



# THE WESTMOUNT GAZETTE

MARCH 2023

## Westmount's DECA Team at Provincials

By: Abigail Laurens

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, 34 members from Westmount DECA set off on the GO train and headed for the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto. When the chapter arrived at Union Station everyone was excited to start competing at Ontario Provincials as this event hosts over 6,000 students from across Ontario.

The fun started at the hotel when staff prepared a lovely meal for everyone. After dinner everyone went back to their hotel rooms and get a good night's sleep before the events the next day.

The competitors woke up early the next morning, got ready and headed down to compete in their respective events. All the competitors did amazingly in their respective case studies. The case studies were all quite challenging and we are all proud of how everybody competed.

After case studies were finished everyone had free time to explore the hotel and the city. That evening we all went to Jack Astors for a chapter dinner. Competitors got to spend time getting to know each other and we all had delicious meals.

The following day our chapter went to the grand ballroom to watch awards. Fifteen competitors from Westmount received special awards including a provincial champion award, Jeffrey Ai, who will be moving on to ICDC (International Career Development Conference) in Florida. Overall, everybody had an amazing

experience, and everyone is very proud of how Westmount competed.

## March Book Madness

By: Lilyanna Colling-Cen

Currently at Westmount Secondary School, there is an epic battle for the ages, a battle of the books. This year, we have books spanning across a wide variety of genres. From mystery to history, these books are undergoing the ultimate test: the esteemed critiques of Westmount readers.



Originally inspired by Ms. Kooner, a former staff in the Learning Commons at Westmount, this competition between novels closely resembles the NCAA's March Madness Tournament. To commence the competition this year, sixteen books have been hand-picked by students at our school. From there, students voted for their favourite eight, which commenced the next bracket of the competition.

Some of the Elite Eight include *The Book*

*Thief, All the Bright Places, The Hunger Games, The Hate U Give*, and many more. After this round of voting ends on March 21, the Final Four will be revealed. A top prospect in the competition is *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, which was the book that won the competition last year.

To input your vote, you can go to the Learning Commons and fill out one of the ballots. There are also prizes for students that vote! If you are consistent participant in the competition, you might be chosen to receive a prize. There are prizes for students that vote for the book that wins the competition as well.

You might have seen the eye-catching window graphic while passing by the Learning Commons. This bracket is a vibrant depiction of the current standings in the tournament and is an easy way to keep track of the status of the books.

You can also see the books that are still standing inside the Learning Commons. This display can be found at the table where the ballots are located.

Having this fun opportunity is an amazing way to become exposed to new books, and to bring together the Westmount community. An enormous thank you goes towards the staff members that have put in the hard work to make this tournament happen.

March Book Madness is something that will hopefully continue each year, so look forward to the coming tournaments in the future. The final winner of the competition will be announced on April 5th. Stay tuned!

Thank you to Abigail Laurens and Ms. Papalia-Potvin for your assistance in the creation of this article!

## Wildcats at the Hamilton Indoor Games

By: Francesca Bower

Last month 27 athletes from Westmount competed at the Hamilton Indoor Games at First

Ontario Centre. It has been three years since the last Indoor Games, and so all involved were pleased to welcome back this 95th celebration edition of the event. The first Hamilton Indoor Games was in 1908 and it is one of the oldest running events in Hamilton.



The HIG takes place over two days: one day for elementary students and one day for secondary students. This year students from 22 high schools

participated in the meet. Events include Some of Westmount's highlights include Gold for Senior Boys 600m (Porter Lakhanpal), Gold for the Novice Boys 4x100m relay team (Zach Wardell, Spencer Pivatt, Isaac McVittie, and Francesco DeLucia), Silver in Junior Boys 300m (Brock Philippe-Daniel) and the Senior Boys 1000m (Porter Lakhanpal), Bronze in Novice Girls Shotput (Celina Vuong), and Bronze in both the Senior Boys 4x100m (Judah Bailey, Drew Clark, Brock Philippe-Daniel, Nigel Zimic) and 4x400m relays (Judah Bailey, Drew Clark, Luke Cieslak, Hattan Qushmaq, and Brock Philippe-Daniel). All Westmount athletes did an amazing job and are now preparing for the outdoor track and field season.

## Westmount Students Hit the Slopes

By: Abigail Laurens

On February 28<sup>th</sup> Westmount students set off in a coach bus to Blue Mountain to hit the slopes. Students departed at 6:30am and arrived around 9am. Students were eager to drop off their bags at the cabin and then promptly headed down to get their ski equipment. Everyone picked up either skis or snowboards and headed to the hills.

Beginners got a lesson on the bunny hill and learned to slow down, stop, and turn. After a few hours they got assessed and most people got cleared to go on the bigger hills. Others who were more experienced got assessed on the hills and got a sticker to clarify how advanced they were.

Throughout the day the temperature stayed above freezing and the sun was out. During the time at Blue Mountain students had a lot of fun riding the lifts, skiing or snowboarding down slopes and through forests, and relaxing in the cabin. Overall, it was a trip enjoyed by all.

## The Wildcat Awards

By: Sofia Lessa Fratini

The Wildcat Awards are coming to Westmount! Most people reading this will find themselves asking, well what are the Wildcat Awards?



Well, the Wildcat Awards are being given out to students who have helped to contribute to the positive school culture by showing kindness and empathy. Students who are chosen as recipients have performed an act of kindness, such as holding the door open for other students or another act of kindness. The students are nominated by staff who witnessed these acts of kindness. The awards are being given out at the end of March; this year about twelve students have been chosen for their nice acts. This year is

the first time that these awards are being given out; however, this will hopefully turn into an annual event.

