

The
WES
Magazine
WINTER 2020



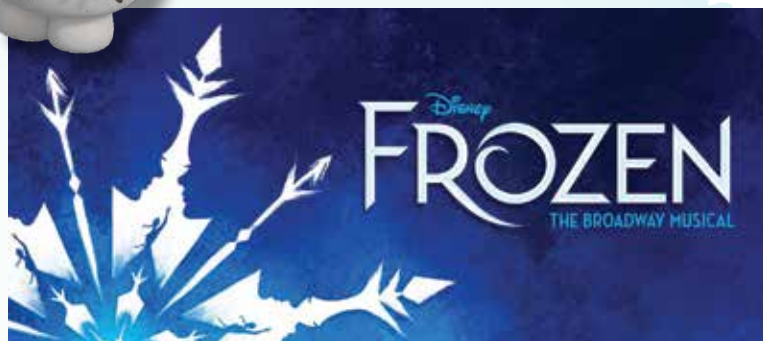
WASHINGTON EPISCOPAL SCHOOL 

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Reader's Pick,
A Top Vote Getter,
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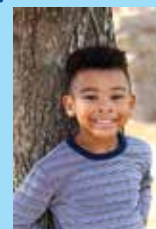
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January Reunion and Class of 2015 Colleges

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:

Pre-K student Caio enjoys a sunny day on the playground during recess this fall.

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The first five months of this school year have been filled with exciting and meaningful initiatives and projects.

We started construction on our brand new STEM Lab, continued the second year of our math curriculum review, welcomed a fantastic group of new faculty, and we hosted an AIMS reaccreditation visiting team.

One of the comments from the AIMS visiting team that truly resonated with us was, "It was a delight to see your mission very much alive and thriving at WES." Our mission has changed over the years, but one element of it has stayed consistent – WES's focus on creating a joyful learning environment for all of our students.

This year I asked our school community to re-focus on ensuring that we create that genuine joyful learning environment here at WES. In order to do this, as educators, we are responsible for creating safe, nurturing, and vibrant classrooms; making connections with students and helping students make connections to the content; and providing engaging and meaningful learning experiences.

In this issue of *The WES Magazine* you will see how our mission is brought to life every day. Our feature article highlights the experiential learning opportunities that provide our students with unique experiences throughout the year. You will read about students designing a community,

improving our community's sustainability efforts, and having a conversation with an astronaut on the NASA International Space Station. In their own words, they describe the profound impact these opportunities have had on them.

As I mentioned at Thanksgiving Chapel, one of the opportunities I have had to witness experiential learning first-hand is through my participation in our Grade 8 study trip to the Chesapeake Bay. Over this three-day adventure, students develop an appreciation for the Bay and, more generally, of our natural resources. Students crab, dredge for oysters, mud muck in the swamp, and interact with the local community. But my favorite part of our trip this past November occurred on the last morning. We woke up before sunrise, walked to the nearby docks, and sat in silence as we watched the sun come up over the horizon. Students were asked to reflect on the experiences they shared over those last few days. The thoughts and insights they shared demonstrated how this authentic learning experience had affected each one of our students.

As our AIMS colleagues stated, "the WES mission is very much alive," and these unique experiences are certainly a testament to that. This issue of *The WES Magazine* is filled with photos and stories of the opportunities our Dragons enjoy every day. ***It's exciting to be a Dragon!***

Sincerely,

Danny Vogelman

P.S. Be sure to read our Alumni section (pages 19-28) about our Alumni who tell us all the time how WES inspired and prepared them for the incredible things they are doing today!

Getting to know

Elementary School Director Zoe Hillman



What attracted you to WES?

I have been working in education for over 25 years now and I am fortunate to have had experience in public, independent, and international schools in the UK, US, and Europe. I have always been drawn to schools that emphasize character education alongside rigorous academics and WES's mission to support children to be kind, confident, and prepared really resonated with me. Additionally, having worked in an N-8 school in Seattle, I knew what an incredibly nurturing and empowering environment this model affords to all children at crucial stages of their development. Prior to WES, I was working as Lower School Associate Director at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, a JK-12 school in Alexandria, VA. As I considered my next move, I wanted to find a smaller school where I would be able to develop close and intimate relationships with faculty and families. I am thrilled to be part of WES's wonderful and close community!

We understand you were born and raised in the UK. Tell us how you landed in Maryland.

That is quite a long story! My husband and I have had a rather itinerant marriage, initially due to his work as a journalist with the BBC. Soon after our wedding in 1998, we moved to Hong Kong (where my daughter was born) then Singapore (where my son was born) and then on to Brussels for three years, followed by a wonderful two years in NYC before finally returning 'home' to the UK. However, Jeremy accepted a job in communications with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and we spent three years in Seattle. Jeremy's position at The World Bank Group brought us to DC where we have spent nearly six years. I feel fortunate that we have lived in so many interesting places and I am grateful for the professional experience of working in different schools around the world.

We see your bicycle parked at WES frequently. Tell us about that.

My undergraduate degree was in zoology and I have always been very invested in issues around sustainability and preserving and honoring the natural environment. After a 40-50 minute plus commute to Alexandria every day, I am delighted to be able to find a more sustainable way to get to work—via bicycle! I was initially finding my bike commute to and from school (around 7 minutes max!) a little too short. More recently I have been walking as this enables me to process the day, decompress, and listen to podcasts and audiobooks along the route.

I love to be outside and I think it is extremely important that we teach children about the outdoors and provide contact with nature as much as possible. I have a postcard in my office that says, "Teaching a child not to step on a caterpillar is as important for the child as it is for the caterpillar," and I believe it is all our responsibility to take ownership of that role and value the crucial interconnectedness of living things and the natural world.



What have been some of the most meaningful or enjoyable parts of your position at WES so far?

One of my biggest goals this year was to get to know the community as much as I could and I have deeply valued all the conversations I have had with families and students, no matter how big or small. I love the way children will now stop by my office and give me a wave or a cheery "hello!" as they walk past, pause to tell me something important, or take look at the LEGO figures in my window.

I have also really valued the opportunity to see children actively engaged and passionate about learning throughout the Elementary School. From peering closely and excitedly at maps with magnifying glasses to discover road names and urban features in Grade 2, to lively and challenging 'math talks' in Grade 3, STEM learning and entrepreneurship in Grade 4, and rigorous thinking and analysis of perspectives in a Grade 5 social studies unit on Westward Expansion, there is a lot happening in the Elementary School! I am proud to be part of a community that values learning and engagement so deeply.

Tell us about your family.

We have two children, Millie (20) and Isaac (18). I still refer to them as my "babies," much to their chagrin! Millie is a junior at Scripps College in California and Isaac is a freshman at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. We also have two dogs, Heidi and Corduroy, a cat named Hudson and five chickens (Majorie Merriweather, Mrs. Buffington, Daisy, Hen Solo, and Princess Lay-er).

What are some of your hobbies?

I am a keen gardener, and I love hiking, skiing, travel and of course, spending time with family. As an ex Kindergarten/ early childhood teacher, I love making things and any creative activities! My daughter and I love to cook together and we often share recipes and plan menus, even when she is on the West Coast!

Anything else that you would like to share?

Maya Angelou said, "At the end of the day people won't remember what you said or did, they will remember how you made them feel." As teachers, we have an enormous responsibility to our students. We must ensure they feel loved and known, and yet we also need to demonstrate we have faith in them and what they can achieve. This is something I think about often as I work with students throughout the Elementary School. 🌱

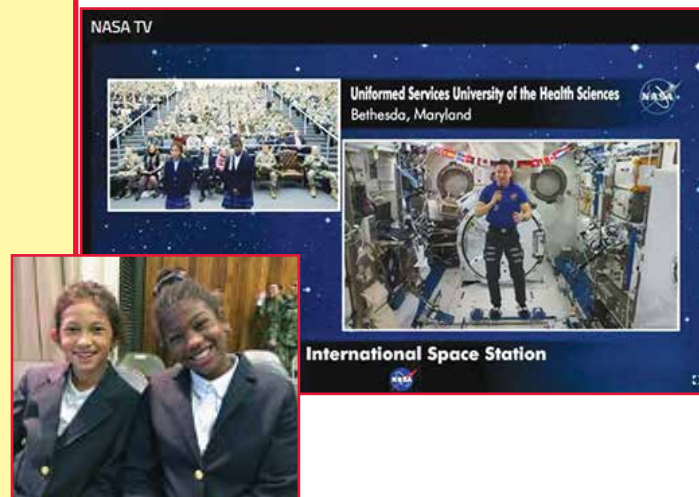
EMPHASIS ON EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

LEARNING BY DOING. That is the essence of experiential learning, a phrase that was the first used by educational theorist David A. Kolb in 1984. It is built on the premise that we learn the most through experience and is one of the most widely used learning models. At WES, experiential learning permeates the learning culture. *Goal 1 of our Strategic Plan highlights its importance: “Provide extraordinary, balanced, and connected student learning,” and the first strategy under this Goal is to “expand experiential learning opportunities for all students to apply classroom teaching to real world experience.”*

“Although the concept of learning by doing is quite simple, the objectives are powerful for our students,” according to Head of School Danny Vogelmann. “Whether it’s marsh mucking in the Bay, running in a cross country meet, singing at the National Cathedral, building a circuit in science class, preparing food for homeless people, learning to play an instrument, or using manipulatives in a math class, students are having meaningful experiences—every day—that allow them to achieve a deeper sense of learning and make connections to the world around them.” Engaging the senses and immersing in an educational experience is a wholly different experience than sitting at a desk or listening to a lecture. This leads to a greater understanding of content, better retention, and associating new concepts with ones they already know. It can also help students to understand other people’s circumstances and be empathetic.

