

The
WES
Magazine
WINTER 2019



WASHINGTON EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

The Sixth-Grade Presents

Getting to Know...

Footloose

the musical

Friday, March 15

7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 16

12:30 p.m.



Purchase tickets at
www.w-e-s.org/musical

EXPLORE  **INQUIRE**  **REGISTER**
at www.w-e-s.org/summer

Rising Pre-K—Grade 9 Campers • Nine Weekly Sessions

June 10-August 9, 2019



SUMMER CAMP at

WASHINGTON EPISCOPAL SCHOOL



table of contents

- 2** Head of School's Message
- 3** Around Campus
A Conversation with Kristin Cuddihy, Middle School Director
- 4** Feature
First Fridays: WES's Community Service Program Reinvigorated
- 6** Academic Divisions
- 12** The Arts
- 14** Athletics
- 16** Summer@WES
- 17** New Faculty
- 18** Grandparents & Special Friends Day
Board of Trustees 2018-2019

Alumni

- 19** Class Notes
- 25** Alumni Profiles: Forrest Wright '04,
Shannon Egan '07, and Alexis Doyle '10
- 26** Alumni at Summer@WES
- 27** Reunion: Welcome Back Party
- 28** January Reunion and Class of 2014 Colleges

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:



A Nursery student experiences the joy of the season's first snowfall!

All photographs, copy, and captions are copyright © 2019 Washington Episcopal School, all rights reserved.

The WES Magazine is published by:
Washington Episcopal School
Nursery - Grade 8
5600 Little Falls Parkway, Bethesda, MD 20816
301.652.7878 | www.w-e-s.org

Head of School

Danny Vogelman

Board of Trustees

Chairman Emeritus
Robert E. Freer, Jr.

Chair
Les Carnegie

Vice-Chair
Mark Ball

Secretary
Stacie DeRamus

Treasurer
Kelly Nelson

Mamoud Bah
Jon Bazemore
The Reverend
Prince Decker
Bishop's Representative
Tonya Finton
Anastasia Gekis (Piris)
Dawn Harding
Faculty Representative
M. Michele Hogan
Scott McMillan
Katie Meyer
Stacey Milne
Ray Schupp
Keeley Snider
Laura Steuart
Britt A. Snider '88
Trustee Emeritus

Director of Development
Claire Henderson

Editor & Photography/Development
Ali Bratun

Director of Admission and Financial Aid
Kim Bair

Director of Marketing and Communication
Dana Miller

Early Childhood Director
Mary Lee Nickel

Elementary Grades Director
Nate Dennison

Middle School Director
Kristin Cuddihy

Chaplain
Tim Kennedy

Publication Design
Rebecca Weigle Design

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Washington Episcopal School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ethnic, or natural origin in the administration of its educational program, admissions policy, or other school administered programs.

head of school's message



This year I asked our faculty, staff, and students to think about the various connections we experience as part of the WES community.

Connections are built on interactions, relationships, and the sharing of common interests and goals. The concept of being connected seems especially relevant and important this school year.

Our newly-developed Strategic Plan provides an important foundation that helps connect the various aspects of the WES community. The creation of the Plan was a collaborative effort in every sense of the word and spanned more than 18 months. In October 2018, the new Strategic Plan was introduced at a community forum and a hard copy of the comprehensive Plan landed in the mailboxes of the WES community.

The Plan is anchored by our Episcopal values, reflects our commitment to diversity, is a product of engagement with our community, and focuses our efforts in order to empower learning, elevate each child's potential, and enrich our environment. As we realize our goals, we will ensure that our students continue to stride confidently into the world, delight in it, and contribute to it.

As we begin to implement our Plan this year, we are concurrently involved in our Association of Independent Schools of Maryland and DC (AIMS) Accreditation. The process requires schools to take an in-depth look at current practice—not only to assure compliance with association standards of good practice but also to be certain that the school's written mission truly informs every aspect of school life, both in and out of the classroom. We are currently completing the self-study component of the accreditation which requires us to reflect on our current practices and analyze our strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement.

Throughout this issue of *The WES Magazine*, you will read about examples of the connections being made in our three divisions, components of our Strategic Plan that we have begun implementing including the development of new academic and social/emotional learning curriculum, and *First Fridays*, our refreshed community service program, which is the subject of our feature article.

As we continue to make connections among curriculum, program, and practices, let us also consider the most important of all connections—the human connections—that enrich our community and help us to learn and grow as individuals. 🌱

Sincerely,

Danny Vogelman, Head of School



A Conversation with Middle School Director *Kristin Cuddihy*

Tell us about your past professional experience.

I had a strong desire, after teaching in a parochial school for eight years, to move to an independent school. I joined the faculty at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac in 2012 and began an incredible learning journey of my own. St. Andrew's provided me with a strong independent school teaching experience, training in the burgeoning area of Mind-Brain Education, as well as the path to leadership. I started as a middle school English teacher, and was the Middle School Dean of Students as well as Academic Dean in my last four years.

What attracted you to WES?

WES students, of course! I got to know many WES students and families in my previous job, and they stand out for their love of their school, for learning, and for the importance of community. When I had the chance to interview to be a Middle School Director, I felt incredibly lucky that the opportunity would be here at WES. It was too good to be true!

Tell us about your perspective as the new Middle School Director.

I am still amazed every day when I walk through the front doors at WES. Being the Middle School Director IS the dream job. I have taught middle school for 15 years, and it is my happy place. Middle school, in general, is a very overwhelming time in a child's life. It certainly was in mine. I chose to teach middle school because it meant so much to me as a student to have teachers who truly showed they cared and understood me. I chose to lead a middle school because I believe that middle schools are full of teachers and staff whose vision is the same as mine, and whose passion for the job is evident. That's what makes the job so rewarding. I want every child to have a great day, every day. And when they don't, I want to make sure someone is there for them. I want them to learn to love themselves and to enjoy the feeling of success. That is what makes a kind, confident, and prepared child!

Tell us about your family.

I have been married to my high school sweetheart for 28 years. My husband Jim's job moved us here to Maryland in 2001, where we raised both of our children—Madeline, 25 and Thomas, 22—and enjoyed all the benefits of educating them in area independent schools.

What's your idea of a perfect vacation?

Perfection is hard to come by, but if there is a palm tree, water, a book, and a sunset, that's a win!

Redskins or Eagles? Nats or Phillies?

I'm a native Philadelphian so Eagles! But after 18 years in DC, I'm leaning towards the Nats these days.

We can't help but notice that you have some very nice blue and gold pompoms....

SCHOOL SPIRIT IS VERY, VERY IMPORTANT—especially in middle school! It's how you show that you own your community, that you are proud of it and a part of it at the same time. I am a former high school cheerleader—but I cheered for an all-boys' school, (as I went to all-girls' school and we didn't have cheerleading at my school). I was so jealous of how the boys all got to show their spirit at pep rallies and in all their school gear. You'll see me at games with my custom blue and gold pompoms, but I keep the cheering on the quiet side, as I don't want the kids to be embarrassed!

Does being surrounded by middle schoolers all day long conjure up any notable memories?

I was mentioning to a colleague while we were out at recess the other day that recess was definitely the most important moment of the day for me when I was in middle school. We would get to go outside in a large urban schoolyard in Brooklyn, where we were very serious about JUMP ROPE. There were lots of different games, songs, and competitions. I was TERRIBLE at it—but I loved the songs, the sounds, and the pure joy of jumping. I try to never forget how important little moments like that can be—who knows what our middle-schoolers will remember most about their time here? I want those memories to be wonderful. 🌟



FIRST FRIDAYS

WES's Community Service Program Reinvigorated



This year's community service program has experienced a renaissance with the **"First Friday" initiative**, offering various different service opportunities to students in Nursery through Grade 8 on the first Friday of each month. "This year, the changes made to the community service program have garnered unprecedented levels of participation and support," stated Community Service Co-Chair and Dean of Student Programs Matt Gill, who also teaches Ancient Civilizations.

Service to others is an integral part of our identity as an Episcopal school, so the Community Service Committee considered ways to lift up the program. "We tried something new this fall to involve more students, boost enthusiasm, and show our community all the good our Dragons can do. It has really taken off. Each month we have served the homeless, the elderly, animals in shelters, impoverished students, and our own school community," added Gill. "Kudos goes to those parents who have helped organize service events and led them on campus. We could not do this without their support, or the support of all the other parents who are allowing their kids to spend some extra time in order to serve others."

This is how the program works: Faculty and staff as well as parents have the opportunity to suggest an ongoing, seasonal, or single activity that involves students and benefits the community. Students and their parents sign up using Sign Up Genius, to volunteer on the scheduled first Friday of the month, in the afternoon, for an hour or more beginning at 2:30 p.m. In October, 53 children participated. November numbers leaped to 70, and then 75 in December! This means that students have volunteered over 250 hours in only three opportunities.

During the October session, the younger students assembled bags with toiletry for homeless people, created 200 donated candy bags for Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, and made snack bags for a men's shelter. Elementary students painted "kindness rocks" to spread around our neighborhoods. Middle Schoolers picked up trash along Little Falls Parkway. They also installed graphic artwork with positive messages in the girls' restrooms at WES.

In November, seventh-and eighth-grade students traveled to **DC's Rosemount Children's Center to read and play with young children and babies at the center.** Students in Grades 2-4 made connections with members of our community as they read to and got acquainted with the elderly residents of Sunrise Senior Living Community in northwest DC. "Making a personal connection with others is what makes this specific activity so meaningful for both the children and the seniors," said Grade 2 teacher Sarah Poland, who organized this activity in November and December. Together, children and parents made 17 fleece blankets for the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Students wrote notes to accompany candy bags for soldiers;

created encouragement bracelets that spelled out STRONG to give to patients in local hospitals; and recycled 825 Crayola markers that will be used to make other products.

Middle School English teacher Katie Hopper orchestrated an opportunity for eighth-graders to interact with members of the Church of the Epiphany in downtown DC. During a school day in October, students met the director of the church and sat down with some of the homeless people who shared their experiences and life stories. **"This was a powerful exchange between our students and these individuals,"** stated Hopper. "Our kids asked questions. They chatted. You could feel that they were bonding through their discussions. It wasn't superficial." Later they walked together to Franklin Square Park where other homeless people regularly gather to participate in a service. After communion, WES students served boxed lunches that the school sponsored. Students returned to the Church of the Epiphany to share a meal with representatives of Street Sense, an organization whose members create content for a range of media to raise awareness and spotlight solutions to homelessness in the community and empower people in need. This experience **"took us out of our bubble here at WES and allowed us to see what life is actually like for some people,"** commented eighth-grader Charlie Sagely. "It also helped us bond as a group." Participant Ishaan O'Neal remarked, "I came away from that day feeling blessed. I know how much food I eat in a day and it's sad to see how little they have to eat."

The First Friday Initiative has inspired more community outreach beyond First Fridays and the school day. WES parents Ashley and Doug Kollme invited their children's classmates and their families to their home before Thanksgiving to assemble 100 bags of food items to benefit low-income families through Mary's Center. "It was a fun, hands-on service activity," commented Ashley Kollme. "Talking in terms of statistics about hunger is hard for anyone, especially young children, to grasp. This activity presented a tangible opportunity for the kids to learn more about how there are people in our community who are in need of basic necessities. We were so impressed by the kids' enthusiasm for the project and plan to make it an annual event."

Seventh-grader Kika Errico, after volunteering at Rosemount Children's Center, wanted to do more for the children at the center. "I organized a bake sale at WES. Our group of Rosemount

“
OUR KIDS ASKED QUESTIONS.
THEY CHATTED. YOU COULD
FEEL THAT THEY WERE
BONDING THROUGH THEIR
DISCUSSIONS.
IT WASN'T SUPERFICIAL.

volunteers used the money from the bake sale to go shopping for essential items like wipes and food, and some toys and art supplies. Some items were from the kids' Christmas wish lists," explained Errico. **"It felt good knowing that we were helping these kids. We all had fun splitting up the list and shopping."** Eliza Horne in Grade 8 took on a project to collect books for Rosemount as well. Other established efforts such as the Thanksgiving canned food collection netted more than 1,000 canned goods from the WES community. Students helped count and sort the food which was delivered to Martha's Table food bank in downtown DC. Another project, the annual coat drive, was started by alumni parents years ago. It provides gently-used warm coats and clothing through The Church of the Epiphany to those who struggle to keep warm.

Helping our students realize their place in the world by helping others and developing empathy is at the heart of our community service outreach efforts. "Our program helps pop the bubble of the privileged lifestyle we enjoy, living in this area. It makes us realize how fortunate we are to have all the blessings and opportunities we experience each day. We want to share our values and hopes and dreams not just with our kids, but with the entire community," added Gill. 🌱





Early Childhood

Nursery · Transition · Kindergarten · Grade 1

Making connections amongst students, teachers, parents, and the outside community is essential to fostering our ability as educators to empower, enrich, and elevate the school's curriculum and our professionalism.

The playground is a hub for making [daily connections](#) in Early Childhood. Enhancements to the playground last summer, combined with new equipment, offer more opportunities to enrich the students' learning through play. Teachers help guide the children through experiences where they are encouraged to support each other as they explore the new rock maze, meet the challenge of the bright green tarantula climber, and create buildings and playful scenarios with the new blue foam blocks.

Two new faculty members—[Early Childhood Learning Specialist Leslie Holst](#) and [Early Childhood Counselor Debbie Weinberger](#) connect with students and teachers regularly. These specialists support the social-emotional well-being of our students and help them reach academic and developmental milestones appropriate for their age.

Back to School Night, parent conferences, the Global Fair, and class field trips provide parents, teachers, and students with [shared experiences, strengthening their connections to each other](#). Trips to the farm, apple orchard, Kennedy Center, and Glen Echo Theater enrich our students' experiences and present parents with a closer look at the camaraderie amongst friends, teachers, and each other.

Students make connections outside the WES community when they participate in our [First Friday community service initiatives](#). Lessons in empathy and care are learned as toiletry, candy, and food bags are filled for the homeless.

[Professional connections](#) are also important to faculty. Attending workshops and conferences to share best practices, learning about the latest research in child development, reflecting on the various strategies used in teaching the young child, and connecting with peers empowers our teachers to make the best decisions in creating an enriched curriculum and meaningful environment for all students—so that they become kind, confident, and prepared.

On the previous page:

- A Transition student concentrates on her hula hoop moves in PE.
- Kindergarten students use the apple peeler to prepare applesauce with apples they gathered at the farm.
- Chapel pals from Grade 1 and Grade 5 during the Unity Day Chapel
- A Nursery student perfects her Vincent van Gogh-inspired sunflower painting in the art studio.



1. First grade friends enjoy recess on the playground.
2. A Kindergarten student portrays the dove in the NTK Christmas Chapel retelling of the Christmas story.
3. Students sing a song in French during WES's *Tour de France* event in November.
4. Early Childhood Learning Specialist Leslie Holst works with first-graders.
5. Nursery students play together during their field trip to the farm.
6. Transition teacher Katie Rothwell and students observe a tree during their science unit in October.
7. Grade 1 students, in their STEM-based entrepreneurship project, donated their proceeds to Heifer International, purchasing two sheep and a duck for a village.
8. Transition student and his mom, Elisa Reyes (Murillo) set up their display about Mexico at the second annual Global Fair.





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

The elementary grades division continues to be a place of great reflection, hard work, and growth. From reviewing, revising, and aligning curriculum to developing new programs, teachers are modeling the importance of life-long learning as they seek to provide the most engaging and empowering learning experience for students.

A goal of the new strategic plan is to empower students through an extraordinary, balanced, and connected learning experience. Teachers and administrators have been researching, revising, and aligning curriculum to best meet the needs of students. A curriculum review of math is underway. Last year reviews in language arts led to an update and alignment with balanced literacy. Faculty continue to work with various literacy and math consultants for professional development. These include classroom lab sites where consultants model best practices providing a hands-on interactive learning experience, reinforcing a culture of teacher collaboration and professional growth.

The STEM program for Grades 1-5 continues to grow and expand. Innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology components are now included and encourage students' creativity. By using a unique rotation system, students now experience a more concentrated time and in-depth learning across the courses of science, technology, and innovation, entrepreneurship, and applied concepts. The program is getting tremendous public attention for being groundbreaking and educationally impactful. WES has been awarded the Strategic Ed Tech (SET) Gold Certification in recognition for the work in educational technology and innovation, and WES Art and STEM teacher Katherine Owens was awarded a "Teachers of Innovation" Grand Prize from The Henry Ford last June.

Another strategic goal, to elevate students by fostering the health and growth of the whole child, is making strides as well. This past summer WES counselor Allison Klothe developed a new social emotional learning (SEL) curriculum. In addition to the existing Virtues Curriculum, Responsive Classroom Approach, and daily work by classroom teachers, the SEL curriculum aims to proactively equip students with the knowledge and skills to understand their social emotional development and engage successfully with others. Klothe conducts lessons in each class in Grades 2-5 on a monthly basis. Classroom teachers and the Chaplain attend so they can help reinforce and incorporate the skills and strategies into the daily lives of the students. The curriculum explicitly teaches students topics such as how to break down stereotypes, how to identify and stand up to bullying, and how to manage emotions and resolve conflict.

A new skills-based report card for the elementary grades has been implemented this year which aligns with the updated approaches and curriculum in language arts and math. It provides a balance of feedback on students' academic and social emotional learning and development in accordance with WES's values and beliefs that focus on the health and growth of the whole child. Students' learning habits and behaviors are organized into categories in alignment with the portrait of a WES graduate: kind, confident, and prepared. Informed by current best practices in assessing and reporting, the revised report card ensures a more comprehensive picture of student learning and development.

It's an exciting time in the elementary grades as WES strategically evolves, equipping learners with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions for tomorrow and beyond.



On the previous page:

- Top left: A fifth-grader learns about weather and what it's like to be a news channel meteorologist during a STEM class field trip to NBC-4, led by meteorologist Lauryn Ricketts.
- Right: Grade 5 students launch a weather balloon in STEM class as part of their climate unit, with the assistance of a guest presenter from the University of Maryland's Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science.
- Bottom left: Third-graders pause for a photo during recess on the newly-renovated playground.



