



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

D88 Superintendent forms Student Advisory Committee

Barbanente hopes to give students voice, address inclusion

In the Friday, Sept. 30 edition of the DuPage High School District 88 newsletter, a letter was published written by District 88 Superintendent Jean Barbanente, Ed.D. announcing her plans to form a new Student Advisory Committee to provide opportunity for student voice and inclusion. Following is the text of her letter:

"At District 88, one of our top priorities is to connect with all students to develop in each child a sense of belonging and encourage him or her to find success. As part of this focus on inclusion, I am continuing to implement a Superintendent Student Advisory Committee to hear directly from our pupils.

"I'm committed to being accessible, inclusive, collaborative and transparent, and the Student Advisory Committee is one initiative to help meet that goal. The committee provides students with a seat at our administrative table and an opportunity to have their voices heard to help shape the future direction of the district.

"The committee is comprised of students from Addison Trail and Willowbrook, who offer diverse backgrounds and perspectives. At District 88, we have about 40 languages and more than 30 countries represented among our families, and almost half

"I'm committed to being accessible, inclusive, collaborative and transparent, and the Student Advisory Committee is one initiative to help meet that goal."

**— Jean Barbanente, Ed.D.
Superintendent**

of our nearly 4,000 pupils speak a language other than English at home. We know embracing that diversity will lead to success in the classroom and beyond and will allow us to accomplish our mission of working for the continuous improvement of student achievement."

Following are the members of the committee:

Addison Trail:
Senior Verenise Morales-Saave-

dra, senior Joslynn Elakkatt, junior Mekalah Haywood, sophomore Ary-an Shine, senior Vito Diciolla, senior Clarita Gaytan Vazquez, junior Jack DiDomenic, senior Lea Staller and senior Sofia Angiulo.

Willowbrook:

Senior Neeraja Kumar, senior Noah Campbell, senior Jade Inoshita, senior Elijah Smith, junior Natalia Garcia-Avila, junior Sean O'Brochta, junior Tia Kelly, sophomore Maggie Brennan, sophomore Aryash Sampat and freshman Jaclyn Bryers.

The committee met for the first time on Monday, Sept. 26 and plans to meet every other month throughout the school year.

"We discussed ways to enhance our clubs/activities and increase involvement, implementing digital student IDs, areas of improvement for technology and district grading policies," Barbanente continued. "I thank the committee members for their insight and dedication, and I look forward to working together to continue to improve our schools."

Villa Park Brewfest draws a crowd

Saturday afternoon's Villa Park Brewfest gave attendees a chance to sample a range of craft beers and hard ciders from several breweries. This year's event at Cortesi Veterans Memorial Park set a new attendance record, with about 500 tickets sold. The first Villa Park Brewfest was held in 2017. The 2020 event was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Villa Park Village President Nick Cuzzone (pictured at right) participated in Saturday's event by pouring samples for attendees. Another photo (above) shows Charlie Tierney, the owner of Villa Park's Lunar Brewing Company. He is pictured (center) with Cheryl Kayton (left) and Ted Furman (right).



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Warriors dominate Addison Trail in District 88 Bowl

Willowbrook pulls away from the Blazers to post a 42-6 victory

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook football team improved to 3-3 overall and 3-1 in the West Suburban Gold Conference with Friday's 42-6 victory over Addison Trail in Addison. The Warriors led their District 88 rival 21-6 at halftime. Willowbrook added three more touchdowns in the second half to post a dominant win in the annual "District 88 Bowl."

Friday's victory allowed the Warriors to maintain possession of the District 88 trophy, also referred to as "The Lady." Willowbrook has now won seven straight games against Addison Trail. The Blazers haven't beaten the Warriors since 2015, when they edged Willowbrook 28-26 in Villa Park.

Junior Damian Banaszewski scored all three of the Warriors' first-half touchdowns during Friday's game in Addison. Banaszewski gave his team a 6-0 lead when he ran 17 yards for a touchdown with six minutes left in the first quarter. Senior Adrian Guerrero kicked the extra point to extend the Warriors' lead to 7-0.

