



April 1, 2019

Dear Residents:

I'm sure everyone has heard the expression "March Madness" to describe the furry of basketball tournaments that occur this time of the year. But here in PW Pirate country we may need to change the expression to "March Greatness" as both the PW boys and girls basketball teams captured their first state championships in school history. Not only that, but the combined records for the boys and girls freshman, junior varsity and varsity basketball teams was a nearly unbelievable 104 wins and only 1 loss. The only blemish was a regular season loss by the girls varsity team to Detroit Edison, which by the way is ranked as the best girls team in the entire state and the 5th best girls team in the entire country by USA Today. Edison also won this year's Division 2 state championship. Their star player, Rickea Jackson, was named to the McDonald's All-American team and was also this year's "Miss Basketball" which recognizes her as the best female high school basketball player in the state. This proves that it took nothing less than the very best to defeat a PW basketball team in 2019.

On March 16th the PW boys team defeated Iron Mountain 53-52 in a wild come-from-behind victory with Westphalia's own Collin Trierweiler making two pressure free throws with 0.7 second left in the game to capture the hard-fought victory and state title. The PW boys finished as the only undefeated varsity high school basketball team in the entire state of Michigan in 2019 (boys or girls). Congratulations to coach Luke Pohl and the team.

On March 23rd the PW girls defeated Flint Hamady 40-33. Although PW was never behind in the game, its two best players found themselves in foul trouble in the fourth quarter and their lead reduced to just 1 point with only 1:45 left to go. With great composure and excellent free throw shooting down the stretch, the girls prevailed and secured the victory. Congratulations to coach Steve Eklund and the team.

After the team bus was escorted into town by the police and fire trucks, the girls got out to share their joy and excitement with their fans. After which Father Eric offered to do an impromptu mass for the team and fans to give thanks for the blessings of the day, the season and the especially the communities in which we live. Thank you to Father Eric for such a thoughtful and generous act of kindness and for the newly crowned state championship basketball team and its fans for demonstrating their true priorities. Actions like these speak volumes about the quality of the people we have in our local communities.

I continue to be so impressed with how well our young people have set their priorities and marvel over the class and maturity they exemplify. These values reflect their upbringing and the communities in which they were raised. We are very proud of each and every one of them. Thank you to our young people for making us so proud – and not just for what they do on the basketball court. Thank you to the coaches for guiding these teams with such excellence and teaching the important life lessons that sports can provide.

April showers bring May flowers... think Spring!

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia