

# WASHINGTON EPISCOPAL SCHOOL



# The WES Magazine

SUMMER 2021

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Nursery - Grade 8  
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# head of school's message



Mr. Vogelmann addresses attendees at Graduation on June 8.

**This time last year, our classrooms and hallways were silent, and I yearned for the normal joyful hum of the WES campus. What a difference a year makes!**

Currently, our campus is alive with the sounds of laughter from the children participating in Summer@WES, teachers can be seen planning and collaborating, and our staff is working hard to get our school ready for September.

Looking back, the 2020-2021 school year was certainly one like no other. The challenges presented by the pandemic pushed our faculty and staff to reimagine the WES experience for our students and families. Through ingenuity, creativity, collaboration, and a healthy dose of risk-taking, our school delivered a program unrivaled by most during the pandemic.

The levels of trust, patience, and positivity demonstrated by students, families, and faculty and staff helped unite our community and enable us to retain our joyful learning environment. Our students were able to enjoy most of our signature programs and culminating experiences, even if they looked a little different. They continued to grow as thinkers, makers, and problem-solvers, while also developing new skills in technology, public speaking, and digital presentations.

The school year was infused with happiness and excitement, even through the challenges. At no time was it more evident than at the end of the year. We held our traditional Field Day, which prompted smiles and delight from all of our Dragons. Our Grade 8 graduation was held outside on our turf field and marked the first time we could come together with families to celebrate since March 2020. The school year concluded with a testament to the specialness of the WES community. Parents and students came to campus early on the last day of school to surprise our faculty and staff and to show their gratitude. Families held signs, children blew horns, and applause filled the morning air. The experience is one that our faculty and staff will not soon forget.

Throughout this edition of *The WES Magazine*, you will find more stories of the incredible resilience of our community and our response to the pandemic. Our alumni also demonstrated optimism, resourcefulness, and determination throughout the last year. You can read about their lives, too, from graduations to engagements to opportunities to compete in the summer Olympics!

As we look ahead, we do so with tremendous hope. We are planning for a year marked by a full complement of programs and the traditional WES experience that we have all come to cherish.

Sincerely,

Danny Vogelmann



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Field Day 2021

on the  
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Grade 3 teacher  
Ms. DiCarlo receives a  
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grateful student on the  
last day of school in which  
families celebrated faculty  
and staff as they arrived to  
school.

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Physical Education

## MISSION STATEMENT:

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

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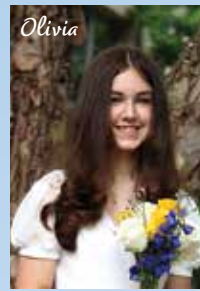
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Lucas



Emerson



Caleb



Wes



Ethan

# Graduates

— of the —

## CLASS OF 2021





# Graduation Class of 2021

WE ARE ESPECIALLY PROUD OF OUR 2021 GRADS, who have faced the challenges of the pandemic during their final two years of Middle School with good grace and humor, displaying resilience and maturity beyond their years. We know a **bright future** awaits these kind, talented, loyal, and independent individuals, and we wish them all the best!







# Gratitude

*A Challenging School Year Ends with Heartfelt Expressions of Gratitude*







**ON THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**—June 9—a flock of parents and students gathered early in the morning so that they could greet faculty and staff members, face-to-face, with cheers and praise for their hard work to make the best of a difficult school year.

**Families lined the stairs to the main entrance and applauded.** They cheered, rang bells and blew horns to greet teachers and staff as they arrived. Holding signs that said “thank you,” students clapped, blew bubbles, and shook pompoms as they scanned the crowd for their beloved teachers. Many in attendance found it simply too difficult to contain their excitement as they saw teachers approach the entrance of the school, and ran to the teachers and embraced them—offering group hugs in a year where social distancing of six feet was required and observed, and warm embraces were reserved for family members only. Tears could be seen above the masks from more than a few faculty members as well as parents.

An emotional Head of School Danny Vogelmann said to the gathered crowd that while he has worked in education for 25 years, “what I saw this morning and how you treated our faculty and staff is probably the **coolest and most heartwarming thing** I’ve seen in all of those 25 years.”



The idea for this **surprise celebration** originated from WES parent Sharon D’Emidio who, like most parents and guardians, could see first-hand how much **effort and heart** went into delivering a full program this year. “I had a front row seat to distance learning with my second-grader, Cassie,” commented D’Emidio. “My fourth-grader was more independent when it came to distance learning but I witnessed how the teachers were doing amazing things—taking it full

on. And it wasn’t just the homeroom teachers—many, many people made it happen every day. They were teaching 100% virtually, or teaching in person and also teaching to the students at home. And many teachers had their own children to take care of at home—I don’t know how they juggled it all,” she added. Knowing how grateful her family was to the teachers and the staff who kept everyone safe and made school function every single day, she was convinced that all the other families at WES felt the same way. **The question remained: how to show their appreciation** in a pandemic when

safety protocols prohibit in person meetings and parents have not been in the building since the winter of 2020? “It got me to thinking. It’s great that we can thank some people at drop off, and our PA snack carts and faculty appreciation week certainly brightened their days. But I wanted us, as a community, to reflect back to the teachers and staff in a profound way, a culmination of what they did this whole year,” she expressed.

So in late May, Sharon spoke with Danny Vogelmann about her plan: to have families line the steps and applaud as faculty arrived, so that the **faculty would deeply feel how grateful** everyone was for this challenging school year. “We decided that the last day of school would be the best day. So Parents Association President Bess Puvathingal was on board with the covert plan and the PA Reps emailed all the families on Friday, asking them to come out early Wednesday morning—careful to avoid emailing any parents who are on faculty. As I approached the school just after 7 a.m. that Wednesday, I wasn’t sure how many people would be there,” said D’Emidio. But the crowd was big and growing larger. **“It proves that showing up is powerful,”** she added. And that getting up extra early on the last day of school is a sacrifice that students and families were willing to make, demonstrating that a simple act of kindness can be formidable. “For us, I believe it was a big exhale,” Sharon remarked.

“This year was crazy. It was incredibly challenging, and **we, as a community, did an amazing job,**” Vogelmann added. 🌿







## Early Childhood

### Nursery • Transition • Kindergarten • Grade 1

The three “P’s” of the pandemic could easily be **Perseverance, Patience, and Pride**. We applaud the early childhood children, parents, and faculty for their **perseverance** in wearing masks, maintaining distance (for the most part!), and receiving weekly COVID testing. The **Early Childhood** students’ **patience** has also been tested this year, as they waited for their first field trip experiences which consisted of all classes walking along the Capital Crescent Trail in April to view the cherry blossoms.

Later, **Kindergarten** students—who were bursting with excitement as they disembarked from their cars during morning arrival carrying nets, wearing hats and wellies, with the scent of sunscreen in their midst—enjoyed the mud, the water and the wildlife with Ranger Jen at nearby Loughborough Mill. Finally, **first-graders** were able to

culminate their study of Japan with an outdoor Japanese tea party under a fully-decorated tent.

The **pride** the students felt was palpable when they gave their best efforts to entertain their families virtually with an assortment of spring songs at their annual May Day Spring Festival, and then when they enthusiastically participated in Field Day games. It was not easy singing or competing wearing a mask, keeping six feet apart from friends, and waiting for a turn to perform or take part in the water balloon toss. But all **persevered**, were **patient**, and the **pride** was evident in the children’s poise and confident composure throughout these events and during the whole year. This year we often find ourselves saying “this is one for the history books,” and can only congratulate the entire WES community on a job well done!



On the previous page, top left to right:

- A first-grader decorated his Japanese lantern with a Daruma doll and other icons, shown here at their Japanese Tea in June.
- A Pre-K student enjoys climbing on the monkey bars this spring.
- A Kindergarten student measures his Brassica plant in science class—the class grew them from seed, used magnifying glasses to observe them, and kept a journal to record and sketch their observations about the effect of changes in the environment on growth.
- Nursery students release the butterflies they grew from larva as they learned about life cycles.
- Kindergarteners explore plant and animal life along the creek on their field trip near the Capital Crescent Trail in May.

1. Pre-K students gather on the playground with a backdrop of cherry blossoms in April.
2. A Kindergarten student presents his project on the gentoo penguin, one of 18 species of penguins.
3. Nursery students work collaboratively as they build a structure with blocks.
4. First-graders strike a pose on the steps near the Gym.
5. Georgia O'Keeffe's colorful flowers were the inspiration for this first-grader's project in art.
6. Kindergarteners painted watercolor castles and wrote their own versions of magical adventures.
7. In Nursery, students learn about patterns in morning meeting.







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



Throughout the second semester, our **Elementary Dragons** found innovative ways to participate in beloved culminating projects and activities, and explore new ways of showcasing their work. Just as the Brood X cicadas emerged from the ground, **Grade 2** and **Grade 5** students embarked on Covid-safe field trips. Grade 2 students enjoyed delightful weather on the beach at Breezy Point State Park. They hunted for sharks' teeth before sharing a picnic with friends and families. In connection with their social studies curriculum, Grade 5 Dragons explored the beautiful and strategically important town of Harpers Ferry in West Virginia. They hiked to the cemetery, toured the museums, completed a scavenger hunt, and of course visited an old-time candy store.

**Grade 4's** traditional *Biography Tea* took on a virtual form this year. Students researched the life of someone special to them and then used the app *Storyjumper* to compose a narrative and create a digital picture book that they shared with friends and families during an afternoon celebratory Zoom. **Grade 3** students culminated their final quarter social studies project with an *Ancient Civilizations Mini-Museum*. Presenting outside under the "big

tent," student groups shared their research into the daily life, government, culture, and geography of Ancient Egypt,

China, Rome, and Mesopotamia. Students also shared their collaborative and creative 3-D multi-media maps and models. Visitors were able to "tour" the Great Wall of China, see up close King Tut's tomb and death mask, and view many other artifacts connected with the ancient civilizations.

Despite this strangest of years, there is no doubt that Elementary Dragons delved deep into learning, engaged in authentic hands-on experiences, and thrived being back in school in the second semester. They strengthened friendships, learned to navigate and negotiate learning partners and play, and they worked together to exemplify being kind, confident, and prepared. We are so proud of what our community has accomplished this year, and can't wait to see what we can achieve together next year!





On the previous page, top left to right:

- Grade 5 students participating in a scavenger hunt, hiked, and explored historic Harpers Ferry in May.
- Mrs. DeCrosa's Grade 4 class, in support of their geometry unit, worked in teams to design a plan for an origami mosaic, choosing shapes and following complex instructions to create swans, cranes, and lotus flowers that came together to make a beautiful mosaic.
- Students in Grade 3 worked in groups to learn about ancient civilizations, writing reports, and making 3-D displays. Here a group presents their report on ancient Egypt.

1. Fifth-graders loved having lunch outdoors this year; shown here at recess on the sport court.
2. A second-grader finds a shark tooth during the field trip to Breezy Point State Park, part of their study of the Chesapeake Bay.
3. In Number Corner, second graders planted corn and pea seeds and learned how to accurately measure and compare the growth of the plants as they grew.
4. Second-graders constructed models of DC monuments and attractions as part of a unit of study about Washington, DC.
5. Grade 3 students chose an animal to research, writing an informative book with illustrations.
6. The Grade 4 Biography Tea took on a remote form this year.
7. Inspired by the book *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate, third-graders used hundreds of pieces of recycled objects to construct "Red's Kindness Tree," an 8-foot creation near their classroom, sprinkled with messages of kindness to nurture friendship and character traits.
8. Introducing Wesley, Ms. Nelson's class pet, a bearded dragon.



# Elementary





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

**Middle School students enjoyed a full return to campus in early March.** And with their continued safe return in mind, we knew we needed to reinvent ways to be a joyful learning community. This meant that we enjoyed some traditional WES events with a twist, and created new activities that may be here to stay.

Spring clubs were in full swing during our “W Days”, where we continued to thrive with creative and fun activities across our grade levels, including our **newest club—Baking**. Our strong SGA planned a fantastic “Great Middle School Bake-Off” event, which saw 10 talented students compete over three weeks in categories like “breakfast pastry” and, in the finals, “macarons.”

**Grade 6** held a fully-virtual Science Fair this year, with both students and judges participating via Zoom, and many families watching in wonder from work and home. In the same way, Grade 6 also managed to rehearse both songs and choreography for a first-ever, fully-recorded, original jukebox musical—“Behind the Blue Curtain—the WES Musical!”

**Grade 7 and 8 students** were able to experience some of the sights, sounds, and tastes from their traditional Study Trip destinations with “Trips Week” in late May. This special initiative featured dinners and creative events from an Italian street fair to a French food tasting, to a Flamenco show, a Zumba class, a soccer “world cup” competition, and more! Some great photos of our trip events are on the inside back cover.

The middle school SGA planned a lively **Spirit Week**, including Decades Day and Fictional Character Day, and the grand finale that week was the **Faculty/Grade 8 soccer game** on Friday’s memorable Field Day. Speaking of sports, our students were even able to enjoy some competition on the field in the last quarter of the year, playing intramural soccer, basketball, cross-country, and even flag football. We ended our year with outstanding student participation in the Grade 6 and 7 Poetry Slam, as well as dynamic and inspiring speeches on SGA Election Day.

Our graduation events for the Class of 2021 capped off a year of innovation as we held our first-ever outdoor graduation ceremony with the graduates and their families in attendance, which was livestreamed to families and friends near and far. The **Class of 2021** ended their year of **perseverance in joy and triumph**, waving to the entire WES faculty and staff from the windows and moonroofs of their cars during the Farewell Car Parade.







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On previous page, left to right:

- An eighth-grader uses a clinometer he constructed to measure the angle of elevation in geometry class.
- In Grade 7 English class, a student reads *Code Talker*, by Joseph Bruchac.
- In Ancient Civilizations class, a sixth-grader learns about mummification, a process in which Egyptians prepared the dead for the afterlife, by infusing an orange with salt, soda, and cinnamon, wrapping it in gauze, and storing it away.
- The Class of 2021 wears t-shirts from their chosen high schools in May.

1. Sixth-graders enjoy socializing during outdoor recess.

2. This seventh-grader is ready for a sock hop during a decades themed-day in the Middle School's Spirit Week in May.

3. In seventh-grade life science, Mrs. Earle assists a student as she dissects a sheep heart to learn about organs.

4. A seventh-grader works on verb tenses in Spanish class.

5. Grade 8 students researched war propaganda posters and created their own in history class.

6. A sixth-grader presents his science fair project to a remote audience.

7. This sixth-grader enthusiastically cheers on the players at the Spain vs. France "World Cup" soccer game during Grade 8's Trips Week.

8. The Poetry Slam, a longtime tradition in Grades 6 and 7, teases out original engaging, thoughtful, and oftentimes humorous poetry. Here, a sixth-grader reads his poem, *Serenity of Space*.

9. Grade 8 students had a day of community building at Harpers Ferry this spring, rafting, ziplining, doing a ropes course, and having fun.



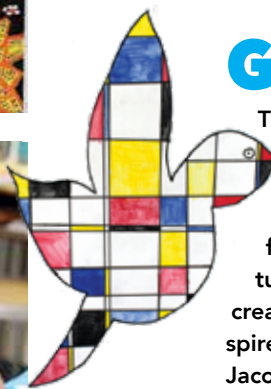
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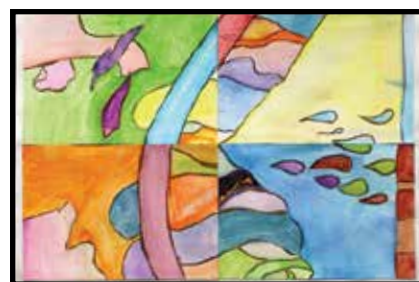
# Middle School





## GROWTH.

The art produced over the last half of the year literally and figuratively reflected the shift in seasons and the students' growth as artists. Students in Nursery through Grade 8 produced art as a reflection of their environment and world experiences. They found ways to uniquely use line, shape, color, and space to capture ideas and tell stories. From cityscapes to still lifes, students created from observation and their imagination. They were also inspired by artists like Piet Mondrian, Georgia O'Keeffe, and 2501 (aka Jacopo Ceccarelli). Through collaging, painting, drawing, sculpting, and printing, students blossomed into amazing artists.







