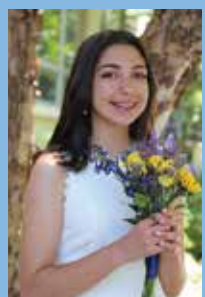


# Kind. Confident. Prepared. Graduated!

*Congratulations* to the **Class of 2019**



**Graduates**  
*were accepted to*  
**24 schools**



*and will attend*  
**15 different secondary schools and boarding schools.**



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### MISSION STATEMENT:

**Washington Episcopal School** inspires academic and personal excellence within a joyful learning environment to develop students who are kind, confident, and prepared.



### on the cover:

WES inventors in Grades 3, 4, and 5 were invited to present at the National Invention Convention in Michigan this May. *Back Row: Elliott, Nicholas; Middle Row: Zakariya, Amel, Kathryn; Front Row: Hank*



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# head of school's message

Again this past June, I had the privilege of congratulating and shaking the hands of 24 young men and women (including my son, Ethan) as they concluded their memorable WES journeys and graduated from WES. They are moving onto 15 different high schools and boarding schools. Without a doubt, we will enjoy hearing about all the adventures and accomplishments of the Class of 2019 in the future.

While delivering my message to our students during their graduation I urged them, as they enter into a more "serious" chapter in their lives, to hold on to the joy and excitement that has marked their childhood years to this point. As you peruse this issue of The WES Magazine, I hope you will feel that same sense of joy as we celebrate in word and in picture the wonderful experiences of the 2018-2019 school year.

In this issue of The WES Magazine you will read about our exciting STEM curriculum, teachers, and students, and how STEM is preparing our students for the 21st Century. See what's in store for 2020 as we expand our learning spaces for students. Additionally, our alumni profile features Jonathan Butturini from the Class of 2010 whose career in STEM is off to a brilliant start at Microsoft.

You will also read about the year-end wrap-up of our new community service program called "First Fridays," the heartwarming story of Emmanuel Yeboah, our amazing art show, and the achievements earned by many of our students at this year's Student Awards Assembly.

Also noteworthy this year is the school's significant progress on the implementation of our strategic plan goals, as we:

- Advanced our re-accreditation self-study for the Association of Independent Maryland & DC Schools (AIMS). The self-study is comprised of 24 different parts and covers a range of important topics including WES's curriculum, school climate, and sustainability. This final self-study will be submitted to AIMS in November after a four-day site visit by the accreditation team.
- Developed a new and more comprehensive Social Emotional Learning Curriculum (SEL) for all of our grades
- Completed a review of our math curriculum; created a summary of WES's beliefs and core practices in math; and have prepared for new math curriculum pilots in the fall of 2019
- Completed essential facilities maintenance by replacing two roofs and several HVAC units
- Completed planning and began development of our new STEM lab which will be located in the master lease section of the school.

As we reflect upon 2018-2019, we do so with an eye toward the future and the excitement of another joyful school year ahead of us.

We are grateful to all members of this extraordinary community whose care and attention enable us to continue to create a one-of-a-kind educational experience for all of our Dragons.

Have an enjoyable summer!

Sincerely,

Danny Vogelman, Head of School





## STEM Teacher Katherine Owens Wins Teaching Award



STEM and art teacher Katherine Owens was the 2019 recipient of a **Robert E. Yager Exemplary Teaching Award** for excellence and innovation in the field of science education.

She received this national award from the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) at the NSTA National Congress on Science Education Teacher Awards Gala in St. Louis, MO, on April 12. Owens, who has taught at WES since 2013, was one of four awardees and received a cash prize and travel expenses to the event.

Often referred to as a "modern day renaissance woman," Owens conceived, designed, and implemented a WES STEM program called STEM, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship, offering a pilot class in 2016. She possesses a huge imagination. She sees the big picture of schooling and understands the relationship of thinking and learning, questioning and innovating. Drawing upon her career experience in science, marketing, business, and art, she is motivated by her own schooling that left her feeling that there must be a better way to engage, educate, and inspire young minds.

Owens' passion for STEM, innovation, and entrepreneurship is palpable. To keep up with her on any given day could prove to be exhausting! She speeds through the hallways and classrooms. Her boundless energy, enthusiasm, and creativity intersects, resulting in a meaningful experience for her students—conducting labs, reaching out into

the community to arrange unique study trips and guest speakers, helping children tinker, build, and apply what they have learned to the real world. "Katherine demonstrates for her students the 'NASA spirit' of bold innovation, logical risk-taking, enthusiastic trial and error, and a thirst for advancing the state of the art," stated WES parent Mike Nelson. "Most importantly, she inspires young minds to find answers without a Google® search but instead to explore; to think what could be; to come to believe that to falter is to learn, and that to experiment and innovate is to solve," he added.

Katherine is a self-described life-long learner, intrigued by how things work. "I am in awe of the world around me," stated Owens. "One of my goals is to share my excitement with our students; I hope that they can see the world through the lens of science discovery."

"It was an honor to be recognized by NSTA. I'm grateful to be among an excellent faculty where together we are working to provide a joyful learning environment that fosters a love of learning, a spirit of curiosity, and creative thinking that will support students to be adaptable, positive change makers in their communities and the world. I feel lucky to be a part of a child's education," says Owens.

Additionally, Ms. Owens received a Henry Ford Teacher Innovator Award in 2018. For more information about the exciting STEM program at WES, please read the feature article on the next page. 💡



# The Big Idea

Since opening its doors over 30 years ago, WES has valued a well-rounded education, full of experiential learning, with science and math as cornerstones of its curriculum. We continually seek innovative and creative ways to make learning relevant, stay current, and engage with students. A few years ago we explored how STEM [a way of blending the academic disciplines of science, technology, engineering, and math] could offer our students access to 21st Century skills. A faculty task force set out to consider how we could leverage our excellent teachers and integrate STEM into the curriculum to enhance the WES program. Thinking about the developmental needs of students across the divisions, it was determined that a STEM program in the Elementary Division would be an ideal place to start.

## An Integrated Approach

Students in Grades 1- 5 experience a rotation-based STEM program that engages students in hands-on activities in class, through special presentations from experts in the field, project-based learning, and extensive study trips. This integrated approach helps students develop identities, knowledge, and skills, and see themselves as scientists. Recent experiences have included a class that featured Verizon workers discussing internet connection with students as they examined actual fiber optics. The discussion continued outside, as they gathered in front of the Verizon service truck as the workers demonstrated how they test and repair telecommunication lines. During a unit on renewable energy, a representative from Pepco introduced Grade 4 students to a 4-foot tall robot, which is programmed to test for live wires without endangering a worker during a power outage. Students then used their muscles to provide energy in an exercise that showed the difference in energy required for LED vs. incandescent light bulbs. In the

fall, Grade 5 students launched a weather balloon with a University of Maryland faculty member on a unit on climate, and toured the NBC-4 studio with a meteorologist to learn more about weather.

Each class takes one or more study trips in a STEM rotation that further makes the connection to what they are learning. For a unit on water infrastructure, a tour of the WSSC [Washington Suburban Sanitation Commission] allowed Grade 4 students to better understand the technology and science behind having clean and safe drinking water flow from their faucets. A trip to the Baltimore Museum of Industry and The Baltimore Sun illustrated to Grade 3 students the history of printing—from a 1936 Linotype machine press to a modern printing facility.



## Why Study STEM?

Research reveals that demand for STEM jobs has increased three times over from 2000-2010 and that millions of job vacancies in the STEM industry make a clear case that STEM is and will be critical to the success of our children. Better STEM education prior to entering college will encourage students to enroll in these courses and prepare them for STEM-related careers. In general, all jobs require having literacy in computers, and skills in technology and math. In a world that is increasingly complex, it is not about what you know, but about what you can do with what you know. STEM addresses this concept head on. STEM engages learners, inspires curiosity and wonder, and allows space for creativity. According to Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Applied Concepts teacher Katherine Owens "STEM is an all-encompassing discipline because it integrates content, discovery, and skills under one umbrella and makes learning relevant and exciting."

## Shaping Hearts and Minds

Social responsibility is another aspect of a well-rounded STEM program. An example of an in-depth learning experience that took its own tangential path occurred this winter. Students in Grade 3 were challenged to come up with a project in STEM class that would benefit the community. Because, after all, STEM is about solving problems locally and globally. So third-graders chose their project. They would shepherd a school and community-wide collection of children's books, new and gently used, that would be donated to A Wider Circle, a local charitable organization that provides basic needs for those transitioning out of homelessness or other situations. Students promoted their project, and set up a collection station in the school lobby nearly every morning for a few weeks. They inventoried the books, and stored them in boxes and bags in a storage closet. Their tally hit 100 quickly. Then 500. Then 1,000. At the end of the book drive nearly 5,000 books had been



amassed to donate to children in need! Meanwhile, Dr. Mark Bergel, the founder of A Wider Circle, met with students during their STEM class, and they discussed the issues of poverty in our community. NBC4's Molette Green heard about the incredible efforts of the WES community and featured WES students, faculty, and families (and the huge piles of books) on their March 16 live broadcast of her Random Acts of Kindness feature. A surprise visit from Dr. Bergel added to the excitement, as families carried books to the bus and students delivered the books to the Silver Spring facility. This all made for a full-circle experience for everyone, showing how a thoughtful and well-executed plan can benefit everyone.



# behind STEM



Over the past few years, the STEM program has evolved and grown, and now includes a rotation of STEM classes for all Grades 1-5 students. "Looking back, I could have only dreamed that WES would have, only a couple of years later, a nationally-recognized STEM program, award-winning faculty, and students who are making their mark as well," stated Head of School Danny Vogelmann. "We are incredibly proud of what has been done here at WES." The STEM program will expand to Middle School in 2019-2020, as we continue to look at opportunities for students across all grade levels. For more information about one of our award-winning teachers, please read the *On Campus* article on the preceding page.

## Innovation Application and Entrepreneurship

**Learning is about taking in a lot of information. But having all "intake" is shortsighted. Having an innovation component allows students to take what they are learning and apply it in creative ways.**

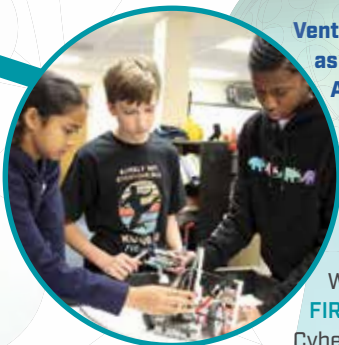


Teacher Katherine Owens comments, "Students need the opportunity to go beyond the input stage in STEM. Innovators need to call upon their experience and skills to market their ideas, to show its viability. That's where entrepreneurship comes in. Thomas Edison was genius because he appreciated the importance of marketing his invention and the huge role that business plays in the process." Teaching children how to communicate their ideas, to share their passion, vision, and enthusiasm are skills

best introduced at a young age so that they become creative, adaptable problem solvers.

In the fall, Grade 1 students used what they were learning in STEM class—food science—to come up with a product to sell, using a not-for-profit model. They decided to sell s'mores kits and chose to donate the proceeds to Heifer International. Students packaged the materials for the kits, designed promotional fliers, and sold them in the lobby before the beginning of school. "This is a good example of how blending innovation and entrepreneurship into a STEM curriculum gives students the space to apply their learning and develop the skills they need to succeed in the 21st Century—to dream big and make a positive impact in their world," added Owens.

