

**VOLUME 37, NUMBER 1** 

#### A REPORT ON OUR SCHOOLS

**WINTER 2013** 

#### West Side School Wins National Blue Ribbon

Proclamation from Senator Carl Marcellino

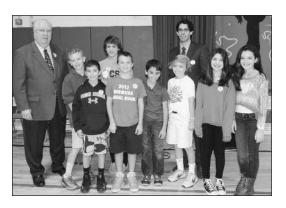
n October 15th, Senator Carl Marcellino visited West Side to hand deliver a proclamation and congratulate West Side on its outstanding achievement as a National Blue Ribbon School. He reiterated. "This is not easy! You should all be very proud. It is a team effort to accomplish this, and I want all of you to thank your teachers, and hug your parents. Keep working hard, you earned this!" Out of 286 recognized schools across the country, the US Education Department cited 19 schools recognized in NY State, four of which were Long Island elementary schools for outstanding achievement as a National Blue Ribbon School. These schools were honored in Wash DC at a ceremony the weekend of November 18th. When a school is nominated, the Principal and administration work tirelessly on the extensive Blue Ribbon application. West Side was selected to apply based on student achievement on state assessments test results from the 2012 school year. The school also has to submit essays as part of the application process. Principal, Mr. Kurt Simon, shared, "Our goal is the independence of the kids and empowering them to help each other." National Blue Ribbon Schools represent examples of educational excellence - thank you West Side for setting the example!  $\square$ 

2013

West Side Principal, Kurt Simon, accepted the National Blue Ribbon School Award in Wash DC from U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan. Pictured here, Mr. Simon (far right) was joined by Superintendent, Dr. Judith A. Wilansky, Aba Kumi, (center) Director of the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, Scott Bowden (far left) former teacher and school historian, and Dr. Bonnie Dawkins (far left) WS teacher.

"National Blue Ribbon Schools represent examples of educational excellence – thank you West Side for setting the example!"





Senator Carl Marcellino, presented The National Blue Ribbon Award Proclamation to West Side Principal, Kurt Simon. The Senator promised the students he would personally respond to each and every letter written by all the students displayed on the Bulletin Boards. The Blue Ribbon student Committee, the Jazz Band and orchestra all welcomed the Senator and shared videos, poems, and music in appreciation of his visit.

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## Helping Hands Mission Donates Plaque to West Side



Reverend Rose Marie Gaines, Director of the Helping Hands Rescue Mission (Huntington), donated a plaque to West Side School for their outstanding involvement and positive impact on community service through the West Side Kids Care Committee. This committee remains a tribute to the late Paul Taylor, former student and teacher at West Side, who was instrumental in "giving back" and service to others. Members of Mr. Taylor's family came to West Side to accept this special

honor and plaque on his behalf. Former principal, Ted Hilton, was also present to acknowledge special thanks to his former teacher, who ironically went to college with Mr. Hilton at Yale, only to reconnect years later in the halls at West Side!



#### Love of the Book

Lloyd Harbor: Former NFL player, Tim Green, may have a "Love of the Game" but more importantly he shared his "Love of the Book!" Author, Tim Green, spoke to the students at Lloyd Harbor about his journey from childhood to NFL football player, to *New York Times* bestselling author. He focused on education and how his voracious love of reading as a young kid paved the way for his success. He was a star defensive end with the Atlanta Falcons, and author of such gripping books for adults as *The New York Times* bestselling *Dark Side of the Game*. After graduating co-valedictorian from Syracuse University, he later earned his law degree. His successful children's book series "Football Genius" is a favorite of young sports fanatics and non-sports fans alike due to their suspenseful pacing and moral conflicts. The thing that differentiates Tim from most other authors, is that he uses every dollar of his speaking fees to buy books for students who otherwise can't afford them. Thank you Mr. Green, (and please visit his Facebook page). □



## District Retires Alum's Jersey

**Drew Seccafico** returned to his Alma Mater (CSHHS class of '84) to have his #11 retired and honored on a



banner now hanging in the rafters of the Field House Gymnasium.
Athletic Director, Mr. Michael Bongino said, "We are proud to display this banner, and on behalf of

the Superintendent and Board of Education, your accomplishments in the field of baseball will now forever be displayed." Drew set records in high school and college baseball, and later had a successful career as an outfield coach with the NY Mets. During the summer months, former Athletic Director, Jim Amen and (current AD) Michael Bongino met with Todd Seccafico, who brought to the attention the fantastic baseball career of his brother **Drew Seccafico**. This came as a huge surprise to Drew, who thought he was attending an academic award ceremony for his son Tyler. He said, "I am extremely honored. I had a great experience at Cold Spring Harbor. There are a lot of great memories and this is going to add to it in a big way."

