Vol. 19 November 3rd. 2026

The Bulldog Bark

LOCAL NEWS / SPORTS / EXTRACURRICULARS

Friday Night Lights

(pg.6)





Senior Spotlight

(pg.5)

The ACE Club Field Trip

(pg.9)



Advisor: Mrs. Macrina

Editor: Ad Hinman

Editorial Authors:

- Emma Collins
- Jaycee Hutchins
- Alina Kulpa
- Jenna Smith
- Kate Mulvana
- Rebecca Pace
- Samantha Whelan

Editor's Note

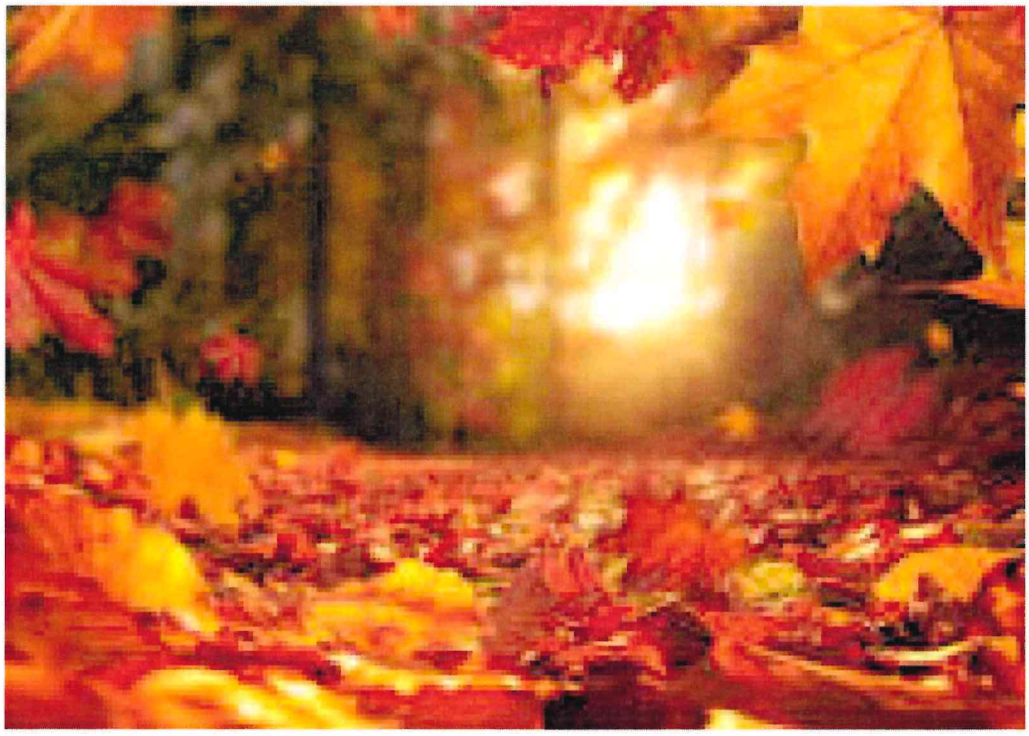
Hello Bulldogs, and welcome to this year's first edition of the "Bulldog Bark". I am so excited to be back as editor of this newspaper, this time as the sole editor, due to Alexis Batur's graduation. Being the sole editor is a large amount of responsibility, but I am very excited for the year to come. I am the most excited about the amount of new members this group has. I, of course, value our returning members, but with a lot of new members, there are bound to be many new viewpoints and fresh perspectives. I hope all of our new members enjoy being on the school newspaper, and I hope that our readers enjoy their articles as much as I will. Have a great start to the school year Bulldogs!

-Ad Hinman, Editor

The First Day of Fall

By Kaitlyn Mulvana

The fall equinox this year landed on September 22nd, 2026. This marks the official first day of fall in the Northern Hemisphere! What equinox means, is that the day and night during that day are completely equal lengths across the planet. Throughout history there have been many customs and rituals associated with this changing in seasons. One of the most intriguing ones includes the Chinese Harvest Moon Festival celebrated since 1600 BCE. During the Chinese Harvest Moon Festival they celebrate the harvests of their crops with offerings to the moon and extravagant lanterns adorning the streets. In Great Britain during the Pagan times as well, they would host fall festivals which formed the basis for the traditional American Thanksgiving. Fall is something very special to our home, Westmoreland New York. During fall the scenic views of the New York landscape are a spectacle to take in. The changing colors of the leaves and the beginning of many fall traditions special to us begin to commence. Some may include but are not limited to picking apples at the local orchards, visiting pumpkin patches, Cornmazes, and not to mention the beloved weekend getaways with the colorful leaves to brighten your day. This marks not only the changing of the seasons, but the quaint break away from the scorching summers and the freezing winters. This is a season for celebration, to show what you're grateful for, and ghostly fun. Have a great fall this year Westmo!