1. Grade 4 students were featured in the November 12, 2018 issue of *The Washington Post's KidsPost*.
2. A second-grader and her mother, Andrea Owen (Ehrenberg), share their family's journey story with the class.
3. A fourth-grader works on a writing assignment.
4. Grade 3 students tell the gospel story in Chapel.
5. Chaplain Tim Kennedy and students from Grades 3 and 4 prepare snack bags and cards for the homeless shelter during October's First Friday session.
6. Grade 1 students use a jig to cut wood in Tool Time with Dave Schuessler in the After-School Enrichment Program.
7. A fourth-grader works on building a vehicle in science class's unit on motion and design.
8. Second-graders sing at the Christmas Band and Choral Concert.
9. Grades 4 and 5 brought in the most canned goods in an all-school competition that provided more than 1,000 cans that were donated to Martha's Table in November.
10. Grade 4 students presented their original play, *The Six Doors Show*, in October.
11. Grade 2 students work at deciphering a substance using chemical reactions as clues in STEM class.



Middle School Grade 6 • Grade 7 • Grade 8

Many words describe the life of a WES middle-schooler, but perhaps the words that capture it best are dynamic, collaborative, and connected.

Our school year begins with several opportunities for every student to **reconnect with classmates** within and across grade levels. Our Advisory program kicks off with friendly competitions and establishes a core group of peers and an advisor for every child. This group stays together for their tenure in Middle School, exploring questions about the real world and their role in it—including topics around health, mindfulness, social media, social justice, diversity and inclusion, and the environment. Students have the chance to ask questions as well as give insights, or listen to speakers and performances, providing deeper context to their perceptions of self and others.

WES students enjoy the chance to **explore the world together**, and in the fall, each grade spends time outdoors to work on teambuilding and have a shared learning experience. Early in the year, **Grade 6** travels to an outdoor education campus to practice teamwork and problem solving along with confidence building activities like zip lining. **Grade 7** travels to the Shenandoah River Valley to spend two days hiking, canoeing, exploring nature, and enjoying bonding time around a fire at night. **Grade 8** spends their fall studying the ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay, and as a culminating activity, travels to the Eastern Shore to add fieldwork to their studies. Due to bad weather conditions, the traditional three-day trip was cancelled this year. As an alternative to the usual trip, they spent a morning with a

commercial fisherman from Rock Hall, MD, who helped them understand the relationship between the environment and the region's economy. The afternoon spent at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center on Kent Island allowed them to search and identify many of the bay creatures that they had been studying in Science. These opportunities provide enrichment to their classroom learning, but with the added benefit of collaboration and the **joy of being together**.

This year, a new opportunity for a **dynamic community** experience in Middle School comes with the addition of “club” periods. Clubs are student-created and led, and offer a chance to explore topics of great interest to students across the middle grades. This fall some of our clubs include Art and Anime, Fantasy Worlds, Classic Board Games, Performing Arts, and even a Cooking club!

Our middle-schoolers are thriving in a busy world of learning through shared experiences, activity, and even play. We believe that it is in these moments that students develop new friendships, new skills, and a passion for the pursuit of learning.





1



2



3

On previous page:

- Top: Seventh-graders showing a range of emotions at the Halloween Parade 😊.
- Bottom: A sixth-grader created this ziggurat as an extra credit assignment for the Mesopotamia unit of study in Ancient Civilizations class.



4

1. Eighth-graders learn about estuary ecology during a trip to the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center in Grasonville, MD.
2. Seventh-graders chat before participating in the ISMAW Middle School Math Meet hosted by WES in October. Thirty-nine WES students competed with more than 300 students from local independent schools.
3. An eighth-grader tests a rocket in science during a unit on projectile motion.
4. Middle Schoolers prepare blankets for an animal shelter during December's First Friday community service outreach session.
5. An eighth-grader performs his role of Dr. Albert Prince in a black box presentation of *And Then There Were None*.
6. Grade 8 Ambassadors help welcome families during Orientation Day in September.
7. Bill Isola's advisory team won the jack-o-lantern contest, one of several Middle School competitions throughout the year.
8. Cookie Monster, the winning jack-o-lantern
9. Caterina Earle's Grade 7 life science students examine the soil in search of microecosystems along the Capital Crescent Trail.
10. A sixth-grader addresses the crowd at an Admission Open House.
11. Robotics team members (Grades 6 and 7) during a Saturday session of the Robotics Club.



5



6



8



7



9



10



11



Visual and performing arts are connected to the curriculum and integrated into daily life at WES. From drawing and creating to playing an instrument, singing, and performing—the arts inspire self-expression and provide joy for our students. As we collaborate and do creative things together, we are building and fostering community.



CONNECTING VISUAL ARTS

AND

PERFORMING ARTS WITH CURRICULUM





WES SUCCESS

WES ATHLETICS HAS HAD ITS SHARE OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER THE YEARS.

On the surface we can boast of tournament champions in soccer, basketball, lacrosse, and cross country and of teams with undefeated seasons and record stats. This fall the trend continued as five of our six teams recorded winning seasons. Strong leadership by our eighth-graders is a large factor on this road to success. Ore Adedeji, Eliza Horne, and Gabi Love helped our 7/8 girls soccer team place second in their end of the season tournament at St. Andrew's. The boys 7/8 soccer team, led by John Carney, Ishaan O'Neal, Charlie Sagely, and Ethan Vogelmann logged an impressive record of 6-2. Aiden Armagh, Ben Meyer, and Lucy Weems steered the cross country team to another notable season.

But as a program, we do not measure ourselves only on wins, losses, and championships. More importantly, we measure success on how we come to achieve these goals—taking into consideration **teamwork, improvement, and skills**. Students with all levels of experience join these teams and it is our goal to place each student in a situation where he or she will be productive and successful both as individuals and as a team. 🌱





FACTORS FOR WES STUDENT-ATHLETE SUCCESS

OPPORTUNITY:

All students who have the desire to play on a WES team are afforded the opportunity. Last year nearly 100% of students in Grades 5-8 participated on at least one WES athletic team. Playing on a team is an important aspect of the learning experience at WES.

FOCUS ON FITNESS:

Fitness has always been a cornerstone of our physical education curriculum and athletic program. Striving to improve the fitness level of our students helps them in competition and helps them focus and achieve in their daily routine as well.

COACHES AND TEACHERS:

WES students benefit from the experienced and dedicated staff of coaches and teachers. These coaches and teachers have their own person style of coaching as they guide and teach, but they are all united in philosophy and the priority of putting student-athletes in the best situation to be successful.

TEACHING "TEAM:"

WES stresses the importance that all team members have a role, and team success is dependent upon everyone fulfilling their roles to their best potential. All roles, no matter how big or small, are equally essential to a team's success.





BEST. SUMMER. EVER.

For the 28th year, Summer@WES provided kids with nine weeks of non-stop fun, enriching activities, and opportunities to try new things and meet new friends.

Children ages 4-14, plus CITS and Jr. Counselors, were led by WES faculty and other area teachers and counselors who offered expertise. Partner programs such as PPA Soccer, Tru2Form basketball, and L.E.A.D. Camp extended the offering of activities for campers.

The youngest campers enjoyed creative and whimsical themes to stretch their imaginations such as "Journey to Outer Space," "Mad Scientists," and "Carnival" which featured a real carnival experience with games made by the children and counselors, face painting, and carnival treats.

Campers in Grades 1-3 wrote an original action-packed story about two DJs who are kidnapped by a misunderstood villain. They dazzled their audience by performing it onstage. Again this year, the popular "Variety Show" gave campers a chance to shine on stage, as they turned cartwheels and handsprings, sang, told jokes, danced, and let loose. Sleepaway Camp for kids in rising Grades 3-9 drew the most number of campers ever and with good reason: there's nothing like a good old fashioned camping experience. Fresh mountain air, horseback riding, fishing, archery, swimming, tennis, paddle boarding, and enjoying a camp fire were among the highlights.

Instruction in math and language arts helped campers in Grades 4 and 5 improve and maintain academic skills during morning session. During the afternoon, they chose their own adventure.

Budding artists hosted art shows, displaying unique creations that included working with a variety of mediums and techniques such as papier-mâché, Warhol-inspired art, sculpture, and sketching. Robotics, cooking, Lego My LEGO, sports, Building Design with Minecraft, archery, weird science, jr., engineering, beading, and swimming kept campers busy and entertained.

Outdoor Adventure let campers explore the awesome parks and venues in our area, with exciting activities such as hiking, picking blueberries, and going to the Zoo, Great Falls, Glen Echo Park, and to the splash park, to name a few. Campers discovered what it was like to be entrepreneurs as the "Mind Your Own Business" team members developed a business plan, promoted their product, and sold it during camp. Campers had fun making candy kebobs, mud pies, snow cones, and ice cream treats. The sale of these items benefitted the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Summer@WES 2019 starts on June 10! REGISTER NOW at www.w-e-s.org/summer.





Front row: Catherine Voelpel, Debbie Weinberger, Courtney Clark, Barbara Burkhardt, Alexis Doyle '10, and Kristin Cuddihy
Back row: Moira O'Kon, Leslie Holst, Forrest Wright '04, Andrea Borie, and T. Sumner Weymouth



Welcome, New WES Faculty!