WHAT DOES EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING LOOK LIKE FROM THE STUDENTS’ POINTS OF VIEW?

Let’s examine a few examples of opportunities and activities that our students have been engaged in this school year. Teachers as well as parents have been instrumental in orchestrating these incredible experiences for students across the grades. Hear from our students, in their own words:



NASA INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION CHAT WITH ASTRONAUT, GRADE 6

Sixth-graders went to the Uniformed Services University (USU) in October to witness a live stream event from the International Space Station (ISS) with astronaut Co. (Dr.) Drew Morgan. He chatted with the students about the training required to be an astronaut, his mission, and about the ISS. Grade 6 students Maya and Meg asked Morgan a question that they prepared in anticipation of this event. After the event, the NASA medical team lead for the current space mission, Mr. Scheuring, spoke to the students and fielded questions. This was part of the Applied Concepts, Innovation, & Entrepreneurship STEM class that was nimble enough to take advantage of this opportunity, arranged by WES dad Rick Bond.

“If you told me in September that I would be talking with an astronaut in the Space Station in October, I would have thought you were joking with me! This experience put in perspective that astronauts have different careers—like doctors and firefighters—but that anyone could really become one. I see astronauts very differently now. I know this was a rare opportunity and I’m grateful.” —Meg, Grade 6

“What we took away from our conversation was that if you really put your mind to something, you can achieve it. The astronaut told us that persistence and patience are everything. He waited about 10 years before he actually went into space.”—Maya, Grade 6

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY: GRADES 7 & 8

In late October, students attended the outdoor church service in Franklin Square Park led by the historic Church of the Epiphany in DC. Rev. Glenna Huber shared important information with the students about the details of homelessness in our city, and students asked thoughtful questions. They engaged with homeless people in the park, having conversations and treating them with compassion and respect. After the service, they served food.

“It surprised me that there were so many homeless people that enjoyed having a service in the park. Watching this changed my perspective of living. It showed me that we are very fortunate to have a roof over our head. It also made me realize that sometimes we feel entitled to have a home without even realizing it. I understand now that homeless people have many beliefs to keep them in positive moods and so they don’t lose hope in finding a home. I feel like in a way they are much braver than I could ever be because they are resourceful, smart, and make the best of any situation, including not having a stable home.” —Emanuelle, Grade 8

CHESAPEAKE BAY TRIP: GRADE 8

Students spent three days and two nights on Smith Island, MD or Port Isobel near Tangier Island, VA in a program with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, learning about water conservation and other strategies for improving the Bay’s health. During the trip they caught crabs and other aquatic life with local watermen, explored the marsh, learned about the region’s history and ecology, and focused on conservation. They enjoyed existing on “island time,” without the benefit of clocks or electronics as they prepared their own meals, visited the local towns, and hiked under the stars.

“One of the main things I learned from the Chesapeake Bay trip was that the Bay and the lifestyles of those who depend on it are disappearing. I didn’t truly understand the extent of this until I went to Smith Island and saw how little was left. The trip was eye opening; I hope they Bay can be saved.” —Victor, Grade 8

“I learned a lot about constellations and how the stars move. The night sky was absolutely stellar and the view was just out of this world. Back here in the city and suburbs, things like starry skies and sunrises are rarely able to be seen. However, back at the bay, the lack of light and air pollution allows these things to be seen all year long.” —Camille, Grade 8

WATER WALK: GRADE 7

Grade 7 students read *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park, and replicated South Sudanese children’s two-hour trek to acquire water for their family by carrying gallon jugs of water around campus. Students also studied water cycles and prepared a slide show project based on drought-affected areas around the world.

“Doing the water walk just gave me a small idea of what it’s like for the people with limited or no water at all. I bet people in some villages have one public source of water for bathing and other usages. In some cases people have so much water, but it is not filtered. This can affect lots of people with weaker immune systems, because of many varieties of bacteria in the water. Lots of people are dying because of these terrible conditions.” —Najee, Grade 7

STEM LABS, FIELD TRIPS, GUEST SPEAKERS: GRADE 4

Grade 4 students engaged in labs, went on a field trip to Carderock Naval Surface Warfare Center, had a guest speaker from the power company, and conceived, built, and presented inventions during their term I STEM rotation. They also conceptualized, marketed, and sold reusable “AquaStraws” to help save sea turtles.

“The only other time I saw electrical current is when plugging in a lamp or when we blew a fuse. I liked using the Van de Graaff generator; I learned about electrical conductors and how magnets work.” —Iris, Grade 4



SICKLE CELL ANEMIA WITH DR. NICKEL: KINDERGARTEN & GRADE 1

Kindergarten and Grade 1 students learned about Sickle Cell Anemia during a visit from Dr. Robert (Shep) Nickel, MD. A hematologist with Children’s National Hospital. Later that week they raised funds for Sickle Cell research by making bracelets during First Friday Night, a WES community service initiative.

“I felt a little nervous at first when I got my heart beat taken. [Dr. Nickel’s presentation] made me think about sick children and how he’s helping them. It also made me think about Emmanuel and his visit (I lost my tooth on that very day). I want to be a doctor when I grow up” —Raina, Kindergarten

STUDENTS IN GRADE 1 were invited to design and simply create a building of their choice that they would add to a community, as part of their unit on communities. With the help of their parents, they used their imagination to build a useful structure in the community.

“To keep the city safe, I added a police station. I also added a helicopter so we could reach places hard to get to. It was fun to build it instead of just drawing it.” —Michael, Grade 1



LEARNING BY

DOING



Early Childhood Nursery · Pre-K · Kindergarten · Grade 1

Experiential learning, exploration, and teamwork are essential components in the Early Childhood program for building life skills and a deeper understanding of lessons taught. Here are a just a few examples from Nursery, Pre-K, Kindergarten, and Grade 1.

In art class, [Nursery](#) students learned about Vincent van Gogh as they focused on his paintings of sunflowers. After observing real sunflowers, noting the colors and shapes of the center of the flower and its leaves, they used chalk to draw first the center of the flower and then the leaves. When painting the petals, students learned to start their brush stroke at the center of their flower and whisk their brush straight out, lifting it at the end to make a pointy petal. To create the effect of seeds in the center, students printed light brown paint in the center of their flower using the back of a magic marker cap. One proud artist commented that his painting should be in a real museum, just like Mr. van Gogh's!

[Pre-K](#) students were immersed in French culture as they participated in a special Tour de France during French International Week. After learning about the famous bicycle race the students donned French berets and climbed aboard tricycles and raced around the playground bike trail. Other students watched the race and chanted, "Allez, allez!" One student exclaimed, "That was hard work, but I spun my bike out fast, and went all the way around, and the best part was winning the trophy!" After the race, Pre-K students joined their Kindergarten friends in sampling regional foods such as croissants, gingerbread, apple cider, and Belgian chocolates. This event delighted our students and successfully promoted a sense of joy and wonder!

[Kindergartners](#) took learning about apples to a whole new level as they began this unit of study visiting an apple orchard. Picking apples off the trees proved to be fairly easy when they used the "lift and twist" method, and they all agreed that freshly picked apples taste best standing in the middle of an orchard! With bags of apples from the field trip, the next project was making applesauce! The only "magic" necessary was the power of partnership. Working in pairs, students used a spiralizer to peel, core, and slice the apples. Along with a lot of laughter, there were expressions of surprise/joy/consternation, as one student would hold the spiralizer in place while the partner turned the crank. Then each pair of students placed their apples in the crockpot, and together the class added cinnamon sticks and lemon juice. The true meaning of patience was experienced as they realized the apples would have to cook overnight. When they arrived at school the next morning, the



tantalizing aroma of applesauce greeted them all the way down the hall. After tasting their creation, everyone agreed the best apple sauce is the apple sauce you make yourself!

In a [Grade 1](#) unit on communities, students experienced the roles of being a builder and urban planner as they created buildings out of recycled goods to place in a residential, commercial, or industrial section of a community. They used their creativity to imagine the different types of buildings that would go into their community--houses, apartment buildings, a library, a football field, a hospital, a small zoo, theatres, a storage center, restaurants, a school, and more--and built them at home, so parents got involved as well. Airports, a landfill, a truck stop, a nuclear power plant and a military base stood further away from these buildings offering an industrial component to the project. Looming over these buildings also stood the US Capitol. A great deal of thought and planning went into the creation of the buildings and their placement in the community, and the children shared the details of the buildings with great pride. According to one of the first-graders, "We need to place the mall by the apartment buildings, because lots of people will want to go shopping." Another student shared, "I think the two theaters should be close to each other in case one show gets sold out." And they made sure that the football stadium was close to the school! This hands-on project resulted in greater comprehension and deeper learning for all of the urban planners in Grade 1.



On the previous page:

- Grade 1 students learn about sound (pitch, frequency, and sound waves) in science class.
- Bishop of Washington the Right Reverend Mariann Budde and Chaplain Kristen gather with Nursery students at an NPK Chapel in October.
- A nursery student carefully paints a petal on his sunflower in art class.
- A first-grader's apartment building that she created for Grade 1's community



1. A first-grader plays the high frequency word game "Splat!"
2. Using manipulatives in a Pre-K math session
3. A first-grader climbs on the "tarantula" bars during recess
4. Dr. Dibinga teaches Kindergarteners how to count in Swahili as they learn about Kwanzaa in December.
5. Kindergarteners race to the finish at the annual Tour de France, a special foreign language event in November.
6. A Pre-K student helps music teacher Ms. Todd play guitar during a lesson about rhythm.
7. Kindergarteners prepare applesauce with the apples they picked at the farm.
8. Angelic Kindergarten students rehearse for the NPK Christmas Chapel in December.
9. Reading buddies in Kindergarten and Grade 5 choose a good book to read.





