



SPRING EDITION 2017

# West Boca High BULLSEYE

ALL NEWS, NO BULL

## West Boca Baseball Looks to Carry Winning Tradition

By Matt Gross  
*Sports Editor*



Sunshine, fresh cut grass, and sunflower seeds. A lot of sunflower seeds. Baseball season is finally upon us. West Boca opens this season with high hopes, five high-caliber returning starters, and a new face as its head coach. Filling in for former coach, Nathan Underwood, Bobby Stallone enters his first year leading the Bulls. After serving as one of the team's assistant coaches, Stallone now looks to contribute to the team's success in a larger role. "We're all excited about Coach [Stallone]. We know what he can bring to the team and we're all looking forward to working with him this season," starting shortstop Jordan Keller said about the coaching change.

The team is led by Captains Jordan Keller and Cory Kuchta, both of whom are four year players. "It certainly brings out my motivation for the game, and I hope it can rub off on our younger guys," Kuchta, the team's starting catcher, commented when asked how he felt about entering his last year playing with the Bulls. When asked what he would miss most about playing with the team, Keller said, "Definitely hanging out with the team. I'm going on my fourth year playing with these guys and they've become some of my best friends." The team consists of a total of twelve Seniors

who all look to leave their final mark on the program the right way- on a winning note.

As far as expectations for the season, there was no unfamiliar answer. Commenting on what he expects this upcoming spring, Keller said, "I believe we can make a run. We've got a lot of depth on our roster this year." Winning has become second nature for West Boca, as the Bulls look to build on last year's trip to regionals which was their first time advancing to the second round in three years. Meeting with the players and coaches, it is clear there is one goal in mind- to be State Champions; something the Bulls haven't done since the 2011 season. "It's certainly the goal for the season, but we know we have to take it one game at a time," outfielder Julian Corzo said.

To help accomplish this State Championship goal, the team won't only look to their seniors, but to their underclassmen and some new faces as well. These players aim at adding just enough in all aspects of the game whether it's hitting, fielding, or even running. This additional help within the roster gives the team's starters a chance to rest and not worry about who will fill in at their respective positions.

Speaking with the players, they talked about how they find their strengths to be

both on the offensive and defensive sides of the field. "I'd have to say it's a combo between our experience and pitching that really helps us on the defensive side," catcher Jared Cohen remarked. The team's five-man pitching rotation is headed by Ryan Powers and Alex Cordero. As far as the offensive side of the field goes, it is obvious coming from multiple players that what drives them the most is their emotion throughout the dugout. "Knowing we have our guys behind us at all times helps us at the plate for sure," Jordan Keller said. The team has found a balance between big time power hitters and contact hitters with Alex Cordero and Landon Shimmel. During stretching, batting practice, and even "intrasquad" period, teammates always seemed to have a good time while keeping the intensity level high.

Success has become the norm for West Boca baseball in recent years and the this year's team looks to carry on the tradition.



## Letter From the Editor

The madness of March is over. Now we move on to a even more insane month -testing season. From FSA's to APs, to crazy testing schedules and senioritis, the mayhem has just begun. Sooooo ease off all the mayhem with a new issue of the Bullseye! What an issue we have in store for you, as our front page story talks about the 2016-2017 Varsity Baseball team led by Senior Captains Cory Kuchta and Jordan Keller and written by our Sports Editor Matt Gross. Definitely something to get your hands on. One other big star story involves the commitment of "Senior" Anna Bright to play Tennis at University of California, Berkeley. What an amazing accomplishment. To learn more about the amazing journey by Bright, check out the story written by Features Editor Katelyn Barnard. Along with our sports story, we have a news story on students being numbered written by yours truly. In the article, I discuss how students throughout our lives have been numbered, whether it's student numbers or application ID's. This is also a piece that I recommend getting your hands on!

