



## September 2016

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# Changes at Wilson

September 30, 2016



Jah'meir Robinson  
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Many changes happened over the summer here at Wilson Magnet High School.

Wilson welcomes Ms. Roselli as its new principal!

Ms. Roselli joins us from Wilson Foundation, where she was also the principal, but has been in the Rochester City School District for many years holding many different jobs (including speech therapist and vice principal).

As principal, she is looking to, “increase my knowledge of the regents and IB curriculums, to inform students and families about graduation requirements, and to make an impact on our school and community in a positive way.”

As principal, Ms. Roselli is in charge of all the staff in the building, she has been very active and interactive in the hall ways with students and staff, and has been to Wilson sporting events. On top of that, she is always present to greet the students as they enter the building.

Ms. Roselli is trying to bring a new culture to Wilson starting with a new policy of having the students turn in their cell phones or any electronic device. The policy is that when you enter the building, phones are to be collected at the door. At the end of the day students are dismissed by floor to receive their cell phones by showing staff their student ID's.

If you are caught with your electronic device during the school day, staff is subjected to confiscate your device which may not be retrieved until a parent/guardian comes in to pick it up.

Other new policies are now in place this year too. The no outside food during the school day rule is now in effect. Many students look to leave school in order to bring back food from outside establishments such as Mojos or McDonalds. Now, food entering the building is stopped at the door and frequent offenses may result in consequences.

Ms. Roselli states, “I am proud to be the new principle here at Wilson. You all are an exceptional group of students and I have had the opportunity to see some of you grow up (the ones who attend Wilson Foundation). All of you have the talent to achieve your goals and make Wilson live up to the name it had been given in the past.”

Although there are changes, the Wilson spirit remains the same. Welcome Ms. Roselli and thank you for leading the Wilson Way.



# Self-Love

September 30, 2016



Joelee DiGiaccio  
Wildcat Times  
Correspondent

In this day and age, it's normal for one to have an identity crisis—especially in High School. Due to the constant pressures from the media and peers, thinking who you are isn't good enough is normal for teens.

Teens tend to criticize themselves and their self-worth once they begin to develop into young adults because of the changes in their physical image. It is sometimes difficult to go through these changes because adjustments to the body are hard to handle. They can cause harm to confidence levels as well as self-esteem.

When progressing into an adult, teens tend to put too much care into what others think. This is unhealthy because young adults feel pressures from school, television, magazines, and other media outlets in regards to how society portrays "perfection."

Practicing self-acceptance can influence multiple areas in a teen's life such as performing better in school, making friends, and enjoying life without the constant insecurities.

There are ways to practice self-love such as having a hobby that you're passionate about, being mindful of new situations and new people you meet, practicing good self-care, and focusing on yourself.

There are multiple ways to better your confidence levels. Give yourself a positive talk when you're down instead of beating yourself up over situations that you can't control. Also, surround yourself with positive people that will help you avoid thinking negatively and bring your energy up.

Issues with self-esteem stem from your own perceptions about yourself but most of us are our own worst critics. With a little work, you can change how you feel about yourself.

Being positive with who you are can change your mindset, relieve the pressures that surround you, and help you love yourself as well as others. For the most part, most of your insecurities are yours alone while others are too busy worrying about themselves.

With all of the surrounding pressures, teens should be true to themselves. If you don't have self-love, how can you expect others to love you?

Be true to yourself, enjoy life, and remember: you're alright!



# The Roc Compared to NYC

September 30, 2016



Jeremy Allen  
Wildcat Times  
Correspondent

Wilson's English teacher, and our senior class advisor, Mrs. Whelen is an indispensable staple here in the Wilson community. But before coming here, Whelen taught at many different schools including a school in Brooklyn called Canarsie.

Canarsie was a lot different from Wilson from the way things were run, its surroundings and environment.

Canarsie had about 3500 students—a lot when compared to Wilson's current enrollment of 766. With so many students, the administration had to be very strict and didn't tolerate many infractions. The school staff and administration worked very hard to protect and keep the building safe.

Canarsie had about fifteen security guards who monitored the schools while the 10 deans were in charge of discipline problems and suspensions. While Wilson has eight sentries, only three administrators handle discipline.

But, with so many students, Canarsie had to have safety devices in place, such as riot gates, in times of need. While Wilson uses a camera system with sentries stationed around the building to quickly respond to situations, Canarsie would use riot gates to shut down the school, maintain control, and to protect the students.

While here at Wilson, neighborhood problems do spill into the school from time-to-time, the environment surrounding Canarsie was not very safe at all. They had a very serious gang around the neighborhood such as the national Bloods and Crips gangs. These groups caused a lot of tension in neighborhoods.

While there is a dress code here that seems strict, Brooklyn's was worse. Students were very limited with what colors they could wear because, in their neighborhood, they could be jumped or killed for wearing the wrong color.

According to Whelen, the gang violence really started to get out of control in the 90's. Canarsie was known to be a Crip school because of the neighborhood it was located in. But when rival gang members started to transfer in, it caused a lot of problems.

Fights began to break out every day making it difficult for other to learn or even feel safe.

While to not the same extent, the area outside of Wilson can be just as dangerous.

While there are many differences between the schools, one lesson is similar and very important: be aware of your surroundings (in the neighborhood and in school), be mindful of your actions, and know the make-up of areas before you enter.

Most important, be safe.



# School Cliques

September 30, 2016



Tansanika Moody  
Wildcat Times  
Correspondent

Who will be my friends?  
Will they like me?