#### Reminder Kindergarten Registration

Please register your child the week of Feb 3-7th, 2014
If you have a child who is 5 years of age on or before
December 1, 2013
Any questions, please call
District Office 631-367-5910

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# Online & Blended Learning

It's here but – What is it?

The CSH School District has enlisted the help and expertise of Bruce Friend, a national leader in the



creation, policy development and business operations of online and blended learning schools throughout the U.S. At the November Central Parent Council (CPC) meeting, parents had the

opportunity to listen to a new definition of "What does going to school look like?" The old landscape of chalkboards, erasers and desks has changed so drastically, that some school classrooms look more like office settings with individualized cubicles and laptops. Even sharing computer banks are no longer in vogue. We don't share our computer at work so why should students share at school when they all have their own at their fingertips with a smart phone? You can be anywhere now and be engaged in learning. We need to breakdown our vision of "online" learning. Four states now require a mandatory online course be taken in order to graduate for college preparedness. Seniors will notice the common app asks if students have taken any online college courses. This growing trend is a driving force toward college and work-force readiness. Mr. Friend acknowledged that cheating is a factor, but so is cheating in the classroom. Surprisingly, he said, "It's much easier to catch cheating given the data provided with an online course. Suspicions of plagiarism are now easily detected by teachers just by sending in the essay to "turnitin.com." And, if you think support is lost on the student, Mr. Friend expressed on-line learning is highly engaging with online live-chat support, which is how our digital-native kids communicate with their friends every day. The fear

of raising your hand and everyone else hearing your question is gone. Interestingly enough, a survey was given to teachers and parents in CSH; nearly 70% responded to having taken an online course due mostly to "convenience and flexibility." Yet, the student survey revealed that only about 3% of students had taken one. With 96% of college courses requiring online work, it's obvious why this shift is at our doorstep. CSH School District is easing its way into this instructional shift, by enhancing our curriculum with supplemental learning by blending online learning with the classroom. The eSpark program is the first use of this blended learning with iPads in the classroom using apps that target individual learning development. Mr. Friend's vision of the future was clear, "Technology will not replace teachers, but teachers who use technology will replace teachers who don't." The paths of technology less travelled...will leave a dusty trail; thank you Mr. Friend, for paving the super-highway toward the future for our students.

#### eSpark into Action

CSH Jr. High: Students in English Teacher Ms. Jessica Raniere's 7th grade Writers Workshop class put the newest of the District's technology advances into action with the eSpark program on the iPad. It was the first day the students used the iPad, which came equipped with their very own headset for the next 6-week "quest" unit. Based on prior reading comprehension scores (STAR Assessment) taken earlier in the year, the students are assigned appropriate quests of Apps to navigate through, along with tutorials. Each quest offers videos, sound, and differentiated tasks that the students can respond to without the distraction of others through their headsets. Mrs. Raniere shared that teachers immediately receive individual feedback on these formative assessments. She even sees a "help" alert when a student is having trouble and needs assistance. While many students can become distracted in a typical lecture environment, it is quite amazing to witness the transformation of complete focus and silence while using the iPads. The classroom falls silent, and students play the



District-wide professional development for eSpark program.

"Technology is changing the landscape of education, and professional development is the key."

> - Dr. Judith A. Wilansky, Superintendent

game unaware they are being assessed, but rather wanting to finish the quest at hand. It's a remarkable and effective way technology can teach. Superintendent, Dr. Judith A. Wilansky, said, "Technology is changing the landscape of education, and professional development is the key." We can no longer rely on technology instructors to come into classrooms intermittently for programs anymore. The shift is here and now, and the traditional styles of teaching have been replaced with SMARTBoards, iPads, laptops, on-line videos, blogs and more.

