



# The Calumet



VOLUME XC, ISSUE 1 Weequahic High School, Newark, NJ

Friday

## **BREAKING NEWS:**

# The Return of “*The Calumet*”



*“oh school that bears an indian name of old historic lore”*

—— a photo of Weequahic High School  
from the Class of 1955 yearbook

## **REVIVING OLD TRADITIONS**

By Ms. Francis, Advisor

Weequahic High School is currently experiencing a renaissance, embracing both new beginnings and cherished traditions. After a significant hiatus, the school's newspaper, *The Calumet*, has made its much-anticipated return.

What is *The Calumet*? According to Webster's Dictionary, a calumet is "a highly ornamented ceremonial pipe used by North American Indians, especially in token of peace." The concept of peace resonates deeply within our school community, and this newspaper aims to be a source of peace and unity for all.

Although the exact date when the newspaper ceased publication remains unclear, the last known physical copy dates back to November/December 2012. With its revival, *The Calumet* will now be published quarterly, available in both digital and hard copy formats.

Let us all enthusiastically welcome back *The Calumet*, a symbol of our commitment to tradition and progress.

## **TEACHER CULTIVATES SERENITY: Teens Find Peace Through Gardening**

By Mirabel Chukwuma

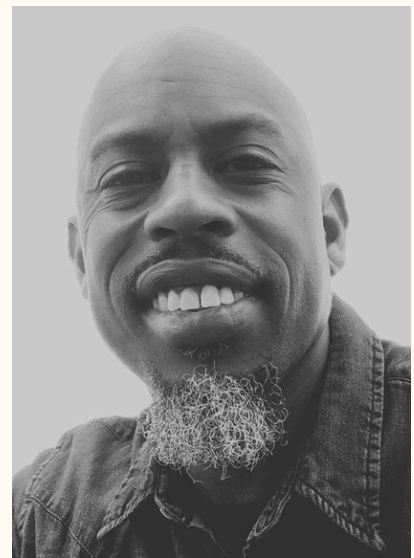
Mr. Bennett, Allied Health teacher at Weequahic High School, draws significant inspiration from the events and clubs he hosts, emphasizing the peace students gain from a change in their environment.

*"This is what I always wanted in school,"* he says, highlighting his reliance on hands-on activities and in-person exposure to foster a more natural and authentic learning experience.

Mr. Bennett believes that experiencing new aspects of nature and different environments enhances intellectual communication, opening doors to diverse learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.

*"That's why students keep coming back!"* he exclaims with enthusiasm.

His dedication to creating a nurturing and engaging educational experience is evident in the positive impact on his students.



Mr. Hashim Bennett, Allied Health Teacher



Pictured: Ms. Amparbin, Ms. Bassman-Lyons, and students participating in the beautification of Weequahic's front lawn.

## Down with Orange & Brown?

Weequahic Fashion Column By Alnaysia Kamara



### ***Do you think our school's fashion choices are lacking?***

Or do you love them and hope they never change? Regardless of your current thoughts, these opinions from your peers might change your mind. As you all know, Weequahic High School's colors are orange and brown. The typical uniform consists of khaki pants, with the choice of an orange, white, or brown shirt.

Personally, I am not a fan of the colors; I don't feel like orange and brown go well together. However, I am only one person. To get a broader perspective, I gathered the opinions of other scholars attending Weequahic High School.

Some students had positive opinions on the colors. A junior told me, "I like the colors. Orange and brown are two of my favorite colors, so it's nice." Another student, a senior, said, "I feel like they should stay the same, just because of how familiar I am with them now. It would be weird to see it change." Based on these responses, it seems that those who support the colors often have personal reasons for their preference.

I also asked a teacher for their opinion but was met with an entire speech on what the colors mean (we'd be here all day if I went in-depth).

Now, onto the more critical side. The reasons here were a bit more diverse. A freshman said, "The orange and white are fine, but the brown needs to go away, like, now." A sophomore commented, "I really don't like it; we need better colors. Maybe like black and blue but this is not it." My personal favorite response came from a senior who simply said, "No." That's it. Just 'no', which, in my opinion, says so much with so little.