Halloween

By Emma Collins & Sam Whelan

Ah, Hallows Eve. The holiday where we dress up in mildly overpriced costumes and get free candy from strangers around the neighborhood. Not suspicious at all! But do you know the history behind it? Halloween dates all the way back to the ancient Celtic festival called Samhain. The name comes from old Gaelic, and it means "summer's end". October 31st marked the end of a harvest and the start of a cold winter, a season which at the time was often associated with death. The Celtics celebrated their new year on November 1st and believed that during the night before the new year (October 31st), the boundary between the living and the dead opened for ghosts to return to earth for the night. The Celtics dedicated this festival to a wide variety of deities among many cultures, including Hecate, the goddess of witchcraft and magic from Greek mythology, the Morrígan, the phantom queen of fate, war, and sovereignty from Celtic mythology, and even more. They celebrated Samhain, and Druids (Celtic priests) and made huge bonfires where people gathered to burn crops and animals as offerings for the deities that they were worshipping. During this, the Celtics wore costumes typically made of animal heads and skin, and told each other's fortunes. In the mid 19th century, Irish and Scottish immigrants brought Halloween costumes into the U.S. during the Irish Potato Famine.

Trunk-or-Treat

By Ad Hinman

On Friday, October 23rd the PTO hosted their annual Trunk-or-Treat from 6-8 PM in the Upper Elementary school parking lot. School clubs and organizations along with members of the community were invited to register a spot for their "trunk" where they could decorate their car and hand out candy. Many cars were simply adorned with Halloween decorations, but some cars decided to follow a specific theme. The joint Tri-M/Drama Club car was cookie monster themed, the Mathletics car was math-themed, and there was a beetlejuice-themed car. There were also two fire engines, courtesy of the Westmoreland Fire Department. While there was no competition for best trunk, many people and organizations put forth their best effort. The trunk-or-treat is free to attend, and many costumed Westmoreland elementary school students attended with their parents. Hopefully the PTO's Trunk-or-Treat will remain an event for years to come.

Senior Spotlight

By Rebecca Pace

Known for her goodwill and ability to make others feel welcome, Kylee Faniglula has left an indelible effect on the community of Westmoreland. No matter the activity, Kylee has always shown an incredible work ethic and an undoubtedly positive approach to any situation. She has had innumerable great experiences during senior year alone, one of her favorites being having a study hall with Nina Aurigema. Also with Nina, Kylee took psychology/sociology, which was her favorite class simply because the of how fascinating it is. Outside of the classroom, Kylee participated in many extracurricular activities and sports, including varsity tennis, where she was able to enjoy spending time with Jenna Smith. Another fond tennis memory was when Mr. Gamboa, the tennis coach, was always there for Kylee, especially when she was bleeding. Now, as graduation swiftly approaches, Kylee is planning on attending a four year university, where she will hopefully major in marketing. With reflection on her own educational experience, she'd like to tell the underclassmen to not stress and just live in the moment, because high school flies past before you know it.

Girls Varsity Tennis Senior Night

On Wednesday, September 30th the girls varsity tennis team held their senior night. The seniors on the team are Jenna Smith, Kylee Faniglula, Breanna Bulger, Caitlynn Smith, Addison Vitale, and lastly Shawna Klein. During the ceremony the girls walked up to their parents and got a few pictures while hearing some nice words. They played Herkimer and most came out on top. Overall, it was a great way to almost end the tennis season. Team sectionals came later in the month for most of the girls and we wish them well in their future tennis careers!

