



The WES Magazine is published by:
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head of school's message

Pivot. Scenario Planning. Asynchronous.

Somehow these words and phrases became mainstays in our lexicon this past spring. The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly changed most facets of our lives. We continue to keep everyone in the broader WES community in our thoughts and prayers hoping that you are managing well during this crisis.



The resiliency and flexibility of our students has been an incredible thing to witness. Our Dragons adapted to online learning and quickly increased their proficiencies in the various instructional technologies and new expectations that were thrown their way in early spring. By late May, our students became more comfortable, showing off talents, orating poetry, and presenting their Global Trailblazers research projects, all in an environment that was strange to them just two months earlier.

Our faculty and staff, as always, have risen to the challenge. With very little preparation time and training, they adjusted to our emergency remote learning environment and went above and beyond to ensure that our students and families continued to enjoy the joyful learning environment that has become the hallmark of the WES experience.

In an effort to preserve some of the important WES traditions for our students, our team got creative and made some incredible adjustments. In this issue, you'll read about some of the modifications we made to events such as our unique Graduation (page 2), virtual Field Day (page 4), and the Sixth-Grade Musical (page 6). You'll also get a view into the newly-completed STEM innovation lab (page 5), and learn about all the amazing things our Dragons have accomplished between January and June this year.

Once the school year concluded our team shifted their focus to preparations for the 2020-2021 school year. All of our faculty committed to participating in continuous learning opportunities to increase their capacity in the areas of distance learning as well as diversity, equity, and inclusion. Many of them also volunteered to serve on one of our Reopening Task Forces to help ensure a safe, engaging, and effective school year.

WES's commitment to preserving the spirit of our unique and extraordinary community has been paramount. Our school community is made up of a wonderful combination of students, teachers, faculty, parents, guardians, alumni, grandparents, past parents, past faculty, and friends. Everyone has a home here at WES. We cannot wait until we can be together, face-to-face, learning, laughing, sharing, chatting, and experiencing life together once again. *We miss you.*

Be safe and be well.

Sincerely,

Danny Vogelman, Head of School



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MISSION STATEMENT:

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

on the
cover:



Emily and Jackson are WES "lifers" and just one of the three sets of twins in the Class of 2020 who graduated on June 3.

Congratulations to all 36 graduates!

Congratulations

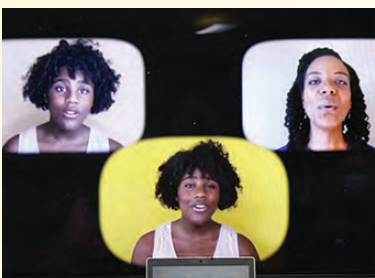


CLASS OF 2020

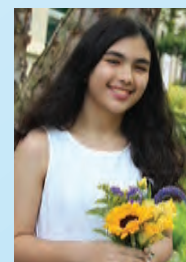
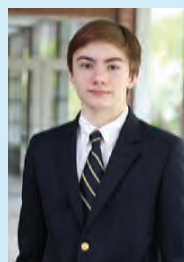
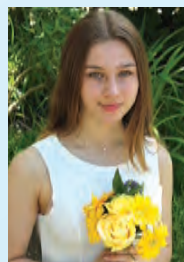
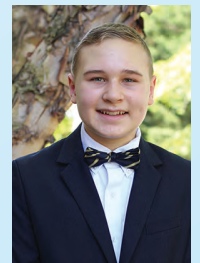
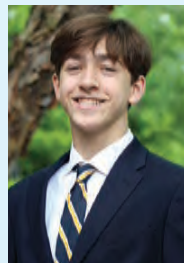
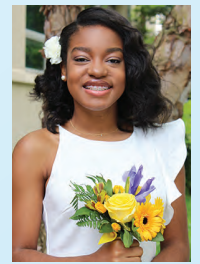
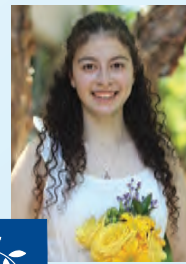
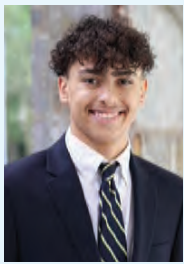
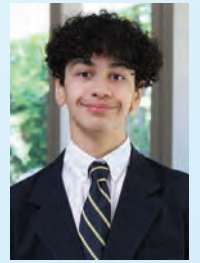
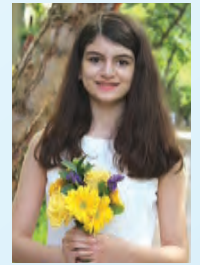
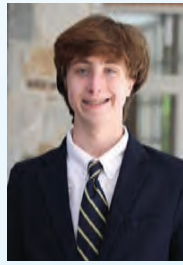


THE CLASS OF 2020 has many distinctions, but most notable will be that their graduation ceremony was held remotely, with more than 200 video monitors tuning in around the world at 10:30 a.m. on June 3! The pre-recorded video was a compilation of faculty, board, and student participants delivering messages, inspiration, and songs, with a portrait of each student as well as photos from their years at WES. Later that afternoon the celebration continued as families drove through campus to receive their diplomas and awards in a parade-like route that was decorated with blue and gold balloons and lined with teachers and staff, waving large photos of each graduate!

Congratulations, 2020 grads! We thank you and your families for your flexibility and wish you all the best! Keep in touch!



Graduates — OF THE — Class of 2020



Grade 3 Recognized



CONGRATULATIONS TO GRADE 3 STUDENTS for being honored by the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project as Maryland School of the Year and National Elementary Rookie of the Year for their outstanding energy education project:

Pollution Solution Sustainability Project. Each year in STEM: Applied Concepts, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship class students develop and lead a social or environmental campaign for the WES community. This year's Grade 3 chose to focus on sustainability. Students conducted energy and waste



audits, developed messaging around sustainability, educated the community on sustainable practices, distributed paper and comingling recycling cans throughout the building, replaced plastic utensils with biodegradable options, and much more. With the help of the whole WES community, Grade 3 students saw an approximately 10-15% reduction in weekly waste and a 15-25% increase in comingling recyclables and a 50% increase in paper recycling! These results are reflections of the WES community's efforts to make better sustainable choices. We look forward to continuing these good practices at home and at school when we return.

FIELD DAY...Reimagined

FIELD DAY had a new look this year, with a creative redesign by the PE Department, inviting the whole WES community to participate through exercise. Athletics Director Bill Isola kicked off the event on May 29 with a 20-mile run to honor the Class of 2020, reporting along his route via Facebook from the Capital Crescent Trail and the Washington Monument. The entire community was rallied to participate in what was dubbed Dragons Unite, as the Blue and Gold Teams came together to meet a challenge.

THE CHALLENGE? Walk, run, or bike a combined total of 500 miles.

THE REWARD? Chaplain Kristen would dye her hair blue if this challenge was met. And, if the first challenge was met and the community logged 19,860 hours of exercise on Field Day Wesley, the mascot, would shave Head of School Danny Vogelmann's head the next day. Participants—students, parents, faculty, alumni, grandparents, and friends—logged their distances and times on Google Docs.

As the Google Doc filled up with hours and miles, what at first seemed daunting was achieved well before the 8 p.m. deadline! "We were really impressed by everyone's commitment to joining in the fun and embracing a new way of doing Field Day—one of the best days of the school year," commented Isola. "We were pleased with how things turned out. Although I'm not sure about Mr. Vogelman's thoughts about his new haircut."

Activities throughout the day such as a sack race, a water balloon battle, and a dance party encouraged everyone to get their "move on" on a memorable, yet different, approach to Field Day.



Complete and Ready for Learning



PHASE ONE of a large renovation and facilities enhancement project is complete as the new STEM classroom and renovation of the north half of the East Campus façade wrapped up in April.

Funding of the project was jump-started with the Raise Your Paddle appeal at the 2019 Auction Gala, and additional resources were added through the careful fiscal management and foresight of the Board of Trustees who had set aside reserves over the course of several years. These efforts allowed the project to expand and come to fruition. The Board's Facilities and Finance Committees and the WES facilities staff worked diligently to manage all aspects of this extensive project that expands campus learning space.

The need for larger and improved space to accommodate STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) classes, labs, maker space, special projects, and guest speakers became obvious as the STEM program grew over the past few years for students in Grades 1-5. "We are thrilled to have this new STEM lab ready for our students. They deserve a space that inspires and provides them with the tools they need to explore, imagine, and create," commented Head of School Danny Vogelmann. "It's a proud moment for our school. We can't wait to see the looks on the children's faces when they walk into the lab for the first time!"



The community was invited to put their creativity in gear and suggest a name for the STEM room this spring. The top entries were voted upon and the winning name is **Dragon Innovation Lab**.

The 1,375 square foot loft-like flexible space features three vast 11-foot wide windows that face east, welcoming the morning sun, over 15-foot tall ceilings, shelving, storage, polished concrete floors, LED lights, retractable electric sockets positioned in the middle of the room, new brightly-colored, flexible furniture—and even a sink for all of those experiments involving water. Adaptability is key as the classroom can be set up for standard classroom instruction or lecture seating with video projection. Folding up tables to make way for guest presentations or labs can transform the spaces. A huge White Board® invites teams of students to sketch out ideas, calculate, or respond to questions to maximize their STEM experience.

The plan is to continue renovating the east side of campus to create a total of 7,000 square feet of useable classroom and mixed-use space. Phase Two would add additional flexible learning space adjacent to the STEM space on the ground floor, and Phase Three focuses on interior and exterior updates to the south end of the east campus that potentially could include a cafeteria and other community spaces.

We are grateful for the passion, leadership, and funding that is making these improvements to our school and campus a possibility. It's all about the students and providing them with the most positive learning environment we can offer.

PIVOT

Historical COVID-19 pandemic causes classes to move to remote format.

The school year was rolling along like any other year.

The fall and the holiday season were filled with students making new friends, adapting to new schedules, working hard in the classroom, playing instruments, singing songs, and joyfully playing on the playgrounds and on the fields. Nursery students held hands and went on a bear hunt. We gathered in large groups for the Geo Bee, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Chapel, an Admissions Open House, a fun BINGO night for the whole family, and several guest speakers and workshops for parents. February meant Valentine's Day parties, the spelling bee, the Kindergarten assembly and the Grade 3 play, a robotics competition, a Middle School dance, basketball games, Grade 6 science fair presentations, and a spectacular Moroccan-themed Auction Gala on Leap Day. Winter was coming to a close, without a snowflake to be seen, and no snow days anticipated—always a bit disappointing to students.

AND THEN CAME THE MONTH OF MARCH.

During the first week of March, Grade 1 students performed their play, and sixth-graders rehearsed (and rehearsed) their musical, perfecting each scene. But suddenly, conversations centered around a virus called COVID-19, wreaking havoc half a world away, but becoming more and more a factor each day in the US. By the second week of March, the focus of the Faculty Professional Development meeting switched to a new topic: planning for the possibility of a short-term school closure that might be necessary to contain the spread of COVID-19 right here at home.

