



**September 2017**

Featured Writers

Fatuma Abdi

Tatiana Colon

Keonshae Grayson

Courage Nou

Joshua Sanks

Jeremy Allen

Joelee DiGiaccio

Tansanika Moody

Jah'meir Robinson

Shaliyah Whitaker



Staff Advisor:  
Mr. Burns



# September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 <b>First Day for Teachers</b>	6 <b>A-Day</b> Breakfast: Egg & Cheese Muffin Lunch: Chicken Sandwich Turkey-Ham Wrap	7 <b>B-Day</b> Breakfast: Waffles Lunch: BBQ Chicken Salad	8 <b>C-Day</b> Breakfast: Bagel Lunch: Asian Chicken Salad Buffalo Chicken Sandwich	9
10	11 <b>D-Day</b> Breakfast: Waffles Lunch: BBQ Chicken Salad Buffalo Chicken Wrap	12 <b>A-Day</b> Breakfast: Sausage, Egg & Cheese on muffin Lunch: Pizza Crunchers	13 <b>B-Day</b> Breakfast: French Toast Lunch: Chicken & Cheese Flatbread SW Chicken Salad	14 <b>C-Day</b> Breakfast: Turkey-Ham & Egg on roll Lunch: Pasta & Meatballs Italian Chicken Salad	15 <b>D-Day</b> Breakfast: Yogurt Parfait Lunch: Buffalo Chicken Pizza	16
17	18 <b>A-Day</b> Breakfast: French Toast Lunch: Chicken Nuggets	19 <b>B-Day</b> Breakfast: Pancakes Lunch: Cheese Sticks Vegetable Wrap Asian Chicken Salad	20 <b>C-Day</b> Breakfast: Sausage, Egg & Cheese Bagel Lunch: Stuffed Shells Chicken Wrap Italian Chicken Salad  School Activities: Open House	21 <b>D-Day</b> Breakfast: Waffles Lunch: Egg & Cheese Panini SW Chicken Salad	22 <b>A-Day</b> Breakfast: Bagel Lunch: BBQ Chicken Salad Buffalo Chicken Sandwich	23
24	25 <b>B-Day</b> Breakfast: Waffles Lunch: Popcorn Chicken Buffalo Chicken Sandwich	26 <b>C-Day</b> Breakfast: Sausage ,Egg & Cheese on Roll Lunch: Gordita Wrap SW Chicken Salad	27 <b>D-Day</b> Breakfast: Pancakes Lunch: Chicken Chili Italian Chicken Salad	28 <b>A-Day</b> Breakfast: French Toast Lunch: BBQ Chicken Pizza Asian Chicken Salad	29 <b>B-Day</b> Breakfast: Yogurt parfait Lunch: PB & J Sandwich Baked Tostitos	30



# A Global Education



Tansanika Moody  
Wildcat Times  
Correspondent

September 11, 2017

Mr. Meise loves to travel around the world when he is not teaching a math course or explaining a better technique to pass a volleyball at Wilson.

During school breaks, Meise travels outside of America. Each trip is somewhere he has yet to visit.

Meise has always been interested in other cultures. He had heard stories about how beautiful the world is from so many people of different cultures here in America that he had decided to go see it for himself.

He and his family have enjoyed these trips where they felt set free from their everyday thoughts. Wherever he travelled, people made them feel welcome, were very friendly and asked many questions about their lives.

Meise says that diversity is embraced differently in other countries than here in Rochester. Visiting other countries made him realize that the people in America seem to fear being different. In other countries the people live free and are proud of who they are.

Traveling showed Meise areas of the world filled with great wonders that left him with memorable experiences he could not have back home. These experiences made him feel lucky to have the chance to see them.

As the time approaches for each of his trips, Meise says that he feels excited all over again as if it was his first trip.

He did not want to limit himself to just visiting other states in America so, over the years, Meise has traveled to Honduras, St. Thomas, Bahamas, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, London, Ireland and Australia.

Each country was unique and he always made sure to collect something for memories. Many of these trips were once in a lifetime experiences that Meise can relive when looking at his souvenirs.

During his last trip was to Austria, Meise enjoyed touring Mozart's house. He said that, "it was fun learning about the famous composer," and added, "it was cool being in the house where a famous person had once lived."

Along with Mozart, the Meise's were able to tour Austria's salt mines and drink handmade beer from Austrian monks.

The world is filled with many diverse and interesting places and Mr. Meise would like to experience them all.



# The Roc Compared to NYC

September 11, 2017



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.





## Ms. Rice's Inspiration

September 11, 2017



Tatiana Colon  
Wildcat Times  
Correspondent

This year at Wilson, there are over 90 students that have come from different places from around the world, such as Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, Europe, and many other places, that have come to the United States for many reasons—some come by choice but, for others, it was a necessity.