Addison Trail (which fell to 2-4 overall and 1-2 in the conference) scored its only points of the night on a 12-yard touchdown pass on a fourth-down play in the waning seconds of the first quarter. The Blazers missed the extra-point kick.

Banaszewski scored his second touchdown of the night on a fourth-down run from the Blazers' 1-yard line. Guerrero's kick pushed the Warriors' lead to 14-6 with 1:54 left in the second quarter.

Moments later, sophomore Micah



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's football team pounded Addison Trail 42-6 in Friday's West Suburban Gold Conference game in Addison. The Warriors, who improved their overall season record to 3-3 with the victory, have won seven straight meetings against their District 88 rival. Addison Trail hasn't posted a victory in the annual "District 88 Bowl" since 2015. This photo from Friday's game shows junior Damian Banaszewski during his 17-yard touchdown run in the first quarter. Banaszewski added two more rushing touchdowns during the first half to help the Warriors to a 21-6 halftime lead. Willowbrook's season continues with this Friday's conference home game against Hinsdale South.

Lewis intercepted an Addison Trail pass and made a return of about 25 yards to the Blazers' 40-yard line. The Warriors proceeded to drive 40 yards for a touchdown—a 2-yard run by Banaszewski with 5.9 seconds left in the first half. Guerrero converted the extra-point kick to give Willowbrook a 21-6 lead.

Junior Joe Hanson, junior Daeveon Madison and sophomore K.J. Rhodes scored one touchdown each

for the Warriors during the second half.

Willowbrook's season continues with this Friday's conference home game against Hinsdale South (2-4 overall and 2-1 in West Suburban Gold play). The Warriors will complete their regular season with a non-conference contest at York on Oct. 14, followed by a conference home game against Morton on Thursday, Oct. 20.

Warriors pick up seventh victory by crushing Rich Township

After giving up an early score, Willowbrook reels off six goals to beat the Raptors 6-1

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook boys soccer team improved its overall season record to 7-7-3 with Saturday's 6-1 home win over Rich Township.

The visiting Raptors scored during the first minute of the match to take an early 1-0 lead. Willowbrook scored a pair of first-half goals to grab a 2-1 halftime advantage. The Warriors added four more goals during the second half.

Willowbrook senior Aiden Amin scored the first-half goal that evened the score at 1-1. Sophomore Armando Martinez scored the Warriors' second goal of the match, with an assist from senior Marwan Smadi.

Sophomore Vinni DaSilva scored the second-half goal that pushed Willowbrook's lead to 3-1. Senior Dali Acuna delivered the Warriors' next goal. Freshman Evan Haworth scored Willowbrook's next goal, with an assist from junior Liron Ebema. Smadi scored the Warriors' final goal of Saturday's match.

One day before beating Rich Township, the Warriors dropped a 6-0 decision at Oak Park/River Forest.

Willowbrook lost 4-1 at Glenbard West on Sept. 27. Senior D'Angelo Mahone scored the Warriors' lone goal against the Hilltoppers.

The Warriors began last week with a 1-0 West Suburban Gold Conference loss at Downers Grove South. Willowbrook will complete its regular season with a home conference match against the Leyden Eagles on Oct. 11. The Warriors will open post-season play by facing Conant at the IHSA Class 3A Conant Regional in Hoffman Estates on Oct. 19.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's girls volleyball team improved its overall season record to 18-2 with last week's 25-16, 25-15 home win over Glenbard East. Sophomore Hannah Kenny (No. 6) supplied six kills, nine assists, four digs and two blocks in the Sept. 29 victory over the Rams.

speak OUT

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I cannot even read Speak Out anymore. It should be renamed "the right-wing corner of hate." The sheer amount of ignorant, right-wing, hateful comments is overwhelming. Surely, this cannot represent the community in which we live. Come on complainers, at least do proper research before you call in a comment. This is getting ridiculous.