## The Show Must Go On!

Every year, both the reserved and the gregarious of our Grade 6 students have a chance to take to the stage and perform in a full-fledged musical. The Middle School team was not about to let COVID stop our students from the benefits of this landmark experience this year. Through collaboration and creativity, the performing arts team put together a “jukebox musical,” a presentation featuring the songs of popular acts. The production celebrated themes such as hope, hard work, and resilience through a medley of popular songs from *Hamilton*, *The Greatest Showman on Earth*, *Moana*, *Wicked*, and *Glee*, among others. The songs were woven together through an original script, under the title, “*Behind the Blue Curtain—the WES Musical*,” which was recorded and debuted on YouTube in May.

In late April, eighth-graders streamed a live production of *Shakespeare’s comedy, A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Usually performed in an intimate setting in the Middle School Commons, actors took the stage in a spirited performance that gave actors as well as stage managers and assistants experience on both sides of the curtain.

Another tradition is *Early Childhood’s May Day/Spring Festival* performance. In a new twist this year that involved each student but no in-person performance, students gathered outside on a sunny day to take turns performing their songs about spring, flowers, and animals which was recorded so that each family could enjoy the production.

With safety restrictions a priority for our singers, actors, and musicians, we managed to hold *engaging classes in music*: elementary students played the ukulele throughout the winter and spring, and middle schoolers participated in digital and performing arts via the internet, learning about music creating, film production, and editing. We look forward to a full complement of our music and performing arts curriculum as we approach a new school year!





# EMBRACING THE ELEMENTS IN PE

By: William Isola, Director of Athletics



**"Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of pandemic stays these teachers from the expert completion of their appointed classes."**

Yes, we borrowed this motto from the USPS, and made a few minor changes to the wording. Why re-invent the wheel, right? But with the changes made to this statement, it now perfectly depicts the year that PE teachers Caitlin Lennon and Catherine Voelpel endured and completed.

When faced with adversity, Ms. Lennon and Ms. Voelpel did what they do best. They adapted to all challenges that lay before them. They re-imagined the vision of what WES PE would look like 2020-2021. Then they re-invented the curriculum around these challenges and their vision. The success of their work could be seen on the faces of happy students from Early Childhood to Middle School.

About 95% of all PE classes were held outside this school year which meant the elements were always in play. The adaptation to these elements was the key to success. Once students found they could manage outside with a little drizzle and not melt, and could handle the heat and cold, they were ready for whatever these teachers had in store for them.

Students enjoyed outdoor ninja warrior courses, winter football games, "Scooter City" on the sports court, kickball tournaments, dance parties, disc golf, and array of class competitions. What did they do when it snowed? Well, they played in the snow of course! Sledding, fort making, and snowball fights were all the rage when the fluffy white snow arrived.

The school year ended with the return of Field Day. With minor adjustments and some extra creativity in the planning of the event, the day went off without a hitch. This culminating event was also the start of a return to WES traditions. As we look to next year there is eager anticipation of what the year will bring, and we are excited to see what PE teachers Ms. Lennon and Ms. Voelpel will have planned.





# ANNOUNCING NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

We are pleased to announce these Board of Trustees appointments:

## Nigel Howard



Nigel is a Managing Director at RLJ Equity Partners with 20 years of private equity investing experience and is responsible for executing and managing investments primarily in the Business and Industrial Services sectors. Nigel is a member of RLJ's investment committee and currently serves on the Board of Directors of Crossfuzze (Chairman), Enhanced Resource Centers, Flow Service Partners (Chairman), and Naylor Association Solutions (Chairman). Nigel received his MBA from Harvard Business School and his BBA with a concentration in finance from Howard University. Nigel has supported WES as a parent ambassador and as a member of the Finance Committee. Nigel, his wife Karaine, and daughter Sophia (a rising fourth-grader), and Coco (a playful Bichon Frise) live in Bethesda.

## Mike Nelson



Mike and his wife Kelly, a former trustee and Treasurer, are proud parents to two WES graduates (Emily '18 and Paige '21), and rising seventh-grader Cole.

After 37 years in aerospace and national security, Mike retired to focus on being a full-time dad—a role he finds most rewarding! He enjoys coaching his son's hockey team and being involved in his daughters' sports and arts interests. He also supports "Mickey's Mission," creator of customized dolls for children with prosthetic limbs, birthmarks, burns, or scars fostering confidence, love, and self-acceptance, and the "11-Day Power Play," a 264-hour hockey game that has raised more than \$4M for cancer research. Mike is a member of the WES Covid Response Committee, serves as a PA Rep, and has advised the Board on security.

Mike earned BS and MBA degrees from Pepperdine University, professional certificates from Georgia Tech, and completed executive programs at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, the Thunderbird School of Global Management, and the UCLA Anderson School of Management.

## Kathryn Stewart



Kathryn is Founder and Managing Director of Cranbrook Capital, an Investment Firm that provides seed and early stage capital to emerging tech focused companies. The firm also invests in Public and Private Equity. Previously, Kathryn was a Managing Director at Baltimore-based Alex. Brown and post-acquisition, Deutsche Bank.

Kathryn is a Board Member of Baltimore-based Passive Capital Management.

She serves on the Robert H. Smith School of Business Advisory Board and the Dingman Board of Advisors at the University of Maryland. She is active with Wharton's Entrepreneurship Program at the University of Pennsylvania and is a committee member at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory Tech Commercialization Panel. She is a past Board Member at the Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart and currently sits on their Finance and Investment Committee.

Kathryn holds an MBA in finance from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Michigan State University.

Kathryn has three children and lives in Bethesda with her husband Robert and her son Nick, WES '17, a graduate of Georgetown Prep, who will attend University of Michigan in the fall. Kathryn enjoys golf, cycling, and gardening.

## Thank you to outgoing Trustees:

Laura Steuart 2015-2021

M. Michele Hogan 2018-2021

Madieu Williams 2020-2021

## FACULTY MILESTONES

### RETIRING

#### Diane DeCrosta, Grade 4 Teacher

Diane DeCrosta joined the WES faculty in 2009. In her 12 years at WES, she served as a classroom teacher in Grades 4 and 5, as well as the Elementary Literacy Specialist. Diane served on many curriculum committees, a professional development committee, and Head of School and Division Director search committees. Diane is looking forward to spending more time with her family in retirement, especially her granddaughter, Emma.



#### Claire Henderson, Director of Development



We are especially grateful to Claire Henderson, who has worked tirelessly and steadily, often behind the scenes for 21 years. Her first role was that of a parent in 1995, when her daughter Hayley '00 became a student. Claire was elected president of the Parents Association, co-chaired the Auction, and then joined the Development Office staff as assistant director in 2000 and then led the office in 2008. Her responsibilities included fundraising but extend much further—coordinating the PA and parent volunteers, maintaining connections across all constituencies, including alumni, and bringing the community together through the Auction gala and other community-wide events.

We wish Claire a restful and enjoyable retirement as she further explores her talents and hobbies such as cooking and sailing.

#### 25 YEARS

William Isola, Director of Athletics and Summer@ WES Director

#### 20 YEARS

Linda Durling, Middle School History and Geography Teacher

Mehdi Elkassem, Grades 2-6 Science Teacher

Mary Lee Nickel, Early Childhood Director

#### 10 YEARS

Katie Hopper, Middle School English Teacher

Maria Viera, Maintenance Technician

#### 5 YEARS

Barbora Bridle, Grade 5 Teacher

Amy Davies, Grade 2 Teacher

Matt Foster, Instructional Technology Facilitator and Grades 2-6 STEM Teacher (Technology)

Anita Gallagher, Grade 4 Teacher

Suba Raghavan, Pre-K Teacher

Katie Rothwell, Pre-K Teacher

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

Shannon Egan '07, Grade 5 Teacher (2018-2021)

Shannon Evans, Nursery Teacher (2018-2021)

Allison Klothe, Elementary and Middle School Counselor (2015 -2021)

Makenzie Marr, Early Childhood Music Teacher (2020-2021)

And all the best to our team of proctors who were an immense help to us this school year: Nick Bosman, Gina Brent, Caleb Driker-Ohren, Emjay O'Shea, Natasha White