## STEM Opportunities Beyond the School Day



**Ventures into STEM extend beyond the school day, as students engage in STEM activities in the After School Enrichment Program and special events and programs.**

For years, students have joined the robotics club, which provides them with the experience to learn about automation as they design, program, and operate robots. Today, WES has two robotics teams, which are part of **FIRST LEGO League Robotics**, the Dragonbots and Cyberdragons, comprised of 11 students in Grades 5-8. Both teams competed in the DeMatha Catholic High School qualifier in January. The Dragonbots earned third-place in robot design in January and both teams qualified for the state championship at UMBC in February, placing them in the top 25% of teams in the state. Technology teacher and robotics coach Matt Foster has coached the robotics team for three years. "I am proud of the amount of work

and dedication from these students. We spend 3-4 hours every other Saturday plus a couple of hours each Friday, working on their projects when preparing for competition." Club members learn to work as a team, develop iterative thinking, practice working through a design cycle where there is a lot of reflection and failure. Through these failures they come up with new and improved plans as they learn about real world problem solving.

A new and popular After School Enrichment program called **"Tool Time"** turns first-and second-graders into goggle-wearing, hammer and power-tool wielding craftspeople. Dave and Petie Schuessler combine their engineering and artistic talents to guide the children in making impressive decorative items such as a wooden toy soldier (*sometimes taller than the student!*), a bird house, jack-o-lanterns, corn hole game, and a nightstand.



continued on page 6



# Looking Ahead

## STEM Expo 2019



Leveraging the school-wide enthusiasm for STEM, science teacher Mehdi Elkassem and Elementary Grades Director Nate Dennison spearheaded the inaugural WES STEM Expo in January, which shined a spotlight on the exciting STEM program. "It was a fun way for giving students an opportunity to demonstrate to family and friends what they are learning and making in their science classes," said Elkassem. Two seventh-graders demonstrated a sheep's eye dissection, while several eighth-graders supervised an interactive display about four-stroke engines, chatted with visitors about their Chesapeake Bay trip animal models and final projects, and assisted at a station where children could build complex pulley systems. "Our students leave WES very prepared for high school," said Middle School science teacher Caterina Earle, "This was a wonderful way for



parents to get a glimpse into what happens in our labs that involve biology, physics, and chemistry. Some of our students show a real passion for the sciences and are inspired now to go on to have successful careers later." Kids dashed from one activity to the next at the STEM Expo as they created and raced boats, explored aerodynamics as they made paper airplanes, and built a mini golf course and other structures with the hundreds of cardboard boxes that were collected for a month.

## Six Students Selected to Present at the National Invention Convention in Michigan

For the first time, our school was invited to participate in the National Invention Convention in Dearborn, MI, in May which celebrates K-12 inventors and entrepreneurs. Students in Grades 2-5 pitched their prototype inventions in STEM class, and a team of five were selected to represent WES and travel to Michigan for the country-wide convention, and one student was invited as an independent presenter. A tour of the inspirational Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation was a highlight of their experience. Students' projects ranged from a soccer cleat cleaner to a student safety finder, a magnetic playing card picnic blanket, a hair bush adaptor, a device to keep cereal from getting soggy, and decorative solar panels.



## Space to Grow

As the STEM and science programs pushed ahead, it became clear that students would benefit from improved space that can adequately accommodate STEM classes, labs, special projects, guest speakers, and a maker space. This year's Auction Gala raised more than \$132,000 to enhance the STEM and science programs with an inspiring atmosphere that functions well. These funds will be used to purchase new furniture and equipment for STEM classes, and plans are underway to build out space behind the Movement Room to house a STEM lab/classroom that will have water access and ample space to provide our students with the environment they need to learn, create, and collaborate. The classroom is scheduled to be ready in January 2020. The plan includes enhancing the two science labs as well.



## STEM Is the Future



**WES's STEM program is more than just a buzz word.** It is a robust and growing addition to the curriculum, allowing students to make connections between the principles of science, technology, engineering, and math, using hands-on experiences and real-world applications

to encourage them to think deeply, and inspire them to solve real-world problems. These STEM experiences can be springboards to future thinking, endeavors, and careers for our students to whom we look to be global leaders. 💡



# Community Service — WRAP-UP —

This year's Community Service program, dubbed **"First Fridays,"** was a **resounding success.** Students in Grades Nursery-Grade 8, under the guidance of faculty and assistance of parents, reached into the community to make a difference in the lives of neighbors, improved the environment, and helped the WES community as well. *A sampling of projects undertaken this school year include:*

- Picking up more than **100 lbs. of trash** from Little Falls Parkway
- Reading with and singing to residents at Sunrise Senior Living
- **Collecting and sending candy** to overseas troops
- **Delivering coats** to the Church of the Epiphany and to an elementary school in VA
- **Working with bilingual students** at Rosemount Center
- **Making Christmas ornaments** for The Children's Inn at NIH and bracelets for children in local hospitals
- Preparing **holiday boxes** for the Central Union Mission
- **Making sandwiches** for the homeless and **cookies** for the local police department
- **Collecting markers** to be recycled by Crayola ColorCycle
- **Making blankets** for the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, VA
- Creating **Valentine cards** for Elian's Light
- **Collecting purses and toiletries** for a women's homeless shelter
- **Decorating and donating dog treats** to the Montgomery County K-9 unit

In addition, other outreach projects resulted in **donating more than 1,000 canned goods**, which were collected by the Student Government Association (SGA) and distributed to **Martha's Table**; Grade 3 STEM class students organizing a book drive and donating more than **5,000 books** to **A Wider Circle**; and Grade 1 STEM classes raising funds for **Potomac Conservancy** and **Heifer International**.



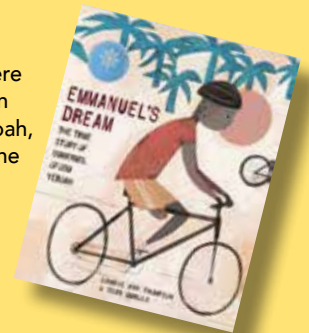
2019



2017

## A DREAM CAME TRUE

Two years ago, Mrs. Poland's second-graders were enthralled with the book, *Emmanuel's Dream*, an inspiring true story about Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah, a boy from Ghana, West Africa, who overcame the challenges of having only one leg and became an athlete and activist. Poland used facebook to initially contact Emmanuel and was surprised by how quickly he responded. After that, students corresponded with him via letters and FaceTime, and wanted to meet this incredible person. They were so inspired by him that they held a **lemonade stand to raise funds for Emmanuel's Education Foundation** that works on the behalf of the disabled in Africa. Poland spent the past two years trying to arrange for a visit from Emmanuel. This was a challenge because he lives in West Africa and California with his wife and four daughters. Eventually, she heard from Emmanuel that he would be in New York this past spring, and her persistence paid off. **A dream came true in April as Emmanuel came to WES and presented to students in Grades 1-5 and led a PE class for second-graders!** "The children really initiated the idea of meeting Emmanuel," stated Poland. "His story stuck with each child more than any other story we've read." His influence motivated last year's Grade 3 STEM class entrepreneurs to raise funds for Emmanuel's Foundation through their sale of "slime." This year, a second-grader was so moved by meeting him that he created a prosthesis model at home and brought it to school to show his classmates. "We hope that Emmanuel can return to visit in September and hopefully conduct a school-wide bike drive," added Poland.







## Early Childhood

### Nursery • Transition • Kindergarten • Grade 1

**Exploration and hands-on experiences that provide our youngest students opportunities to investigate the world around them are essential elements of an Early Childhood education and key components in a STEM approach to learning.** Learning about nature and the world around us can be fun, adventurous, and surprising. This was evident in early May as students waited for weeks and then watched as five baby chicks hatched out of their eggs. Nursery and Transition students took a special interest in caring for the chicks by making sure they were fed, watered, and held. This responsibility—as well as the patience and compassion required—was a profound lesson for them.

Additionally, Nursery students intently watched five caterpillars in their classroom spin chrysalises, and then emerge as colorful painted lady butterflies weeks later. The students bid farewell to the butterflies on the playground on a sunny morning, chasing after them for one last glimpse as they saw nature unfold before their eyes.

Kindergarten students discovered the thrills of exploration as they went to the Dickey pond for an all-day adventure digging for worms, fishing for tadpoles, and experiencing the delight of being covered in mud! Learning about lily pads, tadpoles, frogs, fish, and pond life has never been so much fun!

First-grade students further learned how to integrate their knowledge of science, technology, engineering, and math in their weekly STEM classes where the elements of STEM become more defined. These classes included activities that expanded their skills in problem solving, reasoning, and critical thinking. First grade's unit of study on communities culminated with an animation project as students designed buildings using basic engineering principles and created an animated "community scene" using an animation app on iPads.



Upstairs in the art studio, skills of observation, so critical in science, intersected with art as Kindergarten students painted fruits and vegetables, and made ceramic replicas of oranges, broccoli, kiwi, and more. First-graders painted larger-than-life flowers, inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe, and Transition students created monkeys, toucans, ocelots, and other creatures as part of their rainforest unit. The Nursery class painted and cut out tulips and bulbs for beautiful springtime artwork, reflecting what they learned about plants and flowers.

These exciting units of discovery encourage our youngest students to take risks, persevere, adapt, and create. By making first-hand connections to the world around them a true joy of learning is instilled in them all.



On the previous page, top left to right:

- A Nursery student observes one of the painted lady butterflies that the class raised from larva as they learned about life cycles.
- Kindergartners portray octopuses in their production of *The Rainbow Fish* in February.
- Transition students enjoy painting outside.
- A first-grader uses the ceramic cup she made in art class during the Japanese tea celebration in May.
- A Nursery student's flower bulb artwork



1. Nursery, Transition, and Kindergarten students during an NTK Chapel
2. A Kindergarten student makes a volcano from construction paper in science class.
3. A first-grader reads the poem *I Can*, written by her teacher, Ms. Belote, at a special Chapel service that focused on their study of Black History Month and African American inventors.
4. Kindergartners used their math knowledge of measurement to make daisy chains that they stretched along the Turf Field in June.



5. Two officers from the Montgomery County K-9 unit brought two of their dogs to WES and gave a presentation to Transition students about the importance of their work. Here a Transition student and Ms. Haggerty pet Bear, Officer Tupa's police dog.
6. A Kindergartner is delighted to discover a snail shell in the pond at Dickey Farm in May.
7. Grade 1 performed their original play, *LEGO World Talent Search* in March.
8. A just-hatched baby chick gets loving attention from a Nursery student.
9. Nursery students work on their flower bulb artwork in the art studio.







Elementary  
Grade 2 • Grade 3 • Grade 4 • Grade 5



“The most important thing  
is to never stop questioning.”

**This quote by Albert Einstein not only captures an enduring understanding that the WES STEM program strives to instill in children, but it captures the WES mentality as the school continuously researches, reflects, and revises curriculum and programs to provide the very best learning experiences for students today, tomorrow, and beyond.** Over the last three years the Elementary Grades STEM program has gone through a formal review resulting in a more robust program that is designed to break down the walls between science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Students now rotate through a progression of three STEM-based courses during a given year, taught by a dynamic and award-winning faculty. Students spend a portion of the year in science class taught by Mr. Mehdi Elkassem, technology class with Mr. Matt Foster, and Applied Concepts, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship class taught by Mrs. Katherine Owens.

The power and importance of questions also play a critical role in the learning process for students and teachers. *How does this work? What happens if I change this variable? How can I make this better?* These are all questions that children pose daily in science class. Students frequently work in groups, grappling with materials, and thinking out loud with their peers as they explore and test various scientific concepts. In a unit on sound, Grade 3 students explore *why does the pitch and frequency change with the length or density of the material?* Or in a Grade 2 unit on buoyancy, *how does the surface area of a boat impact its buoyancy?* Learning the scientific method is built into each science unit as students are challenged to notice and question, make predictions, formulate a plan to test their predictions, and then reflect on the results, making conclusions about what they have learned. The ultimate goal is for students to develop the mindset and identity as young scientists.



In Technology class, students ask different questions about *what tools can help efficiently and effectively communicate in this digital age.* They learn the language of coding as well as core skills such as typing, presentation tools, and video production and editing. They ask questions such as, *how should my actions online be different from face to face interactions* as they progress through curriculum on digital citizenship.