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#### Honors . . . Honors . . .

## National Merit Scholarship Program Cold Spring Harbor High School

Congratulations to the following students for being named "commended" and "semi-finalists" in the 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program. During the fall of their junior year, students across the nation take the PSAT, and the top scores are then established. The National Merit Scholarship Program, dating back to 1955 – holds an annual academic competition identifying and honoring these HS students in the U.S. through recognition and college scholarships. Less than 3% of the 1.5 million students who take this test will become a recipient of the awarded Letters of Commendation. Eleven of our students received this honor. Only less than 1% advance as semi-finalists, and one student received this distinguished recognition at CSHHS: *Riley Jill Schwartz.* This is an amazing achievement and a wonderful honor. Congratulations to all!



Photo: (back row-left to right) Henry Farahani, John Toomey, Robert Vavassis, Isaac Schuman, Riley Schwartz, Julia Schubauer, Michael Terracciano, ((front row-left to right) Katharina Knapp, Allyson Tsu, and Rachel Johnson (far right). (Missing: James Kaye, Henrietta Schlaeger)

#### Tri-M Music Honor Society

Tri-M Music Honor Society was held at the CSH Public Library on Oct 16th. Tri-M is a program of the National Association for Music Education – the largest nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of music education. The three M's stand for *Modern Music Masters*; the criteria to be inducted involve a four year commitment to scholarship, character, cooperation, leadership, and service. Dr. Marullo congratulated 14 talented seniors who were recognized for their achievement.



Tri-M advisor, Dr. Matthew Marullo (far left), and Music Department Chair, Phil Gray (far right), congratulate recipients: (from left) Alek Sajewski, Matthew Levin, Gregory Suter, Charles Wideska, Michael Terracciano, Nina Riffaud, Max Manos, Brittany DeBenedictis, William Domjan, James Kaye, William Douglas. (missing: Nicholas Stamatos, Timothy Zhu, and John Toomey.)



Principal Jay Matuk with National Hispanic Awards recipients.

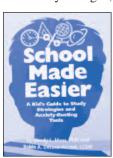
- The National Hispanic Recognition Program "Scholar" Award was presented to seniors Nina Riffaud and Laura Taylor at the October Board of Education meeting by Principal Jay Matuk. Congratulations on being recognized for this prestigious award that identifies nearly 5,000 students from a pool of over 235,000 who took the 2012 PSAT. A scholar recipient must receive a GPA of 3.5 or higher.
- Congratulations to the NY State
   Outstanding Physical Education
   Student Award winners, (seniors)
   Victoria Campbell and Gregory
   Suter, for outstanding character,
   teamwork, commitment and achievement in Physical Education. They
   will be honored at the Nassau Zone
   Physical Education Award Dinner on
   December 16th.
- Music Awards: The following Five students were selected to perform in the Secondary (grades 8-12) Long Island String Festival held at Plainview Old-Bethpage Middle School. Brittany DeBenedictis (Violin, grade 12), Daniel Kazenoff (Viola, grade 11), Niall Coffey (Violin, grade 9), Codie Collins (Violin, grade 9), Thomas McGee (Violin, grade 8). In addition, CSH School District is very proud of the fact that this year was our largest number of participation for the Nassau Music Educators All-County Music Festival. Fifty nine district students were selected for Band, Jazz Band, Orchestra and Chorus. Students will perform in January at the Tilles Center (C.W. Post LIU).K-12 Music Chairperson, Phil Gray shared, "On behalf of all our dedicated music teachers, I thank you for your encouragement, motivation and willingness to go the extra mile for our music students.'

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#### Honors . . . Honors . . .