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

Experiential learning in the Elementary School provides opportunities for students to engage in many ways with hands-on, authentic activities and materials. The key element of experiential learning is the “doing,” and this approach activates and empowers students as learners. Tapping into natural curiosity and creativity, they become deeply invested in their learning and develop additional skills such as perseverance, resiliency, and innovation. Earlier in the school year, [Grade 5](#) students engaged in some novel [problem-solving in mathematics](#). In a unit titled *Brad's Baseballs*, fifth-grade mathematicians were invited to solve the problem of a business owner needing to decide how he could ship 24 baseballs in boxes to his customers. Students built a variety of rectangular prisms using unifix cubes, they recorded the dimensions, compared volume to surface area, and then determined formulas to calculate volume and surface area. This hands-on learning tied into a review of factors—multiples, and single-digit multiplication and division—while connecting to formulas for volume and surface area, double-digit and more complex triple-digit multiplication and division, and algebra.

[Grade 2's](#) recent *Where I Live* study grew out of a unit on identity and [bridged to their social studies theme](#) study of Washington, DC. The children recorded their home addresses from the school directory, and they used map coordinates to locate their street on a road atlas. They used magnifying glasses to distinguish lanes from roads from avenues, and they used compass points

to articulate their process. As they found where they each lived, they discovered that some students lived “off the map!” So they pieced together more map sections and expanded the range to the north, south, and west. The map helped learners visualize and better understand distances, directions, map elements, as well as relative location to WES, to each other, and to the landmarks of DC. The students’ [curiosity guided their learning](#), and the interactive nature of the project made the concepts joyful and deeply meaningful.

Experiential learning can support the [development of leadership skills](#), as seen in our Applied Concepts, Innovation and Entrepreneurship classes (highlighted earlier). Students also experience leading in impactful and tangible ways through our Student Advisory Group (SAG) committee. Recent student-driven initiatives have led to the development of a volleyball “court” near the grass field as well as the availability of plain water as a beverage choice in the lunchroom. Students were deeply passionate about their roles and through the [committee experience](#), learned to debate, listen to opposing views, articulate their thoughts, and advocate for their point of view. They developed an action plan and lobbied influential adults (such as Mr. Vogelmann, Mr. Isola, and Mr. Schussler) to seek support. Such empowering experiences and positive action are a testament to students’ learning at WES.



On the previous page, from top left:

- Student Advisory Group representatives from Grades 2, 3, 4, and 5 with Mr. Vogelmann and Mrs. Hillman in October
- Second-graders examine a lobster as part of their aquatic organism unit of study in STEM class.
- A third-grader uses an infrared temperature sensor to measure temperature during an energy audit of the school in STEM class.
- Second-graders bike during their bike-a-thon in October, to promote the bike collection for Emmanuel's Dream Foundation in West Africa.

1. Chaplain Kristen leads a discussion on the Virtue of the Month, Reverence, during Chapel in December.



2. A fourth-grader creates a “monster stuffie” to donate to sick children during the First Friday Night community service outreach.

3. Mrs. Bridle's class gets a morning meeting visit from Wesley the Dragon!

4. A third-grader works on days of the week in Spanish class.

5. The Grade 4 Chorus sings “Rain Down” at Washington National Cathedral on Episcopal Schools Day in October.

6. Students in Grades 2 and 4 visited and read with residents of Sunrise Senior Living during First Friday December.

7. Second-graders work collaboratively on a project in language arts.

8. A fifth-grader shares his memoir with his mother during Parent Visiting Day

9. A fourth-grader prepares to read a Bible story during a Chapel service.





Middle School
Grade 6 • Grade 7 • Grade 8

Middle schoolers love to learn by doing. Day after day, students on the third floor at WES are exploring, debating, building, dissecting, and creating. Learning by doing, or experiential learning, encompasses some of the most stimulating lessons, activities, and projects that our students engage in.

In **Grade 6**, students can immediately apply new knowledge to create something unique, such as a building a website in technology class, or decorating a “papyrus” in the style of Ancient Egyptian art. Classes in art and technology, in particular, provide learning-by-coaching scenarios, which offer the benefit of immediate feedback during the design and creation process.

Grade Seven’s study of the life sciences provides them the unique opportunity of close examination of anatomy – a sheep’s eye, for instance. A dissection project is not only a tactile and visual experience, but the shared group efforts in a lab dissection provide practice in teamwork and communication skills.

Field trips are a wonderful form of experiential learning that immerse students in a particular topic, such as art, history, civics, or even service. Regardless of the destination or topic, middle school students are always given the opportunity to reflect on their trip experience. The practice of reflection is a strong pathway for learning – solidifying experience in memory for a lasting impression. You can read about our [recent eighth-grade](#)



service trip and the poignant reflections of our students in our feature article.

Students’ reflective exercises provide them with a deep learning experience that defines their middle school years here at WES. All you have to do is read through the journals of our middle schoolers as they return from their study trips in late spring. Each grade immerses themselves in a rich, active learning experience far from the classroom: in the Desert Southwest, central Italy, Paris and the Normandy region of France, or Madrid and Grenada, Spain. Their required journals chronicle their impressions, questions, and experiences in original art, poetry, and narrative. Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of experiential learning is that the learning is immediate, and the accomplishments are concrete.



On previous page, from top left:

- Grade 6 students hear about the history of Great Falls before they raft down the Potomac during their team-building excursion in September.
- Mrs. Yirenkyi gives design advice to a sixth-grader on his Egyptian tablet project in the Art Studio.
- A sixth-grader’s final Egyptian project integrates Art and Ancient Civilizations studies.

1. Seventh-graders test compounds during a pH lab in science class in September.
2. Sixth-grade Chorus members after their performance at Winter Wonderland in downtown Bethesda in December
3. Grade 8 Spirit Squad members spread school spirit before the Grade 8/Faculty soccer game in November.
4. Mr. Isola’s Middle School advisory poses in front of their door decorations for the contest.
5. Faculty and eighth-graders have fun during the Grade 8/Faculty soccer game, a tradition everyone loves.
6. An eighth-grader speaks during an Admission Open House.
7. Grade 8 students pause outside before All Saints’ Day Chapel at St. Dunstan’s.
8. Middle schoolers make sandwiches for Bethesda Cares during First Friday December.
9. Chapel Pals in Grades 2 and 6 make bookmarks and get to know each other better during a special Chapel time together in October.
10. Grade 7 students experience what it’s like to walk miles to procure water for their daily needs after studying water crises around the world in geography.
11. A sixth-grader works on solving a problem during the ISMAW Middle School Math Meet, hosted by WES in October.



This art is a snapshot of a variety of unique art experiences in which students explored living things, identity, and history. These experiences included grappling with materials, developing new ideas, and reflecting on their progress and choices in artmaking. WES art teachers strive to have students engage in the creative process through their senses of touch, sight, and hearing by utilizing real objects, textures, and sounds to inspire their work.



The culminating projects from the first four months of the school year were the Christmas and holiday performances by students in Nursery through Grade 8. For some students, this was the first time they were on a stage, sang, provided a solo, or played an instrument. And for others, their musical talents have expanded and grown each year. The hard work, focus, poise, and determination from our students and superb direction (and patience) from our music instructors resulted in beautiful music floating from two special Chapel services (Nursery-Grade 3), and the Band & Choral Concert (Grades 4-8) that included *A Cappella* and Jazz Band performances in December. *Bravo!*





THE FALL SEASON laid a foundation of growth for some teams, shaped the beginnings of an up and coming 5/6 girls soccer team, and produced a 7/8 grade boys soccer champion! Each team personified the school’s athletic philosophy while exhibiting their commitment to promoting the ideals of sportsmanship, respect, integrity, leadership, and team competition.



CROSS COUNTRY

There was a youth movement for the **cross country team** as they welcomed many newcomers to the fold. Led by seventh-grader Ethan Oeltmann and sixth-grader Molly Bonham, the team has laid the groundwork for a bright future. Congratulations to eighth-grader Lia Walton for her hard work this fall. As a first-year runner and newcomer to the team, she was able to improve her time by more than four minutes!



SOCCER



The **girls 5/6 team** had a strong core of players who helped lead them to their most successful season in five years. Led by sixth-graders Alex Bond and Arohi Narayan, the girls compiled a 5-2 record. Their highlight victory of the season was a 1-0 win against the Stone Ridge Gators. The **girls 7/8 team** had a hard fought season. Though they were not able to come away as successful as their 5/6 counterparts, the team was a tough opponent on the field and their games were well-played.



The **5/6 boys team** boasted a large 26-person roster. It took the early season to get their teamwork down as they suffered a few losses, but by season’s end they were a well-oiled machine, and finished out on a three-game unbeaten streak. The **7/8 team** had a similar fate in the early season as they learned to play team ball. Led by eighth-graders Marco Burrows, Nassim Elkassem, Samir Elkassem, and Trey Knott, they got to mid-season form quickly, and eventually finished the season taking first place at the St. Andrew’s Invitational in October with eighth-grader Zaid Stormer netting the winning goal from 20 yards out! **GO DRAGONS!**





#summeratwes



The Best Nine Weeks of Summer

Summer is a time to chill, make new friends, discover something new, and have fun. Summer@WES 2019 helped campers check all the boxes as they explored, created, learned, performed, and enjoyed all or parts of the best nine-weeks of summer here at WES.