Perhaps the most innovative component of the revised STEM program is the aptly named Applied Concepts, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship a course which takes concepts that students are learning across STEM disciplines and helps them see how they transfer into the real world. Students ask questions including, *how are these ideas connected, how can I make this idea better, and how can my innovation serve others and make the world a better place?* Wide-ranging topics include Grade 2's unit: *The Working World-Simple Machines, Industry, Nature, Chemical and Physical Change* and Grade 4's unit on *Fundamental Forces: Energy production, Water, Watercraft Engineering, Watershed and Wastewater, and Water Conservation* and Grade 4's unit *New of Nature: Tracing Botany, Habitat, Climate, and Film and Weather Forecasting.* Through each unit Mrs. Owens helps inspire students to seek understanding and make connections in the world, from carbon footprints to carbon in soda. Each unit includes a culminating project where students use the Engineering Design Process to put their innovative thinking into action. Students develop a class product and engage in deep collaboration to manufacture, market, and sell the product to the community. Fostering a mindset of service, the proceeds of each project goes to charity.

*How do we further integrate the STEM curriculum with the core subjects? What learning spaces and study trips will further enhance student learning? These are two of the questions we continue to ask as we seek to provide the most engaging and effective Elementary STEM program here at WES.*





On the previous page, top left to right:

- A fifth-grader presents his Science Fair project, which was informative (and yummy!).
- A STEM class study trip to the Baltimore Museum of Industry provided this third-grader with a chance to experience what it was like to work in an 1860s cannery.

1. Grade 2 students chose a state to research and portray in their amusing production of *The Scrambled States of America Talent Show*.
2. Ms. Husain and her third-grade student pose next to her poster as she portrays Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai for the Global Trailblazers project in May.
3. Grade 4 gathers around Wesley during Field Day.
4. Learning coding in a Grade 5 technology class with Mr. Foster
5. Grade 4 STEM entrepreneurs sell their product, "absorbeads." Proceeds benefitted the Potomac Conservancy.
6. NBC-4's Molette Green broadcasting live from WES on March 15, featuring Grade 3's STEM class book drive that resulting in donating more than 5,000 books to A Wider Circle.
7. Grade 5 students gather for a photo after leading Chapel in March.
8. A fourth-grader reads an excerpt from his biography on his grandmother, and presents her a copy at the Biography Tea.
9. Grade 3 students took the audience around the globe with their play, *Children of the World*.
10. Second-graders work together to solve a problem with math specialist Ms. Phillips.







## Middle School Grade 6 • Grade 7 • Grade 8

In his remarks at the 2015 White House Science Fair, President Obama reflected on the critical need for STEM programming in schools:

*"[Science] is more than a school subject, or the periodic table, or the properties of waves. It is an approach to the world, a critical way to understand and explore and engage with the world, and then have the capacity to change that world..."*

The middle school years at WES are designed to foster a student's natural intellectual curiosity, as well as prepare them to make meaningful connections between their experiences and the larger world. Middle School classes create opportunities to obtain foundational skills and knowledge, and then demonstrate how both skill and knowledge combine to problem-solve, innovate, and create.

At WES, the relationship between learning and preparing for the world beyond the classroom is a key component of our teaching philosophy. Middle School science teacher Caterina Earle took a team of Grade 8 girls on a chilly Saturday morning to the Foxcroft School's (VA) Expedition K2M: The STEM Summit. The goal of this annual event is problem solving, using logic, science, math, and collaboration. This year's theme was "Pandemics," and challenged the teams of young women to use both skills and knowledge in design-thinking, chemistry, logic, and math in competition.

STEM thinking also plays into the Grade 6 Science Fair in March, where students have spent weeks investigating questions and designing experiments to test their theories. It is a revelatory moment for many students when they see the finished product of their efforts at the Science Fair, and offer expert commentary on the thinking, design, testing, and evaluation of their results. Another STEM focused team in middle school is the Robotics team, where the emphasis again is on problem solving, technical skills, leadership, and collaboration.

Grade 7 students study life science and gain experience as scientists as they dissect worms, frogs, sheep eyes, and hearts with a focus on scientific equipment and vocabulary. Extensive physical science labs in Grade 8 give students practical experience with

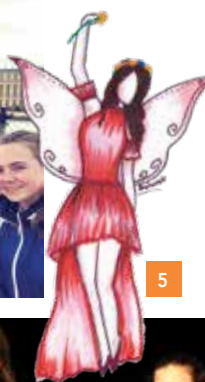


laws of motion and energy as they investigate calorimetry, acceleration, momentum, and simple machines like balanced levers and pulleys. Middle School math labs make learning tangible, providing practical application, and local peer school Math Meets test students' knowledge in a competitive forum. These opportunities in science and math prepare students for challenges in high school, oftentimes fueling a passion for STEM in college and in their careers.

But STEM in the real world doesn't always happen in a classroom, laboratory, or fair. Consider the strong connection to STEM that our students encounter on their Study Trips. Perhaps the Grade 6 trip to Utah provides some of the most dynamic examples of students engaging with their own knowledge and skill-sets in a real-world setting. Students of Mehdi Elkassem's Grade 6 science class arrive at the Valley of Fire in Nevada, armed with weeks of study about the geology of the desert Southwest and the tools to examine and experiment with the rocks and plants surrounding them. Students examine 4,000-year-old petroglyphs, as well as the magnificent Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River, and were asked to consider their purpose, who made them, and more importantly—how they were made. From the prehistoric to modern eras, evidence of STEM skills and thinking are all around us. WES middle schoolers are learning to recognize STEM elements in their world, appreciate their form and function, and consider how they might use these skills to contribute something wonderful in the future.







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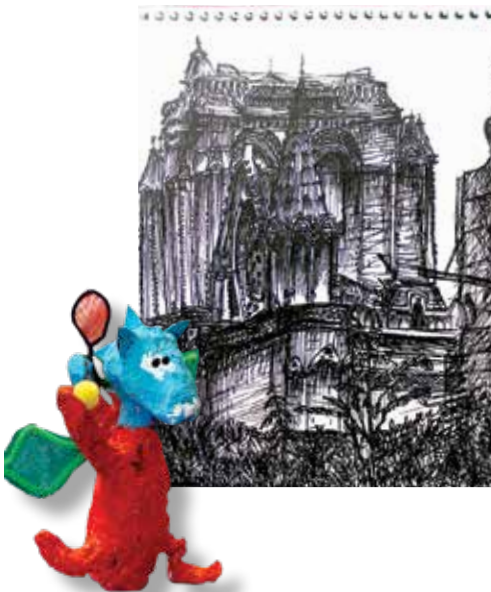
- At the base of a dormant volcano, Grade 6 students learn about cinder cone volcanoes by examining the basaltic lava rocks during their study trip to the desert Southwest this spring.
  - Grade 7 students identify major structures and organs as they dissect an earthworm during a life science lab.
  - Grade 6 actors warm up before their Friday performance of *Footloose*. Please see the inside front cover for more photos from the Sixth-Grade Musical.
  - A sixth-grader's oil pastel landscape shows the colorful topography of the Colorado Plateau.
1. An eighth-grader kneels before the grave of Captain Beeson, her grandfather's older cousin who was killed during WWII in Normandy, France in July 1944. Students on the French exchange trip stopped at the Hottot les-Bagues War Cemetery and placed British flags at the grave.
  2. After exploring Madrid and walking about 14 miles that day, Grade 8 students stop at El Monumento a Alfonso XII in EL Parque Retiro during their study trip to Spain in May.
  3. Seventh-graders learn about ancient history as they tour Hera II, a Greek temple in Paestum, during their study trip to Italy.
  4. Grade 8 French students during their day trip to the Chateau of Versailles, where they explored 17th century art.
  5. A student's drawing of a fairy graced the program for Grade 8's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
  6. Eighth-graders had the unique experience of preparing a paella dinner in a cave in Spain.
  7. Grade 8 actors perform Shakespeare's comedy, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for family and friends in April.
  8. A seventh-grader reads her original poem during the annual Grades 6 and 7 Poetry Slam in June
  9. Grade 6 students chose the Trojan War to research and present for their History Day project.
  10. A sixth-grader presents his project during MAESA Fair.
  11. Grade 8 students in reflection during a weekly Chapel service.
  12. From cupcakes to danish to macaroon, Middle School students rose to the challenge of the Great WES Bake-Off contest.





# The Process of Making Art

**This year's Art Show on May 23 highlighted the process of making art.** Visitors viewed hundreds of pieces of artwork created by all student—in Nursery through Grade 8—and watched students make art as they described their projects and fielded questions. An original community art project entitled "The Wave" enticed attendees to pick up colorful paper, roll it, place it through the wire, and become part of the process, resulting in a remarkable piece of art in the Lobby. **Performing Arts** were a key component of the event as well: students and teachers sang duets and solos, the Jazz band played, and students provided poetry readings. The Spring Concert, Sixth-Grade Musical, and NTK's "Spring Sing" were other opportunities for students to perform and showcase all that they have learned this school year. These events provided beautiful, uplifting, and impressive displays of our students' artistic talents.





## SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW

to view an interview with one of our Grade 7 artists who chats about the process of creating his painting, inspired by 19th-Century Impressionism.





# Winter and Spring Athletics Overview



**Congratulations to all of our WES student-athletes for another impressive year of dedication to WES athletics.** Over 90% of the students in Grades 5-8 play on two or more WES teams over the course of the school year. The demands are high for them as they build their skills while bonding and excelling as cohesive teams.

**Basketball** was a popular draw this season as we fielded eight teams, ensuring that each Dragon received optimal instruction and playing time. Ten WES swimmers competed at the St. Albans Invitational in February, earning 17 medals overall.

Both **track and field** teams—Grades 5-6 and Grades 7-8—continue to increase in size from the previous year and prove to be a difficult match for the competition. Our eighth-graders led the way as Ore Adedeji, Nathaniel Bazemore, Naomi Horne, and Ethan Vogelmann set good examples in all aspects for the younger teammates to follow. The WES teams had strong performances as they competed in meets at St. Stephen/St. Agnes, Landon, Holton-Arms, Sidwell Friends, and St. Albans. Seventh-grader Samir Elkassem had a remarkable time of 4:56 in the mile run in April at the St. Albans meet.

The **lacrosse** teams have also seen a resurgence with the boys' teams slowly increasing in participation over the last three years, and both of the girls' teams compiling winning records for the season. The boys' teams played a series of close games and have become more successful over the last two years. Though they finished the season under .500, they are primed for success as they are filled with young talent. The Grade 5/6 girls' team was bolstered by a strong group of fifth-graders, led by Alexandra Bond and Kathryn Marquardt, who bring experience and talent to their positions. They joined forces with sixth-graders Ani Grigorian and Charlie London to help lead the team to its first winning season in three years with a record of 3-2. The girls Grade 7/8 team compiled a record of 5-2 under the leadership of Lily Moore and Chloe Talieh. A talented group of seventh-graders ensures that next year's team has a bright future. **GO DRAGONS!**



*Please see pages 16 and 17 for our athletic awards.*



## Announcing New Board of Trustees Members

We are pleased to announce these Board of Trustees appointments:

### Jay Irwin



Jay Irwin is the Founder/Owner of IDB, a general contracting firm in Washington, DC, and is the Senior Project Manager for DC-based developer, MMG. He is a licensed contractor in MD, DC, and VA, and a registered home builder in MD. A Montgomery County native, Jay has contributed to numerous local, residential/commercial historic preservation construction projects. Jay has been on the WES Facilities Committee since 2018. Having recently receiving his LEED accreditation from the U.S. Green Building Council, he looks forward to helping WES make environmentally conscious building and grounds improvements. Jay and his wife, Anna, live in Bethesda with their daughter, Avery (a rising second-grader), and dog, Magnolia. His hobbies include cycling, climbing, and gardening.