The Homecoming Football Game

By Jaycee Hutchins

On October 3rd 2026, Westmoreland High School had its annual pre-homecoming football game! The Varsity Bulldogs defeated Mount Markham with an outstanding score of 42-14. Also, the High School marching band performed their halftime show based on the night sky, which was led by Kyristyn Cutler and Dean Abraham. The football game started at 1pm and ended at about 3:30pm. The theme for this game was neon out and lots of students and families attended this event and participated! Also, the concession stand was available to anyone at the game and special shoutout to any volunteers, coaches, parents, and of course our Westmoreland students and players for making this possible. Congratulations on an awesome win!

Marching Band Championships

The marching band has around 7 competitions each year, the last one being their championships. This year, championships are on November 1st, in the Syracuse Dome. The marching band is up against all other schools in their class, including rivals like Mohonason, Horseheads, and Vestal. They will be performing their best run of the year, so go check them out! Each competition, every school gets ranked on a point based system. Last weekend, the weekend of the 28th, Westmoreland earned a 72.3, which is around 3 points up from their score from the past weekend. Good luck at championships, Westmoreland!

Keeping Up With the Westmo Staff

By Ad Hinman

This month's edition of "Keeping up with the Westmo Staff" Features Ms. Rockwell. These are a few questions that she answered during the interview:

What made you choose this career path, specifically social studies?

When I was in school myself, I had many different things that I wanted to do.

Then one day, I was helping one of my friends learn something they missed when they were out sick, and another one of our friends said to me, "Hey, you would be a really good teacher." I honestly hadn't thought about becoming a teacher since I was in elementary school, but as I thought about it more, I kept thinking about how much I liked to help people learn new things.

I specifically chose social studies because I have always been interested and loved history. It was one of my favorite subjects in school, and I had some amazing history teachers that really inspired me to do my best. I was really lucky in that aspect, and I still keep in touch with a few of them!

Friday Night Lights

By Rebecca Pace

On September 11th, 2026, Westmoreland had their first Friday Night Lights since the school opened in 1903, meaning we have gone 123 years without being able to play under the lights. This was a massive milestone for the bulldogs, and the community certainly treated it as the monumental moment that it was.

For those who don't know, a Friday Night Lights game is a high school football game that is played under large stadium floodlights at the end of a workweek. Ever since it became an event, Friday Night Lights has served as a major community gathering and a cultural tradition. On such a sorrowful day, the town of Westmoreland was able to come together and spread their excitement. The exhilaration felt in the stands was like nothing else on the planet, especially with everyone following the attire theme so enthusiastically; the horde of people filling up the entirety of the stands was just an ocean of red, white, and blue.

Other than the individual football games, the same stadium and field enabled other extracurricular activities to achieve some of their own goals. For instance, the marching band was able to have their first ever home show, flag football was finally added to the list of available sports, and soccer gained a better practicing/playing area, just to name a few. Also due to the improved stadium, the Westmoreland Bulldogs had their own pep rally, at Westmoreland school, which really raised the community's morale further.

Overall, the Friday Night Lights game was an excellent show of what could be done for a good cause by bringing the entire community of Westmoreland together. Hopefully, the new stadium will continue to boost the football team's spirits, especially considering that just over a year ago it was a mud pit. The energy felt by everyone in the stands will no doubt come back for next season for every Friday Night Lights game to come.

Keeping Up With the Westmo Staff

(cont.)

Where did you graduate from college, and with what major?

I graduated with my Undergraduate degree from Utica University (Go Pioneers!!) in Adolescent Social Studies Education. (Basically just middle and high school social studies education).

Do you plan on staying at Westmoreland for multiple years?

I would love to stay at Westmoreland for multiple years! Everyone here is so wonderful and it reminds me of my own high school experience!

What made you decide to teach 7th and 8th graders?

When you decide to go to school to become a teacher, they make you do this thing called Student Teaching. During my Student Teaching, I had to teach 7th grade for about 8 weeks. I absolutely loved working with middle school and had a blast! That's what really made me decide to teach middle school. I am also really lucky to also teach 10th grade history this year as well. Global has always been one of my favorite histories to study, so it has been wonderful to be able to teach it!

Puffs!

By Emma Collins

The fall play this year is Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic! Puffs is a loving parody of a certain magical book series about a boy who happened to live-BUT THIS ISN'T ABOUT HIM! This play focuses on the perspective of the Puffs, a group of loveable, loyal outsiders who just...happened to be there during those seven eventful years! The show will take place November 13th and 14th at 7:00 PM in the Jr./Sr. High School auditorium, and we highly encourage you to come see this hilarious parody of a certain book series!