# 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: **Jane Rothwell**

Grade 5: **Claire Fioravanti**

Grade 6: **Amel Johns**

Grade 7: **Katie O'Connor**

Grade 8: **Isaiah Yirenkyi**

## French

National French Contest:

*Le Grand Concours FLES 2021*

Grade 5

**Maria Olympia Georgiou, Evelyn Skinner, JJ Weems**

Grade 6

Silver medal: **Ava Johnson**

Bronze medal: **Fanta Bah, Ben Bauer, Maria Najm**

Grade 7

Gold Medal: **Natalya Bah**

Silver Medal: **Meg Lattin**

Bronze Medal: **Alex Kiser**

Grade 8

Silver Medal: **Alex Kiser**

Bronze Medal: **Emerson Jordan**

## Spanish

National Spanish Exam Winners:

Grade 7

Silver: **Bobby Bulman, Eleanor Dagan**

Bronze: **Gloria Burkhardt**

Grade 8

Silver: **Ani Grigorian, Zachary Mahan**

Bronze: **Luca Acharya, Alex Berko, Aidan Deshpande, Isaiah Yirenkyi**

## Spanish Awards

Grade 5: **Cara McCarthy, Hazel Pentz, Leo Tain**

## Music

Outstanding Choral Participants:

Grade 6: **Asha O'Neal, Elliott Owens, Ale Piris, Joey Udoff**

Outstanding Performing Arts Participants:

Grade 7: **Tess Brumbaugh**

Grade 8: **Aidan Deshpande, Olivia Girson**

Music Awards:

Grade 4: **Meharriew Bekele, Eden Jarvin**

Grade 5: **Christopher Reherrmann, Tatiana Romero**

Geo Bee Winner  
**Alek Davis** with  
Mrs. Durling



Spelling Bee  
winner **Bobby  
Bulman** with Mr.  
Vogelman and Ms.  
Hopper



## STEM

This spring Grade 4 students participated in the 2021 national **Exelon/Energizing Student Potential Energy Innovation Challenge**. The challenge encouraged students to study and participate in energy and energy conservation activities. We are pleased to announce Grade 4 students won **"Best Elementary School Project"** for their energy conservation submission. *Congratulations!*



A handful of Grade 4 students with their certificates:

Front row, l to r: **Bella Stroud, Jane Rothwell, Abby D'Emidio, Felix Falkman**

Back row, l to r: **Owen Kearbey, Doni Mackey, Marie Tevosyan, Jase Vogelmann, Trey Vogelmann, Makoto Lattin**

## THESE 9 CLASS OF 2021

# "LIFERS"

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

### FRONT ROW:

**Isaiah Yirenkyi, Olivia Girson, Alex Berko, Ani Grigorian, Paige Nelson**

### BACK ROW:

**Daniel Pressley, Jack Lasner, James Bailey, Zoe Linkins**





# GRADE 8 AWARD WINNERS



Spirit Award:

**WESLEY COOPER**

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 2021:**



Mustard Seed Award:

**LUCA ACHARYA & OLIVIA GIRSON**

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



Dexter R. Davison Award (Music):  
**EMERSON JORDAN (Chorus)**  
**ALEX KISER (Band)**



The Deighton Alleyne Coaches Award:  
**WESLEY COOPER & NAJEE ANKOMA-SEY**



Nancy Wright Award for Academic Excellence:  
**ZACHARY MAHAN & ALEX KISER**



Drama Award:  
**SAWYER MAKL & RHIAN WILLIAMS**



Art Award:  
**ALEXANDER BERKO**



Humanities Award:  
**ANNA MAHER (English)**  
**ALEX KISER (Social Studies)**



Math & Science Award:  
**ZACHARY MAHAN**



Community Service Award:  
**PAIGE NELSON**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2021!

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

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School\*

Bishop Ireton High School\*

British School

Connelly School of the Holy Child\*

DeMatha Catholic High School\*

Duke Ellington School for the Arts\*

Edmund Burke School

The Field School

Georgetown Day School\*

Georgetown Preparatory School \*

Gonzaga College High School

The Madeira School\*

Maret School\*

National Cathedral School\*

Our Lady of Good Counsel\*

St. Anselm's Abbey School \*

St. Mary's Ryken High School

Sandy Spring Friends School\*

St. Albans School\*

St. Andrews Episcopal School\*

St. Johns College High School\*

The Siena School

St. Stephens & St. Agnes

Walt Whitman High School\*

*\* Graduates will head off to these 17 great high schools (as of June 1, 2021).*





In a year filled with uncertainty, the WES community stepped forward without hesitation, through ups and downs, adapting to an evolving situation this school year with grace and generosity. Stalwart volunteers and steadfast donors—new families and those who have been with us for decades—blazed trails with us as we navigated a strange and at times scary landscape. Through this commitment, our community is stronger. Here are key elements to what turned out to be another successful year in the 35th year of the school.

## ANNUAL FUND

Under the leadership of Martha and Ryan Orzechowski, the **Every Dragon, Every Day Annual Fund Campaign** brought in more than 375 donations from WES families, alumni, parents of alumni, grandparents, faculty, and former faculty to raise just over \$355,000, surpassing our goal. In this challenging year, over 93% of our current families contributed. We are grateful to the Orzechowskis and the team of 11 Annual Fund reps whose hard work paid great dividends. The Annual Fund is the single biggest revenue source for the school outside of tuition. This outpouring of support is a wonderful testament to the power and impact we can have when we come together to work toward a common goal.

## AUCTION

Brought together by their love of travel, Natalya Bah, Theresa Carnegie, and Tulika Narayan decided three years ago that they would Co-Chair the WES Auction in 2021. Little did they know the long and twisting road they would encounter, but this brave trio forged ahead with **Aloha WES**, the first virtual Auction Gala in the school's history. "Given the situation around the pandemic, we knew planning the event, which started last summer, would be tricky," stated Director of Development Claire Henderson. Three scenarios were in the works for the event: in-person (outside in a tent), virtual, and hybrid, and the event date was pushed from late February to May, with the hopes of having the situation improve. Meanwhile, there were Zoom Auction meetings, parent packets and invitations to tackle, and a wine party to plan. Luckily, Tulika Narayan's neighbor, Casper Rice, is a renowned wine connoisseur in DC and graciously agreed to help us craft our party and advised us on wines. Ultimately, he provided a wine tasting for our virtual wine party on February 25. This fun and well-attended event was our highest netting wine party ever, bringing in more than \$10,000—which helped build our wine category and also went toward the Auction's bottom line.

As the weeks ticked by, the Co-Chair team, along with the committee and Development Office, were faced with many decisions to make about the format of the Gala, considering county restrictions. It became clear that the event would be entirely virtual which required selecting an auction technology platform, a new auctioneer; a livestream producer for the event; and a caterer to provide take-home meals and

wines. "We had to move swiftly, learn a new system for data entry, and a new virtual auction platform in about a month's time," said Henderson. "What we missed most about this Auction was seeing our volunteers—planning, laughing, stuffing envelopes, making decorations, and wrapping baskets," commented Ali Bratun from the Development Office. Finally, a small team came together to decorate outside, and then a larger group handed out flamingo and pineapple cake pops expertly made by Karaine Howard, and rallied people to RSVP. Committee members also distributed dinners at the front of the school on Auction day.

Auction night went off very smoothly, as auctioneer Steve Little, along with Athletic Director Bill Isola, presided over the event, directing attendees during the one-hour production which included seven short videos featuring students and faculty, offering a glimpse into the day of our WES Dragons, as well as a faculty performance. Afterwards, a group of parent volunteers orchestrated a fun Aloha After Party on Zoom, with games and prizes so that we could see each other, albeit remotely, and socialize.

So what was the outcome? After an uncertain start, this Auction Gala made history by netting more than \$230,000, including \$131,000 in Raise Your Paddle (RYP) funds, thanks to our kind, generous, and patient WES community. This year's RYP project will provide a new outdoor gathering space near the Dragon Innovation and STEM Lab, to be used by students, faculty, and guests. The completion date is by the end of summer. We are extremely grateful to our Co-Chairs, committee, patrons, sponsors, donors, attendees, advertisers, and class project coordinators, for sticking with us, and for their generosity in making this Auction one to remember!

## PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Parents Association (PA) had great success with their three-pronged approach to the school year. Under the direction of the leadership team of Bess Puvathingal (Milde) (President), Natalya Bah (Vice President), Sarah Beale Demarest (Secretary), Gustav Hofverberg (Treasurer), and Shivani Gupta, (PA Representative Director), the group's focus on Community Building, Parent Education, and Faculty Appreciation provided a clear and simplified pathway.

In a year where typical community gatherings was limited or non-existent, the PA conjured many creative ways to keep our community whole.

## Community Building

Creativity was in high gear as the PA imagined a full calendar of engaging and fun events. A contest to name an ice cream flavor at neighboring Sarah's Handmade Ice Cream revealed "Dragon's Breath" as the winner—mint Oreo with marshmallows, anyone? Good evening, WES Dragons—a familiar phrase indeed—inspired a community-wide challenge to see who could best impersonate Mr. Vogelmann's Sunday evening greeting. Exercise classes were a big hit

from a Peloton ride to outdoor yoga. A virtual game night brought people together to play Kahoots! *Who let the dogs out?* March 12 was unique as dogs, cats, a duck, a guinea pig, and other pets made arrival to school a blast! An Art Dabble night added a bit of artistry with creating art projects using recycled materials. And for the final event, the PA collaborated with the Community Service group to launch a Blue/Gold food drive competition on Field Day, which was donated to McKenna's Wagon. The PA made a generous gift to the new outdoor gathering space on the East Campus as part of the Auction's Raise Your Paddle appeal, and provided a tent rental.

## Parent Education

As part of our efforts to create a truly inclusive environment, the parent education speaker series was developed by the PA and the Parent Diversity Committee. This initiative provided the opportunity to show our understanding of who we are as a school community and our ongoing commitment to better serve our students. Several experts were invited to share their knowledge around a variety of topics on social identities.

Parent education workshops and speakers covered topics such as neurodiversity, race, and gender identity. Families were given the opportunity to develop strategies to support and nurture their children, while digging deeper into these topics.

Our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Facilitator (in-residence), Dr. Omékongo Dibinga offered two sessions discussing the journey towards being anti-racist, entitled "A Movement vs a Moment." Dr. Bill Stixrud, a clinical neuropsychologist, discussed shared strategies around helping students understand their own learning needs and ways of navigating school and social settings.

Jessy Molina and Theo George delved into the topic of gender identity and building a toolbox of vocabulary. And, Nicole Lee, author and CEO of Inclusive Life, helped families with strategies to navigate difficult conversations around social identifiers.

## Faculty Appreciation

A thoughtful expression of appreciation for the hard-working faculty was planned for each month of the school year. But when an early September 2020 flash flood resulted in nearly a dozen faculty vehicles being totaled, the PA acted quickly to establish a community fund to help offset the insurance deductibles and other expenses related to replacing their vehicle, disbursing over \$19,000 in funds to those affected. After that unexpected situation—which demonstrated that being nimble is invaluable—the plan was back on track. By grade, parents organized and delivered personalized mugs filled with treats, stocked carts with healthy and fun nibbles, provided delicious Smoothie King smoothies, all accompanied by sweet and cheer-



ful handmade notes and signs from students.

The PA elevated Faculty Appreciation week as they, along with WES Dragons, decorated the outside of WES in May, with huge signs, decorations, and chalk messages greeting faculty as they arrived on Monday morning. On Monday afternoon, a Captain Cookie food truck offered a yummy snack. Tuesday's treat was a bountiful buffet breakfast. A surprise video featuring more than 90 students expressing their appreciation topped off the week. Continuing an initiative established in 2019-2020, the Faculty & Staff Gift Fund provided welcome gifts to all faculty and staff in December and June. "Gestures like these go amazingly far in energizing our teachers and increase the positivity in the environment," wrote a faculty member.

## BOOK FAIR

This year's Book Fair, held in January, was 100% virtual and featured a visit from children's author

Christine Soontornvat who presented virtually to students. The author visit was supported by the PA. Although it was scaled down from previous years, families still donated books to the library and classrooms, and alumni families purchased books. A relaunch of the Book Fair this summer will make buying books convenient for readers as they help support the WES Library. Next year's Book Fair will be held in person with an online component.

## FATHERS CLUB

Wes Clark, Tony D'Emidio, and Peter Rosan were at the helm of the Fathers Club. Determination was key for this group that managed to convene five times during the fall and spring to chat and forge relationships. From chilly meet-ups in the WES parking lot to an awesome BBQ at Jon Bulman's house, and a final gathering at MatchBox, the Fathers Club looks forward to getting back to regular outings and activities in the coming year.

## MOTHERS CLUB

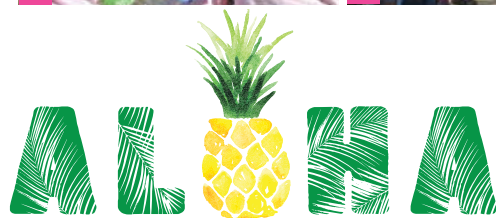
Susan Awad, mother to two WES Dragons started the Mothers Club to help parents connect within and across grades and strengthen their connections. This group met twice this year, providing parents additional opportunities to get better acquainted with the WES community. They also look forward to regularly scheduled meetings next year.

## USED UNIFORMS

We are grateful to Akiko Lattin and Claire Mezoughem who helped collect and sort gently-used clothing items that are sold in the used uniform shop. Proceeds of \$2,300 benefitted the Parents Association.

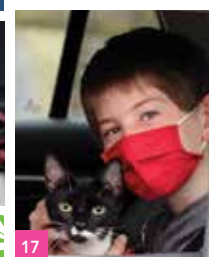
## THANK YOU!

We are grateful for all you did to make this year successful. *Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.*



## WES Auction Gala 2021

1. Auction Co-Chairs Natalya Bah, Theresa Carnegie, and Tulika Narayan 2. Auction volunteers encourage Auction RSVPs during carpool in April: (l to r) Jess Brockway, Tulika Narayan, Katie Fioravanti, Natalya Bah, Theresa Carnegie, Jim Roy, Anna Pugh, Susan Awad, Vicki Panchal, and Karaine Howard 3. Students arrive at school 4. Danny Vogelmann and Claire Henderson 5. Michelle High and Anna Pugh distribute Auction catering to Peyton Craighill 6. Karaine Howard and her famous flamingo and pineapple cake pops 7. Sommelier Casper Rice 8. Auction night hosts Auctioneer Steve Little and Bill Isola, streaming live from the WES Library



9. A Nursery student is thrilled to try Dragon's Breath ice cream – the winning name and flavor of the PA contest. 10. The Orzechowski family 11. Parents Association leadership: Shivani Gupta, Sarah Beale Demarest, Gustav Hofverberg, Natalya Bah, and Bess Puvathingal (Milde) 12. A dog during Bring Your Pet to School Day 13. A sweet greeting during Teacher Appreciation Week 14. A third-grader is filmed for the Auction video. 15. A turtle on Bring Your Pet to School Day 16. Callie is ready for school 17. A sweet kitty in carpool 18. First-grader shares a seat with his hamster, Chubby 19. Teacher Appreciation Week signage 20. Outdoor Yoga at WES, sponsored by the PA





**FIELD DAY** was back in a big way this year. Perfect weather and new Field Day t-shirts for all students, faculty and staff set the stage for a joyful and picturesque event, thanks to the PE Department's skillful planning. Games were spread out over two fields, the sport court, and the Gym parking lot, and new activities such as sidewalk chalk art and a canned food drive competition were introduced. The day was capped off with the Grade 8 vs. Faculty soccer game. Traditionally held in November, the **Class of 2021** prevailed in this annual match with a narrow victory, making this a Field Day to remember!







# FIELD DAY 2021





# Alumni

## SPOTLIGHT

CLAIRE COLLINS '11



Claire Collins '11 heads to the Tokyo Olympics!

We are thrilled Claire Collins is fulfilling her dream of going to the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, representing the US in Women's Rowing. Claire is a WES "lifer," having attended WES since Nursery, and is a recipient of the 2011 WES Spirit Award, as well as the Coaches Award, and other recognitions. We'll be cheering her on this summer—go for the gold, Claire!