### Nicole Miller

Nicole Miller is a chief employment counsel for McKesson Corporation, a Fortune 6 pharmaceutical distribution and health information technology company. At McKesson, Nicole provides strategic legal counsel and risk management advice to senior leaders and Human Resources on state, federal, and global employment laws, as well as employment-related litigation, claims, and contract issues. Nicole earned her BA and JD degrees from Georgetown University. Since joining the WES community in 2015, Nicole has served in several leadership roles including: Room Parent (2016-2017), WES Parents Association Treasurer (2017-2019), WES Auction Co-Chair (2018), WES Annual Fund Co-Chair along with her husband Paul (2018-2019), and Development Committee member (2017-2019). Nicole lives in the Fort Sumner neighborhood in Bethesda with her husband, Paul and daughter, Gabriella, who is a rising third-grader. In her spare time, Nicole enjoys traveling with her family and providing pro bono legal services to non-profit organizations.



### Jayesh Panchal



Jayesh Panchal is the Chief Information Security Officer for the International Monetary Fund (IMF), responsible for information security strategy, risk management, oversight, and policy. He also represents the IMF at the United Nations information security special interest group, provides advice to Central Banks on cyber resilience, and often speaks

at international events such as the World Bank and IMF Spring meetings. Outside of work, Jayesh sits on various industry advisory boards and the Board of the White Hat Gala, raising money for Children's National Hospital Foundation. Prior to joining the IMF, Jayesh has held senior positions at global investment banking institutions such as Barclays Capital and Deutsche Bank. Jayesh was born and raised in the UK where he achieved his MSc and BSc degrees from University of London Royal Holloway College and University of Sal-

ford. Jayesh is the father of two WES students, Sophia (a rising third-grader) and Jasmine (rising Transition). Along with his wife, Vicki, he contributes to the WES community through efforts such as WES Ambassadors and co-chaired the Fathers Club.

### Jeff Tignor

Jeff is a lawyer at the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, DC and an advisor on law and technology at the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School. Jeff received his AB from Harvard University and his JD from Duke University School of Law. Jeff was born and raised in Connecticut and, after law school, moved to Washington, DC, to live in his grandfather's former home, where he still lives today with his wife, Kemi, and son Henry (rising first-grader). As far as Jeff knows, someone in the Tignor family has been living in Washington, DC continually since just after the Civil War. Jeff has supported WES in various roles. Jeff was the Assistant Treasurer of the Parents Association in 2018-2019. Since 2017-2018, Jeff has been a Parent Ambassador and a coach of WES's Transition (2017-2018) and Kindergarten (2018-2019) Stoddert soccer teams.



### Liz Tyndall



As a parent of Oliver (rising fifth-grader) and Sloane (rising second-grader), Liz Tyndall has happily served as a parent volunteer in the WES community since 2013. Her volunteer engagement in the school includes the following roles: Auction Committee member, Room Parent, Annual Fund Representative, Parent Ambassador, Donor Appreciation Party host, hot lunch volunteer, and member of the Development Committee. Most recently, she served as Co-Chair of the 2019 WES Auction. Beyond WES, she has been actively involved as a member of the Children's Hospital Health Board, and served as Vice-President of Grants from 2012-2016. Prior to moving to Washington, DC in 2009, she worked for Burberry, the British fashion company, as a Director of Human Resources for the North American retail division. Prior to Burberry, she was the Director of Training and Development for Ann Taylor Retail, Inc. Liz lives in Chevy Chase, MD with her husband Bill, two children, and new puppy. She enjoys cooking, interior design, yoga and reading.

## Thank you to outgoing Trustees:

Jon Bazemore, 2013-2019

Scott McMillan, 2013-2019

Katie Meyer, 2013-2019

## Board of Trustees

## Faculty Milestones

During the final faculty meeting in June, the faculty, staff, and administration recognized and celebrated the dedication and talent of their colleagues who reached longevity milestones, and bid farewell to those who are retiring or moving on. *Thank you for your service to WES!*

### 20 Years:

Dawn Harding,  
Nursery Teacher  
Dave Schuessler,  
Facilities Manager



Amy Barnes with  
Danny Vogelmann

### 15 Years:

St. George's  
Society Inductee

Amy Barnes, Business Office Manager

### 10 Years:

Tiffney Brockway, Assistant to the Middle School  
Director and Registrar

Diane DeCrosa, Grade 5 Teacher

### 5 Years:

Katya Elkassem, Nursery Teacher

Matt Gill, Grade 6 Teacher and Dean of  
Student Programs

Mahnaz Husain, Grade 3 Teacher

Tim Kennedy, Chaplain

Nick Lellenberg, Associate Director of Admission &  
Financial Aid and Coach

Morgan Moscati, Band Director and Music Teacher

### Retiring:

Carol Clancey, Grade 3 Teacher

Wendy Connolly, Assistant to the Head of School

Melanie Ferguson, Reading Specialist

Laurie Sparling, Middle School Math Teacher

### Leaving:

Nate Dennison, Elementary Grades Director

Matt Gill, Grade 6 Teacher and Dean of  
Student Programs

Julianne Haggerty, Transition Teacher

Dahlia Harding, Learning Specialist

Leslie Holst, Early Childhood Learning Specialist

Tim Kennedy, Chaplain

Morgan Moscati, Band Director and Music Teacher

## Faculty Honorees

Middle School English teacher **Katie Hopper** was honored by the Maryland Humanities Council for her work on a yearly student writing project, *Letters About Literature*. Ms. Hopper encourages her students to participate in this program each year. Many WES students have been recognized for their outstanding writing, including three students this year. See page 18 for more information.

**Katherine Owens**, art and STEM teacher, was one of four recipients of a 2019 Robert E. Yager Exemplary Teaching Award for excellence and innovation in the field of science education. She received this national award from the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) at the NSTA National Congress on Science Education Teacher Awards Gala in St. Louis, MO, on April 12. Please see page 3 for more details.



## WES Students at Their Best

We recognize students' accomplishments this school year - congratulations to all!

### Mid-Atlantic Episcopal Schools Association (MAESA) Scholars Fair Winners:

Twenty-four WES students in Grades 4-8 participated in the **MAESA Scholars Fair**, held at National Cathedral School on April 26. This competition brings together more than 150 students, showcasing the incredible work and talents of this diverse group of amazing children. [We congratulate our seven medal winners:](#)

Science Fair, Grades 4-6:

**Alex Kiser**, Grade 6, Third-Place

Geography Bee, Grades 7-8:

**Nathaniel Kochenderfer**, Grade 7, Third-Place

Spelling Bee Grades 7-8:

**Lia Walton**, Grade 7, Third-Place

2D Art, Grades 4-6:

**Kaja Hygen-Bjorvig**, Grade 5, Third-Place



MAESA Award Winners

2D Art, Grades 7-8:

**Mariam Grigorian**, Grade 8, First-Place

3D Art, Grade 4-6:

**Amalie Allsted**, Grade 6, Third-Place

3D Art, Grade 7-8:

**Chelsea Ward**, Grade 8, First-Place

### More WES Award Winners

#### STEM: NATIONAL INVENTION CONVENTION

WES students were invited to participate in the *National Invention Convention* in Dearborn, MI, in May, celebrating K-12 inventors and entrepreneurs. (See page 6 for more information about the convention and our STEM program.)



Grade 5: **Kathryn Marquardt**; **Zakariya Mezoughem** Grade 4: **Nicholas DeRamus**, **Amel Johns**, **Cole Nelson**, **Elliott Owens** Grade 3: **Hank Kelly**

#### ROBOTICS

Both of WES's robotics teams, the *Dragonbots* and *Cyberdragons*, competed in the DeMatha Catholic High School qualifier in January. The *Dragonbots* earned third-place in robot design in January and both teams qualified for the Maryland State Championship at UMBC in February, placing them in the top 25% of teams in the state. Eleven WES students in Grades 5-8 make up the teams that are part of the FIRST LEGO League Robotics.

*Cyberdragons*: **James Bailey**, **Rasmus Byskov**, **Arohi Narayan**, **Maria Stepanyan**, **Alana Woods**  
*Dragonbots*: **John Carney**, **Sarah Nelson**, **Gabriel Piris**, **Ewan Porter**, **Maxie Stumpf**, **Isaiah Yirenkyi**

Robotics has also provided a venue for student leadership, as Grade 8 student **John Carney** was recognized at this year's Awards Program for his dedication to the club and positive leadership.

#### FOXCROFT STEM SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS

Four eighth-graders participated in the Foxcroft STEM Summit in February: **Mariam Grigorian**, **Naomi Horne**, **Ilsa Larson**, and **Mareina Mitchell**.

#### WRITING

Three eighth-graders were first-round finalists in The Library of Congress 2019 *Letters About Literature* writing contest.

Participants craft a letter to the author of a book that has had an impact on their lives. **Ore Adedeji** wrote to the author of *The Hate U Give*; **John Carney** wrote to *Fahrenheit 451*'s author; and **Mariam**

**Grigorian** penned a letter to the author of *Salt to the Sea*. The students were honored during a state ceremony in Baltimore on May 4.



#### LATIN

Ribbon and Certificate of Outstanding Achievement: **Mariam Grigorian**, **Ben Meyer**, **Peter Seelman**

Certificate of Merit in Introduction to Latin: **Naomi Horne**, **Gabi Love**, **Lily Moore**, **Ethan Vogelmann**, **Lucy Weems**

#### MATH

The following students in Grades 4-8 are the top scorers in the *Maryland Math League* contest, a challenging test of 30-35 questions and word problems:

Grade 4: **Liam Parkinson**, **Thomas Sarmiento**, **Joey Udoff**  
Grade 5: **Alexandra Bond**, **John Duma**, **Henry Fox**, **Isaac Horne**, **Finley Meyer**, **Arohi Narayan**  
Grade 6: **Luca Acharya**, **Alex Berko**, **Olivia Girson**  
Grade 7: **Victor Jacobsen**, **Nathaniel Kochenderfer**, **Maria Stepanyan**  
Grade 8: **Ore Adedeji**, **Dylan Bradford**, **Ben Meyer**, **Peter Seelman**, **Ethan Vogelmann**

#### FRENCH

*Le Grand Concours FLES 2019*

Grade 5

Gold medal: **Charlie Carnegie**  
Silver medal: **Natalya Bah**, **Charles Court**, **John Duma**, **Finley Meyer**, **Miles Stevenson**  
Bronze medal: **Alexandra Bond**, **Andrew Fox**, **Zakariya Mezoughem**, **Arohi Narayan**  
Certificat D'Honneur: **Kaja Hygen-Bjorvig**, **Henry Fox**  
Certificat de Merite: **Finn Cooper**, **Alexander Bobo**

Grades 7-8

Gold Medal: **Lily Moore**  
Silver Medal: **John Carney**, **Eliza Horne**, **Lucy Weems**  
Bronze Medal: **Phoebe Milhollin**, **Ishaan O'Neal**  
Certificat D'Honneur: **Lucy Carnegie**, **Kika Errico**, **Emanuelle Hair**, **Mareina Mitchell**

#### SPANISH

Grade 5 Spanish Award Winners:

Outstanding Language Development and Classroom Participation: **Kathryn Marquardt**  
Excellence in the Elementary Spanish Program: **Isaac Horne**

Outstanding Effort for Spanish Language Learning: **Tyler Nickel**

These Grade 8 students received medals in the proficiency portion of *The National Spanish Exam*:  
Silver: **Naomi Horne**  
Bronze: **Mariam Grigorian**

#### MUSIC

Outstanding Band Members:

Grade 4: **Asha O'Neal**, **Lucas Lledo**  
Grade 5: **Alexandra Bond**, **Isaac Horne**  
Grade 6: **Najee Nakoma-Sey**, **Ani Grigorian**

Outstanding Concert Band Members:

Grade 7: **Nathaniel Kochenderfer**, **Camille Montrose**  
Grade 8: **Ben Meyer**, **Peter Seelman**

Outstanding Chorus Members:

Grade 4: **Cate Bailey**, **Charleigh Knott**  
Grade 5: **Gloria Burkhardt**, **Finley Meyer**  
Grade 6: **Sarah Nelson**, **Rhian Williams**  
Grade 7: **Kika Errico**, **Grace Pressley**  
Grade 8: **Dylan Bradford**, **Gabi Love**

#### ATHLETICS

Good Sportsmanship Winners:

Grade 4: **Asha O'Neal**, **Ale Piris**  
Grade 5: **Alexander Bobo**, **Addison Brawner**  
Grade 6: **Charlie London**, **Lucas Zandamela**  
Grade 7: **Jonas Hygen-Bjorvig**, **Phoebe Milhollin**  
Grade 8: **Nathaniel Bazemore**, **Lily Moore**

FIELD DAY 2019  
WINNING TEAM:

**GOLD**





## Graduation Award Winners



### SPirit AWARD:

**Ilsa Larson**

In recognition of outstanding contribution exemplifying the philosophy of the School. Caring for others, and respecting the integrity of the institution, its people, and traditions

WES is proud to present the following Grade 8 Awards, recognizing outstanding performance and contributions from the members of the Class of 2019.