Well West Boca, after three years of being a part of the staff, I would like to say that this is my final year at the *Bullseye*. After being a part of the paper, I feel like I've grown as a writer and a person. I couldn't be more thankful for my staff and Advisor Mrs. Rosenblum. Thank you West Boca for giving me this opportunity. I guess losing Mr. Bull wasn't so bad after all. Go Bulls and Class of 2017! Winslow Out.

Sincerely,  
Austin Winslow  
*Editor-in-Chief*



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## I Am Not Just A Number

By Austin Winslow  
*Editor-in-Chief*

August 14th, 1935 was the day Social Security began. Some could say it was the start of the “numbering era”. This has led to the many ways students have been numbered everywhere they go. Students have been numbered their whole lives, whether people realize it or not, from student numbers to receiving ID’s during college applications, health insurance, and more.

The severity seems low, but students should really stop and think, “am I more than just a number?” Kids know their student numbers by heart because of not only how often they use it, but due to the fact they have had it with them their whole entire schooling life. Along with student numbers, class ranks are another way students are recognized through numbers. For the current graduating class, there are over 500 students in the class and each student is judged on their rank. Whether ranked four or 400, class rank weighs down true learning because all people care about is the grade.

Besides being labeled a number in classes, students are also numbered when taking a national standardized test like the ACT or SAT. This allows these organizations to have an easier time in

identifying each student’s score; it’s more accessible for them when they distribute scores. In fact, Senior Allie Rodriguez is a fan of the labeling of students by numbers due to how accessible it is for others. “It’s a pretty valid way to keep track of people in larger populations,” Rodriguez stated. She also added how “when it comes to school it’s a good way to put peers against each other for competition and keep things competitive.” So, in this case, students like Rodriguez like the idea of ranks because it fosters competition between students, which is without a doubt a great reason to be a fan of the numbering. However, students like Senior Steven Sheppard have another take on it. “I believe that being numbered is something so inhumane and such a barbaric practice,” Sheppard stated. “Prisoners are given numbers to de-humanize their identity. Numbers are given to quantify things and not qualify things,” Sheppard added. Sheppard also mentioned how he believes rank causes “unnecessary stress and anxiety” which challenges Rodriguez comment on how being competitive is a good thing.

On a darker note, the numbering pro-



Art work by Sophia Garrett

cess was even a part of the Holocaust. Jews, Gypsies, and all those the Nazi party disapproved of were a part of this genocide, and every single one of them was numbered. Going back to Sheppard’s point, this was a real instance where people actually did feel dehumanized. They were looked at as nothing more than just another human dying, whether number one or one million- these people were nothing more than just a number.

While it is a stretch to compare student numbers and social security to humans being numbered during the Holocaust, clearly being numbered can be looked at in various ways. Some believe it helps the idea of working hard, while others find it inhumane. Numbers have been a part of students’ lives forever, no matter how they look at it.

## Spotlight! Art Pieces by WBHS Students

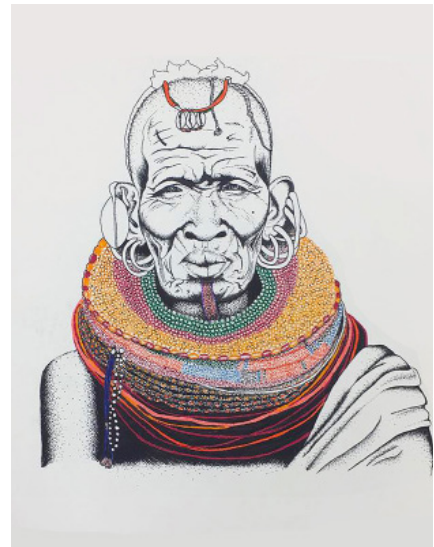
By Angela Bulatao  
*Managing Editor*



Brigit Ryan, 12th Grade



Grace Li, 10th Grade



Leticia Pontes, 12th Grade

## The Problem With School Lunch

By Angelia Bulatao  
*Managing Editor*

The issue is not actually about the food; rather the people who cut the lines instead. Hundreds of West Boca students wait in line to get their lunches, yet are often cut in front of by a select group of students who do not feel like waiting. Administrators often watch the lines to prevent this from happening, but as soon as they briefly look away, an unacceptable amount of students squeeze between the metal rails and seamlessly blend into the crowd as if they have been waiting there the entire time. In most cases, the students get away with it.