“My journey to become a US Olympic Rower started way before I even knew about the sport of Rowing. As a young kid at WES, I was exposed to and participated in all sorts of activities. Athletics was definitely a passion of mine, but the creativity I learned in the arts, the collaboration I learned in the intimate classroom settings, and the exposure to new ideas through trips at WES set me up well to become a leader and become confident in whatever pathway I was going to pursue. WES provided opportunities for me to learn how to balance my competitiveness with being a good teammate. Field Day was definitely one of those opportunities, but there were many others such as projects in the classroom. I started rowing in high school and felt confident right away in my skills and my mentality to set big goals for myself and try to reach them. There were definitely ups and downs during my journey through high school (Deerfield), college (Princeton), and even on the National Team, that pushed me to grow. However, I have always been used to the approach of learning every day and trying to improve each day. This mindset got me to where I wanted to be, on the US Olympic Team.”



ALYA AHMED '13



Alya Ahmed '13 (Yale University) with brother Ali Ahmed '11 and parents Khaleel and Kulsam Ahmed

Alya Ahmed, a WES "lifer" and winner of the 2013 WES Spirit Award, continued her love of learning at Sidwell Friends School and then Yale University in economics and mathematics. Her unlimited intelligence and ideals predict not only a brilliant future but also an extraordinary impact on our world.

“This past May I graduated Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude with honors and distinction in Economics and Math from Yale University. I was humbled to receive the top academic achievement award from my college, Pauli Murray, and two prizes from the Economics Department—the Tobin and the Louis F. Laun prizes for top academic performance both within the major and across all classes at Yale College. This summer, I will be moving to NYC to work in investment banking. I am very open to continuing my education after some work experience.

I have always been a very active participant in all my classes, sitting in the front row and asking a multitude of questions. In fact, I really have WES to thank for giving me the confidence to speak up without any embarrassment of asking a stupid question every now and then. WES classes were small and teachers actively called on us; there was no intimidation of saying the wrong answer, only a comfortable collaboration between students and teacher. I think it was really this learning experience at WES that set the foundation for me to wholeheartedly pursue learning.”



WASHINGTON EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

# Alumni

## CLASS NOTES



1 Holden Woodings '17, Miles Woodings '17 (St. Andrew's Episcopal School), with brother Quinn Woodings '25 • 2 Alex Farrington '17 (Madeira) • 3 Christian Berko '17 (St. John's College High School) and mother Julie Berko

'20 **Emily Evans**  
emmyjevans@gmail.com

**Marco Burrows** and **Alex High** were on the crew team at St. Albans. Brothers **Nasim, Samir** and **Karim '17 Elkassem** are members of the Moroccan national swim team. They will represent Morocco in international competitions in the fall in Abu Dhabi and Madagascar. Congratulations to **Davis Oeltmann** on being selected as one of 16 youth ambassadors in the New York and DC metro areas for the Henrik Lundqvist Foundation, a foundation run by Caps goaltender Henrik Lundqvist. Their mission focuses on health and education for children and adults. Davis has been involved with events supporting the NY Food Bank and the TAPS program in DC. Davis attends Georgetown Prep.

'19 **Elim Ephrame**  
ephrame.elim@yahoo.com

**Eliza Horne** helped with a canned food drive as part of Field Day in May. As a recipient of the 2019 Community Service Award at WES, she is an inspired innovator of ways to help within her community. Eliza has an internship with Childhelp, a child abuse prevention organization. Her efforts resulted in the donation of lost and found clothing items at her school (Madeira) to Childhelp Village in Virginia. She also formed a free tutoring site for students during the pandemic to assist them with additional needs due to distance learning. **Gabi Love's** artwork was featured on @black\_art\_today in March. **Ben Meyer** competed in shot put and discus on the GDS track team. Thanks to **Ethan Vogelmann** who organized WES's March community service project, collecting sports equipment that was donated to Level the Playing Field. In May, he organized a Peace, Love & Hoops 3x3 basketball tournament on May 22, raising more than \$3,500 that will go to Asians in America, Inc., and Asian Americans Advancing Justice.

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

**Caroline King**, a student at Potomac School, is working at CAVA. **Clara Knott** helped with choreography for the Grade 6 Musical this spring. **Arjun Narayan** made a verbal commitment to play soccer at University of Pennsylvania for fall 2022. He attends Georgetown Day School. **Conner Nickel** will be team captain of the St. Andrew's men's swimming and diving team for the 2021-2022 school year.

## Calendar

2021 - 2022

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2022:**

Alumni basketball game and pizza party

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2022:**

Auction Gala at WES

**FRIDAY, MARCH 11 &**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2022:**

Sixth-Grade Musical



**'17 Thomas Carney**  
[tpcarney97@gmail.com](mailto:tpcarney97@gmail.com)  
**Emelia Isola**  
[isolaemelia@gmail.com](mailto:isolaemelia@gmail.com)  
**Joanna Dematatis**  
[jkdematatis@gmail.com](mailto:jkdematatis@gmail.com)  
**Randolph Kaminskas**  
[Randolph.kaminskas@gmail.com](mailto:Randolph.kaminskas@gmail.com)

**Sophia Ehrhardt**, a St. John's graduate, will attend Boston University in the fall on a rowing scholarship. **Karim Elkassem** and his brothers Nasim '20 and Samir '20 are members of the Moroccan national swim team. They will represent Morocco in international competitions in the fall in Abu Dhabi and Madagascar. **Lola Hill** graduated from Connelly School of the Holy Child and will attend University of Maryland, College Park as a public health major and French minor. She is a Banker Key Scholarship Recipient and was awarded the Van Hollen Public Service Award (Montgomery County, MD). **Randolph Kaminskas** graduated from Stone Ridge in June. She played squash, served as the co-leader of Art Club, and as a lead editor of the yearbook. Randolph will attend the University of Tennessee and plans to study psychology. **Caroline Moore** graduated from Stone Ridge where she played soccer and hockey, and played lacrosse for two years. Her club involvement included science club, Best Buddies and Operation Smile as well as the Not For Sale SCG. Caroline will attend Denison University in the fall with plans to study health and exercise science and biology. **Constantin Veleu** won the art award at his graduation from WIS. He will head to Spain in the fall and attend Barcelona School of Architecture. **Nadine Vos**, a Stone Ridge graduate, was a second place winner in the 2021 Congressional Art Competition for Maryland's 8th District with her painting "Immortalized Mask." **Holden Woodings**, a St. Andrew's

graduate, signed on to play men's soccer at UNC Greensboro (winger). He is a legacy player as his father, Ted, played for the Spartans as well.

**'16 Maddie Blonder**  
[Maddieblonder@gmail.com](mailto:Maddieblonder@gmail.com)

**Maddie Blonder** participated in a Danceathon to raise funds to fight childhood cancer in February with her sorority, Alpha Omicron Pi at Penn State. **Tamilore Odunsi** will attend University of Southern California in the fall. **Madison Welborn**, a film production major at Chapman University's College of Film and Media Arts in (Orange County, CA), has established the Black Film Society, a student-run organization/club at the university, one of the nation's top film schools, which is predominantly white. She was quoted in the student newspaper last winter: "I want to create a space where students in the Black community at Chapman can have an opportunity to discuss and share their Black experience while also learning how to navigate through the film industry," said

Welborn. "Not just in front of the camera, but behind it as well."

**'15 Ryan Kyle**  
[Ryankyle36@gmail.com](mailto:Ryankyle36@gmail.com)

**Louis Akins** is studying cognitive science at University of Toronto. His passion remains with acting and has made many short films. **Ryan Kyle** joined Amherst Choral Society and became a mentor with Big Brothers, Big Sisters. She and a few WES friends formed a Zoom book club. **Matthew Sheets** became president of his a capella group, the Rice Apollos, at Rice University. He also was elected to be a justice on the Student Court.

