot to students, parents, and even teachers. Seniors stress over this day, thinking about it from the beginning of the year to the end. All they want to do is leave and start a new life but some don't even know if they will graduate this upcoming June.

Work will always be given to you all year round. And not just school work, many students have jobs on top of their studies. The biggest worry is that the work will not get done. This stresses them out more because they're always busy.

Unfortunately, outside of school, all seniors are asked the same questions throughout the year: "Are you excited to graduate?" "Where are you going to college?" "Are you planning on going to college?" "Do you know what you're going to study next year?" "Are you ready for the SATs?" "Do you want to talk to (Insert Stranger's name)? They loved it at that school." Most seniors get sick of answering these questions pretty quickly. And this adds to why seniors are so stressed.

Asking around, I'm finding that most of my classmates are feeling the same way: annoyed, stressed, frustrated, worried, and (most of all) tired.

Although seniors go through the same process they've been doing all through high school, the last year feels different. You might have a lot of work to do, and you might want to quit sometimes, but it's up to you to make it better. Next year, you're about to start a whole new life with different adventures. Graduation is just the beginning.



Rochester vs. Suburban Graduation Rates

September 30, 2015



Salina Merriam
Wildcat Times
Correspondent

Rochester schools remain one of the lowest performing schools in the state. Although there was a slight 3-percentage points improvement from the previous year, only 51 percent of Rochester High School students graduated in the year 2015. Suburban schools have almost doubled the percentage rate, at a rate of 95 percent.

As reported by the *Democrat and Chronicle*, summer school was a big success this year for students. August graduation bumped up June's 43.4 percent graduation rate by about 8 percentage points. This means summer school helped an additional 155 students graduate.

In August of 2015, the lowest amount of graduates came from Charlotte, with only 37 percent. The highest total of graduates came from School Without Walls, with a graduation rate of 87 percent. In order from lowest to highest after Charlotte comes Monroe with 39 percent, East with 43 percent, Wilson and Early College with 71 percent and School Without Walls with 86 percent.

The lowest suburban school graduation rate included Rush Henrietta, East Rochester, Brockport, Gates Chili, Greece and Spencerport which didn't hit the 90 percentage mark. Suburban schools that have graduated over the 95 percent mark are Honeoye Falls, Penfield, Pittsford, Webster and West Irondequoit.

A big issue for Rochester's children is about 85 percent of them come from low income households. Suburban

schools are better put together and fixed up, which helps for a better learning environment. Also a big issue is race. For example, people at Greece are more racially diverse compared to city schools where most students are African American. They are trying to offer city schools more extracurricular activities to help keep them off the streets, but it will be a long time if ever than city schools catch up to suburban schools.





Uniforms

September 30, 2015



Alaysia Faison
Wildcat Times
Correspondent

There should be school uniforms because it will help students focus on their education instead of their appearance.

Students are becoming slaves to materialistic things. They'd rather have the newest Jordan's than good grades. By having uniforms it will help the students apply themselves to their education. They wouldn't be worried about "upping" the trend.