Tri-M Operation Christmas Child Funraiser

By Ad Hinman

During the month of November, Westmoreland's Tri-M honors society will be collecting donations for a charitable international relief organization called Samaritan's Purse. Through their program, "Operation Christmas Child" they collect toys, hygiene products, and school supplies to be distributed in shoeboxes to underprivileged children around the world. Many of these children live in third world countries and are struggling financially. For some of them, this is the only Christmas that they will have. That's why it's so important that not only members of Tri-M, but members of the school donate towards this cause. Cardboard Boxes labeled "Operation Christmas Child Donations" will be placed around the school, where you can feel free to leave your donations. Donations will be accepted until November 16th, so make sure to donate your items before then. The shoeboxes will be mailed out between November 18th and November 23rd. If you plan on supporting the cause, please do not donate used items, breakables, weapons/war related objects, food, gambling items, liquids, fire starters, soap and toothpaste, and perishables.

Keeping Up With the Westmo Staff

(cont.)

What's your favorite part about teaching?

My favorite part about teaching is getting kids excited to learn. I think that anybody can learn anything they want, as long as they have the motivation and excitement to do it!

What's your least favorite part about teaching?

I don't really have a least favorite part about teaching yet! I get to wake up every morning and come to a job that I love doing, so it's all wonderful in my book!

What would you like to say to those who want to pursue the teaching profession?

If you want to become a teacher, make sure that you know why you want to teach. Once you have that, hold onto it because it will get you through the long nights of homework or reading textbooks.

Would you recommend going into the teaching profession?

I would definitely recommend going into the teaching profession! We always need more teachers in the world!

Senior Sunrise

By Ad Hinman

On Wednesday, September 16th, the class of 2027 had their Senior Sunrise. The students and some members of the staff met at 6:15 AM on the football field for the occasion. The students took several photos of the whole class, along with photos of just the female student body, and just the male student body. Students also took photos themselves on their own cellular devices with senior-themed photo boards made by members of the student body. Since it was so early, breakfast was provided. Students could help themselves to a variety of flavors of donut holes, and several different juice flavors. However many students brought their own food and drinks, along with picnic blankets and pillows to sit on on the turf. The event went off without a hitch, excepting for the lack of a sunrise. Due to the cloudy weather, students could not actually view the sunrise, and many of the photos taken came out very cloudy. When asked what she thought of Senior Sunrise, senior Shawna Klein said that; "I thought it was fun, and a fun way to bring the class together. Even though it was cloudy... people were laughing and having a good time,". Overall, the seniors seemed to have a good experience, and I'm sure that this tradition will continue for years to come.

The Senior Pumpkin Patch Field Trip

This October our class of 2027 seniors took a trip to the instagram famous Tim's Pumpkin Patch. The trip was for the whole day and seniors paid no fee. When arriving at the pumpkin patch the group got to go on a hay ride and then split off. There were many photo opportunities and fun activities for the class to enjoy. Inside of the building was a gift shop with a concessions table with the sweetest fall treats. The students also received a small pumpkin alongside an apple cider donut free of charge. After the pumpkin patch they headed on over to the Golden Corral in Syracuse and ate at the buffet. All in all it was a very memorable trip for the seniors and we hope they enjoyed it!

Trivia

By Sam Whelan

1. **What is the most popular Halloween candy in the world?🍫**
   a) Candy Corn
   b) Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
   c) Tootsie rolls
   d) M&M's
2. **What is the most watched movie during the Halloween season?🎬**
   a) Halloweentown
   b) Beetlejuice
   c) Hocus Pocus
   d) It's the Great Pumpkin,Charlie Brown!
3. **How many pounds of candy do trick or treaters get on average in the U.S.?**
   a) 5 lbs
   b) 67 lbs
   c) 10 billion lbs
   d) 3.5-4 lbs
4. **How much money do Americans spend on Halloween candy overall?**
   a) $60,000
   b) $4,000
   c) 20.9 billion
   d) 2.6 billion
5. **In what state do the most leaves fall in the U.S?🍂**
   a) Vermont
   b) New York
   c) Oregon
   d) California
6. **What did people use to make jack-o-lanterns instead of pumpkins?🎃**
   a) Gourds
   b) Radishes
   c) Potatoes
   d) Candy