Andrea Borie, Director of Extended Day Hometown: Baton Rouge, Louisiana

I have taught Kindergarten locally and I am a trained Parent Coach with PEP (Parent Encouragement Program). My husband and I have twin boys who are high school seniors. My passions include still life oil painting, gardening, interior decorating, and traveling. "Laughter is the best medicine" is a saying I most believe in!

Barbara Burkhardt, Grade 6 English Teacher Hometown: Springfield, Illinois

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White and *A Christmas Memory* by Truman Capote are two stories that I loved as a child and still do. Both portray friendships that transcend time and the passing of generations. It was a joy to read the Capote story with my sixth-grade class before the holidays.

Courtney Clark, Art Teacher Hometowns: Richmond, Virginia and Chicago, Illinois

One of my favorite memories growing up was spending a week on a private island off the coast of Maine, completely disconnected from phones and television, just to create art. We spent the week enjoying nature, painting landscapes, and creating environmental sculptures.

Kristin Cuddihy, Middle School Director Hometown: Brooklyn, New York (Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

I traveled as an au pair to London, Paris, Rome, and Madrid when I was only 13! I remember feeling very independent and thinking it was all so different and so beautiful. I'm delighted to finally return to Italy this May after almost 40 years!

Alexis Doyle '10, Transition Teacher Hometown: Potomac, Maryland

My favorite book as a WES student would have to be *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*. I loved listening to my fourth-grade teacher read it aloud to us every day and he even took us on a field trip to see the movie!

Leslie Holst, Early Childhood Learning Specialist Hometown: As a military child, we moved often. I attended high school in Heidelberg, Germany and went to Virginia Tech.

When I was a kid, I wanted to be a librarian when I grew up. I have fond memories of weekly trips to check out books, and of librarians who saved the new books for me, helping me expand my horizons with stories of action and adventure, everyday life, and future worlds. It gives me great pleasure to teach reading, to get a child excited about reading, and to put the right book in their hands.

Moira O'Kon, Spanish Teacher Hometown: Buenos Aires, Argentina

I was 12 when I read one of my favorite books, *The Lord of the Rings*. It was J.R.R. Tolkien who introduced me to fantasy fiction and I have loved it ever since. I read it as a child, as a young adult, and as a parent, and I enjoy it every single time as if it were the first!

Catherine Voelpel, PE Teacher

Hometown: Berlin, Connecticut

One of my most vivid childhood memories is my parents surprising my brother and me with a trip to Disney World. We were relaxing on a bench in Animal Kingdom when we were asked to be in their park parade. They swiftly brought us behind the scenes to get dressed up, and suddenly we were on a float in their parade!

Debbie Weinberger, Early Childhood Counselor Hometown: Newton, Massachusetts

My husband, three children, and I took a remarkable trip to Costa Rica with my husband's family to celebrate his parents' 50th wedding anniversary some years ago. That has been my favorite trip so far. My all-time favorite book is *The Little Engine That Could*. It's a great story about determination and believing in oneself.

T. Sumner Weymouth, Finance Director Hometown: Anniston, Alabama

I'm a fourth generation Sumner. My great, great grandfather named his son after Sen. Charles Sumner, a famous abolitionist, to express his opposition to slavery and the South's participation in the Civil War and the name has been passed down ever since.

Forrest Wright '04, Kindergarten Teacher Hometown: Potomac, Maryland

When I was a Kindergartener (here at WES), my favorite book was *Harold and The Purple Crayon*. One reason I loved this book as a child was how creative Harold was when drawing his own world, and how it inspired me to be more creative with my own imagination.

grandparents & special friends day board of trustees

One of our favorite events at WES is Grandparents & Special Friends Day. Held the Tuesday morning before Thanksgiving, it brings together generations of family members and friends to share an experience and create a lasting memory.

The day began with a gathering of guests in The Stuart Work Library where Mr. Vogelman welcomed everyone. Prizes were awarded to those who had traveled the farthest and who had the most grandchildren. Next were classroom visits which involved art projects, student performances, storytelling, and more activities.

"I enjoy meeting teachers and experiencing what my grandchild does every day," said a grandparent of a first-grader. "I look forward to attending this event all year!"

Following classroom visits, everyone came together at Thanksgiving Chapel. Nursery, Transition, and Kindergarten students sang

"Happy Grandparents Day!" to the delight of the audience. Art teacher and WES parent LaKisha Yirenkyi provided a beautiful rendition of "Counting Every Blessing," and the Grade 6 Chorus and Grades 7-8 Chorus sang as well. Students and faculty gave blessings in Hebrew, and read scripture from the Bible and the Quran. Thankfulness, the virtue of the month, was the theme of Mr. Vogelman's Chapel Talk, in which he discussed his experiences delivering newspapers as a boy in Philadelphia, and the unforgettable kindness of his Godfather.

We learned a great deal about our grandparents and special friends this year. They told us about their favorite memories, activities, and books when they were the age of their grandchildren. Grandparents grew up in places as far away as China, Italy, Ghana, and South Korea. A few hailed from distant states such as California, Mississippi, Alabama, Iowa, and Minnesota, and many grew up closer to us in New York, New Jersey,

and Maryland. Activities they enjoyed most are likely the same ones their grandchildren enjoy today: playing in the neighborhood, with friends, biking, fishing, visiting grandparents, playing with dolls, playing basketball, and celebrating holidays with family. One grandparent recounted seeing actor Edgar Bergen and his puppet Charlie McCarthy at the 1939 New York World's Fair! Many mentioned teachers who made an impact on their lives. The Nancy Drew series topped the list of beloved books. Other favorites included *Tom Sawyer*, *Huckleberry Finn*, *Black Beauty*, *Horton Hears a Who*, and *Blueberries for Sal*. It is heartwarming to know that a good book, a great teacher, and playing with friends are the foundations of a joyful childhood, regardless of age. 🐦



Board of Trustees 2018-2019



Front Row: Danny Vogelman (Head of School), Keeley Snider (Parents Association President), Les Carnegie (Chair), Laura Steuart, Jon Bazemore, Tonya Finton
Back Row: Katie Meyer, Stacey Milne, Dawn Harding (Faculty Representative), Mahmoud Bah, Scott McMillan, Anastasia Gekis (Pirisi), Stacie DeRamus (Secretary)
Not pictured: Mark Ball (Vice Chair), The Reverend Prince Decker (Bishop's Representative), Robert E. Freer, Jr. (Chairman Emeritus), M. Michele Hogan (new Trustee), Kelly Nelson (Treasurer), Ray Schupp, Britt Snider '88 (Trustee Emeritus)

WASHINGTON EPISCOPAL SCHOOL Alumni CLASS NOTES



1



2



3



4

1 Alanne Wheeler '04 and husband Richard Joyce on their wedding day in California (Anna Delores Photography) • 2 Stephanie Somerville '05 and husband Andy Logosz on their wedding day in DC • 3 Isabelle Kramer '11 and husband Bryce Bangert on their wedding day in South Dakota. • 4 Amy Sharfman '07 and her husband Elliot Belchovski on their wedding day in November • 5 The Geier family on Caroline's wedding day last August: (l to r): Julia Geier '07, Ted Geier, Caroline Geier '02 and her husband Jack Masur, Elisa Geier, Dave and Gabriele (Geier) Wright



5

Eli Turner Studios

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

Sabina Abdow ran on Walt Whitman High School's cross country team. **Arya Balian** performed at A Capitol Fourth Celebration in DC on July 4th with the Choral Arts Society of Washington. **Tendai Ball, Julian Matthews,** and **Theo Sotoodehnia** ran on the St. Albans cross country team. Theo came in 8th place in the IAC/ISL/MAC Cross Country Varsity B meet in October. **Kyra Chassaing** played on the JV soccer team at Richard Montgomery High School. **Evan Deobald** and **Alex McMillan** ran on Georgetown Prep's cross country team in the fall. Evan finished 11th and Alex finished 13th at the IAC/ISL/MAC Cross Country Varsity B meet in October. **Caroline Dickey** and **Maya Grebowsky** played JV soccer at Holton-Arms School. **Isabella Dodro** was in the a cappella club at St. Andrew's. **Maddie Griffin** played soccer for Holy Cross. **Julian Haas** played soccer for St. Andrew's. **Harrison Kehler** and **Conner Nickel** ran on St. Andrew's cross country team. Harrison came in 24th in the IAC/ISL/MAC Championship Varsity A race in October. **Caroline King** played JV volleyball for Potomac School in the fall. **Joy Alycia Kramer** and **Fiona Turnbull** played field hockey at Holton-Arms School. Joy Alycia has also joined the golf and knitting clubs. **Giovanna Massaro** was in the fall production of *Love's Labour's Lost* at Madeira in November. **Alexander Mehta** is in the robotics club at Sidwell Friends School and played

soccer. **Parker Nolan** ran on Landon's cross country team this fall. **Moniola Odunsi** played on the tennis team at Madeira. **David Stevenson** had a part in the St. Andrew's play in the fall and has been cast in the musical as well. **Bradley Whiteway** played on Georgetown Prep's freshman soccer team.