There were also some conflicted opinions. Some liked the uniform colors at times but wished they could be changed. This viewpoint was especially amusing coming from a security guard, who isn't required to wear the colors.

Similarly, a teacher mentioned they were unsure how to feel because they liked the colors but hated the specific shades chosen.

All in all, the reasons why people like or dislike the colors are varied and often humorous. But one thing is for sure: orange and brown are very likely not going anywhere anytime soon.

## IP Life: So Hard!

Student Life Column By Alnaysia Kamara

### ***People go to school in order to receive education and learn new things.***

We read, write, solve math problems, and much more in order to fill our educational needs. But that's not the only thing that schools provide. Schools provide culture.

We read, write, solve math problems, and much more in order to fill our educational needs. But that's not the only thing that schools provide. Schools provide culture.

For example, some schools have annual performances or create theme songs. **Let's see some positive things that the students have to say about Weequahic culture:**

- One student said that she likes the song "So Hard to Be an Indian" that we sing during events, and finds it catchy.
- Another student mentioned they like the designs on the school merchandise and have a few Weequahic sweaters.
- A senior said they love how the school culture has remained consistent throughout their years here.
- A first-year student expressed their enthusiasm for how excited the school gets about football games.

All in all, Weequahic is a proud school with a culture that makes everyone feel welcome, regardless of where they come from.



Pictured: Weequahic High Schools Jazz Band



## **MEET MS. JONES: Leading the National Honors Society at WHS to New Heights**

By Louis Obilo

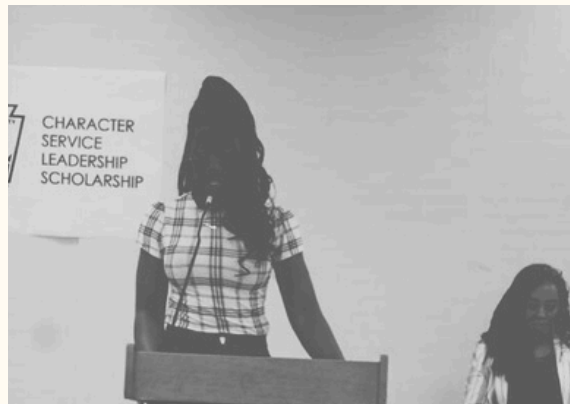


Ms. Jacqueline Jones, English Teacher

In March of 2024, I sat down to interview Ms. Jones about her first year as National Honors Society advisor. On February 29th, Weequahic High School held its chapter of the National Honors Society Induction Ceremony in the school's Media Center. Coming off the high of that amazing event I couldn't wait to hear about how she was doing. Here's what she had to say:

***"Hello, everyone! I am Ms. Jones, the 12th-grade English teacher and the new advisor for the National Honor Society (NHS)."***

Stepping into this role, I felt a mix of nervousness and excitement. Typically, I prefer to work behind the scenes, supporting and assisting where I can. Taking on a leadership position was a new and thrilling challenge for me, but it also brought out my introverted side. Despite these initial jitters, the experience has been both exhilarating and intense.



Pictured: Ms. Jones with Mirabel Chuckuma, grade 12, at this year's NHS Induction Ceremony

One of my primary goals is to become more involved in the growth and development of our NHS chapter. With a significant portion of our current members graduating, we need to focus on recruitment to ensure we maintain strong membership numbers. I'm particularly excited about coming up with creative strategies to attract juniors and rising sophomores. We'll be looking at the National Honor Society website for tips on building our membership base effectively.

There is a common misconception that joining NHS requires an overwhelming commitment. In reality, members just need to uphold the four pillars of NHS—scholarship, leadership, service, and character—and participate in a few service projects. I'm enthusiastic about dispelling this myth and making the society more accessible to potential members.

Looking ahead, I plan to make some changes to our induction ceremony based on feedback from current members. I believe strongly in the value of feedback, as it is crucial for growth and improvement. By listening to our members, we can ensure that our practices evolve and better meet their needs.