WES events and gatherings were postponed and cancelled, with the safety of students, families, and guests to our school a priority. A welcome reception for new families, the Grade 4 Biography Tea, the Installation of Chaplain Kristen, the Grade 2 assembly—all cancelled. But what about the Sixth-Grade Musical, *Frozen Jr.*, scheduled for March 13 and 14? With some quick thinking and a careful pivot, the show was performed before parents and students only, with two casts giving two back-to-back performances on March 13 in the morning and afternoon. Music Theatre International generously lifted copyright protections temporarily and extended family members could see the performances on FaceBook Live. Both performances were also recorded professionally and shared later in the spring. "We are so grateful that the students were able to give their performances after all their hard work for many months," stated

Ron Valenzia, performing arts director. "The kids were very understanding and handled the situation with maturity. And the performances were fantastic. We are so proud of them."

Who would have predicted that when the curtain closed and children were dismissed that Friday at 2:30 p.m. it would be the last time we gathered together for the entire school year? It was determined that WES would be closed from March 15 for at least a few weeks, and that all classes would be conducted remotely. WES would begin spring break a week early, giving faculty and administrators time to plan for remote instruction.

Distance Learning Plan (DLP) Begins

For the first time in the school's history, we began a Distance Learning Plan on March 31. Working closely and tirelessly, and mostly remotely, faculty and staff transformed their usual curriculum to be delivered in an entirely different way. Not in sometimes noisy classrooms or in the quiet library, or the jubilant sports court. It would be delivered at home, via the internet. A new vernacular would be adopted, including ZOOM, virtual, Google Meet, remote, See Saw (not the playground equipment), and the sometimes overlooked mute button.

Joyful learning, small class sizes, a closely-knit community, and student engagement have been features of a WES education since its founding. How, with little time for careful planning and scheduling, could educating our WES Dragons go on, without concerts or plays, without the occasional high-five, the science lab, or the outreached hand to help someone down from the rocks on the playground?

"We knew that we wanted our distance learning plan to begin as soon as possible," said Head of School Danny Vogelmann. "Back in March I read an article that referred to remote learning as 'emergency learning', and I believe that is quite accurate. 'Would we have appreciated more time to develop our distance learning plan? Yes. But our teachers have very strong relationships with their students. We relied on this foundation and knew that we could and we would make it work. Teachers and Division Directors rallied. They were creative, flexible, and focused as they planned out schedules and lessons in two week chunks. Their adaptability was critical to the success of the WES distance learning plan.' Every teacher, from homeroom to PE to art, library, and religion, was a part of the plan and a part of



each student's weekly experience. Combining synchronous class meetings, live small group instruction, short videos, and meaningful offline learning, a plan was created and refined, week after week. It was designed to be content rich, flexible, and to work for busy families who are facing their own day-to-day household challenges.

Looking back at her experience with preparing lesson plans for the DLP, Middle School Geography and History Teacher Linda Durling said, "I was shocked at first by the time it took to put the DLP together. The videos were probably the biggest challenge. I made daily welcome videos and lecture videos. At first they took hours, but I became more confident with both the technology and the format of video lessons, and making videos became second nature. I believe they will be a big asset to my teaching in the future."

Keeping the Ball Rolling

The Distance Learning Plan provided rich content that kept key projects and experiences in place, such as the Global Trailblazers research and presentation project in Grade 3, the Grade 1 unit on Japan, complete with origami making, and the stop motion project in STEM. In some cases, adapting and tweaking was necessary, and the results were incredible! The Grade 6 and 8 journal illustrations (see page 15), PE's revamped Field Day (see page 4), a Grade 2 talent show, a spirit day, and a Middle School poetry slam are a few examples. And on any given Wednesday, the PE instructors would drop by families' houses for an impromptu dance party! "Specials" teachers put their creativity in high gear as they delivered engaging and imaginative lessons. Early Childhood and Elementary Spanish teacher Moira O'Kon's goal was to strengthen her students' Spanish through captivating videos and even recipes. They also sang and danced with Tigger, flew to outer space, drew in chalk, and cared for the planet as they expanded their use of Spanish. In art, the students' creativity simply exploded. "They demonstrated the ability to take very little resources and produce masterpieces," commented art teacher Courtney Clark about her elementary grade students. "Their willingness to dive right in, their enthusiasm, flexibility, open mindedness, and excitement to share their creations, allowed them to explore and rise to a new challenge, week after week."

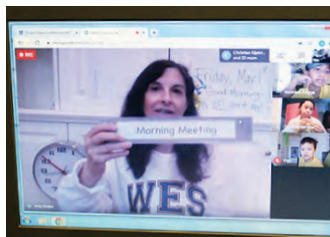
Student engagement objectives were met as Early Childhood music teacher Kate Todd taught songs, art teachers focused the camera on their hands as they gave instruction, and STEM teachers helped students conduct experiments in their own kitchens—all over the internet. Pre-K teacher Katie Rothwell went to students' homes and read to them from driveways and sidewalks, keeping intact her strong bonds with her students. Grade 1 teacher Petie Schuessler read to children during lunch, as she did during a regular school day. "I would notice that siblings of my first-graders would also join online as I read." She taught her students about fractions, graphing, measurement, and balance. One student was so inspired that he built a balance of his own!

As the weeks ticked by, WES would remain closed for the duration of the school year. Distance learning was here to stay for the school year.

A WES parent, providing feedback about the DLP, stated she has "children at two different schools and the difference [in their distance learning programs] is stark from both an academic and social-emotional standpoint."

The Strength of Community

Keeping students connected to their classmates and their teachers remains a priority. Community-wide engagement activities—such as live chapel and storytime and the Trash-to-Treasure community art project; Earth Day celebration, remote BINGO (with prizes!), dance parties, and community service opportunities such as writing cards to health



care workers—have helped to unite us around common interests and passions

"It was hard to come to grips with the fact that we were abruptly cut off from our students," said Kindergarten teacher Joyce O'Donnell. "But it was uplifting to see the children, although remotely, because we really and truly missed them. A lot." Our community support team, which includes our chaplain and counselors, are ready to assist families. They led weekly webinars providing social and emotional support for parents and also held private conversations with parents and students, upon request, as did our learning specialists.

Integrating technology in a developmentally appropriate way was another challenge when designing the DLP across age and divisions. "I have been a part of many classroom meetings and classes online," said Mr. Vogelmann. "It's been interesting to see how students who were initially not at ease with the technology or who were not very conversant in the first few weeks are now much more comfortable on screen. They contributed much more as time went on by asking questions, raising their hands, chatting with friends. We all have seen how well students have adapted to the new way of learning."

This summer, the faculty, staff, and the administration are busier than ever, as they undergo professional development and make preparations for the fall. Several Task Forces are working diligently to prepare for a possible reopening of school on campus, while all faculty are undergoing professional development around remote instruction. Parent feedback from three separate surveys about the DLP has been analyzed, and will be incorporated as the school creates the best continuous learning plan moving forward, to ensure any transition between on-site and off-site learning will be seamless.

Reflections

Students reflected upon the past few months and what it has meant to face the changes and challenges before them. "What I missed most was seeing people and having real conversations with friends at school," commented sixth-grader Isaac. "I liked having my own schedule. To me, the most interesting remote class was Ancient Civ with Mr. Marshall. He, Charles, and I read *Lord of the Flies*, which was pretty good, but a harder read than our usual books." Class of 2020 graduate Alana, a "lifer" who looks forward to attending high school in the fall, lost her great grandmother to a battle with cancer in April. "My great grandmother was the matriarch of our family," said Alana. "Before she passed, she shared this advice with me: 'In times when you may feel a little uncertain about life, trust your feelings and decisions that you make. Please know that you have a family that will be here to love and support you. Act with courage and continue to be kind.' The words that she spoke have stayed with me every day since."

We are grateful for the cooperation, engagement, support, and patience of students and families, particularly in these past few months. We all have learned so much about ourselves, and now, more than ever, we appreciate our incredible community and the privilege of having in-person, shared experiences with one another. We wish everyone good health and look forward to seeing everyone very soon. 🦋





Early Childhood

Nursery • Transition • Kindergarten • Grade 1

It has been an amazing year of growth and success for our early childhood students. The second semester saw them take delight in many hands-on experiences like maneuvering the climbing wall, fine-tuning their bike skills, and performing on stage. They expressed their joy in learning as they confidently traveled down the hallways to special subjects and events, presented reports on a specific animal, and shared their creative writing.

Nursery students went on an exciting bear hunt and in art class, they painted a favorite animal with broad, colorful brush strokes. **Pre-K** students learned how to keep a steady beat and play simple parts on the bell sets as they accompanied their classmates' singing. Kindergarten and Grade 1 students received standing ovations during their performances of *Where the Wild Things Are* and *Dots!* Before Spring Break, both classes rewrote a favorite story, retelling it in their own special way.



As the school year took an unexpected change of course in March, the Distance Learning Plan (DLP) began in response to the COVID-19 pandemic stay-at-home order for the duration of the school year. Distance Learning required students, parents/guardians, and

teachers to adapt to new ways of teaching and learning. Classes were held via computer Live Google Meets, work was loaded into Seesaw, and families participated in community events virtually. These learning opportunities provided our younger students with ancillary aptitudes as they became more self-confident, independent, and self-assured. Our teachers grew closer to each other and their students as they made the necessary personal connections to stay connected and maintain the strong community ties needed in this difficult time. Packages of materials were also mailed or dropped off at students' homes. Students, teachers, and parents forged an even stronger partnership with the simple goal of helping one another.

The year ended with our early childhood students realizing themselves in a wide variety of roles. They were readers, writers, scientists, musicians, artists, athletes, and mathematicians. They enjoyed solving problems, making predictions, and cooperating in team building activities. They certainly seem to be ready for next year's challenges, and to meet them head-on with positive and enthusiastic attitudes.

On the previous page, top left to right:

- Kindergarteners let the wild rumpus begin as they perform Maurice Sendak's 1963 classic, *Where the Wild Things Are*.
- During First Friday February, our Community Service Outreach program, Pre-Kindergarten students make valentines for patients of Children's National Hospital.
- Mrs. Elkassem captures Nursery students' attention as she reads *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* before their bear hunt in January.
- Grade 1 students perform the play *Dots!* which delivers a message about embracing diversity.

1. Kindergarten students make green eggs and ham with Grade 1 teacher Mrs. Curtis-Belote in a K/Grade 1 collaborative celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday in March.
2. First-graders sing *Mr. King* during the All-School Martin Luther King Jr. Day Chapel in January.
3. A Pre-K student creates her own constellation by sewing with floss on black cardstock as part of a unit on planets and the solar system.
4. A Nursery student explores the letter "O" as he paints an octopus.
5. A first-grader focuses on creating a church year wheel in Religion class.
6. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Facilitator Omékongo Dibinga reads a book to Pre-K students.
7. Presenting her research report on emperor penguins of Antarctica gives this Kindergarten student a chance to practice public speaking as she shares what she learned with her classmates.
8. Ms. Todd teaches Pre-K students about rhythm in music class.
9. Pre-K students arrange sticks on the playground in March.