'17 **Thomas Carney**
tpcarney97@gmail.com
Emelia Isola
edisola@gmail.com

Joanna Dematatis
jkdematatis@gmail.com
Randolph Kaminskis
Randolph.kaminskas@gmail.com

Zach Alexander is a member of the newspaper club at St. John's. **Christian Berko** is playing in the marching band at St. John's. **Lisa Byskov** played varsity soccer at Walt Whitman High School. **Thomas Carney** works stage crew at Gonzaga. He went with the group to New York over Christmas break to see two Broadway shows. **Joanna Dematatis** played JV field hockey at Holton-Arms School in the fall and is playing varsity basketball. She earned "Panther of the Week" honors in December for outstanding play, scoring 9 points and making 9 rebounds in just 7 minutes of play during a game! **Emelia Isola** was on the Walter Johnson cross country team. **Nico Jordan** and **Garrett McCally** played on the Georgetown Prep JV soccer team. Sean Lasner was on the cross country team at Potomac School. **Caroline Moore** played JV soccer at Stone Ridge. **Arman Naseh** is taking three AP courses at Bullis, and is enjoying boxing and soccer. **Lily Talieh** is playing soccer (goalie) at Holton-Arms School. **Holden Woodings** is working on the year-book at St. Andrew's Episcopal School.

MARCH

2 SAT Auction Gala
6 p.m. at WES

15-16 FRI - SAT Sixth-Grade Musical:
Getting to Know Footloose

MAY

31 FRI Founders Day Picnic
6 - 8 p.m.

JUNE

4 TUES Graduation
2 p.m.

Alumni Class Notes

'16 Maddie Blonder Maddieblonder@gmail.com

Jemma Bazemore played varsity field hockey for Holton-Arms. **Maddie Blonder** writes, "I have been really focused on my new student group to raise money for people without access to clean water. I have been engaged in my school's service program, where I am on the board planning many extra service days for our school. This past summer, I went to Australia on an exchange for one month. It was definitely one of the highlights of high school." **Peter Connolly** played varsity football (left tackle) at Georgetown Prep and varsity rugby (prop). He also serves on the student government as Junior class representative and is a staff writer for the *Little Hoya* newspaper. **Charlie Cope** is enjoying life as a sophomore at Colorado Rocky Mountain School in Carbondale, CO. **William FitzGerald** was the top individual and top team fundraiser for the Prevent Cancer 5K in September 2018.

He raised over \$5,000 thanks in part to many generous WES alumni families. **Daniel González-Kosasky** received the Upper School Faculty Prize at St. Andrew's Episcopal School last June. Daniel also sails with the Annapolis Junior Rowing Club. **Charlotte Mensforth** played JV soccer at Stone Ridge. **Sarah Myhre** ran on the Stone Ridge cross country team in the fall placing in the IAX/ISL/MAC Championship varsity meet (B) in the fall. Sarah had a busy summer, spending four weeks on an exchange trip to Australia. She also participated in a Sacred Heart Service Trip to New Orleans called Healthy Waters and Coastal Restoration, and had a week-long externship with the Uniformed Services University on the Walter Reed Bethesda Naval Base with the Science, Service, Medicine, and Mentoring Program. She also worked at Chevy Chase Recreation Pool as a lifeguard. **Pascale Schmidt** ran on Holton-Arms' cross country team and placed in the IAC/ISL/MAC Championship varsity B meet in October. She

was recently admitted to Holton-Arms' STEM program. **Sophie Whiteway** committed to Princeton University to play lacrosse. She was a Washington Post All-Met Spring 2018 Honorable Mention for lacrosse. **Alexandra Skoufias** made the spring Honor Roll at Bullis School.

'15 Ryan Kyle Ryankyle36@gmail.com

Allyn Abbott is enjoying singing with Potomac School's a cappella group and hopes to continue to sing in college and perhaps incorporate it into his studies. Many of his performances can be found on YouTube. Allyn also is a Potomac School steward and plays ice hockey. **Zoe Barnette** and **Alicia Pané** were inducted into the Cum Laude Society (which is the top 20% of students) at Stone Ridge in September. Zoe is committed to attending Notre Dame University in the fall for fencing. Alicia ran on the Stone Ridge cross country team, winners of the ISL Championship. She also earned her Girl Scout Gold Award. **Andreas Christofides** did music composition summer programs at Tanglewood and Berklee College of Music. He also sings in the Senior All-State Choir and serves as the student director of the men's chamber choir at Walt Whitman High School. **Bridget Dick** is head of Georgetown Day School's hiking club. **Juliet Faris** completed her final season on the Episcopal High School varsity volleyball team as a right side hitter. She looks forward to another fruitful crew season this spring; last season her boat finished 7th at Nationals and 3rd at States. This past summer she did an exchange program in France and shadowed a doctor at George Washington University Hospital. **Brendan Grau**, a student at St. Anselm's Abby School, earned his Eagle Scout award. **Allaire Kotz**, a senior at Connelly School of the Holy Child, was named a Washington Post All-Met Spring 2018 Honorable Mention lacrosse player. **Ryan Kyle** served as a captain of Sidwell Friend School's cross country team this past fall and was awarded the SFS award for spirited and meaningful commitment to the team. **Paul Marquardt** ran on Whitman's cross country team in the fall. **Patricia Massaro** has been accepted to Williams College in the fall. **Georgia McCally** was captain of the varsity field hockey team at Bullis. She has played varsity goalie for all four years of high school. She faced field hockey players **Hadley Nolan** (Holton-Arms) and **Libby Scanlon** (Stone Ridge) in games but no matter

how fierce the game, it always ended in a hug between WES classmates! **Sophia Mishurny-Santini** served as a captain of Potomac's cross country team. She earned a 2nd place trophy at the MileStat race in Richmond this fall and had a nice finish in the IAC/ISL/MAC Championship meet. **Nicholas Ratliff** played his final season as a center attacking mid on the Maret soccer team, which won the MAC championship. This past summer he interned at Mass General Hospital in Boston and hopes to pursue biology and neuroscience in college. Nick also founded a Young Conservatives club at Maret, which seeks to create a safe space for students to share their thoughts. **Jeremiah Samuel** was elected vice-president of the student body at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School and serves as a sports anchor for a weekly broadcasting of BCCTV. **Libby Scanlon** played varsity field hockey at Stone Ridge in the fall. St. Albans student **Matthew Sheets** performed at A Capitol Fourth Celebration in DC on July 4th with the Choral Arts Society of Washington, as did **Sareen Balian** from NCS. It aired on PBS. Matthew was also in the St. Albans/NCS fall play, *An Enemy of the People*, and served as a co-captain of the STA cross country team. **Emma Stanfill** made the spring Honor Roll at Bullis School. **Nicholas Steele** is a leader of an all-male a cappella group at BCC High School and hopes to pursue music in college. **Morinsola Tinubu** is a senior captain of her dance ensemble at Episcopal High School. **Lizzie Zampella**, a senior at Holton-Arms, received The George Washington University School of Engineering and Applied Science Award for the highest cumulative average in mathematics and science. She was also inducted into the Cum Laude Society.

'14 Samantha Liggins samanthaliggins@gmail.com

Dominick Doyle is enjoying taking fashion design classes to help with his business, DK Skate. **Oliver Johnson** had a terrific first semester at Colgate University. Last summer he worked for MEANS, a nonprofit food rescue platform, in their DC office, as a web designer. He volunteered for them in the summer of 2017. Oliver attended the CNN Heroes All Star Tribute event in December 2018 in which MEANS was recognized for their extraordinary contribution to humanitarian aid and making a difference in the community. **Sofia González-Kosasky** was inducted into the Cum Laude Society at St. Andrews Episcopal



Top-bottom, L-R: Caterina Earle, Isaiah Horne '18, Mehdi Elkassem, and Chaplain Tim Kennedy after Chapel • Margaret Hampe '18 and Arjun Narayan '18 perform with their band, "Silent Lunch," in Bethesda in August • Caroline Dickey '18, Fiona Turnbull '18, and Theo Sotoodehnia '18 at WES • Emily Nelson and Clara Knott from the Class of 2018 at WES in November • Kyra Chassaing '18 at WES in September • Sabina Abdow '18 and Maya Grebowsky '18 visiting at WES • Joy Alycia Kramer '18 and Nick Lellenberg at a Holton-Arms field hockey game this fall





Top to bottom, L-R: William FitzGerald '16, a top fundraiser for the Prevent Cancer 5K run in September • Sisters Moniola '18 and Tamilore '16 Odunsi at WES last June • Randolph Kaminskis '17, Ron Valenzia, and Joanna Dematatis '17 at WES this fall • Sarah Myhre '16 and Sterling Myhre '13 in Sydney Australia last summer • Libby Scanlon '15 and Georgia McCally '15 after a field hockey game • Holton-Arms Head of School Susannah A. Jones with Lizzie Zampella '15 • Georgia McCally '15 and Hadley Nolan '15 after a Bullis vs Holton-Arms field hockey game • Garrett McCally '17 and Nico Jordan '17 after their Georgetown Prep soccer game • Pascale Schmidt '16 and Sarah Myhre '16 at a cross country championship meet • Sterling Myhre '13 on the field at an LSU game in November 2018



School and received the Excellence in Science award at graduation in June. She attends the University of Chicago. **Case van Stolk** received the Excellence in Religion award and was a co-winner of the Saints Award at St. Andrew's last June. **Lawrence Redmond** is enjoying life as a pre-med major at Emory University in Atlanta. He is on the swim team, pursuing a freshman record in the 200 backstroke.