### MUSTARD SEED AWARD:

**Aidan Armagh**

Symbolizing exceptional growth and achievement as demonstrated by scholarship, responsibility, and leadership in the life of the School



### ART AWARD:

**Chelsea Ward**



### THE DEIGHTON ALLEYNE COACHES AWARD:

**Ishaan O'Neal  
Lucy Weems**



### COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD:

**Eliza Horne**



### MATH/SCIENCE AWARD:

**Ben Meyer**



### DEXTER R. DAVISON AWARD (MUSIC):

**Ilsa Larson (Band)  
Lily Moore (Chorus)**



### HUMANITIES AWARD:

**Lucy Weems**



### DRAMA AWARD:

**Gigi Beeson  
Aidan Armagh**

## congratulations to the class of 2019!

Grade 8 students received acceptances from the following outstanding secondary schools:

Academy of the Holy Cross  
Bullis School  
Connelly School of the Holy Child \*  
Deerfield Academy (MA)  
Edmund Burke School  
Georgetown Day School \*  
Glenelg Country School \*  
Gonzaga College High School \*  
Holton-Arms School \*  
Hotchkiss School (CT)  
Interlochen Arts Academy (MI)  
Landon School\*  
Maret School  
Mercersburg Academy (PA) \*  
National Cathedral School \*  
Our Lady of Good Counsel  
Potomac School  
St. Albans School \*  
St. Andrew's Episcopal School \*  
St. Andrew's School (DE)  
St. John's College High School \*  
Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart \*  
The Field School \*  
Walt Whitman High School \*

\* Will attend as of July 1, 2019

The following Grade 8 students are recognized as a **2019 PRESIDENT'S EDUCATION AWARD** recipient, honoring students who meet challenging standards of academic excellence as well as those who have overcome obstacles to their learning. It recognizes achievement and hard work in the classroom while encouraging students to reach even higher.

**Ore Adedeji, Mariam Grigorian, Naomi Horne, Ilsa Larson, Ben Meyer, Charlie Sagely, Peter Seelman, Ethan Vogelmann, Lucy Weems**



## These 11 CLASS OF 2019 "LIFERS" have attended WES for a total of nine or more years:

### FRONT ROW:

Chloe Talieh, Gabi Love, Iris Zola, Mariam Grigorian, Lucy Weems, Lily Moore

### BACK ROW:

John Carney, Aidan Armagh, Nathaniel Bazemore, Ishaan O'Neal, Ben Meyer



Volunteerism and generosity of the WES community are essential elements in a successful school year and that certainly rings true for the 2018-2019 school year. Thank you to our volunteers and donors for your important contributions of time, talent, and support that have enhanced the experience for all students.

**THE ANNUAL FUND** is the foundation of the school's fundraising efforts, fortifying the Mission of the school and providing support for the current school year's operating budget. We are grateful to Co-Chairs Nicole and Paul Miller for leading a committee of 37, comprised of parents, grandparents, past parents, alumni, and faculty who encourage support. The Annual Fund brought in over \$430,000 from our community. Again this year the Board of Trustees as well as WES faculty and staff achieved 100% participation. Parent participation was 96%. Thanks also to Karaine and Nigel Howard for hosting the Donor Recognition Party in May. We appreciate the unwavering support from our community to promote the mission and ensure our financial strength.



Julia Ghafouri and Liz Tyndall's vision was in full bloom on March 2 as **AUCTION GALA** attendees stepped into an early spring in "The Enchanted Garden." Guests socialized and sipped libations as they bid on silent auction items which was followed by a seated dinner catered by Ridgewells, and an exciting Live Auction. A special Auction video gave everyone a glimpse into all the STEM-related classes and labs our students experience at WES. At the conclusion of the Live Auction, the Lloyd Dobler Effect band had people dancing and having a wonderful time. Net proceeds for the event were \$204,000, including



Auction Co-Chairs  
Julia Ghafouri  
and Liz Tyndall

\$132,900 which will go toward enhancing the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) program for all students. Income from Auction Patrons, sponsorships, and ticket fund donors were up over 30% this year. We are indebted to our amazing Auction leadership and committee who spent countless hours ensuring that the event was memorable as they raised funds that the school relies upon and to our attendees, Patrons, sponsors, and donors. *Thank you!*

The annual three-day **BOOK FAIR** in December, chaired by Theresa Carnegie, is something the students look forward to all year! Students and families show their love for books and a good

story as they peruse the hundreds of titles displayed in the Library and are captivated by our guest authors. Author Ellen Oh's presentations to students and parents were sponsored by the Parents Association and a WES parent arranged for author Barbara Kanninen's visit. Book Fair sales resulted in the addition of 50 new titles to the Library and 147 new books to classrooms, and netted \$3,678. Thank you to the many Book Fair volunteers who bring joy to students and their family through this school-wide event.

**THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION (PA)**, led by officers Keeley Snider (President); Natalya Bah (Vice President); Julia Ghafouri (Secretary); Nicole Miller (Treasurer); and Jeff Tignor (Assistant Treasurer), had a productive year, sponsoring fundraising and family events throughout the year that enhanced our community. Part of their mission this year was to evaluate Co-Room Parent roles and communication. Look for some tweaks in those areas in 2019-2020. Thank you to Co-Room Parents and all parents for their dedication and hard work to make the school year run smoothly. Attending meetings, facilitating communication between parents, school, and faculty, chaperoning field trips, helping with the musical and class plays, providing classroom snacks and parties, hosting parent pot lucks in the fall, helping and chairing WES events—these are just a sampling of all that you do for the school and the students.



PA Officers Jeff Tignor, Julia Ghafouri, Keeley Snider, Natalya Bah, and Nicole Miller

The PA also managed several fund raising efforts this year, including **CHARLESTON WRAP** gift and wrapping paper sales, chaired by Mia Spiker Johnson and Sandy McCarthy, bringing in \$2,195; Box Tops for Education, netting \$139 for the school, chaired by Jessica Mailloux (Kelly); **LEDO PIZZA NIGHTS**, which brought in more than \$1,332 and was co-chaired by Piper Griffin and Diedre Windsor (Love); and our team of **USED UNIFORM SHOP** Co-Chairs, Oya Ardic Alper, Ximena Marquez-Dagan, and Claire Mezoughem, which netted over \$3,100. Bronwyn and Jim Roy's goal for **WES FITNESS** was to encourage WES parents and families to exercise and try new activities such as hiking, yoga, spinning, and cross fit classes throughout the year. Grade 8 parents sorted many **POINSETTIAS AND GREENS** that were sold and delivered in December. Proceeds went toward the Class of 2019 gift to the school, presented at Graduation.

WES families welcome the chance to gather together, whether simply for the camaraderie or for a greater cause.

The annual **WELCOME BACK PARTY AND ALUMNI REUNION** took place during the first week of school with a usual large turnout. In October, Natalya Bah and Theresa Carnegie orchestrated the second **GLOBAL FAIR**. Families represented more than 40 countries and states around the globe, with displays featuring native foods and cultural products. Unfortunately, rainy weather scratched the event's soccer tournament. A fun **BINGO NIGHT** drew families and extended families to WES on a Friday night in February for fun, prizes, and a chance to be a BINGO caller! Michele Jayatilaka (Mitchell), Katie Meyer, and Evelyn Nakamura (Duma) organized this popular event. The **FOUNDERS DAY PICNIC** in May, chaired by Kristin Kerwin, was a nice way to end the year.

The Parents Association and the school provided sponsorship for three **SPEAKERS** this year—psychologist Dr. Adam Plether, presented twice to parents about savvy parenting in the digital age; and author Ellen Oh who spoke about the importance of having diverse books; and Dr. Omékon-go Dibinga who presented to faculty, parents, and students on the importance of diversity, equity, and justice. Additionally, the Parents Association showed their gratitude to the faculty and staff with two **SNACK DAYS**, beautifully executed by Emily King and Carolyn Montrose, and a lovely **FACULTY APPRECIATION LUNCHEON**, chaired by Marti Thomas (Zola).

The **WES PARENT AMBASSADOR** group is one of the largest parent-led initiatives of the school. Volunteers Piper Griffin, Kelly Knott, and Sandy Vogelmann work with the Admissions team to assist with Admission Open Houses and events, act as tour guides, and reach out to prospective families. Thank you for helping to spread the word about our amazing school!

From a day of shooting clays to gatherings at local restaurants, **THE FATHERS CLUB**, with Jay Panchal and Patrick Rothwell at the helm, had a busy year as they bonded over shared experiences. Dads came out in force to help with Auction set-up on Thursday night and Sunday morning clean-up, as well as Book Fair preparations. We appreciate their help!

The **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**, led by Board of Trustees Chair Les Carnegie, as well as members of the Board, are integral to the success of the school, generously extending their expertise and stewardship. We appreciate the guidance from our Trustees and those who serve on six Board committees.

All volunteers were celebrated and thanked for making life "Easy peasey, lemon squeezy" at a breakfast in April. Their hard work and dedication to WES made for another successful year—we are grateful!







1. Annual Giving Co-Chairs Nicole and Paul Miller 2. Natasha Blinkova (Davis) and Marina Burrows help with the Book Fair. 3. Tenisha Harrison, Julia Ghafouri, Siobhan Wilan, and Janan Gohari chaperone a Grade 1 field trip. 4. Ruth and Madieu Williams and their children represent Sierra Leone and Eritrea at the Global Fair in October. 5. Jessica Wills (Leach), Christa Cooper, and Connie Lausten (Horne) cheer on the Dragons at a soccer game this fall. 6. Jewel Fox and Jess Mailloux (Kelly) serve hot lunch. 7. Faculty Snack Day coordinators Carolyn Montrose and Emily King 8. Jen Chin, Jacqueline Randle (Paho), Sandy McCarthy, Sarah Durkin, and LaKisha Yirenkyi work on the Kindergarten play set. 9. Ambassadors Lynn Miller (Phillips), Michelle Oeltmann, Christy Zink (Jordan), and Beth Moeller 10. Auction volunteers Diedre Windsor (Love), Emma Salnikova, Sandy Vogelmann, Nicole Miller, Karaine Howard, Vicki Panchal, Katia Berry Casademunt, Mike Nelson, Julia Ghafouri, Liz Tyndall, Katrina Kimpel, Sarah Demarest, Marina Burrows, Siobhan Wilan, Amy Samman, and Mia Spiker Johnson 11. Fathers Club Auction set-up crew: Dan Pomykala, Ian Narine (Ingram), Solomon Aregga (Solomon), Chris McLeod, Ben Fitts, Patrick Rothwell, Scott Kimpel, Jon Bazemore, Tony D'Emidio, Jay Panchal, and Tom McCarthy 12. Karaine Howard, Liz Tyndall, Keeley Snider, and Marina Burrows create and wrap beautiful Auction baskets. 13. Jay Irwin and Jay Panchal 14. Hedge fun on Auction Set-up Day: Katia Berry Casademunt, Karaine Howard, Emma Salnikova, Julia Ghafouri, Liz Tyndall, Sandy Vogelmann, Marina Burrows



15. Fadi Samman, Janan Gohari, and Amy Samman during the Silent Auction 16. Danny Vogelmann, Jen Gardner (Moore), and Sallye Clark (Weems) 17. Andrea Owen (Ehrenberg) and Laura Steuart 18. Bruce and Alia Johnson, Lauren Lewis (Rouhanian), and Tenisha and Chris Harrison 19. Peter Rosan makes a bid during the Live Auction 20. Karaine and Nigel Howard during the Silent Auction 21. Rick Bond and daughter after her soccer game 22. Fathers Club members enjoy an afternoon of sporting clays in November: Brady Demarest, Wes Clark, Jabali Williams, Brian Berry, Alozie Uneze, Tony D'Emidio, Solomon Aregga (Solomon), and Patrick Rothwell 23. Ana Karam and Michele Oeltmann help with a First Friday community service project. 24. Diversity speaker Dr. Omékongo Dibinga with Danny Vogelmann 25. Moms of second-graders gather for a photo at the Auction photo booth: Sharon D'Emidio, Vicki Panchal, Nicole Miller, Katie Rothwell, Sandy Vogelmann, Meg Rosan, Andrea Owen (Ehrenberg), Katia Berry Casademunt, Laura Gantt, Birgitte Hygen (Hygen Bjorvig), Heidi Goulet, Michal Takem. 26. Faculty Appreciation Luncheon coordinator Marti Thomas (Zola) and eighth-graders help at the luncheon in April. 27. Dr. Adam Pletter presents to parents about raising children in the digital age 28. Ambassadors Stacie DeRamus, Bronwyn Roy, Vicki Panchal, Katrina Kimpel, and Shrivani Gupta during the December Open House 29. LEDO fundraiser Co-Chairs Diedre Windsor (Love) and Piper Griffin 30. Jim Roy leads a WES Fitness workout 31. Bess Puvathingal (Milde) and Anna Irwin enjoy chatting at the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast 32. Kristin Kerwin, Founders Day Chair



# Alumni PROFILE

*Jonathan Butturini '10*

We enjoyed chatting with **Jonathan Butturini** from the Class of 2010 about his career in STEM and his path to the west coast. Read on to learn about his limitless curiosity that was sparked at a very early age.

**As a WES "Lifer," having started in Nursery and graduated in 2010, tell us about life after WES.** It's funny, in thinking about my response to this question, I realized that my life after WES has been characterized by continuing many of the habits I formed while attending WES, namely valuing education and approaching the world with curiosity.

I've always placed a premium on education and academic success, and while attending Gonzaga College High School I continued to do so, winning awards in various subjects. I then attended the University of Michigan College of Engineering on an academic scholarship. I worked as a TA and project administrator for the largest computer science course at the school, serving over 1,000 students.

At Michigan, choosing a major was difficult for me! My approach to deciding was to balance exploring my academic and creative interests with my practical concerns about life after school. In my sophomore year, I was incredibly lucky to find a wonderful community of folks in the computer science department at Michigan who welcomed me and validated my interest in the subject. I loved challenging myself and contributing to my community by using the skills I was learning to build tools for students. After interning at Qualtrics, in Provo, UT in 2017, I confirmed that the field would allow me to keep doing what I loved about computer science, so I decided that STEM was for me. I graduated magna cum laude last April with an engineering degree. I then took an amazing post-graduation trip to Japan last summer.

**Are you working in engineering?** Today I'm a software engineer at Microsoft in Seattle, WA, working on Microsoft Power BI, which is a business analytics solution that provides visualization capabilities for complex data models. The 12-member team I'm a part of focuses on web development and maintains the core visualization capabilities.

**Did you ever think you'd end up on the west coast, in the "other" Washington?**

Ever since high school I've wanted to live and work on the west coast. My internship at Qualtrics after my junior year exposed me



to life out west. While I didn't make it to the coast, I did get to relive my WES trip to the desert southwest and see Zion and Bryce National Parks again! However, I chose my job by the work I would be doing, not the location.

**What experiences inspired your career path?**

There are a couple that stand out to me from different chapters in my life. Robotics with Mrs. Boynton and science classes with Mrs. Earle sparked a lasting love of problem-solving and helped me realize that I'm passionate about the process of building and engineering systems. Another experience that stands out as influential to my career path is my early exposure to music through piano, which helped me develop my creative instincts.

**Describe the perfect day for you.** My perfect day would start with an early wake up to go hiking with friends, hopefully in time to see the sunrise! We would have omelettes and coffee at a diner, and then I'd relax before going out to get some dinner with friends. Fitting in some time to play frisbee would make the day even better!

**What are some of your fondest WES memories?** It's so hard to pick! The musical and the trips we took as a class stand out to me, as I'm sure they do for most WES students. From the rehearsals to the closing night, it felt

like we were all pulling off something larger than ourselves. *[Jonathan played the part of Mendel in the production of Fiddler on the Roof in 2008 and was Campbell Peterson's '10 understudy of Fredka on opening night.]* As for the trips, I remember the adrenaline rush of playing paintball for the first time as a sixth-grader in Utah, getting up early to watch the sun rise during our time in Italy, and playing basketball with our foreign exchange friends in Paris.

I also remember the amazing WES teachers. Middle School science classes with Mrs. Earle especially stand out to me as being some of the most engaging and thought-provoking, inspiring my curiosity about how the world works. And after I graduated, I found myself returning to chat with Mr. A [Alleyne] and Mr. E [Elkassem] about life and to get their advice.

**Any advice for WES students who are interested in STEM or advice in general?**

For WES students interested in STEM (and even those who aren't), there are a couple things I'd recommend. First, the science and math courses you'll be taking don't always seem like they directly translate to work as a scientist or an engineer (or even college level engineering courses), but keep at them! Get involved in extracurriculars like robotics or even research to develop an understanding of what the field is like. Second, always have faith in yourself; as WES students you're prepared to face whatever comes your way!

I have the privilege of working with brilliant scientists and engineers of all identities and backgrounds at Microsoft every day. However, women and minority groups are still underrepresented in STEM fields. I would encourage students from all backgrounds to become involved in STEM, because we need a vast array of perspectives to innovate and generate new world-changing technologies.

*I want to end with the following: now is the time to explore as much as possible! I did my best to expose myself to as many different areas as possible in high school and college, and I still think there's more I could have tried. Don't be afraid to push out of your comfort zone a little and try things you wouldn't have before. And the sooner you start, the better.* 🌱



# WASHINGTON EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

# Alumni

## CLASS NOTES

Alumni



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

1 Ali Ahmed '11 at his graduation from University California- Berkeley • 2 Sarah Bair at her graduation from Emory in May with sister Susie '07 and mother Kim Bair • 3 Sarah Dickey '11 and her father Jonathan at her graduation from Pittsburgh University in April • 4 James Hemus '11 and his parents at his graduation from Utah University in May • 5 William Crowder '11 on graduation day at Bard College • 6 Patrick O'Donnell '09 and his parents Joyce and Steve O'Donnell on graduation day from University of Maryland • 7 Claire Collins '11 at her graduation from Princeton in June • 8 Peter Abdow '11 receives his diploma from Georgetown University in May.

'18 **Fiona Turnbull**  
fturnbull@icloud.com

**Maya Grebowsky** played soccer in the fall and rowed crew for Holton-Arms and was recognized as the Most Improved rower. In addition, she performed in Disney's pilot one-act play, is a member of the Black Student Alliance, and will be vice-president of the Young Democrats Club in the fall. This summer she has an internship with a Montgomery County judge, is a camp counselor at Circle Yoga, and will attend crew camp. **Caroline King** has been enjoying yoga at Potomac School. Math is her favorite class. **Clara Knott** was in the ensemble of Holy Child's production of *Mama Mia!* **Julian Haas** was on the varsity wrestling team at St. Andrew's where he wrestled with teammate **Miles Woodings '17**. Julian also trained with the varsity soccer team in the spring. He will travel to Granada, Spain, this summer and visit with some of his WES Spanish exchange friends. **Joy Alycia Kramer** loved rowing crew at Holton-Arms this spring. **Arjun Narayan** was selected into Strathmore's Young Musicians Training Residency. His jazz program is taking him to a lot of cities for performances and competitions. He continues to play soccer and got several calls to U.S. Soccer's Youth National Team identification program. **Conner Nickel** was a member of St. Andrew's swim team, was awarded MVP on March 13, and presented with a trophy. He also played JV lacrosse and occasionally was called up to play on the varsity squad. **Theo Sotoodehenia** played in the pit band for the St. Albans production of *Titantic* in March. He was on the track team in the spring. Theo assisted WES's Coach Elkassem at the swim meet at St. Albans in February. **David Stevenson** played the role of Rolf in St. Andrew's production of *The Sound of Music* in February and was on the track and field team (shotput). He will be a counselor at Summer@WES this summer.



'17 **Thomas Carney**  
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**Emelia Isola**  
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**Joanna Dematatis**  
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**Randolph Kaminskis**  
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8

**Harry Akins** played on the Bullis varsity hockey team for the second year, and plays on the MYHA U16AA ice hockey team. He is a High Honor Role student, is president of the Astronomy Club, and continues to play the piano. Harry volunteered for School of the World, taking a high school service trip to Guatemala to help build a school. **Joanna Dematatis** was on the varsity basketball team at Holton-Arms but suffered an ACL injury in February. Prior to the injury she was awarded Panther of the Week honors for an outstanding athletic performance. She is a member of the Upper School Chorus, is secretary of Young Republicans, and is vice-president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. **Evan Deobald** enjoys running year round. He was a member of the Georgetown Prep cross country team and traveled to Walt Disney World to compete in the cross country nationals. He also plays in the jazz band. **Karim Elkassem** was on the Churchill High School swim team that won the State Championship in February. **Emelia Isola** was a captain of her JV lacrosse team at Walter Johnson this spring and won team MVP honors. She also ran on the indoor track team this winter (sprinter), and plays on a travel lacrosse team. **Randolph Kaminskis** enjoys being on the yearbook club at Stone Ridge and played squash this winter. **Harrison Kehler** ran cross country and indoor and outdoor track this year at St. Andrew's. He also was involved with the production of the school newspaper, *The Mane News*. **Christian Larson**, a student at Walt Whitman, has an internship this summer at the Office of the Architect of the U.S. Capitol. He plays the euphonium in the Wind Ensemble. **Geneva Marquardt** played on the Walt Whitman varsity basketball team.

SEPT.

6  
FRI

Back To School  
Party & Alumni  
Reunion (at WES)  
5:30-7:30 p.m.

JAN. 2020

10  
FRI

Alumni Reunion Pizza Party:  
All Alumni/Faculty Basketball  
Game and Parents Reception  
5:30 p.m.

FEB.

29  
SAT

Auction Gala at WES  
6 p.m.