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

What a rollercoaster of a semester! January began as busy as ever with elementary students, refreshed from their winter break, diving deep into curriculum and innovative learning. In social studies, **Grade 2** students celebrated their Family Journey stories and welcomed parents and caregivers into class to share their families' heritage and culture. As part of their "Forces of Nature" STEM unit, **fifth-graders** took on the role of weather forecaster during their field trip to the NBC4 studios. Later in the month we were delighted to welcome Rev. Yolanda Rolle, Episcopal Chaplain from Howard University, as our guest speaker for our special chapel commemorating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. February brought the sweet treat of **Grade 3's** adaptation of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. The creativity continued in **Grade 4** art as students explored world masks and designed and made their own from papier-mâché. Winter celebrations included Mardi Gras festivities in French class, Valentine lunches with **Grade 2** friends, and the thoughtful reflection of our beautiful Ash Wednesday Chapel.

The semester provided opportunities for students to use their learning to have a positive impact on their community. Our Grade 5 students worked in groups to develop prototypes of products that would solve a problem in people's lives. They presented their creative ideas to parents and faculty at their Innovation Showcase. Designs included *The Better Tree Netter*—an eco-friendly way to net Christmas trees, *The Wheely Boot*—wheels for foot casts to help ease recovering from an injury, and

Hop-a-long High Beams—lights for crutches! Third-graders did a phenomenal job raising awareness around the importance of recycling in their "Pollution Solution" project. They carried out a school audit of energy use and taught the community how to recycle which led to a 50% increase in paper recycling in just a few weeks!

There is no doubt that the last couple of months of school have been challenging and we are proud of the way all our Dragons showed resilience and fortitude as we adapted to Distance Learning, not just by going through it, but by growing through it. Students found new ways to come together and share their experiences and learning; working hard to build skills of independence and organization, and navigating their way through assignments and Google Meet classes. They participated in book clubs and shared their writing—from argument and advocacy essays to realistic fiction to poetry. They created models and images through science and art projects, showed their creativity in talent shows, and developed their mathematical thinking in shape, space, and measurement units. As the semester came to a close, students proudly presented their social studies "Global Trailblazers" and State projects. Throughout, our Dragons have shown incredible adaptability and support of one another. They have continued to shine and find joy in learning, despite the unexpected and unusual circumstances.



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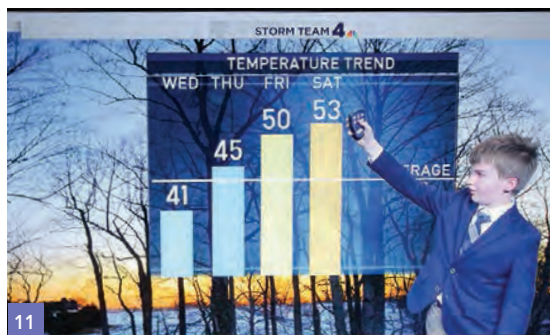
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On the previous page, top left to right:

- Third-graders danced and sang in a fun-filled presentation of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* in February.
- Students in Grades 3 and 4 enjoy a Mardi Gras party in the After School French program.
- A fifth-grader presents his video during his invention of *The Better Tree Netter*, an eco-friendly way to net Christmas trees, in STEM class.
- Second graders try out a drum from Trinidad and Tobago during a student's journey story

1. As choral support for the musical, fifth-graders rehearse a number after school.
2. Student Advisory Group (SAG) representatives from the Elementary Division check on their initiative of installing volleyball nets on the field this winter.
3. Third-graders create and decipher Morse code message after wiring working telegraphs during a unit on communication in STEM class.
4. Working together, students in Grades 2 and 5 make blankets for Bethesda Cares during First Friday February.
5. Grade 3 students made crosses out of clay and colorful beads as a tactile prayer and meditation aid in Religion class during Lent.
6. Grade 2 students enjoy a new tradition of making Valentine's Day lunches for classmates.
7. Mrs. Poland and second-graders pause outside after their visit with residents of Sunrise Senior Living in DC.
8. A fourth-grader works on his papier-mâché global mask in art class.
9. Mrs. Husain, her third-grade students, Chaplain Kristen, and Reverend Rolle gather after the Martin Luther King, Jr. Chapel in January.
10. Ms. Magee and some of her fourth-grade students take a break between classes.
11. A fifth-grader tries out his skill as a meteorologist during a STEM field trip to NBC-4 studios.



Middle School Grade 6 • Grade 7 • Grade 8



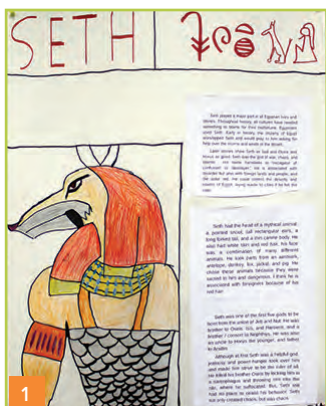
WES Middle Schoolers returned from Winter Break rested, refreshed, and ready to tackle new challenges as 2020 began.

Our student leaders dove into action this winter as several attended a middle school diversity and inclusion conference at a neighboring school. Afterwards, they were able to share their experiences and conversations with the entire middle school community during our Friday afternoon Community period. The Middle School celebrated and studied several outstanding people (as well as some fascinating, but lesser known figures) for Black History Month. Once again, a student-led team worked to create a first-floor bulletin board to showcase their work for the entire school to see. For the first time in two years, the student leaders of the Student Government Association (SGA) hosted the annual middle school dance on a Friday evening, where the theme was the Disney-Marvel Universe. Students showed their creativity and spirit on this evening of conga-lines, dance contests, and of course, singalongs. Even our MATHCOUNTS team contributed to the wider community by creating an instructional math video for lower-grade students, earning them a Gold Award from the national office. The time-honored WES tradition, the Grade 6 musical, was a fantastic production by two different casts of Disney's *Frozen Jr.* Grade 6 and the performing arts team outdid themselves with sets, costumes, effects, and spectacular singing, dancing, and acting to transport the audience to far-away icy Arendell.

Just as we were celebrating the success of the musical and awaiting our spring break, the world decided to retreat, and we entered our Distance Learning Plan. WES Middle Schoolers did not disappoint their teachers during this unique and challenging period. Making great use of their Chromebooks and digital learning platforms, our students embraced the rigors of re-



mote learning. We began every day in a virtual advisory meeting, participated in classes, and met with teachers one-on-one via online conferencing. Students enjoyed STEM classes that featured virtual guest speakers, created photo journals of their neighborhoods in celebration of Earth Day, wrote reflections in narrative and verse on their experiences of life in a pandemic (see page 6), and participated in a powerful online poetry slam. They sang with classmates, danced with classmates, and even had lunch and recess together—despite being miles away from each other. The middle school community continued to thrive. Our school year ended with the great WES traditions of Field Day, the Awards Ceremony, and the awesome Grade 8 Graduation events. Graduation this year was a once-in-a-lifetime event for the Class of 2020! Over the summer, WES Middle Schoolers will enjoy summer reading, blogging online, and hopefully plenty of sunshine!



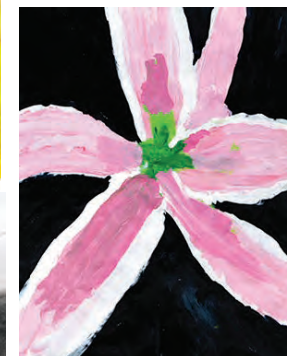
On previous page, top left to right:

- An eighth-grader and her mother receive a Class of 2020 yard sign, delivered by Mr. Vogelman and Ms. Cuddihy in May.
- For the Ash Wednesday Chapel, an eighth-grader provides a reading.
- Grade 6 students plant seeds in test tubes to explore gravity's effect on seed growth on earth compared to like samples being grown in microgravity on the International Space Station.
- Both teams unite after the Faculty/Grade 8 basketball game in February.
- Happy sixth-graders gather after their performance of *Frozen Jr.*; the musical is a great bonding opportunity for the students. Please see the inside back cover for more photos from the musical.

1. A sixth-grader's Ancient Civilizations research poster on the Egyptian god Seth.
2. A sixth-grader explains her Science Fair project to a parent judge in February.
3. Sixth-graders stand in front of the Black History Month bulletin board, created by Middle School.
4. Sixth-graders play the flute during the Ash Wednesday Chapel.
5. The WES Robotics teams during a FIRST LEGO League Robotics competition
6. An eighth-grader delivers her speech about a famous American she researched for Mr. Vogelman's Ethical Leadership class.
7. Mr. Vogelman listens to speeches from his eighth-grade class, paying careful attention to their delivery and content.
8. Grade 7 and 8 students provided technical assistance for the Sixth-Grade Musical.
9. Mrs. Earle and students dissect a frog and learn about organs in a Grade 7 life science lab.
10. Middle Schoolers depart for a math meet at St. Albans.
11. A seventh-grader helps a first-grader as they assist with Chapel on January 29.
12. Boys from Grades 7 and 8 prepare snacks for Bethesda Cares on First Friday February.



DURING THE WINTER AND SPRING TERMS, art classes tackled big units in painting, ceramics, sculpture, drawing, and printmaking. Specific artists, including Claude Monet, Henry Moore, Georgia O'Keeffe, Pablo Picasso and Faith Ringgold, were studied and variations of their art was replicated. Skills developed over the course of the year were highlighted as students exhibited understanding of proportion, line, shape, color, and space, as well as the manipulation of clay and other 3D materials to make items like masks, plates, and sculptures. Students continued to build upon their skills while at home, by using what they learned in the classroom to similarly create with various materials and strengthen drawing skills throughout distance learning.





The few days we rehearsed then performed the musical (Frozen jr.) were very extraordinary; in both a good, and a bad way. Let's start with the not so cheerful announcement. A couple days prior to the musical, something very unpleasant entered the whole grade's ears. Mr. Vogelmann had just announced that the musical would be limited to only the class' parents, and siblings who went to WES. Some of us were heartbroken, most of us had already invited our friends and other family; who were eager to see it. But then, they couldn't. In what felt like a minute, we were having the musical. Everyone was as nervous as excited. Then at the very last second, Mr. V decided to put me in a surprise opening performance. I didn't think I could do it. After I had memorized the lines, I wiped the sweat off my forehead and stepped onto the stage. All eyes were on me. I quickly went through the lines, not sure how I did it without messing up. I was ecstatic. Applause flooded the room.

—Bobby Bulman, Grade 6

THE VISUAL JOURNAL PROJECT,

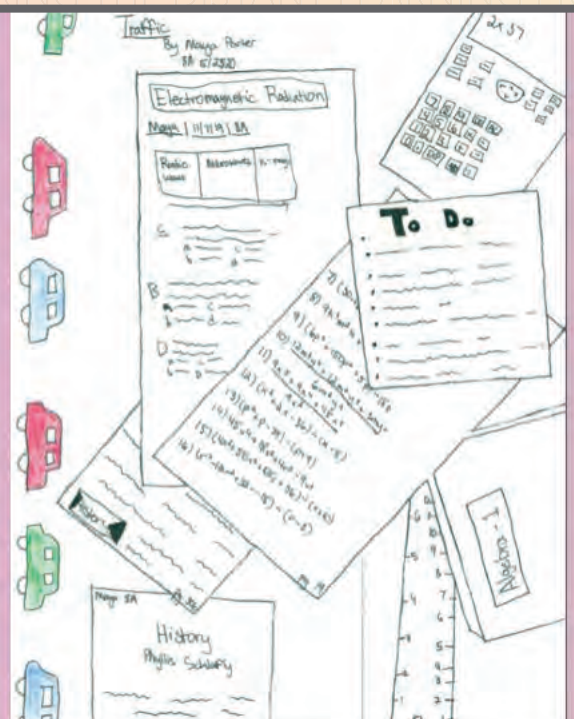
created by students in Grades 6 and 8 during the Distance Learning Plan, is a fusion of English and art. In English class students wrote journal entries reflecting daily experiences and in art they created an illustration of their written work. The feelings and experiences associated with the coronavirus and the Distance Learning Plan provided ideal content for this work. It became a meaningful way to release thoughts and emotions expressing them in a beautiful and powerful way. The choice of materials was based on what students had to work with at home. Mediums included painting, drawing, collage, photography and digital work.



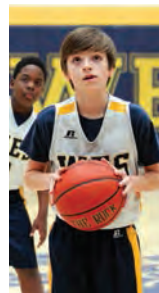
ing Plan, is a fusion of English and art. In English class students wrote journal entries reflecting daily experiences and in art they created an illustration of their written work. The feelings and experiences associated with the coronavirus and the Distance Learning Plan provided ideal content for this work. It became a meaningful way to release thoughts and emotions expressing them in a beautiful and powerful way. The choice of materials was based on what students had to work with at home. Mediums included painting, drawing, collage, photography and digital work.

Traffic

Something easier about this spring is the fact that in this bizarre, warped reality, traffic does not exist, you thankfully do not have to wait in one place for 25 minutes, because of a 15 car pileup, just to brush your teeth. Because of the fact that we don't need to leave our bedroom to have a full day of school, the week goes by fast and the weekends, unfortunately, even faster. However, the thing is, is that it is harder to focus, there are billions of other things that are in your room that you would understandably want to do rather than staring at a sheet of paper with formulas that you will probably never need in life. And once you do, inevitably, get distracted by that something, the work is forgotten. Then tomorrow, you wake up and suddenly that workload has turned into double the amount and it begins to look even more intimidating than that 15 car pileup I was telling you about earlier. Suddenly one day of missed work turns into four and that thing that was easier about spring that I wrote about at the beginning of this paragraph seems foolish, feeble, and meek. Trust me, even when you work from home, there is traffic that can slow you down for longer and pull at you and your self-esteem, time-management, and mind for a lot longer than that 15 car pileup on the highway. —Maya Porter, Grade 8



SPRING SEASON CUT SHORT



Commitment, adaptability, dedication, and teamwork are just some of the qualities we look to instill in our athletes.

How an athlete reacts and responds to different challenges and scenarios in a game situation directly impacts the success of the athlete as well as the team. The end of the 2020 winter season, leading into spring, was a test of just this.

Guided by strong leadership during the winter season, the boys' and girls' seventh- and eighth- grade basketball teams had their share of success. Eighth-graders James Grebowsky and Aden Linkins led an athletic group of boys throughout the season. With deep benches, both boys' teams proved to be a tough match for all opponents. Carmell Beamon and Kika Errico were the focal points of the girls' 7/8 team and helped lead them to a 7-3 Record. At the end-of-the-season tournament, both our boys and girls teams lost a close contest in their first game, but came back to pull out sizeable wins in their second contests.

Our fifth- and sixth- grade teams showed great poise as well. They continued to improve their skills over the season and laid the groundwork for future seasons. The Grade 6 girls' team, led by Alexandra Bond and Kathryn Marquardt, recorded an undefeated season finishing **8-0!**

Lacrosse and track and field teams began practicing in late February, excited for the spring. Teams were ready to roll when unfortunately the season came to an abrupt end. With no on-campus sports or PE available, our student athletes quickly adapted to the situation and began to utilize the WES PE/Sports Distance Learning Plan.

Students were able to choose from a variety of options including dance, personal challenges, fitness classes of yoga and boot camp, and the ever-popular "WES PE Social Distance Mobile Dance Party!" The year culminated with the first-ever Virtual Field Day (see page 4)!

Commitment to improve, adaptability in the face of the adversity, dedication to WES, and teamwork helped make the winter and spring seasons ones to remember.



ANNOUNCING NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

We are pleased to announce these Board of Trustees appointments:

NEW BOARD CHAIR

Stacie DeRamus



Stacie is a Senior Principal at The MITRE Corporation (McLean, VA) and a Department Head for Health Systems and Strategy within the Health Technical Center. Stacie received

her BS degree from The American University and her Master of Health Services Administration degree from The George Washington University. Stacie was raised in Timonium, MD and graduated from Roland Park Country School in Baltimore. During the last eight years, Stacie has supported WES in a variety of roles: Board of Trustee since 2015, Head of School Search Committee – Parent Advisory Group Chair 2014, Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chair 2017 and Parent Ambassador since 2018. Stacie, Cornelius, and Nicholas (rising sixth-grader) live in Bethesda. Stacie is an avid runner and enjoys spending time with her family and friends.

Theresa Carnegie



Theresa is a Member in the Washington, DC, office of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky, and Popeo, P.C. where her practice focuses on counseling clients in the health care

industry on transactional and federal and state regulatory matters. Theresa received her BA from Bowdoin College and her JD from Duke University. Since joining the WES community, Theresa has supported WES as 2015-2016 Annual Giving Co-Chair with her husband Les Carnegie (former Board Member,

Board Chair), 2013-2019 WES Book Fair Chair, and Co-Chair of the WES Global Fair. Theresa, Les, and their two children Lucy (WES 2020 graduate) and Charlie (rising seventh-grader) live in Bethesda. Theresa enjoys playing tennis, yoga, and traveling with her family.

Jessica Mailloux (Kelly)



Jessica is a marketing consultant with 20 years' experience in advertising, brand strategy, and event management. Jess previously worked at BBDO NY

and Discovery Communications, and currently leads marketing efforts for a newly-launched baby food brand, FoodieKid. She grew up in Canada and England, and holds a BA in Art History from McGill University. Jess and her husband Matt are proud parents of four WES Dragons (Hank, rising fifth-grader; Gus, rising second-grader, June and Dylan, rising Kindergarteners), and live in Chevy Chase, MD. Her roles as a parent volunteer at WES range from Parents Association Representative, WES Ambassador, marketing committee member, and Co-Chair of BINGO night.

Bess Puvanthingal (Milde)



Bess is a Product Manager at Palantir Technologies. She has led projects in their public sector business—including enterprise software for federal

law enforcement and subcontractor sourcing across the business—and now leads core operations for Palantir's

cloud infrastructure. Prior to Palantir, Bess was an intelligence analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency. She earned her PhD in social psychology from Temple University, where her focus was on national security decision making, and her MA in Behavior Analysis from the University of Nevada, Reno. Bess graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with a BA in Psychology and Biology. She has been a WES Parent Ambassador since 2018 and has been actively involved in the WES Parents Association, serving on the Executive Committee as the Treasurer in 2019-2020 and incoming President for 2020-2021. Bess lives in Bethesda with her husband, Jonathan Milde, and two children: Beatrix (a rising third-grader) and August (an incoming Kindergartener). Bess is a proud Midwesterner, and her hobbies include going on entry-level hikes with her family, creating parkour courses in the backyard, and cheering for the St. Louis Cardinals.

Madieu Williams



Madieu and his wife Ruth are active members of the WES community, serving as WES Ambassadors since 2018. As parents to Sophia (rising first-grader) and Mathieu

(rising second-grader), Ruth served as Kindergarten Parents Association Representative in 2018. Madieu served as the Assistant Treasurer of the Parents Association and is a member of the WES Development Committee. Beyond WES, Madieu is a member of the University of Maryland Board of Governors and Big Ten Conference Anti-racism and Anti-hate Coalition. He is a graduate of University of Maryland, and holds an MA in Business Administration and a JD. Madieu enjoys traveling, reading, and spending time with his family.

Samira Woodings



Samira has been a WES parent since 2004, and her volunteer roles at WES include Auction Co-Chair (2020), Ambassador, hot lunch server, Founders Day Picnic Co-Chair, and served

as Room Parent/ Parents Association Representative numerous times. She is also active in her community, volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, tutoring first-graders through the Reading Partners program, leading a Girl Scout Troop, and helping out at her older sons' school. A graduate of Colby Sawyer College, Samira was a production assistant at WHDH-TV, an event planner at Odell, Roper and Simms, proprietor of Ink Spot Custom Creations (stationery), and worked in business development for iCertainty, her family's business. As perennial hosts of the fall Auction Wine Party, she and her husband Ted live a stone's throw from WES in Chevy Chase, with their four sons: Faris '15, WES graduates Holden '17 and Miles '17, and Quinn (a rising fourth-grader), and dog Tess. She enjoys playing tennis, traveling, and attending her sons' sporting events.

Thank you to outgoing Trustees:

Mark Ball 2014-2020

Les Carnegie 2014-2020

Tonya Finton 2014-2020

Stacey Milne 2014-2020

Kelly Nelson 2014-2020

Ray Schupp 2014-2020

Keeley Snider 2018-2020



FACULTY MILESTONES

25 YEARS

Caterina Earle, Middle School Science Teacher
Petie Schuessler, Grade 1 Teacher

20 YEARS

Janice Davis, Art Teacher
Claire Henderson, Director of Development

10 YEARS

Patrick Pané, Librarian
Andy White, Technology and Network Administrator

5 YEARS

Allison Klothé, Elementary and Middle School Counselor
Sarah Poland, Grade 2 Teacher
Danny Vogelmann, Head of School

We are grateful to these individuals who will go on to other pursuits. We wish them well.

Andrea Borie, Extended Day Director
Trina Curtis-Belote, Grade 1 Teacher
Mahnaz Husain, Grade 3 Teacher
Amanda Phillips, Math Specialist
Amy Ruberl, Development Associate
Kate Todd, Early Childhood Music Teacher

WES STUDENTS AT THEIR BEST

We are pleased to recognize students' outstanding accomplishments this school year.
Congratulations to all!

Athletics

Good Sportsmanship Winners:

Grade 4: **Tejas Gupta, Katie Subritsky**

Grade 5: **Cate Bailey, Ewan Davis**

Grade 6: **David High, Meg Lattin**

Grade 7: **Arden Manson**

Grade 8: **Ethan Oeltmann**

French

Le Grand Concours FLES 2020

Grade 5

Fanta Bah, Ava Johnson

Grade 6

Gold medal: **Natalya Bah**

Silver medal: **Arohi Narayan, Miles Stevenson**

Bronze medal: **Charlie Carnegie, Andrew Fox**

Grade 7

Bronze Medal: **Alex Kiser**

Grade 8

Gold Medal: **Phoebe Milhollin**

Silver Medal: **Rasmus Byskov, Kika Errico**

Bronze Medal: **Alex High**

Latin

Grade 8 National Latin Exam, Certificate of Outstanding Performance: **Maria Stepanyan**

Grade 8 National Latin Exam, Certificate of Achievement: **Gabriel Piris**

Spanish

Grade 5 Spanish Award Winners:

Charleigh Knott, Joey Udoff

Grade 8 Achievement in Spanish:

Gabriel Piris

Math

The Middle School Math Club earned the gold level award from the MATHCOUNTS National Math Club in recognition for their community service math video.

