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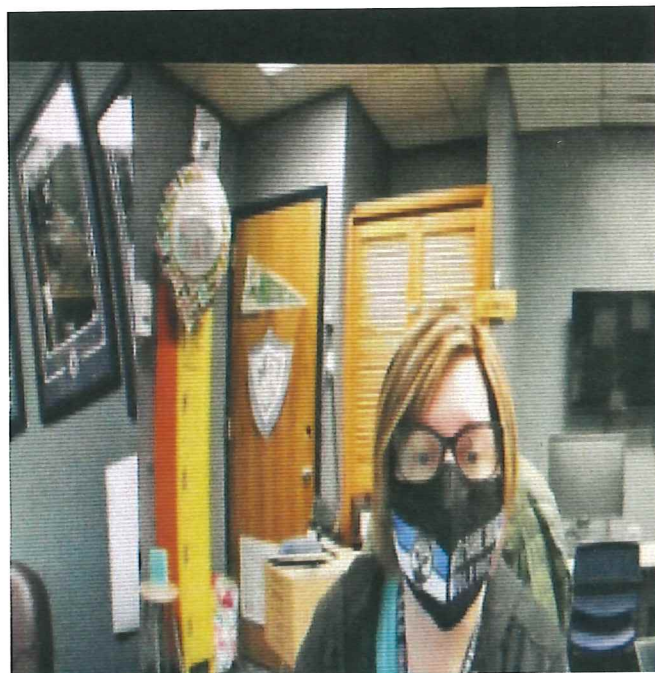
SPORTS

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

FEATURES

## GAR IN TIMES OF COVID-19

LAST YEAR OF GAR H.S. WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR HOW IT DEALS WITH THE PANDEMIC



Principal Robatin addresses faculty in a Zoom meeting using Proper Covid Protocol

We can all agree that COVID-19 has brought uncertainty to our lives. More specifically, our schools have been affected by this pandemic. Colleen Robatin (Principal), Patrick Peters (Assistant Principal), and Jennifer Thomas (Guidance) gave some information on dealing with COVID-19 in our beloved school.

"Students can call the office and be directed to any one of us if needed. The Guidance Department also has a list of outside agencies that may help with counseling, hotline numbers and area agencies numbers", said Robatin and Thomas regarding mental health resources for students.

Robatin stated, "I think our teachers have been doing a great job live streaming their classes. With students...I think students learn best in a structured atmosphere. Get out of the bed, set up at a table or desk, eliminate distractions. Focus during virtual learning is critical."

If any students or parents/guardians are seeking information concerning the coronavirus in GAR "there are district updates on the Wilkes-Barre Area School District webpage," as stated by Robatin.

In this unpredictable time upperclassmen are concerned about event cancellations. "There are google classrooms set up for all grades at GAR and anything pertaining to events being canceled will be put on these pages and on the district webpage. Seniors are advised to check the senior google classroom regularly," said Thomas.

All students are currently in virtual learning while some are very anxious to return to in-person learning.

"Dr Costello is following the guidance provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Right now, I couldn't give a timeframe for when in-person students can return," says Peters.

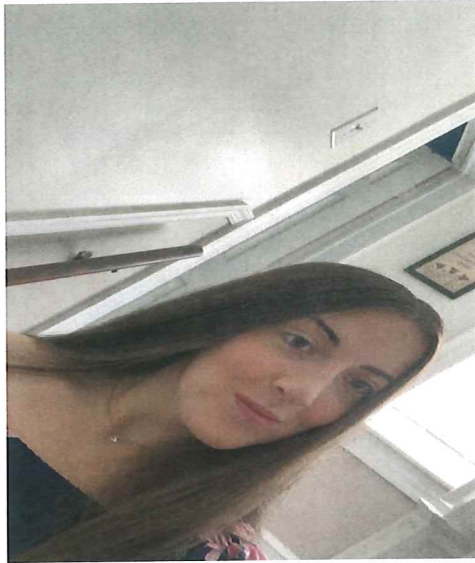
In this time of uncertainty not only do students have to adapt, but also teachers.

Robatin stated, "Our teachers have adapted very well. It is funny...when you walk through the building, the teachers who are in the building teaching their classes sound like they are teaching to a full room of students."