These questions leave many students scared to face the first day of high school. As a freshman you start in a new school as one of the kids that the older students call “weenie” even though you just left your elementary school as one of the most popular kids around.

Leaving all your elementary friends is the hardest thing ever because you grew up with them: playing during recess, eating lunch with your group, and doing homework together... entering high school all alone, not knowing anybody, is scary.

High school is where your social world expands. You begin to adapt to people around you and start to develop relationships. During your teenage years, you start trying to figure out how you want to stand out. As the school year goes by you begin to understand how the laws of popularity divides all the students into cliques.

You witness so many different cliques sitting in different areas of the cafeteria and wonder which one you would fit into the most. Whatever group you’re affiliated with usually defines you as a person.

A major reason people join groups is because of an interest in something.

But some students join to become popular. So they try to fit in and begin to be someone they are not.

Cliques usually have a leader or someone for the group look up to. The leader makes up all the rules that everyone should abide by such as who they can talk to or even what they can wear.

Being included in a clique can be an opening to your inner-self leaving you with more confidence and higher self-esteem. These groups are beneficial for people who are antisocial because they can be that extra support that you can rely on when your parents or teachers may not understand what you are going through.

Some cliques can have the opposite effect, encouraging risky or destructive behavior. Although cliques can open you up, they also take away the unity in the school leaving no diversity in the social groups. The influence of things such as bullying and doing drugs is boosted higher because there is more than just one person trying to peer pressure you into something you may not have interest in.

Being in cliques you sometimes find yourself keeping your thoughts to yourself when you disagree with something because you’re backing yourself up with others opposing.

When choosing a clique make sure it’s with people who have your best intentions as friends and give a good perspective to others of who you truly are as a person.



# How Safe Are Our Phones in the School's Hands?

September 30, 2016



Courage Nou  
Wildcat Times  
Correspondent

Upon entering Wilson Magnet High School, students cell phones are taken away by administration until their return at the end of the day making students concerned about the safety of their property.

Mr. Fischpera, administrator at Wilson, says that the phones are kept in the principal's office. The only two people who have the keys to get into the office are Mr. Fischpera and Wilson's Principal, Ms. Roselli. Also, the phones are secured in a closet where Ms. Roselli and Mr. Fischpera are the only ones that can go in.

The only way a student can retrieve their phone is with their student ID card. If a student has misplaced their ID, Mr. Fischpera will keep the phone with him until the student can prove that it is his/her phone.

On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, there was a mix-up with two students who have the same names: one student's phone was accidentally put in the other student's folder. But, at the end of day, the phone was returned to its correct owner after Mr. Fischpera had the student show that it was really their phone.

The students who have early dismissal should not worry about their phones either. They also should show their ID to get their phones but, as an extra level of security, they have to see Mr. Fischpera. He states, "I remember every student's face that has early dismissal."

A rumor was going around school that someone had already got their phone stolen. Mr. Fischpera had said that the rumor is false, "[The rumor] had started on the first day of school but it just didn't happen."

While students are very concerned about their phones being stolen, Wilson staff has already put in practices to prevent it. In the unlikely event that a student's phone is lost, misplaced, or stolen, the staff would have to talk to both Ms. Roselli and Mr. Fischpera and review the current system. If there are any flaws, they will quickly correct them so that the student's property remains safely secured during their time at school.

If a student feels that their phone has been lost or stolen, the student will have to prove that the phone was stolen and put a claim in to the downtown office.

So rest assured, your phones are safe as you attend class. But remember, if you want to ensure that your phone is safe and sound while you are at school, you can always leave it home.



# Our School's First Line of Defense

September 30, 2016



Tatiana Colon  
Wildcat Times  
Correspondent

The students at Wilson pay little to no respect to the sentries we have here.

Everyone believes the sentries don't do anything around the building, and are only here to babysit everyone.

But, what people don't think about, in the worst case scenarios the sentries are the first ones to protect the school.

The sentries' number one priority and goal is to keep the students and school safe. As soon as the doors open, their jobs begin. They check all the book bags and make sure that there is nothing in there that isn't supposed to be.

By making people come through the scanners, they are trying to make sure no one is sneaking anything dangerous into the school.

The sentries' main system of protection is through the cameras in the school. There were fifteen new cameras added this past year. There is not one hallway in the school without a camera and the sentries use the cameras to keep an eye on everything.

Mr. Johnson, Head Sentry at Wilson Magnet High School, says that he, "sees everything." He sees people swinging the garbage cans around, dancing and listening to music.

And he also sees fights.

When the sentries see a dangerous situation, they act accordingly. Once Johnson views an infraction using the security camera, he pages another sentry to let them know the location, who's involved, and anything else they may need to resolve the infraction.

Afterward, Johnson reviews the footage and sends it downtown.

The cameras play a big role in a lockdown. They use these cameras to locate the threat, and work together to take down the threat so they can't cause any damage or danger to the school.

The security desk, and the computer used to view the cameras, are right next to Exit 1: the only possible entrance to the school while in session. Mr. Johnson is sure that threats are not easily able to sneak into the building. And through the scanners, cameras, and detectors, Johnson can follow the outsider, keeping students and staff safe.

In school, the sentries are the first ones to handle a situation. They are the ones who roam the halls, find threats, and resolve problems. Since they are our first line of defense, they are the most vulnerable to harm.

Sentries do not babysit us but make sure that we are protected and kept from any kind of danger while we are in the building. It is their job as the school's first line of defense to keep us safe from harm.