It is unfair to those who have been waiting for twenty or more minutes to get their food. Some students have opted out of getting school lunch and started bringing their own lunch due to not having enough time to eat or having to wait much longer than they would have.

As the lunch period progresses, choices become limited to either PB&J or nothing at all, as all the food have already been taken by those who skip in front of deserving students waiting for a different lunch choice.

Hailey Moskowitz, a West Boca Senior says, “Being one of [those] that doesn’t have a problem speaking up, calling people out doesn’t even help! If I ask someone not to cut or tell an administrator, [the student] either ignores me or they just cut again the next day. There [have] been many occasions where so many people would cut me that I couldn’t get the food that I wanted because they ran out.”

Unlike Hailey, very few students dare to speak up against this dishonest bunch and rarely tell those students to go back and wait like the rest of us. It is understandably uncomfortable and the fear of committing tattletale-behavior seems to keep the rest of us silent no matter how bothered one feels about it. As an observation, students this year have taken the idea of cutting the line as a norm much more than in previous years. “I’ve experienced the unfair wait in the lunch line for two years and I haven’t seen effective measures take



Photo by Angelia Bulatao

place to solve this problem,” says West Boca Junior, Gabriel Do Couto. “The school should provide more people to take control over this situation and penalize those who use cutting for their advantage.”

Some measures have been taken to keep the line-cutting under control. For example, administrators have zip-wired a foldable table to the preexisting metal rails to keep students from sneaking under. However, with the lunch lines being so crowded, administrators often don’t notice the many students who sneak through the back and walk right behind them. With this table-barrier addition having little to no effect, there should be a more serious penalty against those who take advantage of the students and administrators.

## Rising Seniors Aim to Promote Equality Through New Club

By Lillian Richards  
*News Editor*

Juniors Maria Cardei and Syndey Michalak first had the idea to start a club surrounding feminism and equality-related ideals as freshmen. That idea, born in the cafeteria in 2014, has now blossomed into the equALLity Club. “Until this year, we always supported the idea of equality but never took the initiative to do more. With all of the crazy things that have happened in the world, Maria and I realized that it is more important now than ever to take that initiative and start the club” explains Historian Sydney Michalak.

The equALLity Club is a student-created organization that aims to promote equality and associated awareness among the student body. The club will encompass equal rights movements for all aspects of equality including sexual orientation, religion, race, gender, disabilities, etc. Each meeting will focus on one of the aforementioned aspects. Members will participate in discussions about relevant topics, raise money to donate to charitable organizations pertinent to equality, listen to influential speakers (i.e doctors, lawyers, politicians), volunteer at shelters, organizations, and offices, and participate in civil marches and movements.

Co-President Maria Cardei hopes to “inspire equality among the student body of West Boca and across the community.” As the other Co-President, I share Maria’s goals of creating equality in our local environment. I would also like to see the equALLity Club serve as validation for individuals struggling with internal conflict due to today’s unfair society.

The equALLity Club already has fifteen committed members and a teacher sponsor. Cardei adds, “Equality should be guaranteed to everyone; as we are all human on the inside. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join to join and help create equality for all.” Vice President Riyanna Roehrig-Hubert says, “People should join to gain perspective and to help improve the social wellbeing of our community.” The board plans to bring their proposal to administration for approval this week.



The equALLity Club’s logo features various aspects of what the club plans to discuss.

Art by Graphic Design Representative Grace Li.