Camp Director Bill Isola reported that enrollment at Summer@WES was the second-largest ever. "We have terrific, creative teachers, many of whom are WES school year staff faculty, who introduce new themes and activities, which is one reason why our camp is so popular, year-after-year." **Cooking** was a big hit last summer as Lucy's "Farm to Table" session explored where the food on your plate comes from. Camper chefs grew vegetables and herbs on location, prepared recipes, and enjoyed the fruits of their labors. "Cupcake Wars" and "Chopped" cooking competitions brought Food Network cooking shows to life. Other **new offerings** included Drone Racing and Obstacle Course Challenge sessions and Rising Stars Theater Camp, which attracted many campers.

Of course **sleepaway camp** at Camp Tall Timbers during Week 1 was a memorable experience for 45 campers, Jr. Counselors, and CITs. It was the first real sleepaway camp for many children and provided jam-packed action in a traditional camping setting.

Campers took advantage of many of the **area attractions and adventures** from the zoo, to a water park, ropes course, tubing, Sky Zone indoor skydiving, an escape room, and the Spy Museum. Water-slide Wednesdays always made a big splash, and the July 4th cookout was a big crowd-pleaser. Academic skills development provided campers an opportunity to refresh and advance their proficiencies in reading, writing, and math. **Robotics** sessions have been a mainstay at Summer@WES and offered tech lovers a chance to create and program robots. Drone technology was a new addition to the program with Jr. Drone Pilots.

Who doesn't love a carnival? Week 7 wrapped up for campers ages 4-6 with a carnival, games, face-painting, festive foods, and engaging activities that our creative counselors, Jr. Counselors, and CITs designed and made. With an creative new theme each week, Jr. Dragon Day camp kept campers busy with hands-on activities that promoted learning, inspired the imagination, and resulted in fun! Daily water play added to the adventure.

Exciting options for children in Grades 3-8 included engineering, archery, cartooning, "Maker Tinker Thinker" STEM activities, geocaching, cooking, art, and walking along the trail to Bethesda Pool for an afternoon swim. **Partner Camps** featured PPA Soccer, Tru2Form Basketball, and LEAD Camp (Leadership, Entrepreneurs, and Athletic Development), giving campers expert training and insight right here at WES. The **talent show** was as lively as ever, with group and individual acts tumbling, singing, dancing, performing magic tricks, and playing instruments. "Old Town Road" became our unofficial anthem of the summer because so many campers (and counselors!) chose this song to dance or sing to!

Summer is just a few months away with adventures, fun, friends, and learning for all Summer@WES campers! We can't wait!

Summer@WES 2020 starts on June 8!

REGISTER NOW
at www.w-e-s.org/summer.



Left photo, l to r: Maureen Kellerman, Cameron Yeutter, Kristen Pitts, Wendy Tasin, Omékongo Dibinga, Stacy Xu, Kevin Corcy, Kate Todd, Ann Freniere, Barbora Bridle

Right photo, l to r: Jon Marshall, Stephanie Jayakanthan, Susan Miranda, Matt Eisenberg, Ali Lackey, Jacquie Hunter, Zoe Hillman, Erin Magee

Welcome to our Newest Faculty!

Our 18 enthusiastic new faculty members share their hometowns and something about themselves below:

Barbora Bridle*, Grade 5 Teacher

Hometown: Zlin, Czech Republic; favorite childhood book: *Le Petit Prince*

Kevin Corcy, Middle School French Teacher

Hometown: Meaux, France; favorite genre of books: fantasy and dystopia theme

Omékongo Dibinga, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Facilitator Hometown: Boston, MA; favorite country visited: South Africa

Matt Eisenberg Band Director & Grade 3 Music Teacher

Hometown: Bethesda, MD; favorite book: *Discworld* by Terry Pratchett

Ann Freniere, Assistant to the Head of School

Hometown: Washington, DC (4th generation); favorite author: Ian Karon

Zoe Hillman, Elementary School Director

Hometown: West Sussex, Arundel, UK; favorite book from childhood: *A Secret Garden*

Jacquie Hunter, Elementary and Middle School Learning Specialist

Hometown: Easton, PA; She has lived and taught in Thailand, Brazil, and California

Stephanie Jayakanthan, Director of Communications and Marketing Hometown: Decatur, AL; hobbies: cooking, live theatre, and the very occasional yoga class

Maureen Kellerman, Middle School Math Teacher

Hometown: Horsham, PA; cheers on the Eagles, Phillies, and Penn State

Ali Lackey, Early Childhood Learning Specialist

Hometown: Sharon, MA; a favorite book: *Wonder*

Erin Magee, Grade 4 Teacher

Hometown: Olney, MD; hobbies: singing and dancing; learning to play the piano and ukulele

Jonathan Marshall*, Grade 6 Ancient Civilization & World Religion Teacher Hometown: Sedgwick, ME; favorite book from childhood: *Stuart Little*

Susan Miranda, Pre-Kindergarten Teacher

Hometown: Alexandria, VA; favorite cuisine: Asian, from sushi to pad Thai and pho

Kristen Pitts, Chaplain

Hometown: Hickory Tavern, SC; hobbies: reading, cooking, painting, and playing banjo and ukulele

Wendy Tasin, Business Officer

Hometown: New Orleans, LA; favorite teams: LSU and the New Orleans Saints

Kate Todd, Early Childhood Music Teacher

Hometown: Innisfil, Ontario, Canada; enjoys writing, playing, and recording original music and performing locally.

Stacy Xu, Senior Accountant

Hometown: Hunan, China; hobbies: reading, hiking, and cooking

Cameron Yeutter, Grade 3 Teacher

Hometown: Chevy Chase, MD; enjoys playing and watching sports, baking, and anything involving music

*Returning faculty

Visiting Author

A highlight for students during the annual WES Book Fair is getting to meet, hear from, and chat with a visiting author. This past December, students in Grades 2-8 were delighted to have award-winning author Adam Gidwitz, the author of *The Tale Dark & Grimm* series and the new *Unicorn Rescue Society* series, present to them. A Newbery Honor recipient for *The Inquisitor's Tale*, Gidwitz enchanted his Dragon audiences with reflections and tales about his childhood, providing evidence that storytelling is his special gift. The students were engaged and enraptured as they focused on every word the author said or read.



Gidwitz shared a story about how he became a professional writer. As a child, while he played basketball or with G.I. Joe figures, he routinely imagined elaborate narratives in his head. But he never wrote down these stories. When he was in seventh grade, an author visited his school, telling the children that, "What writers do is write." Although Adam relished making up stories, he believed that he would never be a writer because he had not written down any of his stories. Some years later, Adam realized that in his head, he had been writing the whole time. He just needed to put pen to paper. Once he did, his incredible stories came to life! The beauty of having authors visit is that they just might be inspiring the next great novelist, right here at WES!

Thank you to the Parents Association for helping fund this exciting author visit. 🐉



Board of Trustees 2019-2020



Front Row, l-r: Keeley Snider, Nicole Miller*, Jay Irwin*, Danny Vogelmann (Head of School), M. Michele Hogan, Anastasia Gekis (Piris), Stacie DeRamus (Secretary), Jayesh Panchal*
Back Row, l-r: Jeff Tignor*, Liz Tyndall*, Mark Ball (Vice Chair), The Reverend Prince Decker (Bishop's Representative), Dawn Harding (Faculty Representative), Les Carnegie (President), Tonya Finton, Kelly Nelson (Treasurer), Ray Schupp, Stacey Milne
Not pictured: Mamoud Bah, Robert E. Freer, Jr. (Chairman Emeritus), Britt Snider '88 (Trustee Emeritus), Laura Steuart

* New Trustee

WASHINGTON EPISCOPAL SCHOOL
Alumni
CLASS NOTES



'19 Elim Ephrame
ephrame.elim@yahoo.com
Iris Zola

Aidan Armagh was elected class representative at Field School. He was also on the tech crew for Student Pro (student-led theater production) and ran on the varsity cross country team. Nathaniel Bazemore was on the cross country team at Georgetown Day School. Elim Ephrame was the manager of the volleyball team at Holy Child. Mariam Grigorian played volleyball at NCS. Eliza Horne played JV soccer at Field School. She provided a thoughtful activity at the First Friday Night community service event at WES in October. Naomi Horne was on the JV soccer team at Holton-Arms School. Ilsa Larson is in concert band at Walt Whitman. Gabi Love plays oboe in the St. John's wind ensemble. She plans to play basketball and run track at St. John's. Ben Meyer was on the cross country team at Georgetown Day School and is running indoor track. He is also on the math team and doing Quizbowl. Lily Moore ran cross country at Stone Ridge. Patrick Pané was on the cross country team at Field School and will play tennis this spring. Charlie Sagely played on the freshman football team (wide receiver) at Gonzaga. Chloe Talieh plays on Holy Child's varsity ice hockey team. Ethan Vogelmann is playing on the JV basketball team at St. Albans. Lucy Weems played varsity tennis at Holton-Arms.