Ms. Farrugia, one of Westmount's Vice Principals, was able to talk about the Wildcat Awards. She explained that the Wildcat Awards have nothing to do with academics or athletics, but instead, they are purely based on being a good person, a good wildcat, and a good representative of Westmount. In conversation, Ms. Farrugia explained that these awards are being given out because "sometimes students do great things, and there is not a recognition for it." She further mentioned that these awards are meant to acknowledge the wonderful things that students do, because most times, these amazing acts of kindness go completely unnoticed. Congratulations to all of the recipients of the Wildcat Awards!

## The Detrimental Effects of ConocoPhillips' Willow Project

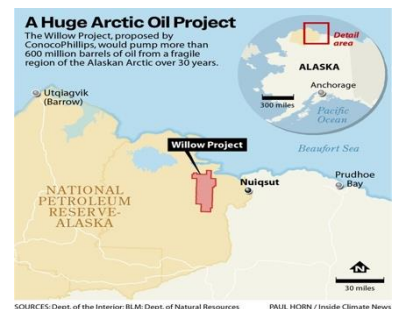
By: Radiyaa Amir

Oil and gas exploration has undeniably been one of humanity's most significant projects. Recent awareness of ConocoPhillips' "Willow Project" has caused a heavy uproar from environmentalists all over the globe.

The Willow Project is a colossal and lengthy oil drilling plan on Alaska's North Slope in the National Petroleum

Reserve. Dating back to 2020, the Trump Administration approved this transaction until chief judge

Sharon Gleason noticed the lack of environmental analysis behind the project.



On March 13, 2023, the Biden Administration approved this project yet again. This decision enraged many viewers as it betrayed Biden's previous campaign promise to end new oil and gas drilling on public lands and waters. Even with political authorization, the project cannot commence due to upcoming legal challenges. Environmental law groups like Earthjustice are seeking an injunction to put a stop to this. Legal action could delay the process and make it much more difficult for the oil to reach the market.

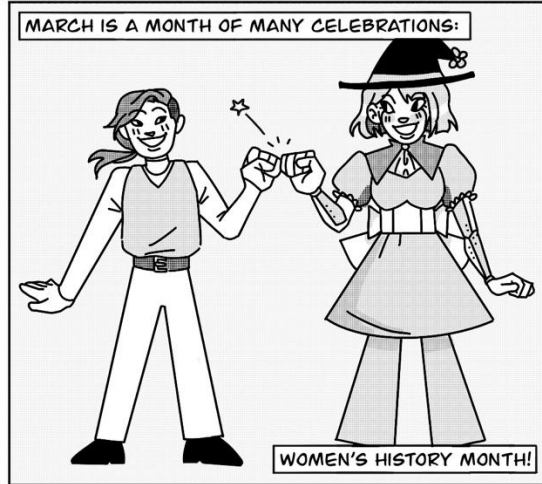
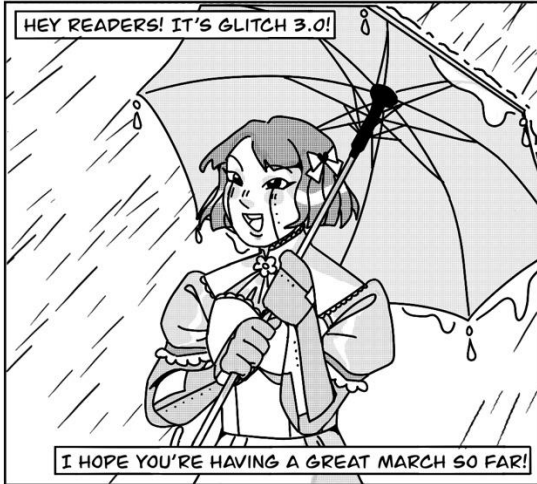
The Willow Project is meant to produce jobs, enhance energy production, and allow the country to stray away from foreign oil. However, this plan will also heavily impact nearby wildlife habitats and cause a major food shortage for Alaska Native communities. The project would also release roughly 278 tonnes of greenhouse gas into the atmosphere, furthering our ongoing climate change crisis. The Arctic warms about 4 times faster than the rest of the globe, and the Willow Project would cause the polar ice sheets to melt rapidly.

Although the results of the project would benefit the economy and government revenue, we must value our earth. With activism blaring voices of reason, it becomes more difficult to conduct these sorts of projects and less difficult to preserve the planet.

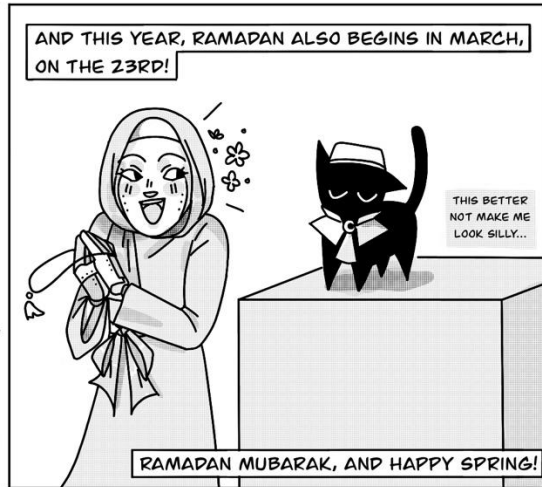
# COMIC

By: Maryam Shah

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

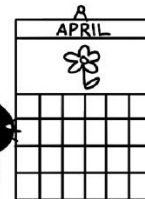


## RAMADAN MUBARAK!



# GLITCH THE ROBOT WITCH

I WONDER WHAT APRIL HAS IN STORE...



## Westmount Life in Photos



GIRLS TACKLE FOOTBALL



FIGURE 1 CLUB PURPLE - INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



DECA PROVINCIALS



BLUE MOUNTAIN SKI TRIP



BLUE MOUNTAIN SKI TRIP

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