# Betsy DeVos' Relationship with Charter Schools: An Insult to Public Education

By Meghan Zaffuta

*Graphics Coordinator*

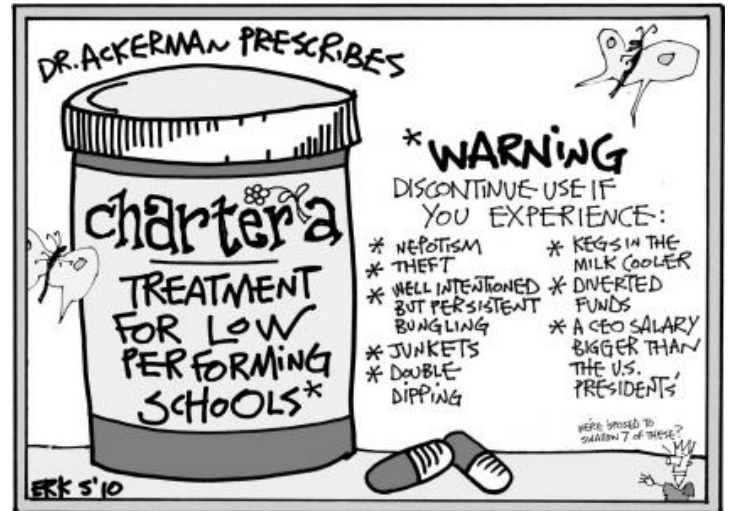
It's no secret that Betsy DeVos is one of the most controversial choices in President Trump's cabinet. Her inexperience paired with her preference of charter and private schools over public schools directly resulted in the Democrat vs. Republican split of the Senate. It was then that it became clear that current politicians care more about party allegiance and campaign contributions than the well being and education of students across the country. DeVos has tried covering up her complete lack of understanding of the public school system by pushing for charter schools, as well as vouchers for private education; both of which will be detrimental to the American Education System as a whole. But when your family donates upwards of \$83 million to politicians, who cares?

Compared to other forms of education, charter schools are a drastic minority; making up only 5% of U.S. schools. Because of this, charter schools are often unclear to many Americans. Charter schools are schools that are publically funded but privately run. They would, in theory, make a private-style education more accessible to the public, as well as provide an alternative learning style for students with learning disabilities or students with special interests.

However, because charter schools are privately operated, they are often run with little supervision. Many charter schools hire management companies or other private educational services to run their schools. Under the relaxed laws in states such as Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Arizona, these companies can legally produce profits off of the schools they operate. Charter schools are publicly funded just like traditional public schools; both share the same taxpayer dollars. However, one allows large corporations to make millions of dollars, while the other struggles to make ends meet.

Considering the praise charter schools receive from notable politicians from both sides of the aisle including: President Bush (43), President Obama, President Trump, Mitt Romney, and Bernie Sanders, it would be logical to believe that charter schools drastically outperform other school models. However, Stanford's Center for Research on Educational Outcomes found that, on average, only 17% of charter schools surpass their traditional public school counterparts.

Because the regulations imposed on charter schools vary drastically from state to state, resulting in equally drastic performance levels, it is unfair to generalize *all* charter schools. But, Betsy DeVos is a former chair of



Cartoon courtesy of Larry Cuban

a pro-school-choice advocacy group, the American Federation for Children, as well as a former chair for the Republican Party in Michigan. DeVos' lobbying, as well as her generous donations to state lawmakers has made Michigan home to one of the highest numbers of charter schools in the country, and the nation's largest urban network of charter schools- all with minimal oversight. Michigan is the epitome of what DeVos wants the American education system to look like under her administration, so it's only fair to compare *Michigan's* charter schools to their traditional public school counterparts. Charter schools in Michigan, particularly the inner cities where other types of public schools are no longer offered, consistently perform as low as the first percentile. Schools such as Hope Academy, on the west side of Detroit, have received some of the lowest test scores in the country for the past twenty years without any reprocaution. Other schools with similar ratings have superintendents making six figure salaries while their students are performing at abnormally low standards.