We may never know when things will return to normal however, what we can do is be optimistic about the future. "I hope that our COVID numbers decrease and we can start getting things back the way they were. I wish I had a magic wand to make it all go away... All I can do right now is continue to hope that our students, staff, and their families stay safe," said Robatin and Peters.

Story by Kelsey Bellus

THE FIRST DIGITAL NEWSPAPER OF GAR



## STUDENT/TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

*SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT EMILY ENGLE AND MATH TEACHER MR LAPINSKI SHED LIGHT ON THEIR YEAR*

### **Emily Engle**

**Q: How are you doing during this whole pandemic?**

A: I struggled with being in quarantine in the very beginning and some days I still do. I feel like the more time that has passed the easier it has been to adapt to this way of life. I personally feel like I have learned how to do more things and learned things about myself while in quarantine.

**Q: What do you miss the most about going into school normally every day of the week?**

A: You never understand how much you miss something until you no longer have it. I miss sitting down at a lunch table with my friends, spending Fridays talking about football game plans, having talks and laughing with my teachers, having a locker, and seeing everyone in the hallways.

**Q: How are you staying connected to your school community?**

A: I am staying connected with my school community by trying to stay active in making the class of 2021's senior year better. I want to make sure that we are still able to do things even when we are virtual.

**Q: How has COVID and the quarantine affected you?**

A: COVID 19 has affected my life in a huge way, just like it has for everyone else. It put a pause to a lot of the things that I have been looking forward to and changing the way that I do most things. It also affected me in a good way because I got a job, I finally got my license, read more books, and learned to appreciate the small things in life. (continued next page)

### **Mr. Lapinski**

**Q: What motivated you to teach math at GAR?**

A: I like the students at GAR.

**Q: How long have you been teaching?**

A: I have taught a total of 29 years with 4 years at GAR.

**Q: How many hours do you spend working?**

A: I work a total of 10 hours, but for the entire week I work 50 hours.

**Q: What makes you excited about teaching?**

A: When the kids understand what they're doing.

**Q: When you teach students, what makes you upset?**

A: When the kids don't show up to class.

**Q: What's your favorite class?**

A: Consumer Apps because the kids are going to use this in life.

**Q: Something You enjoy?**

A: Seeing students becoming successful.

**Q: How do you know you have been successful as a teacher?**

A: I know because I taught my dentist, doctor and plumber.

**Q: Why do you like coming to GAR everyday?**

A: I enjoy the math department, I appreciate the individuals and faculty because they will support you regardless of the situation you are in.

**Q: What's the worst thing about GAR?**

A: parking is the worst thing about GAR.

**Q: What's the thing that makes you smile everyday**  
Nicolas & Kendall (My kids).

*Interview by Ada Ramia*

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## EMILY ENGLE INTERVIEW (CONTINUED)

**Q: From the beginning of the year, how did you think this year was going to go?**

A: At the very beginning of the year I had high expectations for this year because it was supposed to be the best senior year. I was so ready for spirit week and couldn't wait to look back on the photos we took. It was also supposed to be a very important time because applying to college was so exciting and I was looking forward to visiting campuses.

**Q: What do you feel like is the most struggling part right now with being a senior and having everything be taken away because of COVID?**

A: Being a senior in the middle of this pandemic is a huge struggle. Ever since seventh grade you wait to be the top dog and rule the school. It is the year of the lasts and who knows if we will even get the chance to do Sadie Hawkins day, spirit week, dances, field day, senior tea, class day, or even have a normal graduation. You wait for this year from the very moment you start school and it is supposed to be the most exciting.

**Q: If you could share one message with your seniors, what would it be?**

A: To my fellow seniors, we started at GAR as those little seventh graders who were at the bottom of the food chain. Now we are seniors who are at the very top and it is nothing like we imagined. This year has prepared us for the rest of our lives because we are going to face challenges and we have to be brave enough to stand up to them. I believe that if we can overcome a pandemic then we can overcome any challenges that we may face!

**Q: If you could share one message with your fellow leaders, what would it be?**

A: To my fellow officers we have to work together to ensure that our classmates have a voice in the decisions that we make. A leader can only be as strong as its pack and to move forward we have to make sure that everyone is included.

**Q: What are you looking forward to if we start to go back to normal?**

A: I am looking forward to being able to take part in senior year activities, sitting down with my friends at lunch, seeing my teachers in person again, being able to have fans at games, and prom/homecoming.