Recipients of the award are:

Grade 6: **Isaac Horne**

Grade 7: **Alex Kiser, Zach Mahan, Sawyer Makl**

Grade 8: **Maria Stepanyan**

Music

Outstanding Band Members:

Grade 4: **Abigail Durkin, Sevak Stepanyan**

Grade 5: **Amel Johns, Rex Kimpel**

Grade 6: **Abby Chen, Katherine Marquardt**

Grade 7: **Alex Kiser**

Grade 8: **Alex High, Camille Montrose, Maria Stepanyan**

Outstanding Choral Participants:

Grade 4: **Annabelle Bulman, Cara McCarthy**

Grade 5: **Asha O'Neal, Ale Piris**

Grade 6: **Alexandra Bond, Gloria Burkhardt, Finley Meyer**

Grade 7: **Anna Maher, Paige Nelson**

Grade 8: **Kika Errico, Amy King**



WES Geography Bee: Winner Davis Oeltmann (Grade 8) at the January 17 competition



WES Spelling Bee: Winner Joey Udoff (Grade 5) at the February 14 contest

THESE 15 CLASS OF 2020

"lifers"

HAVE ATTENDED WES FOR A
TOTAL OF NINE OR MORE YEARS.

FRONT ROW: Jackson Evans, Gabriel Piris, Rasmus Byskov

MIDDLE ROW: Lucy Carnegie, Grace Pressley, Maxie Stumpf, Alana Woods, Amy King

BACK ROW: Emily Evans, Maria Stepanyan, Aden Linkins, Samir Elkassem, Nasim Elkassem

INSETS, top to bottom: Max McMillan, Trey Knott



GRADE 8 AWARD WINNERS



Spirit Award:

MARIA STEPANYAN

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

WES is proud to present the following Grade 8 Awards, recognizing outstanding performance and contributions from the members of the **CLASS OF 2020:**



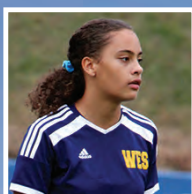
Mustard Seed Award:

ADEN LINKINS

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



Art Award:
AMY KING



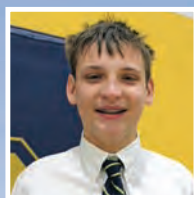
The Deighton Alleyne Coaches Award:
EMILY EVANS • NASIM ELKASSEM • SAMIR ELKASSEM



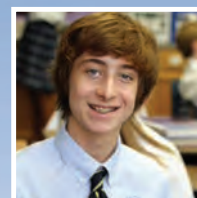
Math Award:
MARIA STEPANYAN



Dexter R. Davison Award (Music):
NATHANIEL KOCHENDERFER (Band)
GRACE PRESSLEY (Chorus)



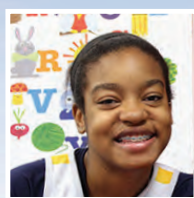
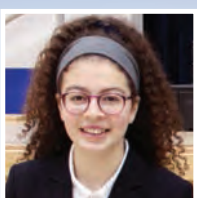
Science Award:
VICTOR JACOBSEN



Humanities Award:
ALEX HIGH
MAYA PORTER



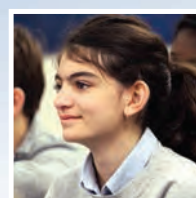
Nancy Wright Award for Academic Excellence:
NATHANIEL KOCHENDERFER • MARIA STEPANYAN



Community Service Award:
EMANUELLE HAIR



Drama Award:
JACKSON EVANS • LIA WALTON



Congratulations TO THE CLASS OF 2020!

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

Academy of the Holy Cross*
Bishop O'Connell High School
Bullis School
Christchurch School (VA)*
Connelly School of the Holy Child*
DeMatha College High School
Duke Ellington School for the Arts
Episcopal High School
The Field School*

Georgetown Day School*
Georgetown Preparatory School *
The Hill School
Landon School*
The Madeira School*
National Cathedral School*
Our Lady of Good Counsel*
The Potomac School
St. Albans School*

St. Andrews Episcopal School*
St. Johns College High School*
St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School*
Sidwell Friends School*
Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart*
Walt Whitman High School*
Washington International School (WIS)*
Winston Churchill High School*
** will attend as of June 1, 2020*



THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR, interrupted in mid-March by the global pandemic, highlighted the importance of coming together and working on a common goal. Parents and families missed the face-to-face social interaction that helps us to bond as a community, to experience something together, to celebrate successes, and to close out a school year. However, technology (and an occasional front yard or sidewalk visit) allowed us to continue the good work we started this year to build community and support the school.

ANNUAL FUND

This year's Annual Fund Campaign was led by Co-Chairs Michal and Albert Takem and an energetic team of 14 parent reps plus grandparents, past parents, faculty and Alumni reps. A fruitful phonathon in October helped push us toward our goals. The campaign wrapped up with an impressive Day of Giving on May 27. A challenge gift of \$11,600 from a group of generous parent donors was announced via email and social media posts on this day. Donations from parents, grandparents, past parents, alumni, and friends poured in that day, and raised nearly \$50,000 including the challenge gift! The 2019-2020 Annual Fund Campaign ended with a total of \$417,000. We are especially grateful to our community for thoughtfully supporting WES in this difficult year.

WES FAMILY FUND AND FACULTY RECOGNITION

In response to Covid-19 and its impact on families within our community, the Board of Trustees established the WES Family Fund. In recognition of the WES faculty, an anonymous gift of \$100,000 was made in April. Numerous other gifts were contributed to the fund as well.

AUCTION GALA Referred to as the "last great event of 2020," the Auction Gala, **A Night in**



Auction Co-Chairs
Samira Woodings and
Mehdi Elkassem

Casablanca, was a wonderful spectacle, co-chaired by Mehdi Elkassem and Samira Woodings. Their artful direction and Moroccan and Lebanese heritages ensured that all the senses were engaged and that everyone was in for a one-of-a-kind experience. More than 280 guests attended the event at WES on February 29. A lavishly decorated tent beckoned guests to have their fortunes told as they headed into the Silent Auction room to bid on beautiful baskets, unique activities and trips, and faculty outings, as they enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. At the conclusion of the Silent Auction, everyone moved into the gorgeous dining room that was a riot of magenta, gold, and purple fabric that gathered in the center of the ceiling with a dozen Moroccan brass lanterns. The tables were draped in a magenta paisley cloth with bohemian-vibe dinnerware and glowing lanterns. Camels, fezes, and colorful votives accented the bar and other areas with a nod to Morocco. An authentic Middle Eastern dinner, catered by Ridgewells was

meticulously planned by the Co-Chairs. *What's a Moroccan-themed party without a belly dancer?* Well, we had four belly dancers who appeared out of thin air, dancing among the guests. A special Auction video debuted before the start of the Live Auction. Bidding on Live items was fast and thrilling, and donors to the Raise Your Paddle appeal brought in around \$131,200 to fund new, flexible classroom furniture for students. The Auction Gala raised \$229,000 including Raise Your Paddle. As the program concluded, Grade 1 parents surprised everyone with their "flash mob" dance, inviting everyone to join them on the dancefloor as The Breakaways played live music until the stroke of midnight! We are grateful to the entire Auction Committee, especially Karaine Howard, Marina Burrows, Katie Fioravanti, and Katrina and Rex Kimpel, for their tireless work, amazing creativity, good humor, and support!

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Thanks to the leadership of the Parents Association (PA)—Keeley Snider, President; Natalya Bah, Vice President; Julia Ghafouri, Secretary; Bess Puvanthingal (Milde), Treasurer; Madieu Williams, Assistant Treasurer—many new initiatives were embraced this year, along with productive events and fundraisers. Chief among the changes was the conversion of "Room Parents" to "PA Reps," elevating the role and providing more streamlined communications and promoting participation. With a goal of providing and equitable distribution of Christmas/holiday and end-of-year gifts to all faculty and staff, the PA organized two successful voluntary collections that resulted in generous cash gifts to the hard-working faculty and staff. In addition, they modified the method for collecting annual dues and revised the amount of the dues.

EVENTS

The PA sponsored **guest speaker** Dr. Catherine McCarthy who spoke about children's anxiety and neuroscience. **BINGO Night** on January 31, co-chaired by Jessica Mailloux (Kelly) and Siobhan Wilan was very popular, with prizes, food, and drink for the whole family. Emily King and Carolyn Montrose used their creativity to organize two spectacular **Faculty Snack Days**: a pumpkin theme in October and a Valentine's Day theme in February. As parents of eighth-graders we will miss this duo's over-the-top events in the future. **WES Fitness**, co-chaired by Kweku Ankoma-Sey, and Jacqueline Randle (Paho), provided a good excuse for exercise and camaraderie. Once again Christa Cooper was our representative to the **Parents Council of Washington (PCW)**. Two spring events were in the planning stages: the **Faculty Appreciation Luncheon**, chaired by Michelle High, and the **Founders Day Picnic** co-chaired by Kate Garrison and Vicki Panchal. Unfortunately these two events were cancelled.

The PA also orchestrated several fund raisers this year including **Charleston Wrap gift** and gift wrapping sale, under the direction of Mia Spiker

Johnson and Sandy McCarthy, bringing in \$1431; a **Ledo Pizza night**, chaired by Piper Griffin, netting \$769; and the **Poinsettia and Greens** sale in December, co-chaired by Camille Jensen (Byskov) Melanie Jacobsen, and Rachael McMillan earning \$1,127 that will go toward the Class of 2020 gift to the school. A perennial fundraiser, **The Used Uniform Shop**, co-chaired by Ximena Marquez-Dagan and Claire Mezoughem, is a great way to pass along gently-used uniform items while earning funds for the school. This year it brought in more than \$1400.

Everyone looks forward to December and the annual three-day **Book Fair**. Co-chaired by Theresa Carnegie and Nikki Sertsu, funds raised went directly toward the purchase of 200 new titles for the Library. This year's guest author, Adam Gidwitz, presented to students in Grades 2-8. His visit was sponsored in part by the PA. Of course a highlight of the December Admission Open House is storytime with Mr. Pané, followed by a visit from Santa Claus during the Book Fair. More than \$3,300 was raised at this year's Book Fair.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In a year that began with a 10-year re-accreditation self-study for the Association of Independent Maryland Schools and ended with the challenges necessitated by the pandemic, we are grateful for the dedication and leadership of our Trustees and the Board Committee members. This group of individuals has the best interest of the school and the students as its singular guiding light.

WES AMBASSADORS

Ambassadors play an immense role in the life of the school as they mentor new families, reach out to prospective families, and attend Open Houses and welcoming events, often on weekends and evenings. We are grateful to the leadership of Piper Griffin and Sandy Vogelmann and the dozens of Ambassadors who promote our school and program throughout our community.

FATHERS CLUB

WES dads Wesley Clark, Tony D'Emidio, and Peter Rosan led the Fathers Club as they had monthly gatherings and organized a sheet shooting outing. This group provided help with set-up and clean-up for events including the Welcome Back Party in September and the Auction Gala this winter.