'18 Fiona Turnbull
fturnbull@icloud.com

Sabina Abdow visited with both her WES French exchange students, Chloe and Mia, in France last summer. She enjoyed her time in Paris and Quiberon. Tendai Ball had a wonderful summer traveling overseas, spending a few weeks in Harare, Zimbabwe, volunteering at an orphanage and working with young disadvantaged children, while enjoying time with family from his mother's side. He met up with brother Tayo '17 in Spain for a month of Spanish immersion. He then spent a week at Brown University rowing camp to strengthen his skills in his new favorite sport—crew. Last year his St. Albans freshman crew team finished 3rd out of 42 freshman boats at Stotesbury. Celia Cooper plays on Holy Child's varsity ice hockey team. In November she competed in the Duke Charity Horse Show in Raleigh, NC. She also plays tennis at Holy Child. Isabella Dodro was the manager for the boys' basketball team at St. Andrew's. Maddie Griffin was a Jr. Counselor at Summer@WES this past summer. She took a service trip to New York City with a group from Little Flower Church. She attends Walt Whitman. Julian Haas played varsity soccer at St. Andrew's in the fall. Harrison Kehler finished an impressive 8th place for St. Andrew's in the MAC cross country meet in late October. He was named All Conference MAC for outstanding performance for cross country.

Calendar
2020

FEBRUARY 29 SAT	Auction Gala 6 p.m. at WES <i>A Night in Casablanca</i>	MAY 29 FRI	Founders Day Picnic 6 - 8 p.m.
MARCH 13-14 FRI - SAT	Sixth-Grade Musical: <i>Frozen Jr.</i>	JUNE 2 TUES	Graduation 2 p.m.

Clara Knott is playing varsity tennis at Holy Child and is on dance team. **Joy Alycia Kramer** is singing in the Chamber Chorus at Holton-Arms and is part of the yearbook club. **Jo Massaro** played a pirate in Madeira's production of *Pirates of Penzance*. **Emily Nelson** is on stage crew at Churchill, in charge of painting. **Colin Redmond** is a freshman at Landon. He is playing soccer and baseball.

'17 Thomas Carney tpcarney97@gmail.com
Emelia Isola Isolaemelia@gmail.com
Joanna Dematatis jkdematatis@gmail.com
Randolph Kaminskaskas Randolph.kaminskas@gmail.com

Harry Akins plays on the varsity hockey team at Bullis and will play tennis in the spring. He is the head of the astronomy club and is on the debate team. **Zachary Alexander** is part of the weight training club and the engineering club at St. John's. He also plays bass in the full

orchestra and intermediate string ensemble. **Tayo Ball** spent June 2019 in South Africa as a student ambassador from St. Albans, and took classes at St. John's, a boys prep school in Johannesburg. He had a phenomenal experience making friends and touring various places including Soweto and Cape Town. Tayo also spent time with cousins in Zimbabwe. He then spent a month in a Spanish immersion program, living with a family and improving his Spanish. He reunited with his WES Spanish exchange Miguel and his family in Granada. Tayo is leading a Sports Management and Analytics Club at St. Albans and looking forward to basketball season. **Dale Bell** is the founder and Editor-in-Chief of *The Snitch*, Bethesda-Chevy Chase's first satirical newspaper. He also is on the *It's Academic* team, the forensics team, and is president of the Chess Club. He's also performing in B-CC's winter children's production of *Robin Hood* as the Sheriff of Nottingham. **Christian Berko** plays trumpet in the St. John's symphonic band, the

marching band, and is a member of the engineering club. **Lachlan Bond** had a good summer attending a music festival in Chicago and going to Kiawah Island, SC. **Joanna Dematatis** was an assistant coach for the varsity field hockey team at Holton-Arms and plays on the varsity basketball team. She is a peer counselor and is vice president of the student activities club. Joanna is also the spirit club assistant captain. **Evan Deobald** and **Alex McMillan** were on the varsity cross country team at Georgetown Prep and they run year round. Evan received all-county honors in cross country. **Karim Elkassem** is on the swim team at Churchill. **Emelia Isola** ran on Walter Johnson's varsity cross country team, plays Next Level club lacrosse, and is in the Random Acts of Kindness Club. **Nico Jordan** and **Nick Stewart** both received a National Honor Society Award for Excellence in academics, leadership, and service from Georgetown Preparatory School this past fall. **Nico Jordan** played varsity soccer at Georgetown Prep and **Garrett McCally** played on their JV soccer team. **Christian Larson** is currently enrolled in a journalism class to prepare him to write in the Walt Whitman school newspaper next year. He is also training for track in the spring. **Geneva Marquadt** plays varsity basketball for Walt Whitman. **Caroline Moore** played varsity soccer and ice hockey at Stone Ridge. She is also a member of the science and health club and participates in Best Buddies and Operation Smile. **Cole Montrose** volunteered last summer at the Apollo 50th celebration on the National Mall and then began working in the Explainer's Program at the Air and Space Museum. He presents hands-on demonstrations at different exhibits. **William Moreau** plays varsity basketball at Bullis. **Arman Naseh** played the drums at the Bullis jazz concert. He is on the wrestling team and is head of the psychology and well-being club. **Lily Talieh** plays on the Holton-Arms varsity ice hockey team. **Constantin Velev** is in the IB program at Washington International School, taking classes in art, design & technology, history, and French. He had an architecture internship at Rada Architects in Chicago last summer. **Maddie Voth** interned at the Office of the Secretary of DC this summer. She was also secondary head of newspaper club while also being a founding member of the debate team. Over the summer she participated in a journalism program

at Howard University. She continues to do her work in film. **Holden Woodings** played varsity soccer at St. Andrew's and continues to play for Bethesda. He was selected to the MAC All-Conference Team for soccer. **Miles Woodings** is president of the chess club and is a member of the St. Andrew's wrestling team. **Nate Zola** attends Landon where he played in the spring production of *Newsies* as a percussionist and played in this fall's production of *Chicago*. He ran cross country in the fall and is currently wrestling. He is part of jazz band as a marimba player and drummer and part of a quintet that regularly plays at assemblies and concerts.

'16 Maddie Blonder Maddieblonder@gmail.com

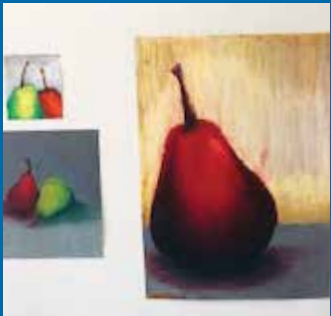
Jonah Beamon played on the varsity soccer team at Landon this fall. **Ben Deobald** will attend Washington University in St. Louis School of Engineering in the fall. **Ben, Peter Connolly**, and **Nick Leahy** all received a National Honor Society Award for Excellence in academics, leadership, and service from Georgetown Preparatory School this fall. **Peter Connolly** is the Prep President of the Yard, the elected student body leader, and played varsity football. He will attend Georgetown University in the fall. **Felicia Gelos**, a senior at St. Andrew's, was named a National Merit Commended Scholar in September 2019. She scored in the top 3% of all juniors who took the PSAT exam last year. **Nick Leahy** will attend Villanova University's Honors College in the fall. **Caroline Milne** played Mrs. Gibbs in St. Andrew's production of *Our Town*, is leading Hearts for Haiti Club, and is the lead critic for St. Andrew's Cappies (DMV high school theater critic organization) and had her critique of *Jesus Christ Superstar* submitted for publication at St. Andrew's.

'15 Ryan Kyle Ryankyle36@gmail.com

Sareen Balian, a freshman at Columbia University, sang the National Anthem at the Washington Wizards game on Nov. 22, with her sister, **Arya '18**. **Logan Bee-Latty** is a sports marketing major at the University of South Carolina and a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority. **Tatev Gomtsyan** moved to Armenia for two years before attending high school in Virginia.



Top to bottom, L-R: Maya Grebowsky '18 with her brother James '20 after the WES soccer tournament victory at St. Andrew's • Class of 2019 classmates Charlie Sagely, Ishaan O'Neal, Nathaniel Bazemore, John Carney, and Ethan Vogelmann at BWI Airport before their trip to California this summer • Caitlin Lennon with Clara Knott '18 at a WES soccer game • Class of 2017 classmates at the Carney's home this fall: Constantin Velev, Patrick Moore, Christian Larson, Mehdi Elkassem (teacher/coach), Cole Montrose, Thomas Carney, Dale Bell • Kelly Rutherford Smith with her son Chase and Lily Talieh '17 at WES • Original paintings by Constantin Velev '17, exhibited at Washington International School • Julie Topetzes '16 with Mehdi Elkassem at St. Andrew's Invitational victory in October • Kristin Cuddihy with Iris Zola '19 and Naomi Horne '19 at WES • Danny Vogelmann and Caroline King '18 at First Friday Night community service event in October.



While overseas, she played on an Armenian basketball team that won two championships. Tatev is attending the University of Virginia. **Grace Kyle** is attending the Thames Program at Mitchell College this school year. **Ryan Kyle** enjoyed her first semester at Amherst College. She tutored in an adult education center in Holyoke, MA, and had breakfast in November with WES parent Andreas Georgiou, who is on faculty at Amherst. **Tricia Massaro** plays club volleyball at Williams College. **Georgia McCally** is a member of Alpha Xi Delta at Auburn University. **Hadley Nolan** is enjoying her freshman year at Bates College and is on the lacrosse team. **Alicia Pané** participated in an at-sea program last fall through SeaSemester and learned to navigate by the stars. She worked in Extended Day when she was in town before and after her program at sea. Alicia starts at Middlebury College in February. **Jeremiah Samuel** received four awards at the senior awards ceremony at Bethesda-Chevy Chase last June. He received the 2019 Scholarship Award (for making the effort to get students involved in clubs/organizations/activities that they otherwise would not be involved in), the Student Government Association (SGA) Award for his work as the school-wide vice

president, the StarBaron BCCTV Award for his work on BCCTV (the weekly news broadcast), and the Community Service Award for his 260+ cumulative community service hours. He was recognized as a member of the English Honor Society (EHS) and a student leader for the Minority Scholars Program (MSP). Jeremiah is attending the University of Maryland, College Park. **Matthew Sheets** is a member of the Rice Apollos, the Rice University A Capella group.