'13 Alya Ahmed
AAhmed17@sidwell.edu
Genevieve Dickinson
genevieve.dickinson@gmail.com
Sterling Myhre
semyhre12@gmail.com
Jack Szulc-Donnell
thenso37@yahoo.com

Sterling Myhre is a credentialed sports reporter for HMG (Heroes Media Group) and is a student at Tulane University, majoring in business. Last summer he was selected to study abroad in Cuba, learning about Cuban culture, society, nationalism, and political history. He also visited his sister, **Sarah '16**, in Australia, who was also studying abroad.

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

Laura Abbott spent her junior year at Vanderbilt University abroad in Sydney, Australia from July through November 2018 at University of New South Wales. She loved the experience and enjoyed exploring Melbourne, Cairns, Byron Bay, Blue mountains, and traveled to Thailand on a break. Laura is majoring in psychology with a minor in business. **Allie Peel** is a member of Delta Gamma at University of Alabama. **Laurence Ruberl** was a summer intern at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. **James Zampella** is a junior majoring in communications at the University of Maryland at College Park and enjoys being a member in his fraternity, FIJI.

'11 Peter Abdow
peter.abdow@gmail.com
Sarah Bair
soccersab@gmail.com
Jake Bredhoff
jake.bredhoff@yahoo.com

Daniel Armagh played football for Sewanee, the University of the South for all four years. **Sarah Bair** has an internship with the Jimmy Carter Foundation in Atlanta, GA. She anticipates graduating from Emory University in May.

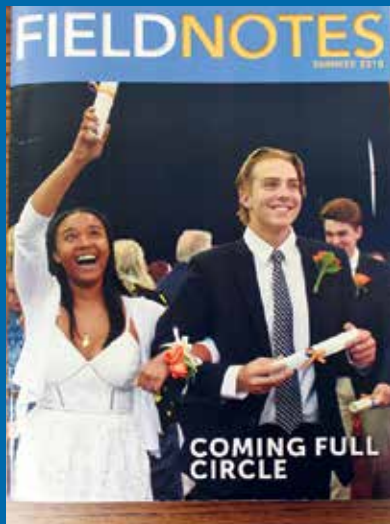
Claire Collins was selected to represent the United States in the US Under 23 Women's eight at the World Rowing Championships in Poznan, Poland last July. They won a bronze medal. Claire was named to the 2018 CRCA All-America First Team in July 2018. After graduation, she plans to train with USRowing, a non-profit organization recognized by the United States Olympic Committee as the governing body for crew in the United States. Based in Princeton, USRowing selects and manages the American teams that compete in world championships, Pan American Games, and the Olympics. **Isabelle Kramer** married Bryce Bangerter in Hill City, SD on August 4. Her grandmother, Reverend Kramer, officiated. Her sister, **Joy Alycia Kramer '18** was maid of honor and **Peter Abdow '11**, whom Isabelle has been friends with since Kindergarten at WES, was a groomsman. Isabelle is studying abroad in England for the spring semester with Brigham Young University. **Cornelia Smith** is a junior at Columbia University majoring in art history.

'10 Lindsay Bratun
lindsaybratun@gmail.com
Jonathan Butturini
Jab990@gmail.com
Shelby Mahaffie
titanpuppysm@gmail.com
Madison Sharp
endesha4079@gmail.com

Lindsay Bratun started a job with Bully Pulpit Interactive in their DC office in September 2018. **Nora Dahlberg** graduated from Bates College and is back in the DC area. **Alexis Doyle** started teaching Transition in the fall at WES in the T-1 classroom and thoroughly enjoys it. **Leia Karam** graduated with a Master of Arts with Honors in Digital Media and Information Studies from the University of Glasgow, Scotland, in June 2018. She is living and working in London. **Marina Jackson** had an internship with The Smithsonian this past summer. **Byron Jones** is pursuing a masters degree in sports management at Georgetown University. He is a manager of the Georgetown mens basketball team. **Julia Leep-Lazar** is working as a researcher at Johns Hopkins Hospital. She and her sister **Katie '07** live together in Columbia, MD. **Shelby Mahaffie** is a research analyst at the University of Chicago Consortium on School Research, conducting data analysis for "The To&Through" project which provides educators and families with data

Alumni Class Notes

and research on improving students' college access and attainment. She has a published report, *Hidden Risk: Changes to GPA across the Transition to High School*. It is available from Amazon. She received her BA from the University of Chicago in economics and public policy in June, 2018. **Matthew Peel** graduated from University of Alabama in May. He majored in business management and sales. **Campbell Peterson** works for PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC) in Tysons Corner, VA. **Madison Sharp** is living in the DC area. **Kate Young** stayed on at Ohio State University to complete a double major in Finance and French and anticipates graduating in May 2019. **Anthony Ware** is working at Definers Public Affairs in Arlington, VA. **Rachel Weinberger** works for KPMG in New York City.



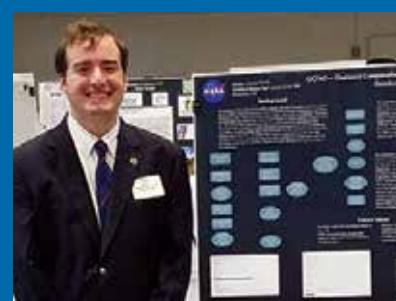
Alumni

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

Claire Bork has been working for ZeniMax/Bethesda Software, a video gaming company, since the fall. **Pryce Bevan** is working toward a PhD at Georgetown University. **Courtney Bratun** graduated from Auburn University's Harbert College of Business in August 2018. She works in corporate retail.

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

Tyler Bartels is working for GPI US in Boston as a program coordinator. He is creating short-term study abroad programs for Japanese High School students and other programs to develop intercultural communication and relationships between Japan and the US. **Jake Bradt** is pursuing his PhD at the Harvard Kennedy School studying Applied Economics, a 5-6 year degree program. Jake's parents hosted a lovely 10-year reunion for parents from the Class of 2008 in December. A few alumni stopped by: **Ben Coleman**, **Evan Deyak**, **Emma Hemus**, and **Spencer Veirs**. **Ben Coleman** is attending medical school at University of Maryland (Baltimore). **Tommy Finton** traveled to Africa (Namibia, Zambia, Botswana) in October with a college friend who is in the Peace Corps. **Jack Frye** is living in Georgetown and is a political advocacy coordinator for the National Restaurant Association. **Will Lynch** is applying to PhD programs. **Hillary Meeker** and **Daniel Norton**



Top to bottom, L-R: Class of 2014 members Blaine Mengistu-Gunn and Jack Duffert on the cover of the *Field School* magazine • Spenser Li's '05 article in the *Army Times* • Courtney Bratun '09 on graduation day in Auburn, AL, with her sister Lindsay '10 • Ben '08, Celia, Carolyn '12, Jim, and Dana '10 Martin • Faith Collins '07, Liz Mosher '07, Amy Sharfman '07, Katie Leep-Lazar '07, and Shannon Egan '07 celebrate at Amy's wedding • Jack Fowler '08 and Sean Dwyer '08 at a friend's wedding in September 2018 • Laurence Ruberl '12 at Earlham University presenting about his NASA internship

are attending medical school. **Sarah Seagrave** started graduate school at Georgetown University's Biochemistry and Molecular Biology masters program in the fall. We enjoyed a visit at WES from **Spencer Veirs** this fall when he had a day off from JBG Smith in Arlington. **Brendan Walsh** recently moved to Florida.

'07 **Shannon Egan**
see2cc@virginia.edu
Jack Metelski
john.metelski@gmail.com

Susie Bair moved to Charlotte, NC, in January and is working in hospitality for MKTG, a global marketing company. **Faith Collins** moved to Denver, CO and still works for IBM. She is engaged to be married. **Katie Leep-Lazar** works in the NICU unit at Holy Cross Hospital. **Liz Mosher** is in her last year of public health graduate school at Johns Hopkins University, in public health. She is interning

at a local hospital. **Amy Scharfman** and **Elliot Belchatovski** were married on November 4, 2018 at Gramercy Mansion in Stevenson, MD, where they met at college. They honeymooned in Maui, HI. WES classmates **Faith Collins**, **Shannon Egan**, **Katie Leep-Lazar**, and **Liz Mosher** were in attendance.

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

Congrats to **Jamie Durling** on his 6th place finish at the Metro Health Grand Rapids marathon in October 2018. He finished in under 2½ hours. **Quinn Kelly** lives in Medellin, Columbia. He teaches English as a second language at the middle and high school level and recently completed an advanced ESL course with Cambridge University and received his certification. He teaches ESL

remotely and hopes to teach at a university in Medellin in the future. **Ben Norton** is attending medical school. **Philip Rosenman** took two fun trips recently to Aruba and to Bogota, Columbia. **Gavin Taylor** is engaged to be married.

