

## Upcoming Events

Sep 1 - 3: Club Rush  
During Lunch – Commons

Sep 15: FFA @ The Utah  
State Fair

### Cross Country

Sep 10 @ Park City

Sep 11 @ BYU

### Drama

Sep 7 – 10: Auditions for  
Fall Show

### Football

Sep 3 vs Herriman

Sep 10 @ Mt. Ridge

Sep 17 vs Skyridge

### Girls Soccer

Sep 2 @ Corner Canyon

Sep 9 @ American Fork

Sep 14 vs Skyridge

Sep 16 @ Lone Peak

### Golf

Sep 8 @ Sleepy Ridge

Sep 13 @ River Oaks

### Tennis

Sep 1 @ Riverton

Sep 2 vs American Fork

Sep 7 @ Corner Canyon

Sep 9 - 11 in St. George

Sep 14 @ Pleasant Grove

Sep 15 vs Cedar Valley

Sep 16 vs Lone Peak

### Volleyball

Sep 2 vs. Copper Hills

Sep 7 vs Delta

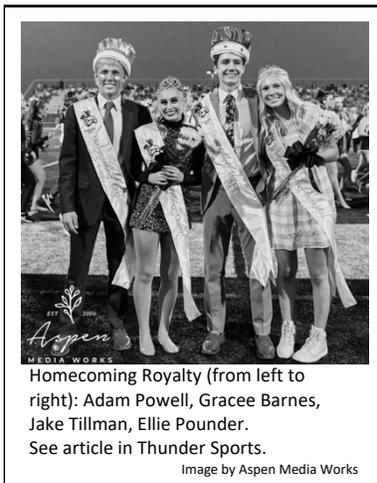
Sep 9 @ Skyridge

Sep 10 – 11 @ Lehi for  
Rocky Mt. Tournament

## ENCHANTED HOMECOMING

By Victoria Araujo Alba

As the school year starts, the main event all students are preparing for isn't a test, but the Homecoming Dance. Cambridge Diction says that Homecoming is "a celebration at a school or a college, usually including a dance and a football game, when people who were students there at an earlier time can return" In Westlake, the Homecoming Dance is a beloved, iconic tradition. For the Student Council (StuCo), it's a week full of hard work, late night preparations, last-minute changes, coordination, and anxious nights. Despite all odds, they always deliver a beautiful experience all Westlake's students enjoy.



Homecoming Royalty (from left to right): Adam Powell, Gracee Barnes, Jake Tillman, Ellie Pounder.  
See article in Thunder Sports.

Image by Aspen Media Works

Homecoming is a guy's choice dance, which means as soon as school starts proposals are going on everywhere. Westlake's StuCo released an Instagram video on Jul 21, 2021, featuring Spencer Remund. They encouraged the guys to start asking out before school, and we all got to see Spencer ask someone out on his first date.

This year's theme was Enchanted. Advertisements for the dance were all over Westlake; beautiful posters were hung, QR codes were posted, social media was updated, and announcements were made. The excitement was palpable and student's moods were lifted. Homecoming week was amazing and filled with events: a themed bakery, a chalk festival, the Powder Puff game, a

painting night, and the carnival. All these events led up to the biggest of them all, the Enchanted Homecoming Dance.

The night of the dance, Westlake's common area was filled with music, colored lights, and lots of balloons. Students would come in from A-Hall, walk under beautiful lights hung from the ceiling, and make their way to the music. The DJ was by the library doors, surrounded by pastel-colored balloons. Water stations were on both sides of the commons area, and our Westlake staff was upstairs monitoring the dance. If you looked up, you would have seen them dancing the night away too. The students showed their support and were thrilled to see the adults having fun. By the end of the night, we were all happy and thoroughly exhausted.

If you see a member of the Student Council around, congratulate and thank them for all the work they've put in. The Homecoming Dance was outstanding by all means, and we look forward to future activities and events hosted by them.

**Westlake's New Attendance Policy** is being rolled out in all your classes and can affect your ability to participate in school activities. Watch for more information about this new policy in a future issue of The Thunder News.

**Club Rush Week** is September 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> during lunch. Be sure to check out the various clubs that are available at Westlake High School.

CLUBS – IF YOU HAVE ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT NEED TO BE POSTED,  
EMAIL: [WHS\\_THUNDERNEWS@ALPINEDISTRICT.ORG](mailto:WHS_THUNDERNEWS@ALPINEDISTRICT.ORG).

## JOURNALISM CLUB

Want to write articles for The Thunder News? Wonder how articles get from the writing room to the front page?

Join us on Wednesdays from 11:45 – 12:15 in C246.

# THUNDER SPORTS

## BITTERSWEET LOSS: HOMECOMING GAME

By Jonah Bradshaw

Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup> was Westlake's homecoming game, our first game at home. Given a white-out theme, our students were in an uproar, faces painted and spirits high. The Westlake band played the Westlake fight song, followed by a wonderful rendition of our national anthem sung by the Marigolds. Teams get settled on the field and the game began.

The Westlake Thunder struggled to score any points within the first half, but Aubrey Cherington reminded her fellow students that all was not lost; "Its ok, we made a huge comeback after halftime at the Alta game." During halftime, the marching band, color guard, and dance company did an amazing performance. After the halftime show, homecoming royalty was announced. Adam Powell and Gracee Barnes were declared homecoming king and queen, with Jake Tillman and Ellie Pounder as homecoming prince and princess.

After halftime, the game resumed and Syracuse pushed us to the 10-yard line. What followed must be considered the play of the game; despite Syracuse's nearly assured touchdown, Cooper Cowen was able to make a 90-yard dash across the field and secured a touchdown for our team. It was one of the greatest touchdowns in Westlake football.