# Alumni Class Notes

**Alex McMillan** ran indoor track for Georgetown Prep, but an accident during a relay ended his season early. **Huntly Rathbone** played spring tennis at Holton-Arms and plays guitar in a band. **Nate Zola** was a starting varsity wrestler and a two-time IAC champion at Landon School. He was a JV lacrosse team manager after sustaining an injury while on the team. Nate is a board member of the Jewish Student Alliance, an advanced percussionist in Symphonic Band, and an honor roll student. **Holden Woodings** continues to play on the Bethesda soccer team. **Miles Woodings** wrestled at St. Andrew's.

'16 **Maddie Blonder**  
Maddieblonder@gmail.com

**Jemma Bazemore** and **Renata Taylor-Smith** traveled to China on a junior trip at Holton-Arms School in June. **Felicia Gelos** played in the band (clarinet) in St. Andrew's production of *The Sound of Music* in February. **Charlotte Mensforth** traveled to Italy on a spring 2018 Stone Ridge School study trip to Italy and had an incredible experience taking photos and using "paint" techniques. **Caroline Milne** was inducted into the Cum Laude Society at St. Andrew's Episcopal School. She was the recipient of the Welles-

ley Book Award (Junior) this year. Caroline played the role of Sister Margaretta in St. Andrew's production of *The Sound of Music*. **Kim Ross** earned her Girl Scout Gold Award in January. Her project was educating the community about the importance of adopting a pet vs. purchasing one. A profile of her was included in the winter issue of the Stone Ridge magazine. **Pascale Schmidt** has a STEM internship at George Washington University this summer to study resistance to antibiotics. She was recently inducted into the Holton Athletic Association and earned Most Improved Player on the varsity track team. Her art was selected into the Best of the Independent Schools Exhibition at the Landon School and Eleanor Holmes Norton's Congressional Art Competition in DC.

'15 **Ryan Kyle**  
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**Allyn Abbott** graduated from Potomac School in June and will head to Tulane University in the fall, where he plans to major in business and continue singing in chorus and a cappella groups. He won the music award at graduation. **Louis Akins** will attend University of Toronto (St. Michael's College) in the fall. He was captain of his varsity hockey team at Bullis, won the MVP Award (ice hockey), and was All-IAC. He also played center on the Maryland State Champions Tri City U18AA team, having placed in the top 5 of USA Nationals. In January he played the lead in *MacBeth* at Bullis and won Best Actor at the Maryland State Thespian Festival in January at Towson University. Louis played the role of the dad in Bullis' spring play, *A Fish Story*, in May, winning the Director's Award in Theater. **Maria Ashby** will spend the fall semester in Paris and attend University of Southern California. **Sareen Balian** was inducted into the Cum Laude Society at NCS. **Zoe Barnette** was valedictorian at her graduation from Stone Ridge on June 6. She will be on the fencing team at Notre Dame University in the fall. **Ian Conway** graduated from School Without Walls in June and will attend University of Pennsylvania in the fall and plans to pursue biology. He rowed on the first varsity boat for Wilson High School's crew team. Last summer he had an internship and worked for the Carnegie Academy for Science Education. GDS graduate **Bridget Dick** will attend Tufts University in the fall. **Juliet Faris** graduated from Episcopal High School and is excited to attend

the University of Michigan School of Nursing. **Davis FitzGerald** finished his first year at Vassar College in May. **Brendan Grau**, a St. Anslem's graduate, will attend Rochester Institute of Technology this fall. He has a job this summer in the technology field. **Piers Greenan** played rugby this spring for Gonzaga. He will attend the University of Miami. **Sofia Jordan** heads off to Colby College in the fall. **Ryan Kyle** graduated from Sidwell Friends School and will attend Amherst College this fall. **Allaire Kotz** graduated from Holy Child and will play lacrosse at Denison University. **Jacqueline Lydon** will attend Princeton University in the fall. **Paul Marquardt** will attend University of Maryland Honors College in College Park. **Georgia McCally** played varsity lacrosse (goalie) at Bullis and will attend Auburn University in August. **Patricia Massaro** and **Morinsola Tinubu** will attend Williams College in the fall. **Sophia Mishurny-Santini** graduated from Potomac School and will attend Northeastern University in the fall. **Luke Murrell** will attend University of California, Santa Cruz to study marine biology and received a Dean's scholarship to do research in that field. He will get his master diver's license this summer. **Seb Murrell**, who has been rowing since eighth-grade, heads off to University of Wisconsin in the fall where he has been recruited for crew. **Hadley Nolan** will play Division III lacrosse at Bates College in the fall. She was co-captain of her Holton-Arms varsity lacrosse team this spring. **Alicia Pané** graduated from Stone Ridge and will head off to Middlebury College in the spring, after taking off the fall semester. She plans to study environmental science. Alicia ran cross country, played ice hockey, and was on tech crew for the musicals for all four years. **Nick Ratliff** graduated from Maret and will attend Washington University in St. Louis, MO, this fall. **Libby Scanlon** will attend Tulane University. **Matthew Sheets** was inducted into the Cum Laude Society at St. Albans in June and was selected by classmates as Outstanding Performing Artist of the Year. He will attend Rice University in the fall. **Emma Stanfill** will attend University of Southern California and spend her first year studying in Paris. **Nick Steele** looks forward to studying engineering at Clarkson University this fall. **Ryan Zaimi** graduated from Bullis and will attend Bucknell University in the fall. **Elizabeth Zampella** graduated with highest honors from Holton-Arms. She won the Elaine Gelman Mathematics Award, was a Global Scholar, and was co-Editor-in-



Top-bottom, L-R: Nate Zola '17 wrestling for Landon • Chaplain Tim Kennedy with Thomas Carney '17 • David Stevenson '18 and Julian Haas '18 with Matt Gill at WES in May • Maddie Griffin '18 and Celia Cooper '18 visited WES on their snow day. • Joanna Dematatis '17 playing basketball for Holton-Arms • Theo Sotoodehnia '18 before his track meet at St. Albans in April • Maya Grebowski '18 rowing on the Potomac River for Holton-Arms. • Kyra Chassaing '18 at WES in June • Harry Akins '17 on a service trip to Guatemala • Emelia Isola '17 playing lacrosse for Walter Johnson • Patrick Moore '17 and Juwan Reid '08 at a WES track meet







Top to bottom, L-R: Hadley Nolan '15 (far right) signs with Bates College to play lacrosse. • Danny Vogelmann ran into Alex Davidson '16 at St. Albans School • WES Class of 2015 graduates at Stone Ridge: Skylor Bee-Latty, Libby Scanlon, Sofia Jordan, Alicia Pané, and Zoe Barnette • Louis Akins '15 and brother Harry '17 pose with their father Phil Akins after a hockey game • Ryan Kyle '15 receives her diploma from Head of School Bryan Garman at Sidwell Friends' graduation in June • Piers Greenan '15 and a friend at Gonzaga's graduation • Alicia Pane '15 Stone Ridge graduation • Travis Slocumb '15 at graduation with his sister Caroline '13 • Hadley Nolan '15 and Elizabeth Zampella '15 at Holton-Arms' commencement in June. • Allyn Abbott '15 on graduation day at Potomac School with his parents, Vanessa and Doug • Zoe Barnette '15, gives her valedictorian address at Stone Ridge graduation in June.



Chief for Holton's yearbook. She will attend UVA in the fall.

**'14 Samantha Liggins**  
samanthaliggins@gmail.com

**David Butturini** enjoyed his first year at University of Michigan and is interning at NERA this summer. **Charles Sullivan** stopped by WES in April. He is excited to attend College of Wooster in the fall. **Elizabeth Wells** spent the first three months of her gap year with NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) in the Rockies. She spent the spring semester in Florence, Italy, studying art and cooking.

**'13 Alya Ahmed**  
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**Genevieve Dickinson**  
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**Sterling Myhre**  
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**Jack Szulc-Donnell**  
thenso37@yahoo.com

**Alya Ahmed** just wrapped up her sophomore year at Yale studying economics and math. This summer she is studying finance at Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and has a finance internship in Edinburgh, Scotland through a program called Girls Who Invest. **Katherine Bowles** spent her January term in Argentina. **Mary Butler** finished up her second year at Cam-

bridge University, studying English. **Sarah Collins** enjoyed her first year at the University of Colorado (Boulder). **Alex Murrell** also attends the University of Colorado (Boulder) and is a rising junior. He will spend the summer there working as a fly fishing guide, a sport he is passionate about.

**'12 Douglas Chen-Young**  
dchenyoung@gmail.com  
**Grace Recka**  
grace.recka@gmail.com

**Laura Abbott** will spend the summer interning in the development branch of Bozzuto (real estate management, construction development company) in Greenbelt, MD, before returning for her senior year at Vanderbilt. **Madison Lotstein** is studying neuroscience at Middlebury College and studied abroad in Copenhagen for the spring semester. **John Lydon** is studying aerospace engineering at Purdue University. **Jeff Ross** is majoring in government at William and Mary. **Laurence Ruberl** has an internship this summer at Clean Slate Tech Group in Indiana. He will be working on post-release support of a digital yearbook web application. Laurence will travel to Edinburgh, Scotland in August with his theatre group at Earlham College to perform a production of a play at the International Collegiate Theatre Festival. **John**

**Russo** is in University of Maryland's nursing school in Baltimore. He hopes to be an in-flight nurse. **VV Tully** is a marketing major at College of Charleston. She coaches JV lacrosse at her high school. **Julia Wells** studied abroad in Scotland last fall. She attends Colgate University.

**'11 Peter Abdow**  
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**Sarah Bair**  
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**Jake Bredhoff**  
jake.bredhoff@yahoo.com

**Peter Abdow** received the Edward L. Mahoney award for the pre-medical student in the senior class who has accomplished outstanding achievement in the humanities. He also received the award for outstanding scholar from the Chinese department. He received a BA from Georgetown University (Phi Beta Kappa, magna cum laude) majoring in Chinese and completed their pre-medical curriculum. He is studying for the MCAT exam and applying to medical schools. Peter will work for the Mid-Atlantic Epilepsy Center doing research next year. **Ali Ahmed** graduated in May from University of California, Berkeley with a BA in computer science and BA in economics with department honors in both. He will be working on his startup (Simplata) while in DC this summer

and extending his economics thesis on income inequality with a goal of getting it published. In the fall, he will work for Accenture in San Francisco. **Daniel Armagh** graduated from Sewanee in May with a BS in economics. He has taken a position with Regions Bank in Nashville, TN. He played football (tight end) all four years of college. **Sarah Bair** graduated from Emory University in May with a double major in international studies and human health. She has taken an assignment as a Community Health Educator with the Peace Corps in Togo, West Africa which began in late May. **Claire Collins** was the C. Otto Von Kienbush Award recipient, given to a Princeton senior woman of high scholastic rank who has demonstrated general proficiency in athletics and the qualities of a true sportswoman. She rowed for Princeton all four years. Claire graduated on June 4 from Princeton University with a BS in economics. **William Crowds** graduated from Bard College on May 25 with a BA in historical studies. **Katie DeVries** graduated with a BS from Johnson and Wales College. **Sarah Dickey** graduated summa cum laude in April from University of Pittsburgh with a double major in political science and communications. She will attend Washington University School of Law (St. Louis, MO) in the



# Alumni Class Notes

fall. **James Hemus** graduated in May from the University of Utah with a BS in psychology. This summer he has a marketing internship for a non-profit in Cape Town, South Africa. He will go to graduate school for marketing in London in the fall. **Selome Gizaw** graduated from McGill University in June. **Isabelle Kramer** spent her spring semester in London and had a fantastic experience. Her sister, Joy Alycia '18, and parents visited her there during spring break. Isabelle anticipates a spring 2020 graduation from Brigham Young University. **Lesley Mould** graduated cum laude from University of Wisconsin in May with a BA in political science and French, with a minor in environmental science. She is working at a public strategy firm in New York City.