'05 **Kristin Maller**
kmm_09@yahoo.com
Jon Rice
Jonathan.rice@me.com
Charis Whitnah
whitswow@aol.com

Della Bradt lives in DC and works for Chemonics Intl. Congratulations to **Michael** and **Tiffany Harding** on the birth of their son Charles "Charlie" Robert Harding, born August 29, 2018 in Honolulu, HI. He joins big brother James who joined the WES Transition class in January 2019. **Spenser Li** was a 2018 *Army Times Soldier of the Year* finalist. As a member of the 4th Infantry Division's 52nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, his

medical, rescue work, and leadership skills got him a spot on his last deployment to help build up the airfield at Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan, north of Kandahar. He was the number 1 requested medic by other units, according to his superiors. Aside from doing his medic job, he was pulled into the engineering tasks of his unit by operating heavy equipment and other duties. Li joined the Army in November 2015, shortly after finishing his college degree (Western State College). He plans to become a flight medic. He and his wife Lynda volunteer at a rock climbing gym in Colorado Springs, CO, where they assist young children with physical and cognitive disabilities in climbing. He also volunteers with El Paso County Search and Rescue, giving more than 500 volunteer service hours in the past two years and participating in five rescue missions. He returned to the US in September 2018 and is attending flight school in Alabama. **Stephanie Somerville** and Andy Longosz exchanged vows at Washington National Cathedral on July 28, 2018. Their brothers were friends and they met at a Bruce Springsteen concert in DC in 2012. An article about their relationship and wedding appeared in the August 18, 2018 Style section of *The Washington Post*. They spent their honeymoon in the French Rivera, Spain, and the Seychelles, and reside in New York City. Stephanie's cousin, Declan, is a seventh-grader

at WES. **Emma Whitaker** is the lower school art teacher at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School in Rockville, MD.

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

Emanuela Kucik earned her PhD in June 2018 from Princeton University. She joined the faculty at Muhlenberg College as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of English and African American Studies in August 2018. Congratulations to **Sofia Selowsky** and William Harbeson who were married on December 15, 2018. **Stephanie Walsh** is a CPA at JBGSmith. **Alanna Wheeler** and Richard Joyce were married on August 18, 2018 in Santa Barbara, CA. **Forrest Wright** began teaching Kindergarten at WES in the fall and loves it!

'03

M.G. Earnest is living in Los Angeles, working with Media Funding, a Soros owned company.

'02 Carolina Richards
richards.carolina@gmail.com

Caroline Geier married Jack Masur on August 11, 2018 in Chevy Chase, MD. They spent their honeymoon in Sun Valley, ID. Caroline is an ICU nurse at The George Washington University Hospital and Jack is a fourth-year med student at GW. They reside in Dupont Circle in DC.

'01 Sarah Jones
Sarah.whitneyjones@gmail.com

Laura Wright Salomon completed two Rock 'n' Roll half marathons this year in DC and in Las Vegas. **Matthew Thompson** just completed the physician assistant program at Arcadia University. He and his wife Charlotte, who is a veterinarian, are planning to pursue their careers in the Seattle area.

'00 Anne Glassie
glassie@gmail.com

Michael Procelli and his wife Kate welcomed daughter Josephine on October 10, 2018. Michael's father Robert has been substitute teaching at WES. **Katherine Robinson** absolutely loves Cambridge, describing it as a "dream." She is pursuing a PhD in English at Cambridge University and is taking the opportunity to travel to surrounding areas: attending a Sylvia Plath conference in Ireland

and spending two weeks in Shetland in August. **Will Seeley** is engaged to be married.

'99

'98

'97 Nate Guggenheim
Nate.Guggenheim@WFP.com

'94 Charlotte McCormack
char.mccormack@gmail.com

It was nice to have **William Rawson's** children, Lorilei and Rory, at Summer@WES this past summer.

'93 Palmer Seeley
Palmer.Seeley@caryacademy.org

Katie and **Dan Freer's** daughter Charlotte is in the Kindergarten class (Class of 2027) at WES.



Top-bottom, L-R: Peter Abdow '11 and Isabelle Kramer '11 at her wedding • William Rawson's '94 children Lorilei and Rory at Summer@WES • Cece Ochoa '06 appeared on a WUSA 9 newscast in August 2018 • Tory Taylor '08 and Sean Dwyer '08 • Anna-Sophia Massaro '14 and her sister Giovanna '18 with Matt Gill in November • Class of 2010 members Byron Jones, Matt Peel, and Hunter Heflin



Top-bottom, L-R: Kat Cusani-Visconti '88 with her son Alessandro '21 in The Stuart Work Library • Rebecca Schneider Luria's '88 children give a Hawaiian greeting (shaka) during a hike in Hawaii, September 2018 (Robyn 5, Reid 10, and Ryan 8) • Dan Freer '93 with his former teacher Annette Poston and his daughter Charlotte '27 • Britt Snider's '88 children, Maeve, 8 and Katherine, 10 • Eliza Rosen's '88 artwork: pet portrait • Libby Roche, 1 year-old daughter of Sally Steponkus Roche '88 and Tom Roche

'92 John Pinto
johnep1979@yahoo.com

'91 Andrew Dinsmore is pursuing his MBA at University of Delaware during the evenings. He is still Projects Manager in the Wilmington, DE office of Senator Chris Coons (DE-D).

'90 Ashleigh Freer Parr
afparr@gmail.com

Ashleigh Freer Parr is Deputy Director at College of Charleston, her alma mater, where she has been employed since 2002.

'89 Stephan von Schilcher
vonschilcher@gmail.com

'88 Rebecca (Schneider) Luria
reflecrebec@hotmail.com

Rebecca (Schneider) Luria is still living in Hawaii, taking every opportunity to hike and enjoy the outdoors with her children, Robyn, 5, Reid, 9, and Ryan 7, and her husband, Joe. **Eliza Rosen** has been busy raising her children Max, 11 and Caroline, 13. She teaches Graphic Design at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and is growing her pet illustration business, Eliza Rosen Illustration. She writes, "It's been fun helping people celebrate their pets by elevating them to true family status, dressed as they would should they have thumbs! And I'm super excited to report that I was recently published in this October's issue of *Country Living Magazine* under Best in Show Pet Awards: Cutest Customized Pet Portraits." **Britt Snider** and his family are doing a major renovation on their home in Chevy Chase.

Sally Steponkus Roche's daughter Libby turned one in November. She sees Eliza Rosen often—she's one of Libby's favorite aunts!

Former Faculty News

Jason Platt and his wife Judy welcomed their son Micah in April 2018. **Kelly Rutherford**, her husband Adam, and their son Austin welcomed son and little brother Chase on August 23, 2018.

Thank you to the group of past faculty who helped prepare the WES holiday cards for mailing.

In Memory & Sympathy

The Penn family on the passing of **Holly Penn '02** on August 10, 2018. **Leia '10** and **Isabella '17 Karam** on the passing of their father, Georges Karam, in August 2018.

Will Murphy '03 on the passing of his father, Steven F. X. Murphy, in September 2018.

Madison Sharp '10 on the passing of her mother, Bayo Sharp Johnson, on October 29, 2018

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 or call the Development Office at 301-652-7878, ext. 212, 214, or 215.
Thank you so much!

class correspondents
needed for years:
'91,'98,'99,'03

Follow @gowesdragons on Instagram

Alumni PROFILES

Forrest Wright '04

Shannon Egan '07

Alexis Doyle '10

This school year we are celebrating
THREE WES GRADUATES
who hold teaching positions at WES.
Read on to learn more about
this trio and what inspired them
to become educators.

Forrest Wright '04 • Kindergarten Teacher

started WES in Kindergarten, graduated 2004 | graduated The Field School 2008 | graduated Hood College 2016

FACT:

I love to travel. My family, my girlfriend, and I went to Spain over Christmas break, visiting Barcelona, Madrid, and Bilbao. I've visited 20 countries and 41 states. I am a certified Scuba diver and hope to dive the Great Barrier Reef (before it's gone). I am a DC United season ticket holder with Jeff Cook '07 and can't wait for the season to begin!

INSPIRATION:

My biggest inspiration for becoming a teacher was my mother [former math teacher and Middle School Director Nancy Wright]. She has always been an inspiration for me. My fourth-grade teacher at WES, Deighton Alleyne, was another person who inspired me. I looked up to him as a person and as a teacher. It gives me great pride that I now teach at the same school where my mother and Deighton both taught.



Forrest Wright '04

Shannon Egan '07 • Grade 5 Teacher

started WES in second grade, graduated 2007 | graduated Georgetown Visitation 2011 | graduated University of Virginia 2015



Shannon Egan '07

FACT:

WES gave me such a passion for travel that I decided to combine it with my love for teaching and, after college, moved to Japan to work at Nagoya International School in Nagoya, Japan. WES also gave me a fascination with and a love for Art History! My favorite museum is the Phillips Collection in DC, where my favorite painting "Luncheon of the Boating Party" is hanging.

INSPIRATION:

The teachers I had are what really inspired me to become a teacher. My sixth-grade teacher, Ms. Berman, always made learning, especially Ancient Civilizations—so interactive, interesting, and FUN. Walking into her class was like stepping back in time. She gave me a lifelong passion for history that I still have today! I remember thinking "Wow, that is what I want to do for kids someday!"

Alexis Doyle '10 • Transition Teacher

started WES in Transition, graduated 2010 | graduated St. Andrew's Episcopal School 2014 | graduated American University 2018

FACT:

I have always had a strong passion and interest for reading and writing. When I was in eighth grade here at WES, I decided to combine those two passions, along with my passion for teaching, to write and publish my first children's book *Jesse and His New Baby Sister*, about teaching young children how to adjust to a new sibling in their family. I wrote and published two more children's books in high school and am working on my fourth. I hope to share my love of reading with my students and inspire them to be avid readers too.