**Q: What have you learned most about leadership these past few months?**

A: I have learned that a leader is someone who is willing to stand out from the crowd. It comes with a lot of responsibility because you have to take everyone into consideration and get everyone's ideas before you can make a decision. An important part of being a leader is keeping people unified instead of breaking them down.

BY ANALA WILLIAMS



## KEEPING THE SPIRIT DURING COVID COACH REFLECTS ON SEASON THAT WAS

The 2020 Football season has come and gone and with it, the cheerleaders have got through a season as well.

Kayla Orehek, in her second season at the helm for Wolfpack Cheerleading found this year and moving forward to be quite the obstacle.

Coach Orehek looked back on her attitude for the season, "I am taking this year day by day. 2020 has not been very kind to anyone."

Orehek stated the obvious, but also noted how it wouldn't have been possible without some help at Wilkes-Barre Area.

"Everyone has been doing their best to keep the sports going and helping one another out", said Orehek.

"Many people came together to help make the season possible and the athletic department was hard at work over the summer with helping us plan to return to play".

"I never felt like quitting, but taking a timeout, yes. This season has tried all my patience", revealed an honest Orehek.

Coach Orehek elaborated, "We missed out on cheer camp, going to away games, and we could not stunt. As of gaining, I think we learned to be more creative because we were forced to think outside the box."

During this pandemic, the coach had to make adjustments to make sure her team would run smoothly this year.

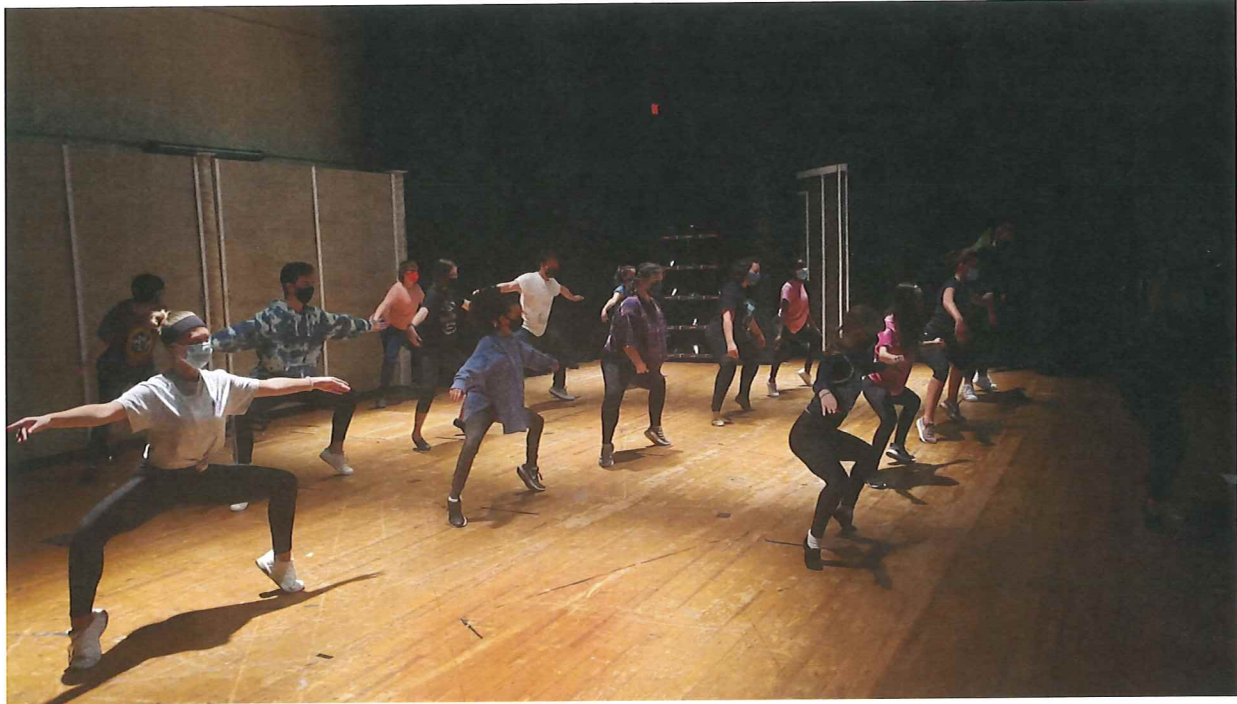
"In the beginning I had to split my squad in half to be able to have practice. The girls needed to have a google form filled out and I took their temperature and reviewed any possible symptoms".