'10 **Lindsay Bratun**  
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**Jonathan Butturini**  
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**Shelby Mahaffie**  
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**Madison Sharp**  
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## Alumni



**Felix Chassaing** is living and working in Madison, WI. **Alexis Doyle** received her Master of Arts in teaching in early childhood education from American University on May 11. She is a Transition teacher at WES. **John Wells**, a graduate of Vanderbilt University, is doing a two-year stint with Teach America in San Francisco.

'09 **Kelsye Little**  
klittle5@scmail.spelman.edu  
**Bethany Mark**  
prettyfunnyprincess@gmail.com

**Ryan Curto** is living in Baltimore and working in the health care industry while he prepares for the MCAT exam. **Ellie Durling** was awarded the Flynn Memorial Scholarship to attend Georgetown University's BMW Center for German and European Studies this fall. Ellie just wrapped up her job working in international trade as a paralegal at Akin Gump. **Patrick Holland** will attend Yale law school in the fall. In April he began hiking the Appalachian Trail, starting in Georgia. **David Mould** lives in New York and works for a music producer. **Patrick O'Donnell** graduated on May 23 from University of Maryland, College Park, with a BS in mathematics and a BS in economics. In mid-June, he will begin working as an Actuarial Associate at GEICO in Friendship Heights.

Top to bottom, L-R: Seyema Tareq '08 received her masters in education from Johns Hopkins University. • Alexis Doyle '10 received her masters from American University. • Emma Hemus '08 received her masters from Imperial College in London. • Spencer Veirs '08 and Evan Deyak '08 at the Auction Gala • Mehdi Elkassem caught up with Hunter Heflin '10 over lunch in March • Ali Ahmed '11 with Mehdi Elkassem at WES • Sarah Bair '11 and Lawrence Redmond '14 met up at Emory University. • Charles Sullivan '14 at WES in April • Georgia McCally '15 and Louis Akins '15 at Bullis' graduation.

'08 **Aszanai Jones**  
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**Ben Martin**  
Musicman5326@yahoo.com

**Sean Dwyer** is back in the DC area, still working for ABBYY. **Jack Fowler** is back in the DC area as well, working in Chantilly, VA. **Emma Hemus** received her masters in biomedical engineering from Imperial College (London) in May. She works at a biomed startup in the UK. **Ben Martin** was in touch with Mehdi Elkassem earlier this year to let him know he had taken his first trip to Morocco! **Caitlin McCain** is enrolled in medical school. **Hillary Meeker** attends medical school at University of Virginia. **Alex Poland** moved back to the DC area. She is living in Arlington, VA and working at Punch Digital Strategies. **Juwan Reid** was an assistant coach of basketball and track this school year. **Sayema Tareq** earned her masters in

education from Johns Hopkins University in May.

'07 **Shannon Egan**  
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**Jack Metelski**  
john.metelski@gmail.com

'06 **Chloe Lansdale**  
chloe.lansdale@gmail.com  
**Clark Pastrick**  
Clark.pastrick@gmail.com

**Ben Norton** is attending medical school. **Philip Rosenman** spent St. Patrick's Day in Dublin with friends. **John Gill** is starting an MBA program at Georgetown University in the fall. **Clark Pastrick** earned his MBA from Georgetown University in May. He and John Gill have reconnected since their days at WES.

'05 **Kristin Maller**  
kmm\_09@yahoo.com  
**Jon Rice**  
Jonathan.rice@me.com  
**Charis Whitnah**  
whitswow@aol.com

**Della Bradt** will attend MIT Sloan for her MBA in the fall. Congratulations to **Evan Fatheree** and his wife Jaymi on the birth of their first child, Easton James, on April 10, 2019.

'04 **Sofia Selowsky**  
sselowsky@aol.com  
**Jeffrey Scholl**  
Jeffr3354@aol.com

Congratulations to **Becky Durling** and her husband Graeson and daughter Clementine (3) who welcomed Rosalie in February 2019. They live in San Diego, CA.



'03

**Kelley Hodge** was married to Phillip Valka in Napa in June 2018. She works in marketing at a venture capital company in San Francisco.

'02 **Carolina Richards**  
[richards.carolina@gmail.com](mailto:richards.carolina@gmail.com)

**Carolina Richards** is engaged to Edward Bennett. A wedding is planned for this autumn in DC. Edward, a cousin of Katie Freer (wife of **Dan Freer '93**), is a lawyer at Sullivan and Cromwell in New York City, where they reside.

'01 **Sarah Jones**  
[Sarah.whitney.jones@gmail.com](mailto:Sarah.whitney.jones@gmail.com)

**Charlie Pfeifer** and his wife Elisabeth welcomed daughter Claire Benet Pfeifer on March 14. Charlie is a senior associate at PwC M&A Tax in New York City.

'00 **Anne Glassie**  
[glassie@gmail.com](mailto:glassie@gmail.com)

**Michael Pfeifer** and True Claycombe were married on April 6, 2019 in Watercolor, FL. Michael is an election law attorney for Dentons in DC, and True, originally from Nashville, TN, works for Kyle House Group in DC.

'99

'98

**Rebecca Dankner Nassiri** and her husband Jason moved to Denver, CO, in November 2016 after residing in San Francisco for years. She founded Pivotal Juncture Consulting in 2013 and is a certified coach. Congratulations to **Cri-Cri Richards Randolph** and her husband Matt on the birth of their son, Matthew Albert Randolph, Jr., born on May 5, 2019. They live in DC. Cri-Cri serves on the Development Committee at WES.

'97 **Nate Guggenheim**  
[Nate.Guggenheim@WFP.com](mailto:Nate.Guggenheim@WFP.com)

**Elizabeth Norton** traveled to Botswana, Africa, in August 2018 with her parents, Mac Norton and Kathleen Patterson.

'94 **Charlotte McCormack**  
[char.mccormack@gmail.com](mailto:char.mccormack@gmail.com)

**Adam Kugajevsky** married Adrienne Carey on May 4, 2019. They honeymooned in Portugal. They live in DC but are moving to the Republic of Georgia with Adrienne's State Department job. Adam's brother **Andrew '91** was best man at the wedding.

'93 **Palmer Seeley**  
[Palmer\\_Seeley@caryacademy.org](mailto:Palmer_Seeley@caryacademy.org)

**St. Elmo Crawford** and his wife Cristina had a baby girl, Gina Amal, on January 31, 2019. They live in DC. **Caroline Norton Vance** and her husband John welcomed their son John William (Johnny) on December 26, 2018. He joins big sisters Camilla (4), and Cate (6). **Erin Race** and her husband Jeff welcomed their second daughter, Melody, on October 6, 2018. She joins her big sister Willow (6). They live in McLean, where Erin teaches music and movement at Dolley Madison Preschool.

'92 **John Pinto**  
[johnp1979@yahoo.com](mailto:johnp1979@yahoo.com)

**John Pinto** is working as Director/Head of Finance and Accounting for Radius Travel in Bethesda.

'91

'90 **Ashleigh Freer Parr**  
[afparr@gmail.com](mailto:afparr@gmail.com)

'89 **Stephan von Schilcher**  
[vonschilcher@gmail.com](mailto:vonschilcher@gmail.com)

'88 **Rebecca (Schneider) Luria**  
[reflecrebec@hotmail.com](mailto:reflecrebec@hotmail.com)

**Adrian Kugajevsky** and his wife are moving to Bogota, Colombia in the fall.

## Former Faculty News

**Meredith Rice Cooley** and her husband Colin welcomed daughter Eleanor James on March 2, 2019.

**Leigh Anne Scanzera**, her husband Alex, and big brother Liam (4) welcomed Lucas on March 11, 2019.

Thank you to founding and former faculty for attending the lunch with "lifers" from the Class of 2019 this spring. This is a nice new tradition.

## Condolences to

**Andrea Cafritz '88** on the passing of her father, Carter Cafritz, on April 4, 2019.

## Parents of WES Alumni:

Please email or call us with any news you wish to share (photos too!) of your WES alums! Contact us at [www.w-e-s.org/alumni](http://www.w-e-s.org/alumni) or call the Development Office at 301-652-7878, ext. 212, 214, or 215. *Thank you so much!*



 **NEW! @alumniwes on Instagram**

Top-bottom, L-R: Stephen von Schilcher's '89 sons Johann and Oskar • Michael Harding '05 and his son James '28, a Transition student • Elizabeth Norton '97 at Gomoti Plains in the Okavango Delta of Botswana in August 2018 • Becky Durling '04 and her newborn daughter Rosalie • Caroline Norton Vance '93 and her husband, John, and children Camilla (4) and Cate (6), joined by newborn John "Johnny" William who was born in December 2018 • Charlie '01, Alice '05, and Michael '00 Pfeifer • Forrest Wright '04 with Mehdi Elkassem

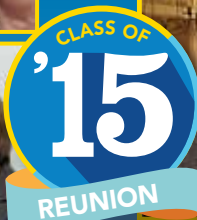


# Alumni Class Notes



## Class of 2015 Reunion

Thank you to our hosts, the **Fulton/Kyle family**, for hosting a lovely Class of 2015 reunion at their home on April 26.



L-R: **Front row** (l to r): Bridget Dick, Ryan Kyle, Morinsola Tinubu, Matthew Sheets, Juliet Faris Jordan, Georgia McCally, Libby Scanlon **Back row** (l to r): Nick Steele, Brendan Grau, Nick Ratliff (not pictured: Maria Ashby, Zoe Barnette, Alicia Pané, Josie Trujillo-Lederer, and William Lewis) • Sofia Jordan, Libby Scanlon, and Maria Ashby with former third-grade teacher Jackie Thornton • Alicia Pané, Sophia Mishurny-Santini, Ava Thomas, Patricia Massaro, Josie Trujillo-Lederer, Zoe Barnette • Natalia Jordan, Sofia Jordan, and Middle School science teacher Caterina Earle



## WASHINGTON EPISCOPAL SCHOOL Alumni @ FOUNDERS DAY May 31, 2019



Dan Freer '93 and Kim Bair • Ali Ahmed '11 and Bill Isola • Forrest Wright '04 and Jen Chin • Maya Grewbowski '18, Sabina Abdow '18, and Isabella Dodro '18 • Celia Cooper '18 and her mother Christa Cooper • Class of 2018 members with Danny Vogelmann: Clara Knott, Fiona Turnbull, Harrison Kehler, Margaret Hampe, Emily Nelson, Caroline King, and Giovanna Massaro (Not pictured: Ian Shaiyen) • Isabella Dodro '18 and Isaiah Horne '18 • Class of 2017 members Christian Berko, Sean Lasner, Miles Woodings, and Zach Alexander • Jack Helmanis '14 • Geneva Marquardt '17, Lily Talieh '17, and Nate Zola '17



ABOVE L-R: John Carney '19, Thomas Carney '17, Patrick Pané '19, Alicia Pané '15, Jemma Bazemore '16, Nathaniel Bazemore '19, Ilsa Larson '19, Christian Larson '17, Lily Talieh '17, Chloe Talieh '19, Nate Zola '17, Iris Zola '19, Lily Moore '19, Patrick Moore '17, Jack Moore '22

RIGHT: Christian '17 and Ilsa '19 Larson • Nathaniel '19 and Jemma '16 Bazemore • Alicia '15 and Patrick '19 Pané • John '19 and Thomas '17 Carney • Patrick '17, Jack '22, and Lily '19 Moore • Chloe '19 and Lily '17 Talieh

## WASHINGTON EPISCOPAL SCHOOL Alumni @ GRADUATION June 4, 2019





The Sixth-Grade  
Presents:

Getting to Know...

# Footloose

the  
musical







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*All are welcome at the*  
**WELCOME BACK PARTY & ALUMNI REUNION**

Friday, September 6 • 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Dinner & Fun

*Outside, weather permitting*

*Save the Date!*

**GRANDPARENTS & SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY**

Tuesday, November 26 • 9:30 a.m. - noon