I saw a poll conducted by PBSNewsHour/NPR/Marist where 61 percent said Trump should not run for president. I'm certainly among the 61 percent who don't want to see this arrogant narcissist anywhere near the White House again, but something tells me will run because he loves the attention. The MAGA Republicans run the Republican party, and they won't be satisfied with anyone else except their messiah at the nominee.

Joe Biden declared the COVID-19 pandemic to be over on 60 Minutes a couple of weeks ago. Apparently, Governor Billionaire didn't get the memo. He extended his COVID emergency powers for the 33rd time in August, and they were supposed to expire on Sept. 17. It's now October, and I haven't heard or read anything about him doing away with these emergency powers. Why not? I bet I know why. He loves power.

I heard Liz Cheney say she will leave the Republican Party if Trump is the nominee in 2024. At least she has principles and can see Trump for the tyrant that he is, unlike a lot of you Trompians I see in Speak Out who think he walks on water and can do no wrong. Hopefully, Trump will be behind bars before the next presidential election.

You might have heard about two brothers in Saskatchewan who were arrested a few weeks ago after being accused of stabbing 10 people to death and wounding 18. The thought occurred to me: If something like this happened in the United States, would there be a rush by Biden and the gun-grabbers to call whatever knives were used in the stabbings assault knives and ban them?

Did you hear Trump now say the DOJ went into his home to get the missing Hillary Clinton tapes; does that mean he has or had them? What does he mean? He is getting so desperate now that there is proof he is a crook. Too bad it's not a criminal case, but at least he'll have to come

up with millions of dollars, and this is only the first case; there are plenty more to prove he is a fraud and a cheat!

Did you read about the Chicago Police Department being unable to respond to 9-1-1 calls during the recent Mexican Independence Day celebrations? Several 9-1-1 calls received no responses for hours. According to a dispatcher, "most everything" awaiting police response was over three hours old. And by not responding to multiple 9-1-1 calls, fewer crime reports are written, and crime magically goes "down." Chicago is circling the drain.

Every week, I read comments in this section where the person is clearly bugged about one thing or another. This past week, there was someone upset about the Illinois SAFE-T Act. The thing I notice frequently is that the information some people are upset about is misleading or untrue. Facebook, Twitter and all other social media is fine, but please, check the sources! If something gets you upset, before you just go off, verify that what you're upset about is actual fact. There are numerous places one can check the veracity of these items that end up on social media. Please folks, use the multiple fact-checking websites and organizations to confirm if statements on Twitter or Facebook are true before getting all riled up. You can be smarter about what you read and hear. And you will probably not get so stressed out about some things. Ten fact checking places: FactCheck.org, Reuters Fact Check, Washington Post Fact Checker, AP Fact Check, CheckYourFact, Lead Stories, USA Today Fact Check, Politifact, The Dispatch, and Snopes. These are great sources of factual information. Check things on more than one if you can.

Gas prices went up last week, and the gas station attendant said she thought it was because of the hurricane. President Biden said on TV when talking about the hurricane in Florida that he would not tolerate price gouging, especially in the wake of oil prices actually going down. (As of Sept. 23 and Sept. 26 both Forbes and Market Watch reported the same.) So, the president got something right. I paid at least 40 cents more a gallon last week than I did the week before. I wonder at what point is the increase considered gouging.

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Villa Park Fire Department invites residents to its open house on Oct. 15

Free event takes place from noon to 3 p.m. at Fire Station 81

The Villa Park Fire Department will hold its annual open house on Saturday, Oct. 15. The open house will run from noon until 3 p.m. at Fire Station 81, located at 1440 S. Ardmore Ave. Parking will be available at the U.S. Post Office that's located across the street from the fire station.

The upcoming open house, which is taking place at the end of Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 9-15), will include fire safety puppet shows at 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

A live fire demonstration will take place outside of the station at 2:30 p.m.

Children who visit the open house will have a chance to see and touch fire equipment and vehicles. Children will also be able to slide down a fire pole.

Young attendees will be able to meet Sparky the Fire Dog at the open house, which will offer free popcorn and a chance to win raffle prizes. Children will also be able to take home free junior firefighter helmets, stick-on badges and balloons.