- Michael Dischmann was selected to the inaugural Congressional Youth Cabinet. He was nominated by Social Studies/Leadership teacher, Mrs. Halloran, and he is the first ever student at CSHHS to receive this honor. The Congressional Youth Cabinet program is a nonpartisan initiative that promotes community service and educational achievement among students from across New York's 3rd Congressional District. Participation in this program provides an opportunity to learn more about our nation's pressing issues, and the importance of public service. Michael also encountered his first lesson in politics, when his first meeting was cancelled due to the government shut down! Michael is also the Student Council President (4-years), Natural Helpers member, and active representative and leader for his school since 8th grade.
- Jr./Sr. High School Social Worker, Robin Acconi and Lloyd Harbor School Psychologist, Dr. Wendy



Moss, published a book entitled "School Made Easier." They shared, "Over the years, we have had many students express

anxiety and confusion about how to manage their workload. We wanted to help students gain the tools needed to successfully manage their work and stress. School can be easier to cope with when you have the tools for managing academic tasks and some clear ways to work on emotional stress."

#### Little Shelter Award

**At Lloyd Harbor** School, Principal, Valerie Massimo, expressed her thanks to The Little Shelter Agency. "I had the wonderful honor of being recognized by Arleen Leone, from Little Shelter, at their 6th Annual Costume Ball. There were



over 300 people in attendance with four special awards being presented. We received the Little Shelter Excellence in Education Award for being the first school that accepted and welcomed the Reading Program, and thanks to Lloyd Harbor, she has more schools than she can manage right now!" Mrs. Massimo thanked her entire Little Shelter Staff Team (including the student council) who opened their hearts to these animals and allowed them to use their "gifts and talents" to help the students cuddle up and read with a furry friend. What a special connection, and honor, congratulations!

#### Good Morning Lloyd Harbor! 2013 iPTVflix Award

Llovd Harbor School live broadcast "news room" was presented with the iPTVflix Award, a special technology award for their LHTV Morning News Show. Live TV in your own school is very exciting. Student Council representatives and other students broadcast live to each classroom which is viewed on the SMARTBoard. They deliver the weather, school news, special reports, and recite the pledge and sing patriotic songs. Mr. Peter Falotico, from Computer Equipment Services, Inc., of Bay Shore, chose Lloyd Harbor as this year's recipient for best representation of the guiding principles for the multicast video product iPTVflix. He shared, "Lloyd Harbor has embraced iPTVflix with enthusiasm, and has set an exemplary model of improving school culture and climate using creative video announcements rather than the traditional PA system. Mrs. Massimo (Principal), has exceeded our criteria by presenting LHTV at the



2013 ASSET Conference, and shared further exploration of advanced levels of digital network broadcasting in her school." The award was presented at the November LHSPTG meeting at the request of Mrs. Massimo, so she could publicly acknowledge the PTG Board who helped purchase the program two years ago. Mr. Chiarello and Ms. Sganga, the Morning News "producers" (and Student Council advisors) were recognized for their creativity and commitment to LHTV. Mrs. Massimo also expressed her deep appreciation to John Contess, Director of Technology, and his entire IT staff for setting up the program and supporting this unique school wide project.

• Seniors: Jaclyn Albers, Madison Bordeman, and Kenny Hanlon were selected for the Molloy College Business Boot Camp last summer and attended for a week of simulated business exercises. Eighty seven high school students participated from the metropolitan area, enjoying a series of lectures, stock market trading simulation, business ethics, and much more. It's an amazing training ground for real world experience.

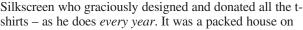
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#### Locks of Love

It's hard to believe that it's been 11 years since the inception of the Locks of Love Club at Cold Spring Harbor Jr./Sr.High School spearheaded by club advisor, Mrs. Kathleen Fristensky. For the fourth year in a row Cactus Salon on Main Street volunteered their expertise and time to help this wonderful cause. President, Joe Secreti, offered his



salon and the staff couldn't have been more inviting to the students of CSH. A special thanks to Emily Costa (Cactus Event Coordinator) and Mike Sambur of Island

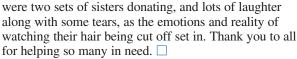


November 19th where a total of 23 participants cut their hair and opened their hearts to so many in need. It takes 6-10 teninch pony tails to create

just one hairpiece for a child suffering from long term hair loss due to alopecia areata or cancer. The children receive hair prostheses free of charge or on a sliding scale, based on financial need. Locks of Love is a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under 18 in the US and Canada. This year club advisor,