Nevertheless, the season went off without a hitch and Seniors were able to create not necessarily a remarkable season, but one they will at least remember. Hopefully 2021 can bring more cheers and happiness to all.

By Anala Williams

THE FIRST DIGITAL NEWSPAPER OF GAR

## THE SHOW MUST GO ON CAPAA KEEPS THINGS ROLLING DURING COVID -19



As we know the pandemic does not discriminate and this fall the CAPAA program at GAR has been challenged as well. But in true arts fashion, the show must go on.

Aliceia Lyons (theater arts instructor) and Ann Gubitose (arts instructor) reflected on what the year has brought as far as challenges for CAPAA.

Lyons noted it was hardest being all virtual.

"The book work was easy to transfer but when it comes to improvisational work, group acting, etc. we have to think outside the box in order to make it work in a virtual format." She also mentioned that her students were assisting her in working through this roadblock.

In addition, Lyons has been taking the necessary steps of compliance.

"As with all classes, masks must be worn at all times, for individual acting evaluations etc., we have face shields and guards that are used".

She also mentioned that they are being strict with keeping 6 feet of social distance at all times.

Gubitose, who like Lyons has been with CAPAA since its conception has found some success as well.

"We have been able to enter art competitions like the Congressional Art Competition by submitting our art with a digital photograph and displaying in digital galleries rather than in person."

Two CAPAA art students have already won the Anti-littering yard sign contest for all of Luzerne County. "You can see their work on yard signs distributed all over Luzerne County", remarked Gubitose.

Both Gubitose and Lyons concurred that not much has truly changed since adjusting to the pandemic.

"In unprecedented times like these, keeping the arts alive and a program like this that students need and are made to feel like family is more important than ever", urged Lyons.

If anyone is still interested in joining CAPAA for the 2021/2022 school year, look forward to applications to open around the beginning of March.

"Applications and more information about the CAPAA Art program can be found on the WBASD website homepage", kindly added Gubitose.

**Article by Jason Victoria Bonilla**

(pictured above, March 2020 Acting Seminar with professional Broadway Actor Jessie Hooker-Bailey)

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## WOLFPACK FOOTBALL RECAP 2020

By Brady Melovitz

This year has been unpredictable for everyone in the world because of Covid 19. The pandemic has caused schools to close down multiple times, making us wear masks everywhere we go for protection and in some cases - people have lost jobs. However, football was in full swing for Wilkes-Barre Area...well not exactly.

The first half of the season went well for the Wolfpack getting off to a good start in a low scoring affair against rival, Wyoming Valley West. The Wolfpack were on the right side of a 9-8 victory.

The second game of the season was a more exciting contest against Hazleton Area with the Wolfpack leading a fourth quarter comeback and winning 28 to 21. Things looked bright for W-B Area.

However, the season began to turn in the next game against Dallas. The Wolfpack suffered their first loss of the season with the score being 34 to 13. It was also where a promising senior season was derailed for Senior QB and GAR student, Kam Taylor. He would later return for the final game of the season.

For the second half of the season the Wolfpack did not fare as well as the first half. The Wolfpack lost their second game in a row in the season as they could not stop Williamsport's passing attack with the score being 26-0.

Next the Wolfpack suffered their most devastating defeat to Lakeland as they fell, 27-26. The Wolfpack would succumb to the Chiefs on a last second punt block, helping to propel Lakeland to the Playoffs.

The Wolfpack's next two games against Valley West and Berwick were cancelled due to Covid-19 and it seemed the season was over. The last game of the season for the Wolfpack resulted in a win for them as they won against Tunkhannock 35-28. It was a last second scheduled game between the 2 teams that allowed Wilkes-Barre to escape with momentum as they hope to prepare for a normal, Covid-free season next fall. Whether or not the Wolfpack won or lost, we can all be grateful for the fact that they were even able to play. There is always next year and with all Wilkes-Barre students consolidating into the new building, it should make for a remarkable season in 2021.