'14 Samantha Liggins samanthaliggins@gmail.com

Josh Davidson is attending Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. **Cameron Harris**, a sophomore business major (economics and accounting) at Washington University in St. Louis joined a fraternity in the fall. He worked at MedStar in trauma, cardiology, and neurology last summer. **Jaymin Ortega** is attending Loyola University. **Peyton Peterson** is attending Texas Christian University. **Lawrence Redmond** had an internship at NIH this summer. He is on the swim team at Emory University and is a pre-med student. **Elen Stepanyan** is an engineering major at Washington & Lee University. Her final project for the spring 2019 semester was building a very basic

prosthetic arm. **Tayyaba Tareq** is studying to be a nurse and is on the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad.

'13 Alya Ahmed AAhmed17@sidwell.edu
Genevieve Dickinson genevieve.dickinson@gmail.com
Sterling Myhre semyhre12@gmail.com
Jack Szulc-Donnell thens037@yahoo.com

Sarah Collins, is an education major at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and is a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority. **Marielle Gasaway** is attending University of Pittsburgh.

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

Olivia Heflin is on track to graduate from University of Pennsylvania this spring with a degree in psychology and a minor in fine arts. **Grace Recka** is set to graduate from the University of San Diego in May. She runs her company, BootyCamp USA, which focuses on personal training and group fitness classes. While finishing her degree in business, she is also working for author and motivational speaker, Rebecca Alexander. Grace and her brother

Nicholas '09 would like to extend their thanks for the outpouring of support after the passing of their father last September. They continue to be amazed and honored that so many current and past WES teachers attended the service and wrote thoughtful notes. **Laurence Ruberl** was the director of a production of three Edgar Allan Poe stories this fall at Earlham College. He told us that he took on this role/task because of his experience at WES with the Black Box Theater. **Maimuna Tareq** is studying to be a family social worker.

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

Sarah Bair has a two-year assignment as a Community Health Educator with Peace Corps Togo in West Africa that began in May 2019. She keeps in touch with us and recently had this to say: "WES gave me my first introduction on the importance of learning outside of my comfort zone, giving me the confidence to do so. Going beyond the classroom overseas in middle school definitely contributed to my love of traveling, and being



Top-bottom, L-R: Danny Vogelmann at First Friday Night with Eliza Horne '19 • Colin Redmond '18 • Isabella Dodro '18 at St. Andrew's this fall • Elim Ephrame '19 and Kristin Cuddihy at WES in September • Julian Haas '18, Juwan Reid '08, and Holden Woodings '17 at St. Andrew's after soccer practice • Celia Cooper '18 competing at the Duke Charity Horse Show in November • Tendai '18 and Tayo Ball '17 with Miguel, Tayo's exchange student, in Spain this summer • Jo Massaro '18 and Caterina Earle at WES in December • Charlie Sagely '19 playing football for Gonzaga



involved with community service at WES inspired my willingness to serve others.” She and her family met up in Vienna, Salzburg, and Munich over Christmas break. **Claire Collins**, a two-time All-American and All-Region rower, and her open rowing squad secured seventh overall at the 2019 NCAA Championships which is the program's 21st top-ten finish. Claire also participated at the U-23 World Championships in each of the last three years, picking up a silver medal in 2018. **Katie DeVries** graduated summa cum laude in November 2019 from Johnson & Wales University. For six months she worked at the Food Innovation Nexis in Providence, RI. She plans to move to NYC in the spring. **Mona Khan** graduated from Lehigh University last spring.

’10 Lindsay Bratun
lindsaybratun@gmail.com
Jonathan Butturini
Jab990@gmail.com
Shelby Mahaffie
shelby.mahaffie@gmail.com
Madison Sharp
endesha4079@gmail.com

Jane Caldwell, a 2018 graduate of Union College, works for Ridgely Walsh in DC. **Olivia Givens** and **Dana Martin** are working together at Guidepoint in New York City. **Daan Groenhuijsen** is also in NYC and works for Walmart in e-commerce. **Andreas Gizaw** is working as a substitute teacher (chemistry) at Bethesda-Chevy Chase while preparing to apply to medical school. **Hunter Heflin** is back in Bethesda, working on his music career as a rapper. **Emiko Hinds** is an arts administrative fellow at Theatre Mu in St. Paul, MN. **Ma-reina Jackson** graduated from Drexel University with a B.S. in environmental science in June. **Byron Jones** received his master's in sports management from Georgetown University. He is looking to work for an NBA franchise. **Matt Peel** is working for Avison Young in Rockville doing market research. **Kyle Rushford** is a 2nd lieutenant in the US Marine Corps. He's stationed in Camp Pendleton in Oceanside, CA. He loves the weather and the food. When he's not getting top scores on his fitness tests, he enjoys the beach, surfing, sushi, and smoothies. **Mike Schmandt** is working in fundraising for a presidential campaign.



Top to bottom, L-R: Matt Bowman '06 and Mehdi Elkassem in New York City, November 2019 • Alumni teachers with their former teachers: Top row, from left: Bill Isola, Caitlin Lennon, Kim Bair, Shannon Egan '07 and bottom row: Jon Marshall, Forrest Wright '04, LaKisha Yirenkyi, and Alexis Doyle '10. Not pictured: Caterina Earle • Peace Corp volunteer Sarah Bair '11 with friend in Togo, West Africa in June • Samantha Liggins '14 and Ron Valenzia at WES in January. • Alicia Pané '15 at WES this fall before her semester at sea • Forrest Wright '04 with summer camper Thomas Scullin, son of Sarah Foreman Scullin '01 (nephew of Beau Foreman '04) • Class of 2019 classmates with Mehdi Elkassem at the Carney's home: Ilsa Larson, Lucy Weems, Xander Ehrhardt, Aidan Armagh, Nick Lebron, Mehdi Elkassem, John Carney, Ishaan O'Neal, Dylan Bradford, Charlie Sagely • Dave Schuessler with son Sam Schuessler '03 at the Grade 8 vs. Faculty soccer game in November

’09 Kelsye Little
klittle5@scmail.spelman.edu
Bethany Mark
bethany.mz.lovely.mark@gmail.com

John Bair works as a writer for DC Group, a public affairs consulting firm. He lives on Capitol Hill. Congratulations to **Pryce Bevan** for receiving his master's degree in computer science from Georgetown University. **Aisha Khan** is working in accounting and finance for Eisner-Amper in NYC and passed her CPA exams. She is working on her scuba diving certification, and vacationed in Bali in November.

’08 Aszanan Jones
azsanaiprincess@gmail.com
Ben Martin
Musicman5326@yahoo.com

Jake Bradt became engaged to Becky Rivas. The couple met while sophomores at Harvard. An August 2020 wedding in Stow, MA, is

planned. Jake is in his second year of a Ph.D. program at Harvard and Becky is in her second year of law school at the University of Chicago. **Sean Dwyer** and **Jack Fowler** share an apartment in Arlington, VA.

’07 Shannon Egan
Segan1004@gmail.com
Jack Metelski
john.metelski@gmail.com

Susie Bair works for MKTG in Charlotte, NC. Her accounts include clients in the sports and entertainment industries and have taken her to venues such as The Masters, US Tennis, Lollapalooza, and will include the Olympics in Japan. In November she went to London to visit with **Addie Spencer**; they were WES classmates in third-grade. She and Addie also went to Barcelona together. **Faith Collins** and Scott Shellhammer were married on

Nov. 2, 2019, at St. Anne's Church in Reston, VA. They met swing dancing in DC and now reside in Denver, CO. WES classmates **Shannon Egan**, **Katie Leep-Lazar**, **Liz Mosher**, and **Amy Sharfman Belchatovski** were guests at the wedding and Faith's sisters, **Claire '11** and **Sarah '13**, were bridesmaids. **Jorman Heflin** received his master's in plant science from the University of South Carolina and has built a lab where he is experimenting with plants flowering early that would produce fruit without needing to grow into a full-sized plant.

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

Matt Bowman is a pitcher with the Cincinnati Reds. He and his former science teacher and coach, Mehdi Elkassem, had dinner together in

New York, where Matt resides, in November. Matt shared his reflections about attending WES from Kingergarten through Grade 6. “I loved my time at WES. From the lock-in and the book fair to the *Chronicles of Narnia* and trip to Utah, I really enjoyed every second. What I’ve come to realize as I reflect back on those years is that so much of who I am as a person was shaped during my days at WES. What really stands out are the teachers. They were superb educators, but what they truly excelled at was investing in us as people. The teaching staff always encouraged and believed in the students and that allowed us to grow outside of the classroom. What I think about now is that anything I’m proud of in who I am today started with a strong foundation at WES and I couldn’t be happier I spent my formative years there.” **Cece Ochoa** is working in NYC for the mobile adoption unit of the ASPCA. **Gavin Taylor** and Ty Blue were married on Dec. 31, 2019, in Charlottesville, VA.

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

Ted Bevan and Alex Mauro are engaged to be married this March in Austin, TX, Alex's hometown. They met in medical school with the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and both were interns last summer in Japan. **Della Bradt** is in her first year of a two-year MBA program at the MIT Sloan School and is living in Cambridge, MA. She is loving everything about it. **Evan Fatherree** and his wife Jaymi welcomed their first child, Easton, in April 2019. **Spencer Heflin** is living in

Los Angeles, working as a physical therapist.