Betsy DeVos obviously lacks experience in education, but what little experience she did have was detrimental to the state of Michigan. The future of this country is currently being crafted inside the walls of our public schools. A future president or the scientist that will cure cancer could be sitting in a public school at this very moment. If we let Betsy DeVos take funding away from our current system to increase the amount of charter schools, we will change their future. The current education system isn't perfect, but the addition of Betsy DeVos and charter schools will make it worse, not better.

## West Boca Tennis Champ Goes to California

By Katelyn Barnard

*Features Editor*

Anna Bright was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas, before she moved to Boca Raton, Florida, during the summer after 5th grade. For those who know Anna, it is not hard to believe that her tennis schedule was hectic, even back in elementary school. Starting at 3 years old, she was swinging around a tennis racket, and she began tournaments at the age of 6. Up until the second semester of 8th grade, she was homeschooled in order to manage her tennis practices, games, and tournaments.

Anna has been blowing us all away with her accomplishments ever since her freshman year. During her first year at West Boca, not only did she win in singles and doubles at districts, but she also placed overall in singles, doubles, and individuals at the state level competition. After all of this, she was named Florida's Miss Tennis in 2015. Her coach, Pam Telford, once said, "[Anna's] accomplishments are amazing, especially for a freshman. She is mature, confident and plays with great sportsmanship. I am very proud to be her coach."

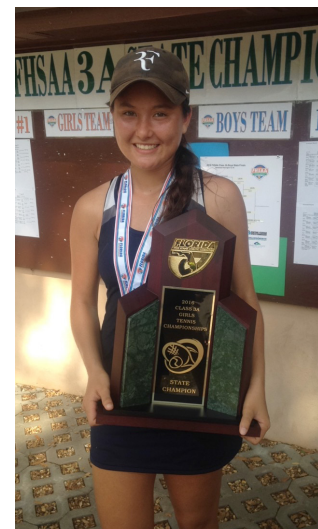
After starting off her high school tennis career with a bang, she is leaving it with an even bigger statement. She is currently ranked number 13 out of 100 girls on the "College Recruiting Network." As of now, Anna has been offered a full ride to the University of California, Berkeley to play for their tennis team. She is only verbally committed; however, her signing day takes place on April 12th.

Being only a junior with this offer, Anna has skipped a year ahead and is now qualified as a senior. She will pack her bags and move to California over the summer, where she'll spend the next four years studying and, of course, playing tennis.

All of West Boca is wishing Anna the best of luck, and we know that she'll do great at Berkeley!



Anna getting ready to swing.



Anna accepting the State Champion award.










Anna accepting the "Player of the Week" from local Channel 12 News



West Boca's Girls' Tennis Team posing in front of the State Champion banner.

## Cool Hobbies: Teacher Edition

By Amanda Cohen & Emiliano Barin  
*Editorial Director & Staff Writer*

	What is one thing we don't know about you?	What is your special talent or hobby?	What was your major in college?	What is your favorite food?	What was your dream job?
<b>Mr. Chapman</b>  Physics 	Was in marching band	Singing	Physics	Popeyes	Teacher/ TV Host/ Pop Star/ Model
<b>Mrs. Steel</b>  AICE Marine, Environmental, Student Gov. 	Was Miss Olympic Heights in 1999	Can do a split on command	Biology and Computer Science	Shrimp and Cannolis	Underwater Archaeologist
<b>Mrs. Rubin</b>  AP Seminar, AP Capstone 	Black Belt	The "Rubin Eye"	Education and Psychology	Steak	Photographer
<b>Mr. Levin</b>  AP English Lit. & ESOL 	Listens to heavy metal	Hiking in the mountains	English	Pad Thai	Park Ranger
<b>Mr. Questo</b>  School Counselor 	Former <i>Cover Girl</i> sales representative	Dancing and Running	Business	Pizza	Motivational Speaker
<b>Ms. Varela</b>  AICE Gen. Paper English I H 	Has seen all 7 wonders of the world	Running ( <i>Ran 3 full marathons and 30 half marathons</i> )	English and Spanish with a Masters in Mental Health	Seafood	Teacher



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