The students often times have to come as a refugee to gain better lives. Their homes were bombed, their families murdered, wars in their backyard, and, to feel safe, their families fled (or sometimes just sent their children) to safer country.

Other students come over as immigrants. Many of these students feel that they will have more opportunities in the United States and want better things for themselves.

Some of the student's lives are very difficult before immigrating to America. One student in particular was more than willing to let Ms. Rice, one of Wilson's English for Speakers of Other Languages (or ESOL) teachers, tell his story. This Young Man's name is Geoffrey.

Geoffrey had to come to America after he was kicked out of his home in Honduras for defending his mother from her abusive partner. This had led him to spend his middle school years in a homeless shelter.

Shortly after, he decided that he wanted a better life for himself and came to United States. He came here through the Mexican border spending days traveling on the top of trains, walking through the dessert, and braving a deadly river.

Once he entered the United States, Geoffrey turned himself into immigration. From there, he was put in the "Ice Box." According to Rice, "They put minors in the "Ice Box," they call it the "Ice Box" because people say it's a freezing room, until a background check is made to make sure they aren't dangerous." Once everything checks out with a minor, immigration place them in foster care.

Once placed, Geoffrey took a test called NYSITELL—a test designed to judge him on his English. Based on the score, Geoffrey was placed into ESOL at school.

ESOL is a class/program that helps non-native speakers learn English. Rice describes her ESOL class as, "a class that the kids depend on for support. It's not one of those classes you stay in for a year and say bye—kids take it throughout all four years of high school."

ESOL does a lot to help the students. Geoffrey came into America with only a second grade education in Honduras and, this past August, graduated from Wilson. Stories like these show the strength and perseverance and can easily inspire others.

Rice says, "The ESOL kids are my Heroes." And it's easy to see why.



## Want to Hear Something Scary?

September 11, 2017



Joshua Sanks  
Wildcat Times  
Correspondent

You move into a house that has demonic symbols painted on the walls. Do you go on living there? Or do you call your realtor?

Mrs. Curtice, teacher here at Wilson Magnet High School, decided to stay.

Many odd things started to happen shortly after she moved in.

It all started after she and her husband found a painting of an eye with symbols around it in the attic.

Curtice would notice that lights would turn on in empty rooms. At first, she just thought that she was being absent-minded but soon, while her husband was at work, she would get the feeling of someone else being in the house. Watching her.

As time went on, and Christmas approached, she was home alone wrapping presents. Again she had the eerie feeling of someone in the room watching her but, this time while she continued to wrap presents, she heard foots steps running towards her. Curtice recalls, “It felt as if there was another person in my house running towards me,” but, when she turned around, no one was there.

She would tell her husband about these encounters when he returned home. He said that he understood and believed her but, since he had never witnessed anything himself, Curtice was worried that he was thinking that she was crazy.

All of these happenings made her feel paranoid, uncomfortable and unsafe.

The last straw happened one night while she and her husband were sleeping. She woke up in the middle of the night and found her husband in a fitful sleep. She could see his eyes moving under his eyelids, and assumed he was dreaming, but an uneasy feeling kept her from going back to sleep.

All of the sudden, her husband stood up in bed and yelled, “NOO!”

She quickly woke him up.

He said that he had a dream where a man was in the house, telling her [Curtice] to get a knife and stab him.

And in the dream she did.

Once she realized why he was screaming, Curtice said, “Nope. We have to get out of here. We have to move.”

And move they did.

Many people do not believe in ghosts and they maybe right.

But Mrs. Curtice does.

Either way, maybe next time you feel like something is watching while you’re home alone... you’ll tell yourself, “That was the cat,” “That was the wind,” or, “That was nothing.”

You might be right.

But maybe you’re not.



# Full-Time Educator, Part-Time Singer

September 11, 2017



Fatuma Abdi  
Wildcat Times  
Correspondent

When not teaching code or encouraging her students, Mrs. Blanco, computer science teacher here at Wilson Magnet High School, sings in a contemporary band and in a church choir.

Blanco mostly performs during Sunday services. At her church, while they do perform traditional hymns, Blanco and her band perform modern songs.

This is not a usual church band, Blanco says that it has, “drums, guitars and more.”

She adds, “We don’t only sing gospel music or traditional church songs. We play modern music. Not rap but modern, church music.” With her interest in modern music, she gets a taste of the music her students are into today.

Blanco believes that being part of the band helps her to help her strengthen her belief. The strength she gains helps to motivate her on a day-to-day basis.

This motivation also helps her to connect and bond with her students.

She practices and prepares just like students would when studying for a test.

On top of that, she sings in class, sharing the list of songs that she performs with her students, allowing them to express their feelings about her music.

Because of her musical background, Blanco sees the importance of music in others’ lives and allows her students to play music class.