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

’03 Sam Schuessler is the Administrative Director for Pain Services at Hospital for Special Surgery in NYC. He completed his MGA in 2013 at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and moved to NYC in 2016. He attended the Grade 8 vs. Faculty soccer game in November.

’02 Carolina Richards
richards.carolina@gmail.com

Congratulations to **Carolina Richards** and Edward Bennett who were married on Oct. 19, 2019, at Blessed Sacrament in DC with the reception at Chevy Chase Club. She and Edward, a Charleston, SC, native, met through a mutual friend a few years ago in New York, where they reside. WES alums **Cri-Cri Richards Randolph '98** (sister), **Mary Louise Kistler '02**, **Caroline Geier '02** (and her husband Jack Masur) and **Daniel Freer '93** and his wife Katie Bennett Freer (Edward's first cousin), attended the wedding. Carolina works at Citi Private Bank in NYC.

’01 Sarah Jones
Sarah.whitney.jones@gmail.com

’00 Anne Glassie
glassie@gmail.com

’99 Elizabeth Rawson is a psychiatrist in private practice in San Francisco.

’98 Rebecca (Dankner) Nassiri and her husband Justin welcomed son Bodhi Matthew on February 3, 2019. Kim Bair, who was Rebecca's second-grade teacher, met up with her in Colorado last summer. Rebecca and her family live in San Francisco. **Roman Menchikov** lives in Park City, UT, and manages the catering department at the St. Regis Hotel in Deer Valley.

’97 Nate Guggenheim
Nate.Guggenheim@WFP.com

We had a wonderful visit in November from **Andrei Menchikov** and his children, Draegan (4), Tyson (3), and Sophia (6 months in November). He reconnected with Nancy Wright in the fall and toured around WES and reminisced with her and Caterina Earle. Last May he and his wife Sherry moved from Las Vegas to Maine. They met 10 years ago when he was a paramedic.

’94 Charlotte McCormack
char.mccorma@gmail.com

Mayya Kawar is an emergency room physician in the Christiansted Hospital in St. Croix, Virgin Islands. She participated in the V.I. Ultimate Frisbee tournament in Sarasota, FL in November. **Christelle LeRoux** is a senior lecturer regarding veterinary diagnostic imaging at the University

of Pretoria in South Africa. She was in the US a couple of years ago and met up with **Nora Reno**. She also saw **Adam Kugajevsky** when he was in South Africa.

’93 Palmer Seeley
Palmer_Seeley@caryacademy.org
Dan Freer
Dan.freer@gmail.com

Dan Freer and his wife Katie welcomed son Daniel on August 19, 2019. He joins big sisters Charlotte '27, a first-grader at WES, and Elisabeth.

’92 John Pinto
johnp1979@yahoo.com

John Pinto and his wife Sarah welcomed baby Charlie in 2019. John is COO at Infobelt in Charlotte, NC.

’91 Monica Barnes is working at the ACLU in New York City.

’90 Ashleigh Freer Parr
afparr@gmail.com

’89 Stephan von Schilcher
vonschilcher@gmail.com

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



L-R: Andrei Menchikov '97 and his children visit with his former teachers Nancy Wright and Caterina Earle at WES in November. • The Elkassem family with the Durling family in Michigan this past summer: left to right, Mehdi Elkassem, holding Becky's daughter Rosalie Harris-Young, Samir Elkassem '20, Nasim Elkassem '20, Karim Elkassem '17, Linda Durling, holding granddaughter Clementine Harris-Young, Becky Durling '04, and her husband Graeson Harris-Young • Lawrence Redmond '14 at WES this summer • Charles '14 and Laurence Ruberl '12 at Laurence's theatre production in Scotland last August



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Top-bottom, L-R: Shannon Egan '07's Grade 5A class helps her celebrate her birthday in October • Shannon Egan '07, Liz Mosher '07, Scott Shellhammer, Faith Collins '07, Katie Leep-Lazar '07, and Amy (Sharfman) Belchatovski '07 at Faith's wedding in November 2019 • The Tareq and Elkassem families this summer, from left: Mehdi Elkassem, Maimuna '12, Tayyaba'14, and Sayema Tareq '08, Nasim '20, Karim '17, and Samir Elkassem '20, and Katya Elkassem • Mary Lee Nickel with former Head of School Stu Work at the Welcome Back Party & Alumni Reunion in September



Former Faculty News

Stu Work is back in Maryland, living in Columbia, MD, with his wife, Rachelle. We were happy to see him at the Welcome Back Party & Alumni Reunion in September.

Thank you to the many former faculty members who reached out to alums by email and phone calls to help us update our records last summer and fall, and for preparing Christmas cards in December.

In Memory & Sympathy

Nick '09 and **Grace '12 Recka** on the passing of their father, Rex, on September 8, 2019.

Jennifer Thornton '06 on the passing of her maternal grandmother, at age 103, in October. She was the mother of former teacher Jackie Thornton.

The **Alleyne** family, on the passing of Dolores Alleyne, friend to WES and mother to past WES teacher and coach Deighton Alleyne, on November 9, 2019.

Joe '11 and **Mary Claire '13 Medeiros** on the passing of their father in December 2019.

Sadie '04, Chloe '06, and **Patrick '10 Lansdale,** on the passing of their mother, Lyn Lansdale, on January 13, 2020.

Ben '08, Dana '10, and **Carolyn '12 Martin** on the passing of their father, Jim Martin, on January 22, 2020.

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.

Class of 2015 Colleges

Congratulations to the Class of 2015! 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 would love to hear from you!

- Allyn Abbott***
Tulane University
- Louis Akins***
University of Toronto
- Maria Ashby**
University of Southern California
- Sareen Balian**
Columbia University
- Zoe Barnette***
Notre Dame University (Fencing)
- Logan Bee-Latty***
University of South Carolina
- Ian Conway***
University of Pennsylvania
- Alexander Dematatis***
Miami of Ohio University

- Bridget Dick***
Tufts University
- Juliet Faris***
University of Michigan (Nursing)
- Davis FitzGerald**
Vassar Class of 2022
- Tatev Gomtsyan**
University of Virginia
- Brendan Grau***
Rochester Institute of Technology
- Piers Greenan***
University of Miami
- Lizzie Harlan**
Wake Forest University
- Sofia Jordan***
Colby College
- Allaire Kotz**
Denison University (Lacrosse)

- Ryan Kyle***
Amherst College
- Gracie Kyle**
Mitchell College (Thames Program)
- William Lewis**
Washington University in St. Louis
- Jacqueline Lydon**
Princeton University
- Paul Marquardt***
University of Maryland Honors College
- Patricia Massaro***
Williams College
- Georgia McCally***
Auburn University
- Sophia Mishurny-Santini***
Northeastern University
- Luke Murrell**
UC Santa Cruz

- Seb Murrell**
University of Wisconsin
- Hadley Nolan***
Bates College
- Alicia Pané***
Middlebury College
- Nick Ratliff***
Washington University in St. Louis
- Jeremiah Samuel***
University of Maryland College Park
- Libby Scanlon***
Tulane University
- Mark Schlager***
The George Washington University
- Matthew Sheets***
Rice University

- Travis Slocumb**
UC Santa Cruz
- Emma Stanfill***
University of Southern California
- Nicholas Steele***
Clarkson University (Engineering)
- Eva Thomas**
Barnard College
- Morinsola Tinubu***
Williams College
- Josie Trujillo-Lederer**
Marist College
- Ryan Zaimi**
Bucknell University
- Lizzie Zampella**
University of Virginia

* WES graduate



(l to r): Nico Jordan '17, Nick Stewart '17, Ben Deobald '16, Nick Leahy '16, and Peter Connolly '16

PETER CONNOLLY '16

Peter serves as President of the Yard (student body president) and was Student Government Junior Class Representative last year. He played varsity football (offensive line) all four years and Georgetown Prep won the IAC Conference Championship in November. He also played varsity rugby (loosehead prop). Peter led a fundraising team that received the Top Fundraiser award for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Students of the Year Campaign, raising over \$50,000.

"Not only did WES successfully prepare me for the transition from middle school to the rigorous academics of Prep, but it added another crucial component to my education that few of my friends received at their respective middle schools, and that is experiential learning, particularly through our study trips. Whether it was talking to a Navajo tribe leader in Utah, standing on the old Greek ruins in Paestum, or living with a family in Paris, WES gave me the opportunity to expand my worldview and experience other cultures first hand. In my opinion, that holds more educational value than any classroom lecture."

After high school graduation, Peter will attend Georgetown University to study history or government and play on the rugby team.

BEN DEOBALD '16

This past summer, Ben went on a community service trip to Puerto Rico with three classmates. He worked with vulnerable fourth- and fifth-graders in San Juan to develop their English and math skills. The children had very limited English

and were from impoverished neighborhoods that are still dealing with the effects of hurricane Maria. The goal was to better prepare these children for academic success within and outside Puerto Rico. Inspired by his WES exchange trip to Spain in eighth-grade, two summers ago he spent two weeks in Seville, Spain, living with a family, taking classes, and exploring the city and language. Ben also tutors fellow students, played in the Jazz Band, played soccer for three years and baseball for two. He now plays golf.