***I'm excited about the future of our NHS chapter and look forward to working with both current and future members to achieve great things together."***

Thank you Ms. Jones and congratulations to all of the 2023-2024 Weequahic High School National Honors Society inductees.

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## Game On: Level Up Your Play

Gaming Column By Kysheef Collins

Here's my top 5 games from 2023

### 1. Spider Man 2

This is an action game in which players assume the roles of Peter Parker and Miles Morales/Spider-Men as they attempt to save New York City from a new threat. From a third-person perspective, players fight crime, swing around buildings, and engage in melee-style combat with enemies.

### 2. Call of Duty Modern Warfare III

Call of Duty: Modern Warfare III is an upcoming first-person shooter video game developed by Sledgehammer Games and published by Activision. It is the twentieth game in the Call of Duty series, and third entry in the rebooted Modern Warfare sub-series, serving as the sequel to 2022's Modern Warfare II.

### 3. Assassin's Creed Mirage

Assassin's Creed Mirage brings players to Baghdad in 861, during its Golden Age when it was the cultural and technological epicenter of the region. The city feels alive with merchants, townsfolk, guards, palaces, and more. It's vibrant, lively, and, well, looks and sounds like a city.

### 4. FC24

EA Sports FC 24 is an association football video game, developed by EA Vancouver and EA Romania and published by EA Sports serving as the inaugural installment in the EA Sports FC series



### 5. LEGO Fortnite

What is Lego Fortnite going to be? There was initially speculation that it was a block-themed battle royale mode, but the game's official site has since confirmed that it is a "survival crafting adventure".



## **EMPOWERING VOICES**

# **The Women of Worth Conference 2024**

By Mirabel Chukwuma



Pictured: VP Owens, DC Singley, and all the guest speakers at the Women's Conference

In March 2024, Weequahic High School successfully hosted its 3rd Annual Women's Conference, an event that proved to be amazing for all female students and staff. The conference brought together an array of special guests and featured exciting giveaways, creating an inspiring and memorable experience for everyone involved.

As the event approached, Ms. Lawson provided a sneak peek into the preparations. "So far, it's coming together well," she revealed, listing the many esteemed guests expected to attend. "We have a diverse group of speakers who will provide the young ladies with varied perspectives on their lives and their impact as women in our community," she explained. Ms. Lawson emphasized the goal of introducing new insights into different careers and entrepreneurial paths, highlighting the anticipated appearance of a renowned makeup artist.

Despite some challenges, such as the absence of a youth business leader to conduct one of the workshops, Ms. Lawson remained hopeful about the conference's impact.

She noted that, unlike last year, the event would not feature a bouncy house, but assured attendees that the planned workshops and activities would more than make up for it.

The theme for this year's conference, "Women Who Advocate," aimed to empower the young women to learn how to advocate for themselves. "There is a lot to unpack when you think about advocating for yourself...so hopefully there is an awakening that inspires girls to advocate in a respectful way for what they need and what will help them be successful. Hopefully, that translates outside of high school," Ms. Lawson shared.

Overall, the 3rd Annual Women's Conference at Weequahic High School was a resounding success, providing an enriching and unforgettable experience for all who attended. The event not only celebrated the achievements of women but also equipped the students with the tools and inspiration to advocate for their futures.

## **EMPOWERING BROTHERHOOD:**

# **Weequahic High School's Men's Day Celebrated with a Special Movie Screening**

By Louis Obilo

In March 2024, Weequahic High School hosted its annual Men's Day, an event that proved to be an incredible experience for all male students and staff. The day included a wonderful trip to the movies to see the Bob Marley film "One Love," making it a memorable occasion for everyone involved.

Vice Principal Ronald Morse reflected on the significance of Men's Day, which began about fifteen years ago. "Men's Day started about fifteen years ago.

We would bring the young men together and, over the span of two days, teach them about positivity, brotherhood, manhood, love, and how to improve their lives," he explained. "The main goal was to uplift them, come together as a family, and let them know it's okay for men to care about other men."