**'14 Samantha Liggins**  
[samanthaliggins@gmail.com](mailto:samanthaliggins@gmail.com)

**Jack Helmanis** made Dean's List with High Honors at University of New Hampshire for the spring semester.



**Top to bottom, L-R:** Emelia Isola '17 (Walter Johnson High School)

- Constantin Veleu '17, recipient of the Art Award (WIS)
- Lily Talieh '17 and Joanna Dematatis '17 (Holton-Arms)
- Tayo Ball '17 (St. Albans) • Randolph Kaminskas '17 and Caroline Moore '17 (Stone Ridge) • Karim Elkassem '17 (Winston Churchill High School) • Lisa Byskov '17 (Bethesda-Chevy Chase) • Sterling Myhre '13 (Tulane University)
- Mae Lonergan '13 (Gettysburg College) • Alex McMillan '17 (Georgetown Prep) and Kristin Whalen • Ben Deobald '16 and Evan Deobald '17 (Georgetown Prep)
- Adam Thomas '17 (Winston Churchill High School) • Della Bradt '05 (MIT Sloan School of Management)



@alumniwes on Instagram





Top to bottom, L-R: Matthew Jackson '13 (Virginia Tech) with parents David and Gail, and sister Marina '10 • Tatiana Johnson '17, her mother Marie Argant-Johnson, and Mehdi Elkassem • Davis Oeltmann '20, a Henrik Lundqvist Foundation Ambassador • The Nelson family at graduation: Mike, Emily '18, Paige '21, and Kelly • Mariam '19 and Ani Grigorian '21 at Ani's graduation in June • Eliza Horne '19 helps with food collection at Field Day. • Harry Akins '17 and Mehdi Elkassem • Christian '19 and Leo '21 Phillips • Lawrence Redmond '14, Caterina Earle, and Christian Larson '17 at WES in May • Christian '17 and Alex '21 Berko



**'13 Alya Ahmed**  
[alya.ahmed@yale.edu](mailto:alya.ahmed@yale.edu)  
**Genevieve Dickinson**  
[genevieve.dickinson@gmail.com](mailto:genevieve.dickinson@gmail.com)  
**Sterling Myhre**  
[semyhre12@gmail.com](mailto:semyhre12@gmail.com)  
**Jack Szulc-Donnell**  
[thenso37@yahoo.com](mailto:thenso37@yahoo.com)

**Sam Akins** graduated this spring from Queens University (Ontario, Canada) with a degree in environmental geology. He works in British Columbia. **Alya Ahmed** graduated from Yale University in May with double majors in economics and math. Alya received the Outstanding Academic Achievement prize from her college, Pauli Murray, and The Louis F. Laun Award, and is a 2020 Tobin Scholar. **Amiri Hill** graduated with a BA in Government & Politics from the University of Maryland, College Park in May. She studied abroad in Cuba, focusing on foreign policy decision making and US/Cuba relations. Amiri also was a Government and Politics Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, ambassador for the BSOS college, and historian for the NAACP campus chapter. She plans to spend a gap year working at the Bipartisan Policy Center as a project assistant in their DC office and plans to apply to law school in the fall. **May Loneragan** graduated summa cum laude from Gettysburg College in May with a BA in psychology and a double minor in creative writing and education. She was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Society and Psi Chi Society, and also received honors

from the psychology department. **Sterling Myhre** graduated from Tulane in May with a degree in management and marketing. **Claire Todd** graduated magna cum laude with a BA in Communications from Boston College in May. **Emily Todd** is a senior at Case Western Reserve University and is studying to be a nurse. She also played guard on the women's basketball team.

**'12 Douglas Chen-Young**  
[dchenyoung@gmail.com](mailto:dchenyoung@gmail.com)  
**Grace Recka**  
[grace.recka@gmail.com](mailto:grace.recka@gmail.com)

**Laura Abbott** graduated from Vanderbilt University in May. **Emerson (George) Cox** is enrolled in the U.S. Army's Ranger School.

**'11 Peter Abbow**  
[peter.abbow@gmail.com](mailto:peter.abbow@gmail.com)  
**Sarah Bair**  
[sarahbair7@gmail.com](mailto:sarahbair7@gmail.com)

**Claire Collins** was selected to the Womens 4 US Olympic rowing team and will compete in Tokyo in July. Claire, a WES "lifer" and Princeton graduate, was a standout athletic and scholar at WES. Bring home the gold, Claire! **Katie DeVries** is working as a chef at Pearl Nantucket for the summer season. She will return to Hilton Head in the fall and is considering a move to Japan! **James Hemus** complet-

ed his masters in business/marketing at University of London Queen Mary. After a trip to Costa Rica he will start at job at Amazon in Portland, OR.

**'10 Lindsay Bratun**  
[lindsaybratun@gmail.com](mailto:lindsaybratun@gmail.com)  
**Jonathan Butturini**  
[Jab990@gmail.com](mailto:Jab990@gmail.com)  
**Shelby Mahaffie**  
[shelby.mahaffie@gmail.com](mailto:shelby.mahaffie@gmail.com)  
**Madison Sharp**  
[endesha4079@gmail.com](mailto:endesha4079@gmail.com)

**Hunter Heflin** released a new music video, "Nothing Like Before" on May 6.

**'09 Kelsye Little**  
[klittle5@scmail.spelman.edu](mailto:klittle5@scmail.spelman.edu)  
**Bethany Mark**  
[bethany.mz.lovely.mark@gmail.com](mailto:bethany.mz.lovely.mark@gmail.com)

**Ellie Durling** received her MA from Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service and is working at a telecommunications consulting firm. Best wishes to her on her engagement in June to Kian Byrne. A September 2022 wedding is being planned. **Kelsye Little**, after teaching Kindergarten and Grades 2, 3, and 4 over the past three years, shared with us that she has definitely found her passion in Kindergarten.





'08 **Aszanai Jones**  
[azzanaiprincess@gmail.com](mailto:azzanaiprincess@gmail.com)  
**Ben Martin**  
[bmartin@fandn.edu](mailto:bmartin@fandn.edu)

In April, **Jack Fowler** became engaged to Anna Robertson. She is from Boston, MA, and the couple met while students at Manhattan College. Jack works at Eastern Research Group in Northern Virginia as a contractor for the EPA. **Emma Hemus** is living in Bristol, UK, and is working on ultrasound technology as a biomedical and software engineer. **Juwan Reid** and his girlfriend welcomed their son Jaylin Elijah Reid in February. They live in Falls Creek, PA.

'07 **Shannon Egan**  
[Segan1004@gmail.com](mailto:Segan1004@gmail.com)  
**Jack Metelski**  
[john.metelski@gmail.com](mailto:john.metelski@gmail.com)

**Shannon Egan** has accepted a position at The American School of Belo Horizonte in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, and will be moving in July. She taught Grade 5 at WES for four years and will be missed.

'06 **Chloe Lansdale**  
[chloe.lansdale@gmail.com](mailto:chloe.lansdale@gmail.com)  
**Clark Pastrick**  
[Clark.pastrick@gmail.com](mailto:Clark.pastrick@gmail.com)

**Jamie Durling** is working at the Office of Legal Council at the Department of Justice. **Chloe Lansdale** started at Wharton Business School in the fall. She has an internship in investment banking with Goldman Sachs in New York. Best wishes to **Tyler Veirs** on his engagement in March to Carley Smith, who is a nurse in VA.

'05 **Kristin Maller**  
[kmm\\_09@yahoo.com](mailto:kmm_09@yahoo.com)  
**Jon Rice**  
[Jonathan.rice@me.com](mailto:Jonathan.rice@me.com)  
**Charis Whitnah**  
[whitswow@aol.com](mailto:whitswow@aol.com)

**Della Bradt** graduated this spring from the MIT Sloan School of Management with an MBA and a certificate in sustainability through the MIT Sloan Sustainability Initiative. She accepted a position with HelloFresh on their special operations team. **Nicholas Procelli** will marry Maura Berry on August 1 in Bedminster, NJ. The couple met while students at Miami University (Ohio). They live in Georgetown.

'04 **Sofia Selowsky**  
[Sofia.selowsky@gmail.com](mailto:Sofia.selowsky@gmail.com)  
**Jeffrey Scholl**  
[Jeffr3354@aol.com](mailto:Jeffr3354@aol.com)

**Becky Durling** lives in San Diego with her two daughters and husband. They recently purchased a home. Becky is a labor and delivery nurse and lactation consultant. **Christine Miller** graduated from Maryland Institute College of Art with an MFA in Curatorial Practice. She works in the Baltimore arts and music scene promoting artists, organizing events, and curating exhibitions. Christine sings and plays the ukulele and is part of a small group of musicians that hosts weekly outdoor open mic in Baltimore. Prior to the pandemic she was in a band that won a Baltimore music showcase, recorded an EP, and toured PA and upstate New York. She is working as an independent creative director helping local Baltimore musicians with bookings and promotions. In her free time she busks around her neighborhood and volunteers with Bmore Community Food.