"The tight-knit community WES has is what made my WES experience unique. Having a chance to develop a personal connection with everyone in my class gave me lifelong friends and ones that I know I can count on for the rest of my life. Another important aspect was the teachers and coaches. Growing up, my sixth-grade teacher and coach, Mr. Alleyne, was much more than just a teacher to me and many others. He was my mentor. In the classroom, he made sure that I was doing my very best work. On the court, he taught me how to play basketball the right way and improved my game with motivational speeches (yelled from the sideline) and lots of running. But Mr. Alleyne cared a lot about how I was doing outside of school. I don't know how he did it, but every time I was upset, he knew. He consoled me when I was down and gave me advice moving forward. I loved him and miss him every day."

These teachers were willing to do whatever it took to see their students/athletes succeed, and I'm sure that's true today. Although teaching is their job, they go above and beyond when it comes to developing every aspect of

the student. I may not have realized it when I graduated back in 2016, but it is clear as day to me now that I was given a huge advantage because of the wonderful and caring teachers at WES. I can't remember a time at WES when I felt behind or ignored. Because the teachers are experienced and know what's best for their students. I wouldn't change a thing about my middle school/elementary experience, and trust me, if I could, I would be more than happy to do it all again."

In the fall, Ben will attend Washington University in St. Louis—McKelvey School of Engineering.

NICO JORDAN '17

Nico plays two sports, lacrosse and soccer. Georgetown Prep made it to the IAC championship game this year. Last summer he and WES classmate Evan Deobald '17 worked with So Others Might Eat (SOME), preparing meals for the homeless and engaging in fun activities such as board games and cards with [people at the shelter]. He is enjoying providing peer tutoring with the National Honors Society (NHS).

"My experiences at WES, especially the study trips and challenging classes, helped me prepare for high school because they taught me how to be a leader and how to challenge myself and succeed. The Spain trip to Granada is my favorite WES study trip because I had the opportunity to see the culture of a new country, and also had a great experience living with another family and improving my Spanish skills."

NICK LEAHY '16

Nick is an actor for the Prep Players, Georgetown Prep's theatre production group, which comes as no surprise as Nick was a co-recipient of the Drama Award at WES in 2016. He is also a staff writer for the Little Hoya newspaper and plays forward on the varsity hockey team.

"WES taught me how to have good time management in order to achieve success. This helped me balance my schoolwork and extra-curricular activities efficiently. My favorite WES trip had to be Italy. I had such a great time venturing around Pompeii and eating gelato. My favorite teacher was Mrs. Earle. I would always be excited for her class every day, as she always knew how to teach science in a fun and interactive way."

Nick will attend Villanova University's Honors College this fall.

NICK STEWART '17

Nick co-founded the Real Estate and Development Club at Georgetown Prep and acts as co-president. He serves as vice president of the Business Club and hopes to be co-president next school year. He enjoys playing golf and will play on the golf team this spring.

"My favorite WES trip was Utah because it was one of the first times that I was taken out of my comfort zone and put into a totally new experience. The study trips definitely make WES a unique experience. When I tell people that my entire seventh grade class went on a field trip to Italy, their [response of] shock and confusion demonstrates how special WES is!"

When we received word that five of our WES alumni—three seniors and two juniors—were inducted into the National Honor Society at Georgetown Preparatory School in October, we were inspired first to congratulate them, and secondly, see what about their WES experience has led to their success. We are grateful to these five impressive young men who took the time to reflect on their WES days. Read on to hear about how they are balancing academics, sports, community service, leadership, and more as they prepare for college.



Connecting with alumni friends!



Christian Berko '17



Class of 2018 classmates Maddie Griffin and David Stevenson



Chelsea Ward '19 and Emma Whitaker '05 in the art studio



Alex McMillan '17 working at WES this summer



Juwan Reid '08, Diana Ochoa, and Alexis Doyle '10 • Campers Lorlei and Rory, children of William Rawson '94



Dylan Bradford '19 and camper • Emma Whitaker '05, Clara Knott '18, Dylan Bradford '19, Chelsea Ward '19, Alexis Doyle '10, Shannon Egan '07, Juwan Reid '08, and Emelia Isola '17



Dylan Bradford '19, Juwan Reid '07, Naomi Horne '19, Iris Zola '19, and Nate Zola '17 • Bill Isola, Aidan Smith '16, and Mehdi Elkassem



Emelia Isola '17 and camper • Enjoying the alumni ice cream social in July: bottom row from left: Clara Knott '18, Dylan Bradford '19, Ethan Vogelmann '19 and back row from left: Katya Elkassem, Caitlin Lennon, Mehdi Elkassem, Karim Elkassem '17, and Ben Meyer '19



WELCOME BACK PARTY & Alumni Reunion SEPTEMBER 6, 2019



Michael Harding '05 and Mehdi Elkassem • Charlie Sagely '19, Julian Haas '18, Ethan Vogelmann '19, Ishaan O'Neal '19, and Arjun Narayan '18 • Susan Girgis with Ilsa Larson '19, Lily Moore '19, and Gabi Love '19



Dan Freer '93 with his wife Katie, and children Elisabeth, newborn son Daniel, and Charlotte '27 • Class of 2019 members Gabi Love, Ilsa Larson, Naomi Horne, Lucy Weems, Eliza Horne, Lily Moore • Michael Harding '05 with his wife Tiffany, sons James '29 and Charlie, and mother Dawn Harding



Arjun Narayan '18 with his parents, Tulika and Ambar, and grandparents Kumkum and Ashok • Clara Knott '17 and Lily Moore '19 • Stacey Bailey and Matt Foster with David Stevenson '18

ALUMNI REUNION

More than **45 ALUMNI** joined us for a fun reunion on January 10.
It's always great to catch up with everyone!



Front row (l to r): Christian Phillips '16, Geoffrey Shaiyen '16, Ben Deobald '16, Ibn Muhammad '16, Alex Davidson '16, Nico Roy '16, Jonathan Berg '16, Mark Lasner '16, Aidan Smith '16

Middle row (l to r): Isaiah Horne '18, Sarah Norton '16, Ryan Kyle '15, Bridget Dick '15, Alicia Pané '15, Fiona Turnbull '18, Kyra Chassaing '18, Iris Zola '19, David Stevenson '18

Back row (l to r): Hunter Heflin '10, Felix Chassaing '10, Bjorn Berryman '20, Lino Núñez Del Arco '11, Evan Deobald '17, Alex McMillan '17, Max McMillan '20, Pascale Schmidt '16, Suzan Walicki '16, Felicia Gelos '16, Mariam Grigorian '19, Gabi Love '19, Ilsa Larson '19, Kika Errico '20, Naomi Horne '19, Gigi Beeson '19, Eliza Horne '19, Lily Moore '19, Caroline Dickey '18, David Stevenson '18, Julian Haas '18, Ian Shaiyen '18, Margaret Hampe '18, Theo Sotoodehnia '18

Not pictured: Katie Hester '16, Kim Ross '16, Renata Taylor-Smith '16, Jake Stefanick '17, Charles Sullivan '14



Top-bottom, l-r: Suzan Walicki '16 and Sarah Norton '16 • Felix Chassaing '10 and Hunter Heflin '10 with Danny Vogelmann • Caitlin Lennon and Lino Núñez Del Arco '11 • Caroline Dickey '18 and Theo Sotoodehnia '18 with Katie Hopper • Julian Matthews '18 and Julian Haas '18



ALUMNI *reminisce with faculty!*

In January, **Ryan Kyle '15** reminisced with her Pre-K teacher, Petie Schuessler, about the original play they produced in 2005, *Adventures in Fairyland*. Ryan is a graduate of Sidwell Friends School and is a freshman at Amherst College.



Oliver Johnson '14 chatted with Performing Arts Director Ron Valenzia about his extensive high school theatre experience. For his first production at Sidwell Friends School he played Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a play he performed at WES. Oliver is a sophomore philosophy and writing major at Colgate University.



FIRST FRIDAY — NIGHT —



CONTINUING the success of the First Friday Community Service program that was kicked off in fall 2018, families, students, and faculty joined forces for our First Friday Night event on October 4.

Attendees worked side-by-side to create items and raise funds that were donated to organizations serving a variety of people in need. "We are so proud to see our Dragons coming together to make a difference for the hundreds of people who will benefit from these projects," stated Community Service Co-Chair Chaplain Kristen Pitts. "Our community made fleece blankets and "monster stuffies" for children in hospitals, assembled snack bags for people living with food insecurity, created Halloween cards for seniors living in Seabury Resources for Aging's residences, wrote postcards to encourage refugee children, and so much more. Plus, both students and faculty planned projects to raise money for different organizations. I was especially impressed by the Middle School SGA, which organized a bake sale and raised about \$300 for their chosen organization, the Breast Cancer Research Foundation."



Classroom visits from representatives involved with charitable organizations provided students with information to help them understand the need for community assistance, and gave them the opportunity to practice empathy. Dr. Robert (Shep) Nickel, MD, a hematologist with Children's National Hospital, helped students in Kindergarten and Grade 1 learn about Sickle Cell disease. During the First Friday Night event, students made bracelets to raise funds for researching this blood disorder. We also welcomed back Emmanuel Ofori Yeboah, whose organization, Emmanuel's Dream Foundation, provides bikes and funds to help disabled children in West Africa. He spoke to students, conducted a PE class, and participated in a bike-a-thon with Grade 2 students and teachers, with assistance from parents and Grade 5 students. Bikes were collected for children in West Africa, and Emmanuel's books were sold at First Friday Night.

The regular First Friday Community Service Program continues, with students participating in meaningful activities that will benefit more than a dozen organizations throughout the year. These experiences underscore the concept that caring for others is a priority at WES.





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