THANK YOU! We are grateful to PA Reps, event chairs, field trip chaperones, board members and committee members, hot lunch servers, sixth-grade musical costume and rehearsal helpers, community service participants, and those sharing their family heritage with their child's class, or reading to students. We appreciate all the time you have devoted to the school, and your generosity. Every volunteer minute and each dollar donated makes WES a better place for learning, and a stronger community for us all.



1. Lobby décor welcomes Auction attendees 2. Wesley Clark works on Auction decorations 3. Nicole Miller, Karaine Howard, Samira Woodings, Wesley Clark, Vicki Panchal, Katie Fioravanti 4. Amy Samman and Nina Seborowski (Abdow) 5. From left, top: Grade 2 parents Bill and Liz Tyndall, Bronwyn and Jim Roy, Jonathan Milde, Amir Gohari, Bob Ghafouri, Mehran Rouhanian, Chris McLeod, Anna Irwin, Nigel and Karaine Howard, Julia Ghafouri, Bess Puvathingal (Milde), Janan Gohari, Lauren Lewis (Rouhanian), Kim McLeod, Sarah Demarest, Jay Irwin 6. A belly dancer entertains at the Auction Gala 7. Katie Fioravanti 8. The Auction dining room 9. Karaine Howard, Samira Woodings, Katie Fioravanti, Marina Burrows, Mehdi Elkassem 10. The Breakaways band plays at the Auction 11. Ivy and Robey Duke 12. "Hump Day" camel cookies reminded everyone to RSVP to the Auction 13. Samira and Ted Woodings get their fortunes told 14. Fathers Club members help with Auction set up: Gustav Hofverberg, Tony D'Emidio, Jim Roy, Daniel Pomykala, Greg Pugh, Robey Duke, Sam Jayakanthan, Peter Rosan, Bruce Johnson, Mehdi Elkassem 15. A scene from the Live Auction



16. Michal and Albert Takem, Annual Fund Co-Chairs 17. WES grandmother Samia Fayyad and Maria Viera help serve hot lunch 18. Parents Association Leadership: Madieu Williams, Natalya Bah, Keeley Snider, Bess Puvathingal (Milde), Julia Ghafouri 19. Tenisha Harrison and Sarah Demarest during a PA meeting 20. Parents during a speaker presentation in the Library 21. Julie Berko and her son at Parents Visiting Day in November 22. Ed Rogues and his sons play BINGO 23. Danny Vogelmann, a first-grader, and Jess Mailloux (Kelly) during BINGO night 24. Third-graders enjoy playing BINGO 25. Book Fair Co-Chair Theresa Carnegie 26. Ambassadors at the January Open House 27. Valana Mulheron (Cooper) and Andrea Owens (Ehrenberg) help at an Open House 28. Emily King, Carolyn Montrose, and Michelle Oeltmann help prepare Grandparent valentines 29. Book Fair Co-Chair Nikki Sertsu 30. Kweku Ankoma-Sey with the yoga instructor, leading a class for parents in January

Alumni

CLASS NOTES



1



2



3



4

1 LaKisha Yirenkyi, Chelsea Ward '19, and Courtney Clark chat about Chelsea's art experience at Mercersburg Academy • 2 Joanna Dematatis '17 and Emelia Isola '17 hiked the Capital Crescent Trail from Bethesda to the National Mall in May • 3 Ted Bevan '05 and Alex Mauro on their wedding day, March 7, 2020 (Cory Ryan Photography) • 4 Naomi '19 and Eliza '19 Horne give brother Isaac '22 a hug after his performance in *Frozen Jr.* in March • 5 Lt. Michael Harding '05 (far right) with Surgeon General Jerome Adams (center) and medical school classmates



5

'19 Elim Ephrame ephrame.elim@yahoo.com

John Carney, a rising sophomore at St. John's, is recuperating well from knee surgery and is training hard to rejoin his hockey travel team. **Gabi Love** was on the track team at St. John's, and played oboe in the wind ensemble. She enjoyed learning some new pieces on the piano during quarantine. **Mareina Mitchell** played Margot and **Iris Zola** was an ensemble actor in St. Andrew's production of *Legally Blonde* in February. **Chloe Talieh** played varsity hockey at Holy Child and was on the varsity golf team as well. **Chelsea Ward** dropped by WES in March on her spring break from Mercersburg Academy and chatted with art teachers Courtney Clark and LaKisha Yirenkyi. She continues to enjoy art, is inspired by the Burgin Art Building on her campus, was in Dance Concert in the fall, and performed in a production of *Our Town*. In the spring she was in the ensemble of *Mama Mia* and performed in Spring Scenes.

'18 Fiona Turnbull fcturnbull@icloud.com

Tendai Ball rowed crew for St. Albans. **Maya Grebowsky** is vice president of the Young Democrats Club and a member of the BSU (Black Student Union) at Holton-Arms School. She was selected to be a facilitator at Diversity Day and rows on the crew team. She has started a social change project through a non-profit organization called LearnServe, that helps

high schoolers create their own community service projects that make a difference. Her current project helps homeless women in Silver Spring, MD. This summer, Maya will participate in a program called, Experiment Digital where she will be partnered with students worldwide to brainstorm solutions to current-day world problems. **Joy Alycia Kramer** rowed crew for Holton-Arms. **Conner Nickel** placed 4th at MAC Championships in 100 Freestyle—a new St. Andrew's team record. He also broke the St. Andrew's records in the 200 and 50 Freestyles, and is part of the record-breaking team for all three of St. Andrew's relays (200 Freestyle Relay, 200 Medley Relay, and 400 Freestyle Relay). A photo of Conner swimming was featured on an outdoor banner at SAES. Conner also received Academic Honors. **Colin Redmond** was on the varsity baseball team at Landon. **Katie Skinner** was on stage crew of St. Andrew's production of *Legally Blonde* in February. **Theo Sotoodehnia**, a student at St. Albans, participated in the semifinals of the Euro Challenge This annual program provides high school students the opportunity to learn about the global economy, EU policy-making, and financial literacy. Theo also lent a hand to WES swimmers at their swim meet at STA in February. **David Stevenson** played Warner in St. Andrew's production of *Legally Blonde* in February, which was attended by several current and past WES faculty members.

'17 Thomas Carney tpcarney97@gmail.com Emelia Isola isolaemelia@gmail.com

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

Harry Akins volunteers at an animal shelter, played varsity hockey for Bullis, and joined the debate club. **Tayo Ball** played lacrosse for St. Albans. **Lisa Byskov** is busy working on her IB diploma at BCC. She was on the varsity soccer team for the second year this year and plays club with Maryland Rush. She also volunteers through several clubs including Best Buddies and Step It Up and is the president of the Spike Ball Club at Bethesda.

Calendar
2020 - 2021

Alumni Reunions
& Auction Gala: Dates TBD

Thomas Carney was a manager on Gonzaga's stage crew and is working at a pizza place on the Jersey Shore this summer. **Joanna Dematatis** received an honorable mention for her photography in the Scholastic Art Awards at Holton-Arms. **Emelia Isola** was on the Walter Johnson indoor track team that took first place in the county meet. She ran the 4x200 meter relay. She was inducted into the National Honors Society and Psi Alpha (Psychology Honors Society). **Lily Talieh** played varsity hockey at Holton-Arms and was on the varsity crew team in the spring, and was on stage crew for *Chicago*.

'16 Maddie Blonder
Maddieblonder@gmail.com

Jemma Bazemore received an honorable mention for her photography in the Scholastic Art Awards at Holton-Arms. She will attend Tufts University in the fall. **William FitzGerald** is heading to the School of Visual Arts in NYC next year to study Illustration, more specifically concept design, which creates the world - environment, characters, and creatures for movies, animation and gaming. He was really taken in by the outstanding GDS theater program and has been the props designer for the past three years, as well as stage manager, sound crew head, and actor. This winter he was selected to direct a one-act play. William was also on the varsity rock climbing team and has trained and certified Tucket as a therapy dog for various PAL (People, Animals, Love) volunteer programs. **Felicia Gelos** was inducted into the Cum Laude Society at St. Andrew's. She played clarinet in the band for the production of *Legally Blonde*. Felicia heads to Carleton College in the fall. **Charlotte**

Mensforth was co-captain and played on the undefeated Stone Ridge hockey team and won the MAGHL championship game in February. She will attend Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Canada. Former faculty members Laurie Sparling and Nancy Wright went to see Charlotte (Stone Ridge) play ice hockey against **Lily Talieh '17** (Holton-Arms) at Cabin John ice rink in January. **Caroline Milne** played Vivienne in St. Andrew's production of *Legally Blonde* in February. She also played Mrs. Gibbs in a production of *Our Town* in the fall. She runs the Hearts for Haiti Club, raising money and awareness for their partner school, Christ Roi, in Haiti, raising funds to provide textbooks for more than 200 of their students. She also leads the Cappies Club, a small group of students who see and write about local high school performances; two of her reviews have been published in local newspapers. She heads to Bates College this fall.

Kim Ross was featured in Stone Ridge's senior profiles on Instagram in April. As a Girl Scout since age 5, she received the Gold Award, the highest honor offered by the organization. Kim will attend Duke University in fall, and plans to study chemistry, psychology, or neuroscience on a pre-med track. **Pascale Schmidt** received an honorable mention for her painting in the Scholastic Art Awards at Holton-Arms. She will head to North-eastern University in the fall. **Alex Skoufias** will attend UCLA in the fall.

 'Like' WES Alumni Association on Facebook



Top to bottom, L-R: Conner Nickel '18 swimming for SAES, winter 2020 • Lisa '17 and Rasmus '20 Byskov • Mehdi Elkassem and Theo Sotoodehnia '18 at the St. Albans swim meet • Katya, Samir '20, Nasim '20, Karim '17, and Mehdi Elkassem • Gabi Love '19 playing basketball for St. John's and in May • Charlotte Mensforth '16 after her hockey game with Nancy Wright and Laurie Sparling • David Diaz '16 receives his diploma from Landon • William FitzGerald's '16 still life sketch • Nick '14 and Felicia '16 Gelos • David Stevenson '17 and Caroline Milne '16 perform in St. Andrew's production of *Legally Blonde* in February





Top to bottom, L-R: Trey '20, Charleigh '22, and Clara '18 Knott • Chloe '19 and Lily '17 Talieh • Alex '17 and Max '20 McMillan • Woodings brothers: Faris '15, Holden '17, Miles '17, and Quinn '25 • Sterling '13 and Sarah Myhre '16 • Lawrence '14 and Colin '18 Redmond • Caitlin Cooper '16 and her sister Celia '18 • Thomas '17 and John '19 Carney with dog Simba • Ryan Kyle '15 • Tendai '18 and Tayo '17 Ball



Alumni
at home
MAY 2020

'15 Ryan Kyle Ryankyle36@gmail.com

Allyn Abbot is a member of the Tulane-Newcomb choir. He sang tenor in a beautiful Zoom rendition of "Good Night, Dear Heart" in April. It can be found on YouTube. **Zoe Barnette** is a chemical engineering major at the University of Notre Dame. She is also on their fencing team and went 24-0 at their home tournament! **Alexander Dematatis** enjoyed his first year at Miami of Ohio and is in the ROTC program. **Ryan Kyle** completed her freshman year at Amherst College. She tutored at a local adult education center and served as a research assistant in the Department of Law, Jurisprudence, and Social Thought. **Alicia Pané** began her freshman year at Middlebury College in February. She was involved in the scene shop in the theater department. **Nick Ratliff** enjoyed his freshman year at Washington University in St. Louis. He volunteered as a basketball coach at the local YMCA, joined a Latin dancing team, and pledged a fraternity. A rising sophomore at Rice University, **Matthew Sheets** was elected Vice President of his residential college, sang in an a capella group, the Rice Apollos, and performed in the musical, *Hello Hamlet*. **Morinsola Tinubu** is planning on a double major in Spanish and political science at Williams College. This past fall, she joined a dance group called Ritmo Latino, played flute in wind ensemble, and worked as a science tutor at a local elementary school. **Faris Woodings** played lacrosse for BCC and will attend Guilford College in the fall.