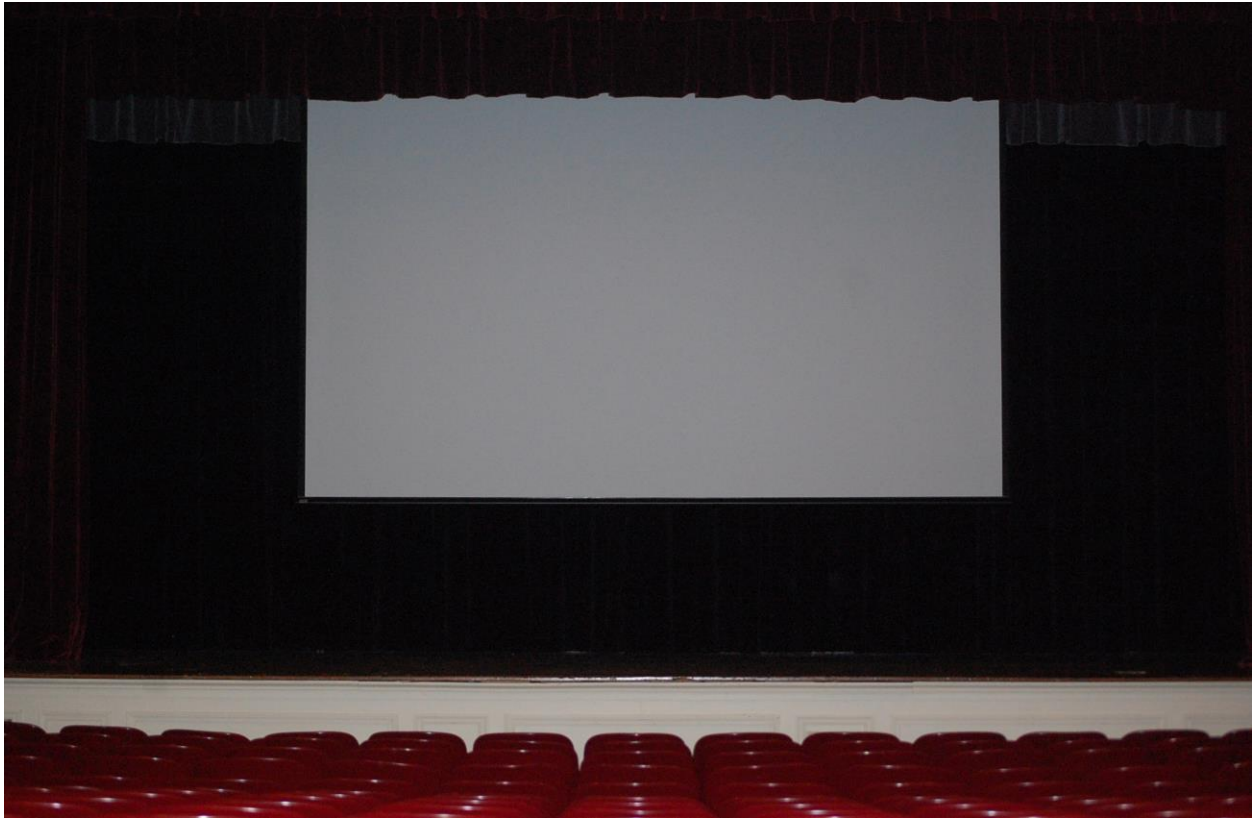
Jordan's and clothing are becoming big distractions to some students. It's becoming more important to work at a job for money to get those items instead of going to school to get an education. If they were to stop selling Jordan's and name brand clothing, kids would be able to focus more because they wouldn't be worried about the next pair of shoes that are coming out.

The students would only be allowed to change their shoes and the color of their shirts. If they didn't come to school with uniform on they would be given ISS.

This would be a lot cheaper for the parents because they would only have to get shoes and school supplies for their children.

There would be less students walking the halls, failing their classes, and more students graduating on time. The students would be getting better grades and paying more attention in school because they wouldn't have anything else to focus on.





Straight Outta Compton

Movie Review

September 30, 2015



Lamon Ragland
Wildcat Times
Correspondent

Straight Outta Compton follows the long and hard rise to greatness of gangsta rap group NWA.

The story follows 5 Friends: Ice Cube, Dr. Dre, Eazy-E, MC Ren, and DJ Yella. This is a good movie because it shows the beginnings of Gangsta rap, how it became mainstream after years of it being underground, to the point where it is now.

Jason Mitchell plays Eazy-E, Neil Brown Jr. plays DJ Yella and Aldis Hodge plays MC Ren. But Ice Cube's son, O'Shea Jackson Jr., steals the show portraying his father and Juilliard graduate Corey Hawkins gives a spot on portrayal of Dr. Dre.

The Group comes from Compton, California and their hardcore lyrics come from the things that they've seen and experienced on the streets every day. From police brutality, harassment, and the 1980's drug scene, the movie is a masterpiece and an instant classic.

Original NWA members Ice Cube and Dr. Dre were producers while DJ Yella and MC Ren were consultants.

While movie goers differ in which was their favorite scene or song, they all come to the same point: all want to see *Straight Outta Compton* again.



Questions or Comments?

E-Mail them to Don.Burns@rcsdk12.org (please put letters to the editor in the subject line). Your letter may end up in future editions of the *Wildcat Times*



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