Mr. Morse emphasized the importance of the event in providing young men with the opportunity to learn from various speakers and workshops. "This day was crucial for them to learn from different people who came to showcase various aspects of the world. I recall last year we had similar workshops with guests teaching our young men how to create and do different things," he said. "It's important for them to understand that there is more to life than just attending school, but also to remind them of the significance of education and where it can lead them."

The preparations for Men's Day involved collaboration between the male and female staff members.



Pictured: Mr. McCray, Mr. Daye, and Mr. Polynice at the Men's Conference

"The men in the building came together with the ladies to plan the event, as the ladies were hosting their own event in another part of the building," Mr. Morse noted. "We discussed what needed to be done, what we needed to eat, and how to fund the event. All these considerations were part of the planning process to ensure a successful day."

The highlight of this year's Men's Day was the special movie screening of "One Love," which resonated deeply with the students and staff. The film, celebrating the life and legacy of Bob Marley, provided an inspiring and educational experience, reinforcing the themes of love, unity, and perseverance.

Overall, the Men's Day event at Weequahic High School was a resounding success, fostering a sense of brotherhood and empowerment among the male students and staff. The combination of insightful workshops and the memorable movie outing made it an unforgettable day of learning and camaraderie.



**INDIAN INSIDER****Sports at Weequahic**

Pictured: WHS Boys Basketball Players Tasir Barnes & Hekeimu Williams

**THE TRIBE: BOYS BASKETBALL**

By Mirabel Chukwuma

As the boys' basketball season came to an end, we took a sneak peek into the experiences of the players. "As a basketball player, I feel like I developed a lot," Riyahd stated as he reflected on his time with this year's team. He continued to express how both he and his team showed significant improvement in their behavior and demonstrated a lot of sportsmanship.

Deslie, another notable player, shared that "it was fun" due to the various trips and travels the team embarked on, which helped build their chemistry. He also mentioned that as a first-time varsity player, he had a positive experience and felt that the team worked hard.

However, both players acknowledged that their team occasionally argued and often found it challenging to be on the same page. Looking ahead to their senior year, their goal was to win more games and gain more experience. "A ring and a jacket, that's what I want the most!" Riyahd exclaimed. "I've been working hard, so hopefully next year I will be able to gain more status," Deslie added.

Now we moved on to the boys' basketball coach, Coach Alexander or infectiously called Coach Chuck, who described the season as "a lot more fun" due to the numerous wins compared to the previous year.



Pictured: WHS Boys Basketball Players Deslie Ayerh & Riyahd McDonald

He highlighted the improvements and successes of the season but also emphasized areas for growth. "I need to see them doing more in the classroom," he said. "They've got to pick their grades up, maintain their grades, and be themselves. Don't fall into the crowd or the mix, just be you."

Coach Chuck added that the highlight of the season was winning the state tournament game, a victory they had not achieved in previous years. He concluded by stating that his goals for the team remained to win a sectional title or a state title and for the players to continue improving. "It means we, as coaches, are doing our job if they continue to show progress," he said.



**SPORTS****LADIES FIRST: THE NEW LADY INDIANS**

By Mirabel Chukwuma



Pictured: The 23-24 WHS Girls Basketball Team

Now over to the girls' basketball team! As the season came to an end, we asked the girls about their overall experiences. Here is what they had to say. "It was a lot of team building," Jamya said, starting off with her experience of transferring from another school and meeting Coach Oliver, also known as, Coach Fee. "She brought me to a better place where I could experience more and get more playtime," she explained.

She also delved into how her team matured compared to the previous year and their efforts to improve their grades. Expressing her desire to get into Saint John's, Jamya revealed her personal and team goals. "We need to stay out of trouble, and for myself... focus on my GPA because junior year has been stressful. I just need to concentrate on basketball and getting to where I need to be for college," she said.

Coach Fee, who had been their head coach for the past year, also shared her experiences working with the players. "I experienced a lot of growth. A lot of growth from last year to this year. Not just physical growth or skill-wise, but there was a big improvement in leadership," she shared. She further emphasized how the off-season over the summer contributed to that growth.