For more information, call the Villa Park Fire Department at 630-833-5350.

Obituary

PATRICIA ANN DeCICCO

Patricia Ann DeCicco (nee Starnes/O'Rell) of Lombard, Illinois, after saying goodnight for the final time to her children and grandchildren, passed peacefully in the early morning hours of Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022, and blessedly only four hours later her name was offered in the prayers for the faithful departed at St. Pius X 8 AM Sunday celebration.

Born on Oct. 28, 1938, in Downers Grove, Illinois, Patricia or Patsy as she was fondly referred to by her loving mother, Kathryn and her late brothers Jim, Bill and Ray, was even as a child loving and caring to those around her especially those less fortunate than her and supporting of other children at school that were noticeably in need of a friend.

A high school friendship would turn into a lifelong relationship that would change her life when she met Carole DeCicco in sewing class, sharing similar interests and their love of laughter more so than sewing. Through Carole, Patricia met her eventual husband and father of her 6 children, John DeCicco Sr. After their marriage, which ended in divorce after 25 years, they all remained friends until John's recent passing and continuing with daily phone calls from Carole up until the day Patricia left us.

She was the most kind and forgiving Mother to her six children, the late John Anthony Jr., Frank Sr. (Kathleen), Diana (the late Bartolo) DeCicco-Gianfortune, Daniel Sr. (Eileen), Joseph (Leah), and Laura DeCicco-Castellon. While a stay-at-home Mom for most of her children's schooling years, Mom was the chief cook, car pooler, teacher's aide, pool lifeguard and recreational director for her 6 and all the kids who came along as a result of being the loving, caring, best house on the

block Mom that she was.

The only thing that gave her more pride than her kids were her grandchildren and great grandchildren, John Anthony III (Rhonda), Nicol (Graham), Frank Jr. (Allison), Diana (Eric), Jennifer (Ernesto), the late Nicholas, Bartolo (Silvia), Nicholas (Ashlee), Anthony John, Daniel Jr. (Bonnie), Jade (Spencer), Michael (Tommy), John James, Patrick, Kayla, Christopher (Brooke), Jack, John Anthony IV, Kailyn, Grace, Avery, Gabriella, Carmella, Caden, Ernesto Jr. (Tina), Antonio, Isabel, Dante, Julian, Rocco, and the most recent, Leonardo Joseph.

Grandma Patti or G Patti's special bond with all her grandkids was laughter, the sharing of food and always having time for each and every one of them. Her selfless love was the common link in the family chain that she has woven over all the many years we were blessed to have had her with us.

At a birthday celebration a few years ago, in addition to receiving her beloved dog Daisy, a video tribute was shared with her and after viewing it through smiles, laughs and some tears, she declared that while she didn't go out and build a company or have some long career in business, she knew then that her life's accomplishments would be forever measured by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and the lessons she taught them, the example that she was and the love that she has left for them to carry and to pass on to others. Until we meet again to one of life's true treasures!

Services were held at Brust Funeral Home, 135 S. Main St. Lombard, IL, with a Funeral Mass held at St. Pius X Catholic Church, 1025 E. Madison St., Lombard, IL, followed by Interment at St. Michael Cemetery, Wheaton, IL. In lieu of flowers, please send a donation to a charity of your choice in Patricia's name.

Info www.brustfuneralhome.com or 888-629-0094.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Villa Park resident named Montini homecoming king

Montini Catholic High School seniors Christian Clarke (left) of Villa Park and Jordan Heatherly (right) of Western Springs were named their school's 2022 homecoming king and queen during Friday afternoon's pep assembly. Montini concluded its homecoming week celebration with Saturday evening's dance, which was held outdoors in the Lombard school's stadium. Saturday's dance also featured food trucks, games and fireworks.

Warriors pick up two more wins to move to 18-2

Team finishes the week with a home victory over Glenbard East

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls volleyball team improved its overall season record to 18-2 with a pair of non-conference home victories last week.

The Warriors began their week with a 26-24, 25-19 win over Whitney Young on Sept. 26. Three days later, Willowbrook beat Glenbard East 25-16, 25-15.