After school, you may often hear music coming from her room while she prepares herself for evening.

Music has become a major focus in Blanco’s life. She routinely sings with her family before and after her concerts.

The inspiration that Blanco receives while performing affects her motivation to work with the band, her willingness to be a member of this church, and opens up new ways to connect with students here at Wilson High School.

Sometimes your hobbies can have a major impact on your life. Just ask Mrs. Blanco, she’ll tell you a story from a song in her heart.





# Loveless's Love for Snowshoeing

September 11, 2017



Joelee DiGiacco  
Wildcat Times  
Correspondent

Wilson High School students may know Mrs. Loveless as our art teacher but may not know that she pursues an interest in snowshoeing outside of her classroom.

Snowshoeing is where one travels wearing snowshoes--these are wide foot gear that disperse the wearer's weight, allowing them to be able to walk on deep snow without sinking.

Loveless generally likes the outdoors and enjoys snowshoeing because it is a time where she can spend with her family without any distractions.

Snowshoeing makes her understand and appreciate the outdoors because she now knows that it is a good opportunity to relax and enjoy herself.

Loveless added that she no longer dreads exercise during the wintertime. With the availability of snowshoeing, she now has a good exercise routine.

Snowshoeing provides a cardio workout, while also building strength, balance, and endurance.

Loveless loves the fitness aspect of snowshoeing because it is a way to go outdoors and enjoy the environment while getting an intense workout. She states, "You can't beat the scenery and peacefulness that comes with snowshoeing."

In the summer, Loveless finds trails that are used for hiking and then comes back in the winter to use those same trails for snowshoeing.

This activity is useful all year for her, which is beneficial because it helps her relax and get her mind off stressful situations.

Loveless uses snowshoeing as a way to reconnect with nature and have that exposure to everything the outdoors has to offer. With the experiences that she has shared while being in the environment, she feels like a more grounded person.

Loveless recommends that everyone should try snowshoeing at least once in their lifetime to gain a new perspective of what the outdoors can really be like.





## Cast Away Your Troubles and Go Fishing

September 11, 2017



Keonshae Grayson  
Wildcat Times  
Correspondent

The 2016-2017 school year has brought a passionate and dedicated art teacher to Wilson Magnet high school. When Mr. Camp is not dedicating his time to teaching, he can usually be found engaging in his first love—fishing.

Fishing is an activity Camp has enjoyed since he was 5 years old, beginning in the backyard of his grandparents' house by a creek.

Camp feels that this activity brings out a different side of him as he's more calm and relaxed while he fishes.

Fishing is a wonderful activity that relieves stress, creates social bonding, and supports the economy.

Fishing is a great stress reliever. When you get a bite, it's an activity that pumps you up and makes you feel good.

Fishing is a great way to spend time with friends and loved ones. While fishing, you have plenty of time to enjoy one another's company without many of life's modern-day distractions.

This activity also supports the economy with the U.S commercial and recreational fishing industries. Buying tackle supports businesses while selling your catch at the markets or restaurants is a great way to make money.

As a child, Camp lived in the country where he was super bored. This boredom led him to a creek near his home where he found his love of fishing.

At the age of eleven, Camp caught a 42-pound salmon. This catch, which was one of the biggest fish he has ever caught, still stands out as a great accomplishment in his life.

To this day, Camp still goes out to the lake to fish. Most of the time, he sells his catch as a side business.

Patience is the key to fishing. It is not a given that you will catch a fish each time you go out. If you stay calm, let the fish come to you, focus on your technique all the while enjoying the outdoors—it is hard to think of a better way to release stress.

Camp has caught sunfish, bass, salmon, and other types of interesting fish.

So when you see Mr. Camp and notice the often-worn smile, you can bet that he just returned from a great weekend of fishing.



# The Other Side of Mrs. Monk-George

September 11, 2017



Courage Nou  
Wildcat Times  
Correspondent

Mrs. Monk-George (aka G-Money) is a living environment teacher at Wilson that is known by her offbeat teaching style and behavior. She makes her class fun and enthusiastic for students but has a different persona outside of school.

Because she acts “cool,” there are rumors floating around that Monk-George uses drugs, which, she says, “is totally false.” While Monk-George is extremely enthusiastic, she is far from a partier.

Monk-George describes herself as a very religious person. In fact, she is an active follower of Baha’i.

Baha’i teaches humans how to know and love god through prayers, reflection and your service to community. Some of the Baha’i practices are daily prayers, meditation, contemplation and fellowship with followers of all religions.

Baha’i faith was found in the 19-century by Bahá'u'lláh (ba-haa-ol-laa) in Persia and literally means “the Glory of God.”

While reading a bunch of articles about the Baha’i belief, Monk-George felt an instant connection. She felt like it was something for her and it was a good feeling that went straight to her heart.