Mrs. Fristensky, donated her hair for a record 5th time-WOW! Many of the girls came back for their 3rd and 4th times since joining the club in 7th grade. There





Thank you to this year's 23 participants! Senora Kathleen Fristensky (5th time), Caroline Hahn (3rd time), Emily Fox (3rd time), Ellie Fox, Lizzie Wilcox (4th time), Julia Wilcox, Dominique Giuffrida, Nicole Marchese, Olivia Ngai. Sabrina Odierno (2nd time), Megan Russo, Avery Bandoian (2nd time), Caroline Reilly, Brianna Rose (2nd time), Elizabeth Erichsen, Abigail Johnson, Kylie Tsotsos (2nd time), Kiana Burke (3rd time), Keara Walford, Caroline Gulotta, Taylor Guarneri, Katie Kotowski, Eliza Noesen.



## Egyptian Expedition

At West Side school, a hands-on workshop was held for 6th graders inspired by the Egyptian Sphinx and other mythical Gods and Goddesses. Students created sculptures out of selfhardening clay, which personified aspects of their own personality traits as admired in their chosen mythical figure. Students were delighted to welcome Joyce Raimondo, author of seven children's art books, including The Museum of Modern Art's popular Art Safari series and the award winning Art Explorers books. She is a leading expert in museum education. The students visited the Brooklyn Museum of Art as a culmination of their studies on Oct. 31st- Halloween day, making the tour of the special gallery devoted to mummies quite spooky! Teachers, students, and parents (dressed in Egyptian theme), surprised the museum staff with a flashmob dance to the tune of the SNL skit "King Tut" – FUN! Thank you to the Cultural Arts Committee for bringing this program to our schools.  $\square$ 

## Community Budget Forum

Save the date! January 28, 2014 7:30pm District Office

Community Budget Forum: The New Tax Cap Legislation: What does it mean for CSH?

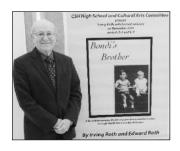
Please join us for a presentation and facilitated discussion regarding the impact of this new legislation on our schools.

## CSH "Plays 4 the Cure"



The Varsity Field Hockey team along with their coach, Danielle Skakandi, joined the National Foundation for Cancer Research to Play4theCure to take on the fight against breast cancer. "The girls are always very excited for their Play4theCure game. It brings 2 teams together for a great cause and helps raise awareness throughout our entire school and community," said fundraising coordinator and coach. Danielle Skakandi.

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# Holocaust Survivor visit Irving Roth

CSHHS Principal, Jay Matuk, has made it his mission to bring in a thought provoking assembly to remind students of the blessings of the holidays to come, and all that we have to be grateful for. Last year, Mr. Irving Roth visited CSHHS, but only a portion of the students heard him speak. Since his message was so powerful, Mr. Matuk asked him to return to speak to the entire student body. Our thanks go out to the Cultural Arts Committee, the District, and PTG president, Nancy Israeli, for securing his return this year. The assembly was opened to parents and community members, and the message is one we will not forget. Mr. Roth spoke of his firsthand account as a 14 year old boy arriving to the death camps in May of 1944, and as a survivor of Auschwitz and Buchenwald.

## School Board Member Resigns

At the October Board meeting, Joseph Morante made a surprise announcement that he is resigning after six years as a school board



trustee. Mr. Morante is moving out of the District, and regretted having to resign his position. He said, "There is no district like Cold Spring Harbor. That's why I came here." We have

had the privilege of his dedication and volunteerism as both past president and past vice-president, with great experience as a former union leader. The Board thanked him for his service, his humor, his knowledge, and his friendship. Board president, Janice Elkin, said, "We will be meeting with legal counsel to discuss the next steps toward appointing someone in the interim or waiting until elections are held next May." We all wish you the very best Joe – thank you for your service.