The Senior Green Lakes Field Trip

The class of 2027 is beginning to celebrate the festivities that come along with being seniors! With more trips to come, Last Friday, on the 25th, the Senior class was given the opportunity to participate in an excursion to spend the entire morning into afternoon within the Green Lakes State Park. The green lake was equipped with many highlights, including various hiking trails with different levels of difficulty. Some trails were very scenic, showing off the gorgeous, crystal blue water reflecting the mountain and forest lines perfectly like a mirror. Other trails were suited for the athletes, with steep hills, wooden stairs, definitely causing the students to break a sweat. One trail in particular was an entire 2 miles long, circling along the entire lake, the holes within the trees giving away the breathtaking view, benches perfectly lining the grounds. The beautiful trails and physical aspects of the trip wasn't all the senior class got to enjoy. Once you exited the woodworks, there was a lovely picnic area, with many close knit tables, utilized by the class for eating together and winding down from the long walks everyone took. Some brought lunches, others were able to order lunch to the site. Despite everyone sitting within their friendgroups, there was a sense of real comradery between the students, knowing that the time they are spending together every day is slowly coming to an end. Truly a beautiful, yet bittersweet trip for class of 2027.

The ACE Club Field Trip

By Jaycee Hutchins

On October 2nd, 2026, the ACE Club had its first trip to Bald Mountain in Old Forge, NY. The ACE club is led by Katie DeCarolis and is available to students in the 7-12th grade. Mrs. Cleveland, Mr. Darrah, and Mrs. DeCarolis were chaperones on this trip. This hike was memorable to all students because a majority of them had never visited Bald Mountain before. At Bald Mountain, lots of pictures were taken and many memories were made. The bus left early that morning and the bus ride was about an hour and a half. After hiking, the participants visited a park with beautiful views, a lake, and a playground. The ACE club had a fantastic time and their next trip will be October 20th, 2026 to Tim's Pumpkin Patch!

Trivia

(cont.)

7. **What is the full moon close to the autumnal equinox called?🌕🍁**
   a) Leaf moon
   b) Pumpkin Moon
   c) Harvest Moon
   d) Blue Moon
8. **Which country has the most Halloween celebrations?🍫👻**
   a) Mexico
   b) Canada
   c) United States
   d) Ireland
9. **Why is candy associated with Halloween?🍬🎃**
   a) Ancient rituals
   b) Smart advertising
   c) Sugar shortages
   d) All of the Above
10. **What was the original purpose of bobbing for apples?🍎👻**
    a)To predict the health of your spouse
    b)To ensure you are wed
    c)To predict marriage
    d)None of the above

October Word Search

Y	A	O	P	A	I	K	T	O	P	N	H	E	N
L	U	Y	O	V	V	I	P	I	A	R	S	W	C
T	E	D	P	A	S	W	L	N	H	C	U	O	M
V	A	N	E	M	O	P	S	P	T	A	F	I	O
E	Y	A	A	P	N	O	N	P	O	T	I	O	N
C	N	C	I	I	O	O	F	E	O	K	K	S	E
A	R	E	N	R	T	L	P	R	C	O	O	P	T
H	I	D	E	E	O	E	W	R	T	W	K	S	T
R	I	L	L	W	I	T	C	H	T	L	K	Y	L
L	P	E	E	U	O	T	S	V	W	O	T	O	L
O	K	R	C	P	E	L	O	I	I	E	E	D	I
S	E	I	N	O	N	O	L	K	S	C	P	L	O
W	A	Y	W	P	O	W	E	A	K	C	I	R	T
O	O	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	H	P	O	O	E

SPOOKY
WITCH
SKELETON
WEREWOLF
VAMPIRE
TRICK
HALLOWEEN
PUMPKIN
CANDY
POTION

Play this puzzle online at : https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/9996913/

Quote

By Sam Whelan
"I find that over the course of our human existence that one thing that consists of consistency is that we're all battling fear." -Tyler Joesph

Fun Fact:

By Sam Whelan
Did you know that black cats originally WEREN'T bad luck? They were divine symbols in Egypt and were helpers to Hecate, goddess of witchcraft and magic!

Answers

1. b)
2. c)
3. d)
4. d)
5. a)
6. b)
7. c)
8. a)
9. d)
10. c)