For her players, she wished for those interested in playing basketball in college to earn sports scholarships and attend college for free. For those not interested in college basketball, she hoped they would still secure full scholarships. As for the underclassmen, she wanted them to compete and remain competitive. She also aspired for the team to make it to the state sectional championship and win it. She concluded with, "I just want them to keep shining bright, on and off the court, and most definitely in the classroom."

## SPORTS

### Weequahic High School Girls Flag Football Team Shines Under Coach Watson

Weequahic Sports Column By Triumphant Ayodele

The Weequahic High School girls flag football team had an extraordinary season, demonstrating remarkable skill and determination under the guidance of Coach Watson. Their hard work and dedication culminated in a triumphant victory on senior night against Saint Benedict's girls team.

Throughout the season, Coach Watson's leadership played a crucial role in molding the team into a cohesive and formidable unit. His emphasis on teamwork, strategic play, and relentless practice sessions paid off, as the team showed significant improvement with each game.

The highlight of the season was undoubtedly their senior night match. Emotions ran high as the seniors took to the field for their last home game. The Weequahic girls faced a strong opponent in Saint Benedict's, but they rose to the occasion with unwavering focus and determination. The game was intense, with both teams showcasing their best performances, but Weequahic emerged victorious, much to the delight of the home crowd.

The seniors, in particular, were celebrated for their contributions and leadership. Their victory on senior night was a fitting end to their high school flag football careers, leaving a legacy for the underclassmen to aspire to.

Weequahic High School's girls flag football team has set a high bar for future seasons, and with Coach Watson at the helm, the future looks promising. This season will be remembered not just for the wins, but for the spirit and camaraderie that defined the team.



Pictured: WHS Track & Field team

### Weequahic High School Track and Field Program Reaches New Heights

Weequahic Sports Column By Triumphant Ayodele



Under the leadership of Coaches Harrison and Polynice, the Weequahic High School track and field program is achieving new heights. This month, the team excelled at the conference championship, bringing home numerous medals and showcasing their dedication and talent.

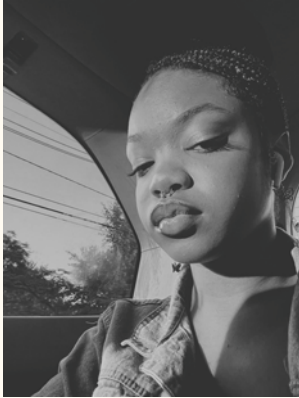
A highlight of the championship was Leroy Singleton's outstanding performance in the 100 meters. Singleton set a new school record with a time of 10.94 seconds, breaking the previous record of 10.95 seconds held by Sharod Selph. This achievement underscores Singleton's hard work and the effective coaching guiding the team.

With such successes, Weequahic High School's track and field program continues to thrive, setting a high standard for future athletes.

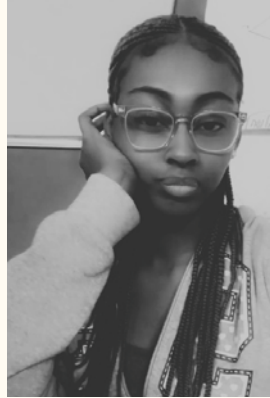


Pictured: WHS Track & Field team at Penn Relays

## ***MEET THE TEAM!***



**Leah Fraser**  
Editor



**Sarah Nwanjoku**  
Editor



**Tanira Roberts**  
Layout Editor



**Giani Cedres**  
Layout Editor



**Mirabel Chukwuma**  
Reporter



**Louis Obilo**  
Reporter



**Triumphant Ayodele**  
Columnist



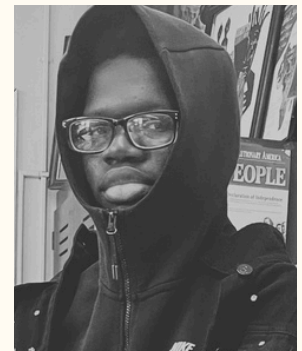
**Alnaysia Kamara**  
Columnist



**Kysheef Collins**  
Columnist



**Abiola Anifowose**  
Photographer



**El hadj Dieng**  
Photographer