#### 2013-2014 District Goals

The Board of Education adopted the following Goals for the 2013-2014 school year:

- 1. To implement the first phase of personalized learning via the utilization of technological resources which will identify a student's individual learning needs, engage the student in academic goal setting, and provide content, practice and immediate feedback.
- 2. To explore the feasibility of offering online/blended High School elective courses in order to develop competence and confidence in a virtual learning environment.
- To further develop and implement comprehensive curricula in the areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics which are fully aligned to the New York State Common Core Learning Standards.
- 4. In the second year of Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) implementation, teachers will revise and refine local measures in order to ensure rigorous, comparable and responsible assessment practices.
- 5. To ensure compliance with the federal "Affordable Care Act" with regard to legal requirements and appropriate financial planning.
- 6. To write, review and/or revise District policies to ensure compliance with the recently enacted legislation and related regulations by the New York State Department of Education, including but not limited to: Annual Professional Performance Review, New York State Assessments, and the New York State Common Core Learning Standards.

## 2014 School Budget Schedule

**Tuesday, January 28th – 7:30 PM**January Community Budget
Planning Forum

#### Tuesday, March 11th – 8 PM

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Adoption of Resolution for May 20th Budget Vote

Thursday, March 13th – 8:30 AM
Board of Education
Budget Work Session

## Tuesday, March 18th 6:30 PM to 9 PM

Special Meeting of the Board of Education Budget Review: Goosehill Primary, Special Education, Personnel & Instructional Services, Technology, Athletics

Thursday, March 20th – 8:30 AM
Board of Education
Budget Work Session

#### Tuesday, April 1 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Special Meeting of the Board of Education Budget Review: Lloyd Harbor, West Side, Jr./Sr. High School, Buildings and Grounds Undistributed/General Support/Transportation

#### Tuesday, April 8th – 8 PM Regular Meeting of the

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Adoption of Proposed Budget

Monday, May 5th – 8 PM "Meet the Candidates Night"

#### Tuesday, May 13th – 8 PM

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education & Annual Budget Meeting and Hearing Presentation of Proposed 2014-2015 Budget

#### Tuesday, May 20th 6 AM to 10 PM

Annual Budget Vote & Board Election

Ralph Whitney Field House, CSHHS Meetings held at District Office Francis Roberts Community Center, 75 Goose Hill Rd.

#### COLD SPRING HARBOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

75 Goose Hill Road Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. 11724

#### www.csh.k12.ny.us

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#### Sink or Swim?

Goosehill first graders donned their "science caps" taking part in one of their weekly experiments in the Science Room which support the classroom science lessons. For the day's investigation, students made predictions and tested flattened pieces of aluminum foil to see if they would float or sink. Then, they made predictions in response to a second question: Could they make the foil sink by changing its shape? The students recorded their predictions along with their results. Many were surprised at the different outcomes – just a small alteration created a variety of conclusions!



# Sitting on Top of the World

West Side "Traveling Map"
Thanks to the collaboration of Mr.
Farmer and the WSSPTG, a giant traveling map arrived! Third graders in Mr. Farmer's class can be seen here using the map exploring North America. The kids loved the chance to visually and physically explore this gigantic map, while playing a team competition of *Simon Says* with a *Where's Waldo* theme. They had to find the four corners of the US, sit on a peninsula, and put a toe on one of the original 13 colonies. It proved to be great fun and quite challenging. □

#### Pumpkin Patch Kids

Lloyd Harbor: Second graders went on a field trip to Schmitt Family Farm in Melville on October 8th. All enjoyed a hayride out to the pumpkin patch where they learned about the life cycle of a pumpkin and were able to pick their own. Students also learned about corn stalks and how corn grows, they picked radishes and string beans, climbed bales of hay, and certainly got in the Halloween spirit! (photo inset: Mrs. Jean Palmer's class).





#### Halloween

All the schools participated in their annual Halloween Fall Festivities! Many thanks to the PTG's for help with games, pumpkin painting, dances and more. Goosehill celebrated with a parade on the field and sing-a-longs. The Jr./Sr. High got into the spirit by dressing up in a big way, a tradition you will not find in many high schools anymore. At Lloyd Harbor, the costumes were amazing, especially the group of Oompa-Loompa's who could be found marching and singing down the hall. West Side held its annual dance night, and a "spooktaculous" time was had by all.