'14 Samantha Liggins samanthaliggins@gmail.com

Lawrence Redmond made a quick trip home for Mother's Day after finishing up his sophomore year at Emory University, where he is a pre-med student and is on the swim team. He will do research this summer in Atlanta.

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

Mary Butler graduated from Oxford this spring and will begin a job at a school in Cambridge in the fall. **Genevieve Dickinson** stayed with Mary in December in London, and **Alya Ahmed** met up with Mary in Edinburgh last summer and saw Mary perform in a play in the Fringe Festival. **Sterling Myhre**, a junior at Tulane University, is a brother in the Sigma Chi-Alfa Omicron chapter and a marketing intern for the Tulane Athletics Department. He is on track to graduate in June of 2021 with degrees in management and marketing. Sterling was elected Director of Member Development on the Tulane Interfraternity Council and is an on-campus social media intern for barstool sports, and can't wait for baseball to resume!

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

Bella Alarie was drafted #5 overall to the Dallas Wings in the WNBA draft in April. She graduated from Princeton University where she played forward/guard. Bella attended WES for Nursery and Pre-K. **Robert Bork** graduated from University of Virginia this spring. In October he will begin an M. Phil program in Intellectual History at Oxford. **Emerson Cox** graduated from West Point this spring. **Matthew Karam** switched his major to geology at Queens College in Canada. **Michaela Karam** graduated summa cum laude (pre-med) from University of Toronto in May and is studying for the MCAT.

Carolyn Martin graduated from College of Charleston in May. **Laurence Ruberl** graduated from Earlham College in May with a BA in computer science and a minor in theatre.

'11 Peter Abdow peter.abdow@gmail.com Sarah Bair sarahbair7@gmail.com Jake Bredhoff jake.bredhoff@yahoo.com

Peter Abdow will attend medical school at Georgetown University in the fall. **Sarah Bair** returned home to Bethesda in March from her position as a Peace Corp volunteer in Togo, West Africa, due to the global pandemic. She hopes to return in 2021, but in the meantime, she is applying to graduate school to study public health. Sarah presented online to Linda Durling's history classes about Togo in May. She is helping elderly neighbors during the pandemic by doing their grocery shopping and errands. **Lauren Freeny** will start a program in the fall at Washington University in St. Louis's School of Medicine studying audiology and communication. **Isabelle Kramer** graduated in April from BYU with honors with a bachelor's in Communications with a minor in English. She has a job in marketing for Sundance, and will begin a masters in communications in the fall at BYU.



ALUMNI VISITS THIS WINTER: Top to bottom, L-R: Oliver Johnson '14 and Joyce O'Donnell • Tayyaba Tareq '14 with Katie Hopper • Sam Liggins '14 and Mehdi Elkassem

'10 Lindsay Bratun
lindsaybratun@gmail.com
Jonathan Butturini
Jab990@gmail.com
Shelby Mahaffie
shelby.mahaffie@gmail.com
Madison Sharp
endasha4079@gmail.com

Felix Chassaing graduated in December 2019 from Purdue University and is finishing up a graduate internship at Volkswagen in Virginia in the spring. We enjoyed watching **Hunter Heflin's** music video on a Potomac School virtual concert in May. As a pop producer and recording artist, his music has been described as smearing the boundaries between future pop and electronic styles. Follow him on Instagram @hunterheflin-music. **Patrick Lansdale** is working for a physical therapist in Greensboro, NC. **Tory Lynch**, a Cornell University graduate in fashion design, is a Design Assistant at Garan, Incorporated in NYC. **Kyle Rushford** left for Kuwait in May on a 9-month assignment with the USMC 13th Expeditionary Force. **Mike Schmandt** was the Finance Chief of Staff for Amy for America, Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)'s presidential campaign. **Sammi Stroman** will attend Yale Law School in the fall. She currently is a program manager in the global health policy center at CSIS in DC. **Aaron Zaimi** is working for the Disney-ESPN division in digital marketing.

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

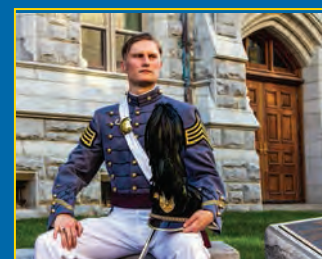
Darwin Forsyth is press secretary for the Mayor of Minnesota, Jacob Frey. Congratulations to **Bethany Mark** on the birth of her baby girl this spring! **Zoe Palmer** will begin a masters program in art therapy this fall.

'08 Aszana Jones
azzanaiprincess@gmail.com
Ben Martin
bmartin@fandn.edu

Katherine Rosenman had a wonderful trip to Israel in February. She lives and works in San Francisco.

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

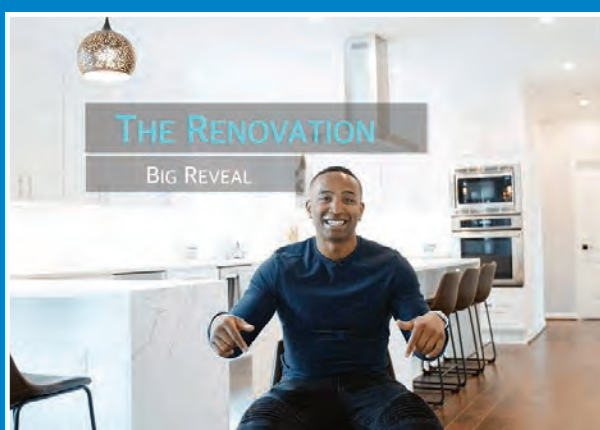
Faith Collins and her husband Scott Shellhammer bought a house in Denver and moved into it this April. **Jack Metelski** is an Assistant Vice President, Research Analyst at Bessemer Trust, a wealth management firm in NYC. He has been with them since March 2017. Jack graduated Magna Cum Laude (Econ) from Colgate University in 2015 and from Landon (2011).



Top to bottom, L-R: Felix Chassaing '10 at his graduation from Purdue University, December 2019 • Emerson Cox '12 graduated from West Point • Sarah Norton '16 on graduation day (Field School) • Carolyn Martin '12 graduates from College of Charleston; pictured with siblings Dana '10 and Ben '08, and mother Celia • Laurence Rubel '12 on graduation day from Earlham College

 **NEW! @alumniwes on Instagram**

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



ALUMNI TO WATCH

Byron Jones '10 during the renovation reveal of his parents' home in Maryland

After graduating from Georgetown University with his master's in sports management, **Byron Jones** set out on a new kind of project; to renovate his parent's house. In a position to move directly into a career in sports, he took a break to give back to his parents who have done so much for him. He started the project in September 2019 and finished it in January 2020. What started out as just a kitchen remodel turned into a entire main level renovation. He took on every aspect of the project from demolition, to the design, and every aspect of the build. He even called on some of his old friends from WES to lend a hand, including **Hunter Heflin '10**, **Matt Pell '10**, and **Scott Peel '07**. The impact it has had on his parents' lives has been remarkable. Now that the renovation has been completed, he is looking to utilize the project management lessons he learned in whatever his next opportunity may be.

Check out the link to watch this amazing transformation! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Tktuf-5wkc&feature=youtu.be&app=desktop>

'05 Kristin Maller
kmm.09@yahoo.com
Jon Rice
Jonathan.rice@me.com
Charis Whitnah
whitswow@aol.com

Congratulations to **Ted Bevan** on his marriage to Alex Mauro on March 7, 2020 in Laguna Gloria in Austin, TX. Ted and Alex both graduated from Uniformed Services School of Health Sciences in Bethesda, passed their boards and are physicians in the US Navy. They both attended the Navy Flight School in Pensacola, FL and are qualified flight surgeons. After graduating as flight surgeons, they were both assigned to US Marine Corps squadrons, Ted assigned to a fighter jet squadron, and Alex assigned to an Osprey helicopter squadron. As flight surgeons they are responsible for the operational readiness of their squadrons. When the squadrons are not deployed, the doctors often help in the clinics on base. They reside in San Diego. **Michael Harding** graduated med school April 1 and was the recipient of two awards: the United States Public Health Service Surgeon General Award, presented by the Surgeon General to a graduating medical student whose university career has been characterized by academic achievement, military medical professionalism, and exemplary commitment toward enhancing the mission and goals of the service; and the Captain Richard Hooper Memorial Award, given to the graduating medical student with exceptional promise in the practice of preven-

tive medicine. Michael, started a combined residency in Family Health and Preventative Medicine at Johns Hopkins in July. He, his wife Tiffany, and sons James '29 and Charlie have relocated to Baltimore and we will miss having their family at WES.

'04 Sofia Selowsky
Sofia.selowsky@gmail.com
Jeffrey Scholl
Jeffr3354@aol.com

The Reverend Sadie Lansdale is a minister at Unitarian Universalist Church of Greensboro, NC.

'03 Representative needed

On our Spirit Day, **Salem Al-Wehaib** sent us a photo of his sixth-grade musical (*Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat*) t-shirt that he saved! He and his brothers, **Abdulaziz '10** and **Mohammad '05**, attended WES from 1994-2001. Salem started WES in Kindergarten and left after sixth-grade when his family returned to Kuwait for work. Salem went to high school in Rome, and graduated in 2011 from Penn State University. He married a woman from Lebanon in 2019, lives in Kuwait, and is a bank credit analyst. He hopes his future children will attend Summer@WES. He told us that he and his brothers "consider WES to be the most influential part of their lives, and the values they learned have remained with them after WES. The international student body meant that no one cared about race/religion

and became friends regardless of background." His parents and youngest two brothers live in New Zealand; his father is with the embassy there. Salem keeps in touch on Facebook with WES classmates and Mrs. Boynton. He still has his journal from Mr. Marshall's sixth-grade class and the two recently corresponded by email. During his last visit to WES he took a photo with Mr. Alleyne.

'02 Carolina Richards
richards.carolina@gmail.com

Andrew Harding is a co-founder of a Salt Lake City, UT company Rivet, a healthcare revenue cycle management system. Founded in 2018, Rivet's intelligent tech platform is used by healthcare practices across the country to bring price transparency to patients. Currently, patients discover the cost of care up to 60 days after their doctor visits via traditional mail. From there, patients often have to call or log in to an antiquated online portal to reconcile their bills. Rivet's platform enables providers to give patients upfront pricing estimates with the ability to pay prior to or shortly after receiving care in a way that is convenient to them, even via email or text.