Top to bottom, L-R: Amiri Hill '17 (University of Maryland) and her mother Grace Hill • Class of 2015 members Zoe Barnette Ryan Kyle, Alicia Pané, and Morinsola Tinubu, at their weekly Zoom book club meeting • Kelsye Little '09 • Victoria Moreau '19, Mehdi Elkassem and William Moreau '17 in June 2021 • Clara Knott '18 and Ron Valenzia work on choreography at a Grade 6 Musical rehearsal in March • Class of 2017 Georgetown Prep grads: (l to r) Nick Stewart, Alex McMillan, Evan Deobald, Garrett McCally, and Nico Jordan • Sam Akins '13 in British Columbia • Claire Todd '13 (Boston University) • Ethan Vogelmann '19 at his basketball tournament to combat racial injustice • Lindy Hill '13 (Denison University) • Katie DeVries '11





'03

'02 **Carolina Richards**  
richards.carolina@gmail.com

**David Procelli** provided the architectural renderings for the Auction's Raise Your Paddle project this year. David is an architect in Bethesda.

'01 **Sarah Jones**  
Sarah.whitneyjones@gmail.com

**Laura Wright Salomon** and her husband Daniel welcomed their son Zachary Wright Salomon (Zach) on April 20, 2021. They live in Jersey City, NJ. Grandparents Nancy and Lou Wright and Uncle **Forrest Wright '04** are overjoyed with the new addition to the family.

'00 **Anne Glassie**  
glassie@gmail.com

**Michael Procelli** and his wife Kate welcomed daughter Charlotte in October 2020. She joins big sister Josephine, who turns 3 in October. They live in Bethesda.

'99

'98

**Cri-Cri Richards Randolph** and her husband Matt welcomed their son James Walsh on May 24. He joins big brother Tito, who is 2.

'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 **Alia Campbell-Crawford**  
aliacampbellcrawford@gmail.com

'90 **Ashleigh Freer Parr**  
afparr@gmail.com

'89 **Stephan von Schilcher**  
vonschilcher@gmail.com

'88 **Rebecca (Schneider) Luria**  
reflecerebec@hotmail.com

Artist **Eliza Rosen** just launched a collection of her adorable animal artwork through @oopsydaisyart. Perfect for children's rooms!

## Parents of WES Alumni:

Please email or call us with any news you wish to share (photos, too!) of your WES alums!

Contact us at [www.w-e-s.org/alumni](http://www.w-e-s.org/alumni) or call the Development Office at 301-652-7878, ext. 212, 214, or 215. *Thank you so much!*



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Top-bottom, L-R: Tyler Veirs '06 and fiancée Carley Smith • Michael Procelli '00 with wife Kate and daughters Charlotte, baby Josephine, and David Procelli '02 (far right) • Emerson (George) Cox '12 • Eliza Rosen's '88 whimsical artwork • Juwana Reid's '08 son Jaylin • Chloe Lansdale '06 in Medellin, Columbia, before the pandemic • Andrew Fullerton '13 (NYU) • Christine Miller '04 • Laura Wright Salomon '01 with husband Daniel and their newborn son Zach



# COLLEGE CHOICES

## CLASS OF 2017



*Congratulations!*

**Harry Akins \***  
Cornell University

**Zachary J. Alexander \***  
Michigan State University

**Tayo Ball \***  
University of Chicago

**Dale Bell \***  
Grinnell College

**Christian Berko \***  
Rochester Institute of Technology

**Lachlan Bond**  
DePaul University

**A.J. Brault**  
Clemson University

**Iva Budina**  
University of Chicago

**Lisa Byskov \***  
Boston College

**Thomas Carney \***  
Occidental College

**Hunter Colson \***  
University of Virginia

**Joanna Dematatis \***  
Clemson University

**Evan Deobald \***  
Boston College

**Sophie Ehrhardt \***  
Boston University

**Karim Elkassem \***  
University of Maryland,  
College Park (Smith  
Business School and  
Global Community Living)

**Alexandria Farrington \***  
Emory University

**Elena Grant \***  
Northeastern University

**Lola Hill**  
University of Maryland, College Park

**Emelia Isola \***  
Penn State

**Tatiana Johnson \***  
American University

**Gregory Jones \***  
Michigan State University

**Nico Jordan \***  
Colorado College

**Randolph Kaminskas \***  
University of Tennessee

**Christian Larson \***  
DePaul University  
(Presidential Scholar)

**Sean Lasner \***  
Virginia Commonwealth University

**Neva Jane Maldonado**  
University of Wisconsin

**Geneva Marquardt \***  
Denison University

**Garrett McCally \***  
Boston College

**Alex McMillan \***  
Holy Cross University

**Cole Montrose \***  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

**Patrick Moore \***  
High Point University

**Caroline Moore \***  
Denison University

**William Moreau \***  
Gap Year

**Arman Naseh \***  
The George Washington University

**Huntly Rathbone**  
University of Virginia

**Elizabeth Snizek**  
St. Olaf College

**Maria Stepanyan \***  
ArtCenter College of Design, Pasadena, CA

**Allie Stroman**  
NYU (Tisch Drama School)

**Nicholas Stewart \***  
University of Michigan

**Lily Talieh \***  
Trinity College

**Adam Thomas \***  
Montgomery College

**Constantin Velev \***  
Barcelona School of Architecture, Spain

**Maddie Voth \***  
Reed College

**Ben Wills \***  
College of Charleston

**Miles Woodings \***  
University of Colorado

**Holden Woodings \***  
University of North Carolina, Greensboro

**Nate Zola \***  
Weslyan University

*\* WES Graduate*

## Condolences to

The family of **Joe Chaney '06** who passed away on November 11, 2020.

**Emily Hall '03** on the passing of her mother, Denise Strojny-Hall on December 9, 2020.

**Lars Sorenson '09** on the passing of his father, Arne Sorenson, on February 15, 2021.

**Mary Jane Puckett**, former Curriculum Coordinator at WES, passed away on March 22, 2021 at the age of 94. She was a devoted member of the WES founding board in 1986, helping to establish its principles and goals.

She was a member of the Board of Trustees, Board of Advisors, and recipient of the Founders Award, and worked at WES from 1990-2001.

**Donna Muir**, passed away in April 2021. Mrs. Muir, a founding faculty member, taught music and worked at WES from 1986-2004.

**Ruthann Arnsberger**, passed away on June 14, 2021. Mrs. Arnsberger was a fixture in the business office from 1988-2011.





No passport was needed for the Middle School Trips Week, as students “visited” Italy, Spain, and France in late spring. Grade 7 was hosted by the WESItalia faculty on a gorgeous evening to an on-campus Italian street fair. Students enjoyed presentations on Italian culture and landmarks, did a “virtual” climb to the school roof for a photo op, and shopped for souvenirs, as well as sampled homemade antipasti, Neopolitan-style brick-oven pizza, and Italian water ice. Grade 8 students enjoyed an entire Trips Week itinerary, sampling the cultures of Spanish- and French-speaking countries. There was a Flamenco show and a Zumba class, plein-air sketching of famous French landmarks, escargot-tasting, and on-campus movie nights. Each group enjoyed a sumptuous sit-down dinner one evening on campus—complete with photo booth and music. But the highlight of Trips Week was the “World Cup” soccer event between the France and Spain teams—as a full middle school audience cheered them on with flags, banners, and of course, vuvuzelas!







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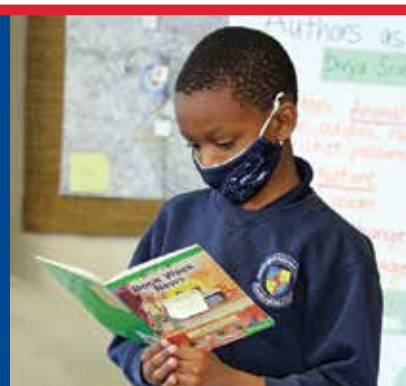
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[www.w-e-s.org](http://www.w-e-s.org)  
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**CLASS OF '21**  
**GRADS**  
*celebrate*