Unfortunately, for the majority of the game, The Thunder struggled with defense, resulting in a 6-23 loss. While students were disappointed at the defeat, the entire event was still a rousing reminder of Westlake's spirit.

## HOMECOMING CARNIVAL

By Jordan Perry

The Westlake Homecoming Carnival was an instant success, with students and families participating in the festivities. There was everything from churros and cotton candy to drawn tattoos and face paint. You could play ring toss or smash a car with a sledge hammer. Westlake Student Council and Westlake Clubs put a lot of thought and work into the carnival's success.

The soccer team rented a bouncy house that allowed students to play soccer inside. Latinos in Action (LIA) was serving delicious churros and fresas-concrema, with a wide variety of condiments available, including chocolate and caramel sauce. The Seminary table had popsicles, and if you played rock paper scissors with them, you could go double or nothing. Future Farmers of America (FFA) was serving hamburgers for four tickets each, and gathered a huge crowd around them; they were truly a successful booth. The Saratoga Springs Youth council was also there, advertising and looking for recruits. But the highlight of the carnival was dunking Principal Smith, which students had the opportunity to do for 3 tickets.

When asked what his favorite part was, Leilany Katoa said "the food", and we could not agree more. Josh Barlos, who was ready for the Homecoming Game with his face covered in Ws, said "face paint!" The carnival set the mood for the Homecoming Game, which happened right after the carnival ended, and filled the students with Westlake pride!

## Sports Scores

### Cross Country

Aug 27: UIAAA:

Girls Varsity: 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Boys Varsity: 6<sup>th</sup> Place

### Football (2-1)

Aug 13 @ Hunter: 3-0

Aug 20 @ Alta: 27-13

Aug 27 vs. Syracuse (HC): 6 - 23

### Girls Soccer (3-4)

Aug 3 @ Copper Hills: 4-3

Aug 10 @ Timpanogos: 1-4

Aug 12 vs. Herriman: 3-0

Aug 14 @ Ridgeline: 1-0

Aug 19 @ Salem Hills: 1-0

Aug 24 vs. Lone Peak: 3-4

Aug 26 @ Skyridge: 3-1

### Golf

Not available at press time – will be reported in next issue.

### Tennis

Not available at press time – will be reported in next issue.

### Volleyball (0-3)

Aug 19 @ Mountain Ridge: 1-3

Aug 24 @ Skyline: 0-3

Aug 26 @ Timpanogos: 0-3

## PRINCIPAL'S WORD OF ADVICE

"If you want to have a fun year, find someone to serve.

Just saying "Hi," or waiving to someone in the hallway, that counts.

If you see someone sitting alone in the hallway, sit and talk with them.

Find someone to help, someone to serve."

# THUNDER LIFE

## THE WELLNESS CENTER: A RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS

By Quinn Randall

One of the most important things to tend to in life is one's mental health. It's incredibly difficult to give it your all and get the most out of high school when you're having trouble with mental health. As well as supplying counselors for support, Westlake is proud to provide the Wellness Center: a room dedicated for students to wind down and get assistance. Located in C138, the Wellness Center is available throughout the school day for any students in need.

The Wellness Center provides a quiet, calm environment for students to relax in; calming music plays in the background, comfortable chairs and tables allow students to sit down and take a break, as well as fidgeting toys and stress-releasing items.

Whether they need to get themselves gathered for the day ahead, want to unwind after a long day, or simply need a quick break during class to calm down, the Wellness Center is always open to students. It does more than provide the space for some private time. Students can also reach out to Janet Harkness, the trained professional who runs the Wellness Center. She's always available to talk with and can help students if they want to discuss topics of any nature.

As well as providing a professional psychiatrist for a consultation, every Wednesday, the Wellness Center hosts a group meeting to discuss various mental wellness topics. All students are invited to join these meetings, and school lunches will be there so students can head straight to the room after their fourth period rather than having to wait in a lunch line first.

I've had the chance to visit the Wellness Center on a few occasions during my time here at Westlake, and I can attest to how well the center works. I was able to join a Wednesday meeting, and even though I wasn't actively participating, I felt my mood improve. I was also able to spend some time talking to Mrs. Harkness with a friend last year, and she was able to help get a situation sorted through. Every part of the Wellness Center is made to help you take care of yourself, and it shows.

For any students who feel like a trip to the Wellness Center will do them good, or want someone to talk with, the Wellness Center is always open. No matter the reason, from serious discussions to just taking five minutes to calm down, the Wellness Center is a valuable resource for all Westlake students. Mental wellness is among the keys to a bright future, and Westlake has invested a lot of time and money into this resource available to all students.

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## STAFF HIGHLIGHT

### MEET MRS. ALLEN



By Victoria Araujo Alba

This issue's Staff Highlight focuses on Mrs. Aubrey Allen. Mrs. Allen manages our College and Career Center, a resource available to all students. Helping students find good college matches, apply for scholarships, and send in college applications, Mrs. Allen states that "if there is anything regarding after high school [students require help with], they can come here."

Mrs. Allen emphasized that all students can use the College and Career Center's services and that they should visit her "regardless of what grade [they] are in." As many applications are due before spring break, Seniors are advised to visit the College and Career Center to get help or answers to any questions they might have. Mrs. Allen also mentioned that Westlake's official website has a scholarship page with opportunities and resources available to all students.

If you wish to contact Mrs. Allen, you can email her at [aubreydavis@alpinedistrict.org](mailto:aubreydavis@alpinedistrict.org), or visit her in D hall.