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

'00 Anne Glassie
glassie@gmail.com

'99 Representative needed

'98 Representative needed

'97 Nate Guggenheim
Nate.Guggenheim@WFP.com

'94 Charlotte McCormack
char.mccormack@gmail.com

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

'92 John Pinto
johnpinto@gmail.com

'91 Representative needed

'90 Ashleigh Freer Parr
afparr@gmail.com

'89 Stephan von Schilcher
vonschilcher@gmail.com

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

Britt Snider is a principal and head of development for Redbrick LMD in DC. He and his family recently bought a house in Chevy Chase, MD, with plans to renovate it.

Condolences to

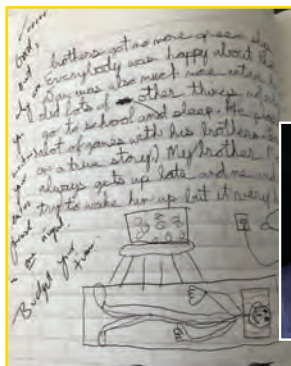
The family of **Tristan Harris '10** on his passing in February 2020.

Nikolai '92 and **Alexandr '00 Tolstoy**, on the passing of their father, Vladimir Tolstoy, on March 6, 2020.

Michael Joseph '91 on the passing of his father, Michael P. Joseph, Sr. on March 29, 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.
Thank you so much!



Top-bottom, L-R: Hayley Henderson '00 at the WES Auction with Ana Karam and Stephanie Jayakanthan • Emily Bien '93 with husband Bradley and sons Maddox and Wilder • Madame Jacqueline and Lindsay Bratun '10 at WES in February • Salem Al-Wehaib's '03 journal from sixth-grade • Salem Al-Wehaib '03 • Sarah Bair '11 in a village in Togo West Africa playing soccer • Ted Bevan '05 working as a medical doctor • Britt Snider '88, wife Keeley, and daughters Maeve '24 and Katherine '22 ring in the new year in Paris.



WASHINGTON EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Alumni PROFILE

L to R: Naomi Horne '19, Caroline Dickey '18, Joanna Dematatis '17, Lucy Weems '19, Fiona Turnbull '18, Maya Grebowsky '18, Jemma Bazemore '16, Pascale Schmidt '16, Lily Talieh '17, Renata Taylor-Smith '16 Photo credit: Lee Zampella, Holton-Arms School (Not pictured in group: Joy Alycia Kramer '18; right, in DC in May)



Eleven WES graduates attended Grades 9-12 at Holton-Arms school this year. We checked in with this remarkable group of young women who are highly involved in everything from sports to leadership to the arts to community service. They were kind enough to share their reflections about how their experiences and teachers at WES influenced their inspiring journeys.

CLASS OF '16

JEMMA BAZEMORE '16

High School Highlights: Theater program since freshman year, performing technical, behind-the-scenes work; stage manager senior year; member of National Thespian Honors Society; photography (digital and film) classes; field hockey

How WES influenced her: "WES prepared me to know the importance of having a relationship with your teachers. This has helped me on countless occasions throughout high school."

Jemma will attend Tufts University in the fall (hopefully not online, she said!).

PASCALE SCHMIDT '16

High School Highlights: Year-round running (cross country in the fall, indoor track in the winter, and track & field in the spring); winning the ISL championships and Maryland State championships in fall 2019; part of Holton's record-setting 4x400m and 4x800m relay teams; inductee to the Holton-Arms Athletic Association (HAA), junior year; advanced drawing and painting for three years; recognition in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, Congressional Art Competitions (Raskin and Norton), Friends of the Yellow Barn High School Exhibition (placed 19th and 21st), and Best of Independent Schools Exhibition; tech crew for five Holton shows and one Landon show; four-years of STEM concentration; robotics team (three years); accepted into Holton's science research

program spending eight weeks of summer (2019) interning at George Washington University's Antibiotic Resistance Action Center

Advice to Graduates: "Definitely keep in touch with your WES friends. Make a point of getting together every few months or so because your WES friends may be some of the best friends you ever have. Meeting new people at your new school is great, and you may meet new best friends, but it is important to keep your old friends, too."

Pascale will attend Northeastern University, majoring in biology and will spend her first semester abroad at UCD in Dublin, Ireland.

RENATA TAYLOR-SMITH '16

High School Highlights: Field Hockey (4 years) playing midfield and taking second place in the ISLs last fall; co-set designer for the winter play, *Pete and the Star Catcher*; and plays second chair violin in Holton's orchestra

Advice to WES graduates: "Try new things, especially in high school. Since most high schools are bigger than WES they'll have a lot of clubs and sports you've never tried before. Before I came to Holton I'd never even heard of field hockey, but I decided to play it my freshman year, I fell in love with the sport and played all four years of high school. Likewise with theater. I decided to turn in a tech application for the fall play my freshman year and I met a bunch of really cool people and I've been a

part of every production my school has put on since. It might be scary to try new things and put yourself out there but it's necessary because if you don't then you'll miss a lot."

In the fall, Renata will attend UMBC to double major in political science and genders and women's studies and minor in theatrical design.

CLASS OF '17

JOANNA DEMATATIS '17

High School Highlights: Basketball (3 years); field hockey (2 years); track this year; peer counselor, mentoring underclassmen; assists blue spirit team captain, organizing spirit events; vice-president of her church's youth group

How WES influenced her: "WES has instilled in me the value of giving back. Beginning in Nursery, WES taught me the importance of creating, maintaining, and supporting a great community. I remember the lessons that I've learned through the virtues of the month and continue to practice them in my daily life. WES [also] has ignited a philanthropic spark in me."

continued on page 28

LILY TALIEH '17

High School Highlights: Lily tried many new things this year: Stage Crew for *Chicago*, which was fun and a good way to meet new friends; and a computer programming class, which was difficult at first but really interesting and cool. Hockey (3 years); soccer (2 years); chorus (2 years); musical (2 years); crew (2 years); Chevy Chase Club Hockey (6 years)

WES Reflections:

"WES definitely taught me how to step out of my comfort zone, and I'm glad I've taken that skill to other parts of my life."

CLASS OF '18

CAROLINE DICKEY '17

High School Highlights: Model UN (2 years) serving as secretary next year; Jazz Band (piano) (2 years); It's Academic!; Caroline has loved taking photography classes; active in admissions for Holton and serves as a tour guide for the school.

Advice for WES graduates:

"Stay in touch with WES friends because they make the start of high school a lot easier!"

MAYA GREBOWSKY '18

High School Highlights: LearnServe Fellow (benefitting homeless women in Silver Spring), recognized by Holton-Arms for spending countless hours doing work on weekends and evenings; Vice President of the Young Democrats;

Diversity Conference Facilitator; winter and spring crew (2 years); Events Coordinator for the Black Student Union next year; summer 2019 internship assisting a judge at Montgomery County Circuit Court, summer 2020 will participate in Experimental Digital, partnering with students worldwide to brainstorm solutions to current-day world problems

Advice for 2020 WES graduates, including her brother James '20:

"Branch out and try new things. Don't be afraid to talk to people including teachers and students. Ask questions!"

JOY ALYCIA KRAMER '18

High School Highlights: A Capella Group; Upper School Chorus; Advanced ceramics class; Winter and Spring Crew (2 years); Latin Culture club, the golf club, the culinary club, the yearbook, and tour guides; 30 hours of community service (as of early March); planning to go to Peru during Junior Journey; President of her congregation's girls youth group and area youth representative; continues to take piano lessons from Kris Butler and is preparing to take her Piano Mastery Instrument exam.

Grateful to: "Mrs. Earle for preparing me so well for physics—I even look at my notes now in chemistry, and I know that I will be pulling out my old notes from seventh-grade Life Science next year when I am in Honors Biology because they are so helpful. I also was really inspired by Mrs. Yirenyi who helped me discover my love of ceramics. WES prepared me for high school and

beyond, whether in the classroom or outside of the classroom, and I could not be more thankful for the 11 years I spent there."

FIONA TURNBULL '18

High School Highlights: Field hockey; crew (coxswain); Model UN; Tour Guides; Scribbling (Holton's online blog); yearbook; Happiness Club

WES Reflections: "WES helped me have the confidence to get very involved at Holton and not back down from a challenge."

CLASS OF '19

NAOMI HORNE '19

High School Highlights: JV soccer; JV basketball (before surgery)

WES Reflections: "WES prepared me by giving me a larger workload than I had in the past which helped me use time management skills to complete assignments before the due date and that's really helpful."

LUCY WEEMS '19

High School Highlights: Varsity tennis; indoor/winter track team, spring tennis team

WES Reflections: "WES greatly prepared me to use my time and study halls effectively."

CLASS -OF- 2016 COLLEGE CHOICES

Jemma Bazemore
Tufts University

Jonah Beamon
University of Virginia

Jonathan Berg
Amsterdam University
College

Maddie Blonder
Penn State University

Peter Connolly
Georgetown University

Caitlin Cooper
College of Charleston

Alex Davidson
University of Pittsburgh

Ben Deobald
Washington University in
St. Louis/Engineering

David Diaz
Denison College

Nellie Dick
Brandeis College

Becca Ehrhardt
Kings College London

William FitzGerald
School of Visual Arts
(NYC)

Felicia Gelos
Carleton College

Katie Hester
Virginia Tech

Rowan Jones
New York University
Shanghai

Victoria King
Lynchburg University

Mark Lasner
University of Mary
Washington

Nicholas Leahy
Villanova University

Charlotte Mensforth
Dalhousie University,
Nova Scotia (Canada)

Caroline Milne
Bates College

Georgia Mitchell
Kenyon College

Ibn Muhammad
Hampton University

Sarah Myhre
Clemson University

Sarah Norton
Dickinson College

Tamilore Odunsi
Emerson College

Christian Phillips
St. Joseph's College

Nico Roy
Let us know your plans!

Kim Ross
Duke University

Pascale Schmidt
Northeastern University

Geoffrey Shaiyen
St. John's University

Alexandra Skoufias
UCLA

Aidan Smith
University of Denver

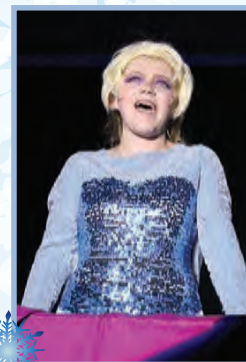
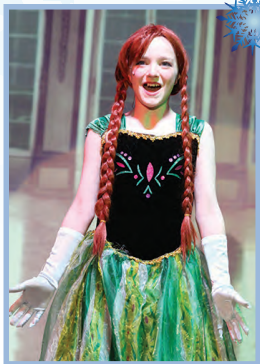
Renata Taylor-Smith
UMBC

Julia Topetzes
Gettysburg College

Suzan Walicki
Tulane University

Madison Welborn
Chapman University

Congratulations!





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Bethesda, MD 20816

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PROGRAM

COMMUNITY

MISSION

Rising to the challenges of an unusual year

TEACHING

LEARNING

ADAPTING