Junior Calli Kenny supplied nine kills, 17 assists, seven digs and two aces in the Warriors' win over Whitney Young. Sophomore Hannah Kenny provided 11 kills, 15 assists and six digs. Sophomore Anna Marinier added eight kills, while senior Natalie Cipriano tallied two kills, two assists and two digs.

Senior Grace Conley had five digs and two assists in Willowbrook's victory over Whitney Young. Junior Elle Bruschuk contributed four kills, two blocks and two digs. Senior

Hope Reckamp connected for two kills, while junior Elisa Chivilo made three digs and served one ace.

Calli Kenny had seven kills, eight assists and two digs in the Warriors' Sept. 29 win over Glenbard East. Hannah Kenny delivered six kills, nine assists, four digs and two blocks. Cipriano had four kills and four digs. Marinier hit two kills and made two digs.

Conley provided eight digs and two assists in Willowbrook's win over the Rams. Chivilo made four digs. Reckamp hit three kills. Junior Eliza Ramey had three blocks, while junior Keri Ostrowski made three digs.

The Warriors' schedule this week includes matches against Hinsdale South and Glenbard West. Willowbrook will conclude the week by playing in Saturday's Elk Grove Invite.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

The Willowbrook girls and boys cross-country teams ran in their only home meet of the season last week. The Warriors competed against Hinsdale South and Proviso East in the Sept. 26 meet at Lombard Common. Willowbrook sophomore Amelie Ojeda is pictured (right) during her winning effort in the 3-mile girls race, which she completed in 20 minutes, 4 seconds. Senior Kevin Diederich of the Warriors is pictured (left) while heading toward the finish line in the boys race. Diederich negotiated the 3-mile course in a first-place time of 16 minutes, 17 seconds. Diederich delivered another winning performance on Saturday at the eight-team Solorio Sun Warrior Invitational in Chicago. His first-place run helped Willowbrook win the team title in Saturday's event.

Warriors earn victories in lone home meet of the season

Ojeda's first-place run leads girls team to a win; Diederich's winning effort paces boys team's triumph

STAFF REPORT

Willowbrook's girls and boys cross-country teams competed in their only home meet of the season on Monday, Sept. 26. The Warriors hosted West Suburban Gold Conference rivals Hinsdale South and Proviso East in a meet that took place on a 3-mile course at Lombard Common.

Willowbrook's girls team edged Hinsdale South 28-29 in the team competition of last week's meet in Lombard. The Proviso East lineup did not include a full team; three Pirates completed the race.

Willowbrook sophomore Amelie Ojeda delivered a first-place finish in last week's girls race, which she completed in a winning time of 20 minutes, 4 seconds. Ojeda crossed the finish line 31 seconds ahead of the Hinsdale South runner who turned in a second-place effort.

Senior Amelia Barrington (21:26) of the Warriors finished third in the individual standings. Sophomore Malin Meeker (22:30) earned a sixth-place finish for Willowbrook. Sophomore Molly Brown (22:38) provided the Warriors with an eighth-place finish, while sophomore Aubry Schulgen

(23:14) placed 10th to complete Willowbrook's team score of 28 (1+3+6+8+10).

Freshman Allyson Stefani (23:37; 13th) and sophomore Sophia Stasch (24:02; 14th) also earned top-15 finishes for the Warriors.

Willowbrook's boys team decisively defeated Hinsdale South in last week's event. Proviso East's boys team did not feature a full lineup.

Senior Kevin Diederich of the Warriors sailed to a victory in the individual competition. Diederich finished the 3-mile race in 16 minutes, 17 seconds.

The runner-up, sophomore Jake Skibbie of Willowbrook, crossed the finish line more than one minute after Diederich completed the race. Skibbie posted a second-place time of 17:25.

Sophomore Kasen Blain (17:40) of Willowbrook secured a third-place finish. Sophomore Adriano Quintero (17:43) completed a 1-2-3-4 finish for Willowbrook with his fourth-place effort.