INSPIRATION:

I always admired my WES teachers for their positive energy and dedication to their students. As someone who struggled greatly with math as a student, I saw how much my teachers cared about me and always went the extra mile to help me succeed, from countless tutoring sessions to giving me materials to practice at home. I was so grateful for what my teachers here at WES did for me, that I knew that someday I wanted to play that positive role in a child's life, as well.



Alexis Doyle '10

Alumni at Summer@WES



Lisa Byskov '17, Caroline Moore '17, Tom Ferguson, and Forrest Wright '04 near the waterslide • Class of 2017 grads Nate Zola and Evan Deobald



David Stevenson '18 and camper



Lachlan Bond '17 and Karim Elkassem '17 • Molly Adams, Emelia Isola '17, and Alexis Doyle '10



Conner Nickel '18 with brothers Jack and Tyler '22 • Juwan Reid '08, David Butturini '14, and Forrest Wright '04



Class of 2017 alums Greg Jones, Zach Alexander, Evan Deobald, and Alex McMillan • Aidan Smith '16 with camper



Emma Whitaker '05 taught art at Summer@WES.



Tendai Ball '18 with camper

Connecting with alumni friends!



WELCOME BACK PARTY & Alumni Reunion

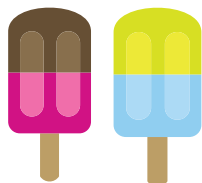
SEPTEMBER 7



Class of 2018 members, (l to r) Celia Cooper, Maddie Griffin, Isabella Dodro, Moniola Odunsi, Sabina Abdow, Maya Grebowsky, Clara Knott, Bradley Whiteway, Conner Nickel, and Alexander Mehta with Mehdi Elkassem



Joy Alycia Kramer '18 and Maya Grebowsky '18 • Miles Woodings '17, Holden Woodings '17, Christian Berko '17, Sean Lasner '17, and Zach Alexander '17
• Paul Marquardt '15 and his sister Geneva '17



Alexis Doyle '10 • Geneva Marquardt '17 and Lily Talieh '17 • Dan Freer '93 with wife Katie and daughters Charlotte '27, and Elisabeth



Bill Isola and Charles Sullivan '14 • Giovanna Massaro '18 and Katie Hopper • David Stevenson '18 and Chaplain Tim Kennedy • Lindsay Bratun '10 and Danny Vogelmann

ALUMNI REUNION

More than **45 ALUMNI** joined us for a fun reunion on January 11.
It's always great to catch up with everyone!



Front row sitting/kneeling (l to r): Nate Dennison, Mehdi Elkassem, Theo Sotoodehnia '18, Arjun Narayan '18, Josh Davidson '14, Christian Berko '17, Julian Haas '18, Celia Cooper '18, Randolph Kaminskas '17, Maddie Griffin '18, Clara Knott '18, Fiona Turnbull '18

Second Row (l to r): Isabella Dodro '18, Maya Grebowsky '18, Alex Davidson '16, Ibn Muhammad '16, Jackie Thornton, Isaiah Horne '18, Holden Woodings '17, Maddie Voth '17, Emelia Isola '17, Caitlin Lennon, Kim Bair, Ryan Kyle '15, Caroline Dickey '18, Margaret Hampe '18, Moniola Odunsi '18, Sabina Abdow '18, Emily Nelson '18

Third Row (l to r): Bill Isola, Patrick Moore '17, Tendai Ball '18, Ian Shaiyen '16, Christian Larson '17, Cole Montrose '17, Thomas Carney '17, David Stevenson '18, Geoffrey Shaiyen '16, Zach Alexander '18, Miles Woodings '17, Juwan Reid '08, David Procelli '02, Danny Vogelmann

Not pictured: Tayo Ball '17, Nick Ratliff '15, and Faris Woodings '15



David Procelli '02 and Bill Isola • Class of 2018 members: Clara Knott, Isaiah Horne, Fiona Turnbull, Emily Nelson, and Margaret Hampe • Kim Bair and Ryan Kyle '15 • Jackie Thornton and former 3B students: Holden Woodings '17, Sabina Abdow '18, Clara Knott '18, Patrick Moore '17, Zach Alexander '17, and (back row) Thomas Carney '17, and Ian Shaiyen '18

Class of 2014 Colleges

Congratulations to the Class of 2014! We have heard from the following alumni about their college choices and other plans. If we lack information about where you've landed, please send us an email: alumni@w-e-s.org. We love to hear from you!

Madison J. Bettencourt
Greensboro College
(soccer)

Ina Budina*
Marymount University

David Butturini*
University of Michigan

Georgia Currie*
Syracuse University

Josh Davidson*
Towson University

Jack Dueffert*
Loyola Marymount

Nick Gelos*
University of
St. Andrews
(Scotland)

Sofia González-Kosasky
University of Chicago

Anders Groeschel*
University of Maryland,
College Park

Cameron Harris*
Washington University

Jack Helmanis*
University of New
Hampshire

Aadil Husain
University of Maryland,
College Park

Oliver Johnson*
Colgate University

Becky Levinson
Brandeis University

Samantha Liggins*
Rutgers University

Parker Lotstein
University of Chicago

Grace Mahaffie*
New York University

Marcus Mahtemework*
Northeastern
University

Tom Mangan*
University of Pittsburgh

Anna-Sophia Massaro*
Bates College

Blaine Mengistu-Gunn*
American University

Brendan O'Donnell*
Loyola University of
Chicago

Lily Puchalla*
University of Mississippi

Lucy Reardon
Guilford College

Lawrence Redmond*
Emory University
(swimming)

Josie Roberts*
Harvard College

Charles Rubert*
McDaniel College

Athena Skoufias*
University of California
San Diego

Elen Stepanyan*
Washington & Lee
University
National Merit Scholar

Charles Sullivan*
Gap year; playing
lacrosse for Middlesex
Bears (MA)

Tayyaba Tareq*
University of Maryland

Claire van Stolk
Emory University

Case van Stolk
College of Wooster

Piers Watson
University of Utah

Ben Weinberger
University of Southern
California

Sean Weinberger
University of Southern
California

Elizabeth Wells*
Gap Year, Sewanee, the
University of the South
(fall 2019)

* WES graduate

Exciting Author Visits

What makes author visits so special to students?

One peek inside the room during an author's presentation tells the whole story: children are as quiet as mice, enraptured, intently listening to every word read, examining every illustration. Whether they have heard this story for the first, second, or 100th time, or whether the author is familiar to them or if this is the first introduction, the magic is happening right here in this room. These visits always make the process of bookmaking – writing, illustrating, and authors – accessible. Students and even the adults in the room leave feeling encouraged and thinking that they, too, could possibly be an author or illustrator one day.

We are fortunate to have hosted three authors this fall. Each had much to share with our students, each making a lasting impression.

Ellen Oh

Author **Ellen Oh**, an award-nominated children's and young adult author of *Spirit Hunters* and the highly-acclaimed *Prophecy* trilogy was one of two visiting authors during the Book Fair in December. Parents and faculty attending her first presentation of the day which included her background, growing up in Brooklyn as a Korean-American. Although the library and books were some of the most significant influences in her life, she found it difficult to relate to the characters in the stories she read. As a former lawyer and seeker of justice, she was motivated to co-found #WeNeedDiverseBooks, a ground-breaking, grassroots non-profit organization of children's book lovers that advocates essential changes in the publishing industry to produce and promote literature that reflects and honors the lives of all young people.



Oh also gave two entertaining, informative, and inspirational presentations to students, describing the process of writing and editing a book (*one of her books required 57 drafts and an endless supply of Krispy Kreme donuts*). She also fielded questions, signed books for devoted fans, and had lunch with a small group of students and faculty.



Barbara Kanninen

Barbara Kanninen is a local children's writer and is also an environmental economist and member of the Arlington County, VA, School Board. She read her latest picture book, *Circle Rolls*, which was featured in *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* to students in Transition to Grade 3. Chatting with the students about how her book came to be, she revealed that her colorfully illustrated book actually started out as poem! She also discussed the challenges of writing a picture book, how she worked with an illustrator, and shared a few secrets about the book and its cover.

T.R. Simon

Children's author and recipient of a Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe award for New Talent, **T.R. Simon** discussed her new book, *Zora and Me: The Cursed Ground* with students in Grades 5-8 in October. Simon explores topics of segregation and the lingering effects of slavery through character Zora Neale Hurston's adventures. During the session she also chatted about her inspiration for creating literature and her lifelong love of reading. She, in addition to author Ellen Oh, discussed how it was a challenge when she was growing up, to find books that contained protagonists and other characters to whom she could relate.



Thank you to the Parents Association for funding the visit of Ellen Oh, and to Politics & Prose for making possible the visit from T.R. Simon.



WASHINGTON
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Nursery - Grade 8
5600 Little Falls Parkway
Bethesda, MD 20816

www.w-e-s.org
Address Service Requested

RECYCLE SYMBOL
FPO



Grades 4 and 8 Chapel Pals walk together along the Capital Crescent Trail to St. Dunstan's for the All Saints' Day Chapel.