In this belief, no one is “above” anyone else in the community

She said that the Baha’i belief makes her see the world in many different ways and shows her the reason why that she is a part of this world.

Along with teaching at Wilson, she teaches children in a Baha’i class where kids have fun while completing community service projects. The class also reads stories about Baha’i, memorizes prayers and discusses what the different quotes and writings mean.

Monk-George describes a frequent discussion about, “the source of courage and power is the promotion of the Word of God and steadfastness in His Love.”

Every month she hosts an event for her Baha’i community giving the people an opportunity to learn something new. Last month, she brought a professor from RIT to talk about the learning of science.

While she may be described as offbeat or different, Monk-George uses natural methods to enjoy life by helping others while finding her own way.





# The Real Wildlife



Shaliyah Whitaker  
Wildcat Times  
Correspondent

September 11, 2017

Mrs. Post is not only a science teacher here at Wilson Magnet High School, she also studied and helped the wildlife in our area.

Before working at Wilson, Post traveled around the New York State for ten years helping and rehabbing injured animals, relocated them back into the wild.

Post helped to rebuild the population of endangered species by transporting these animals back to their habitat. She often helped turkeys, bobcats, eagles, hawks and other predators as-well-as prey. Post also worked with the much publicized falcons at the Kodak Tower located in Rochester NY—she helped to return them back to their nests.

To help repopulate, Post used to mate-bond, or pretend to be the animals mate, with different species. At one point, she mate-bonded with a turkey vulture saying, "...he would come down and sit on my head as if I was his mate." Post adds, "it was funny and adorable."

While Post has been instrumental to releasing and repopulating endangered animals, some couldn't be released. These animals were taken to schools to teach children about conservation and wildlife.

Post is interested in wildlife and helping makes her feel like she made a difference and excited to be involved. She adds, "I really like sharing with people who never witnessed the wild in full effect".

While Post enjoys working with the wild, she loves teaching just as much. She recalls her work with her mentor Jane Goodall, a well-known English primatologist. Throughout their work together studying wildlife, Post was very happy and admired Goodall. To be able to teach younger students is Post's way to pass her and Goodall's passion for wildlife on.

While being in nature is fun and exciting, it isn't always positive. Post warns about the dangers of climate change. If efforts are not made, she feels that it would hurt the population of these wildlife animals. And if these animals are effected, Post feels that climate change will affect our food services as well.

Our wildlife must be preserved and cherished. When approaching the unknown, we should respect and learn things before acting out of violence and fear.



# Darth Vader's #1 Fan



Jah'meir Robinson  
Wildcat Times  
Correspondent

September 11, 2017

Mr. Burns, an English teacher here at Wilson High School, is very interactive in and outside of school. He is able to combine his enjoyment for Star Wars and passion for public service into one.



Darth Vader is probably the most recognizable Star Wars character from the movie franchise and has been Burns' favorite character since he was three-years-old. He says, "It all started in the late seventies. I lived across the street from a library that had a life-size, cardboard Darth Vader. I asked for it and the librarian said no. I guess I got the last laugh."

Burns has been building his costume for the past year. He has purchased different parts from all around the world: pieces of his Vader have come from California, Argentina, England and many more places. With most parts having price tags in the thousand-dollar range, experts have to be found throughout the world to help make the costume as close to screen accurate as possible. Burns says, "There is a demand but it's not too big. You have to search to find artists that create quality things."

In November of 2016, Burns applied to become part of 501<sup>st</sup> Legion. The organization's goal is to bring many costume enthusiasts together while trying to make more people take an interest in the Star Wars franchise. Burns stated, "The 501<sup>st</sup> is the biggest costume organization in the world. They pride themselves in movie accuracy and all events are not-for-profit."

Since being a recruit for the 501<sup>st</sup>, he has trooped for the Pirate Toy Fund at Eastview Mall, for a local children's hospital at an Albany Devils game, and escorted a young lady to center ice to drop the puck at the Rochester Amerks Star Wars Night where he trooped for the Golisano Children's Hospital.



The 501<sup>st</sup> troopers are perfect for bringing attention to an event and many sporting teams enjoy adding 'Star Wars Night' to their schedule noting that it is usually their most attended game for the year.

Trooping is voluntary so the characters do not get any kind of compensation. If a person insists on paying, the 501<sup>st</sup> asks that they donate to the charity they are trooping for that night.

While he doesn't receive pay, Burns still gets a lot from being a member of the 501<sup>st</sup>. "You get to see a lot of the behind-the-scenes at events and it's just fun to dress up as Darth Vader. A lot of smiles, everyone wants to take pictures with me and I feel like a rock star."

While Mr. Burns does help raise money for charity, his first love is Darth Vader. "Many people give me strange looks when I tell them what I do. All I know is that my eight-year-old self would think that I'm the coolest guy in the world!"