Senior Henry Sloan (18:03), sophomore Patrick Haczos (18:12) and senior Charlie Hayes (18:16)

rounded out the Warriors' top six runners in the meet.

Willowbrook's girls team competed in Saturday's Pat Savatelli Invitational at Niles West High School in Skokie. Ojeda produced the Warriors' fastest time in 3-mile race, which she completed in a 40th-place time of 19:59. Willowbrook placed 21st in team standings of the 37-team competition.

The Warriors' boys team ran Saturday's eight-team Solorio Warrior Invitational at Marquette Golf Course in Chicago. Diederich led the Warriors to the team title by claiming the individual championship in the 3-mile divisional race. Diederich completed the race in 15 minutes, 38 seconds. He finished about one minute ahead of the race's second-place runner.

Willowbrook's girls and boys teams will compete in the upcoming West Suburban Gold Conference Meet, which will take place at St. James Farm in Warrenville on Oct. 15. The Warriors' girls boys teams will then compete at IHSA Class 3A Lyons Towns Regional on Oct. 22.

A pair of Warriors advance to Oswego Sectional

Vandergrift and Guajardo also advanced to sectional play last season

STAFF REPORT

Seniors Brett Vandergrift and Vince Guajardo of the Willowbrook boys golf team earned individual berths in this week's IHSA Class 3A Oswego Sectional with their strong performances at last week's Glenbard East Regional.

Vandergrift turned in an 18-hole score of 79 on the regional's par-71 course at Glendale Lakes Golf Club in Glendale Heights. Guajardo fired an 82 at the regional, which took place on Sept. 28.

The regional's top 10 finishers who weren't members of sectional-

qualifying teams advanced to the sectional as individuals. Vandergrift and Guajardo both finished among those 10 players. The same two Warriors also earned sectional berths as individuals last season.

This week's Oswego Sectional takes place at Blackberry Oaks Golf Course in Bristol. The sectional's competitors will try to qualify for the IHSA Class 3A state meet, which will take place at the Den at Fox Creek in Bloomington.

The Warriors posted a score of 334 at the regional to finish seventh in the team standings of the nine-

team event. The top three teams (Hinsdale Central, Glenbard West and Wheaton Warrenville South) earned team berths in the Oswego Sectional.

Willowbrook senior Nick Chivilo shot an 84 at the regional and narrowly missed earning a berth in the sectional. Junior Victor Voskresenski posted an 89 to complete Willowbrook's team score of 334 (79+82+84+89).

Sophomore Austin Coppersmith (93) and freshman Bobby Biggs (106) rounded out Willowbrook's regional lineup.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Seniors Brett Vandergrift (left) and Vince Guajardo (right) led Willowbrook's boys golf team to a seventh-place finish in last week's IHSA Class 3A regional at Glendale Lakes Golf Club. Vandergrift fired an 18-hole score of 79 on the par-71 course, while Guajardo shot an 82. Vandergrift finished in a tie for 12th place in the individual standings of the regional, while Guajardo finished in 20th place. Both Willowbrook players earned individual berths in this week's Oswego Sectional. The regional's top 10 individuals who weren't members of sectional-qualifying teams advanced to the sectional. The regional's top three teams qualified for the sectional. Vandergrift and Guajardo also advanced to sectional action last season.

Martens earns a sectional berth

Willowbrook senior shoots a 90 at the Glenbard North Regional

STAFF REPORT

Senior Mickey Martens of the Willowbrook girls golf team advanced to this week's IHSA Class 2A Glenbard North Sectional with her solid play in last week's Glenbard North Regional at Bloomington Golf Club.

Martens fired an 18-hole score of

90 in the regional, which took place on Sept. 29. She finished among the top 10 individuals who weren't members of sectional-qualifying teams. Those 10 players advanced to the sectional as individuals.

Wheaton North won the Glenbard North Regional's team title. Lake

Park finished second, while York placed third. Those three teams qualified for the Glenbard North Sectional, which took place earlier this week at Heritage Oaks Golf Club in Northbrook.

Willowbrook placed ninth in the regional's team standings.