

The
WES
Magazine
WINTER 2022



WASHINGTON EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

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head of school's message

As our faculty and students returned to campus in August of 2021, we all hoped for a rapid return to uncompromised community.

Though our dearest wishes were not possible, I am pleased with the wonderful steps we took toward that goal. In this issue of *The WES Magazine* you can see visual reminders of the joy our students took in being back at school.

So many beloved activities returned. Grade 8 made a much-delayed trip to Utah (exploring Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks) and the Grand Canyon, as well as spending time along the Chesapeake Bay. Nursery and Grades 5 and 6 bonded at the Calleva outdoor education facility. Our Kindergarten and Grade 1 made it to Butler's Orchard, and Grade 2 visited Peirce Mill and the Baltimore Museum of Industry. Additionally, we held three all-school chapels on the turf field, bringing us a renewed sense of community.

Of course, our Dragons—325 strong—continued to make academic and artistic progress on campus. WES has been buzzing with science and reading, languages and math, music and projects that make learning come alive in the hands and minds of our students. I hope you will read about this work in these pages.

Athletic competition also returned gloriously this fall. Soccer matches and cross country meets were back, with students and their coaches (and spectators) enjoying the excitement. Our feature story in this issue puts the spotlight on the importance of athletics through the eyes of WES faculty. You can also read about our alumni athletes. Olympian Claire Collins '11 returned to campus in October, and swimmer Lawrence Redmond '14 chats about how college athletics has enhanced his life.

I was also elated to see parents back on the WES campus. New family coffees, grade-level potluck dinners, and our Oktoberfest Wine Party thrived under the outdoor tent. And, of course, the return of the annual Book Fair, set up by parent volunteers, found so many in our community shopping for books to support our library. Perhaps best of all, parents attended Christmas celebrations featuring music and fellowship before our winter break.

The hardest day of this school year was the day we learned that our beloved Nurse teacher, Dawn Harding, had lost her battle with cancer. Generations of WES students are part of her legacy, and I hope you will take a moment to read the warm tribute to her here.

Although public health conditions continue to limit some activities, I am certain that our Dragons will continue to thrive, showing their classic perseverance, kindness, confidence, and spirit in the coming months. They remain the reason that WES is a community of joy and growth. Thank you for joining us in our mission of inspiring them to personal excellence.

Sincerely,

Danny Vogelman



Danny Vogelman speaks at Opening Chapel on the Turf Field.



A spiral of "Kindness Rocks," installed on the new East Campus patio

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Claire Collins Day



on the
cover:

Charleigh Knott '23
pursues the ball during
the St. Andrew's Invitational
in November.

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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PLAY IT FORWARD

Our inspired teachers and coaches know that playing sports confers benefits well beyond those of fitness and competitiveness. With a wide range of personal athletic experiences, from childhood to college to the professional level, they tell us about the lessons they learned along the way and how their roles at WES allow them to pass along this wisdom to their students and players.

Here are their stories.

BILL ISOLA

Director of Athletics, PE Teacher, Coach (26th year at WES)

- High school soccer and wrestling
- University of Lynchburg men's soccer, club rugby
- Enjoys running and biking. Completed more than 20 marathons and four Ironman triathlons



Participating in sports and playing on teams has helped shape where I am in life. The experience of working together as a team, understanding roles, the importance of hard work, and supporting teammates are all useful life lessons. Sports can be humbling and it teaches us time and time again that there is no

substitute for hard work and preparation.

Students face obstacles that challenge them along the way—whether they play sports or not. How they handle these moments is when they grow. Helping students persevere and overcome these obstacles is one of the most satisfying aspects of teaching and coaching. At the risk of dating myself, this quote from the movie *Rocky* about sums it up: “It ain’t about how hard you can hit, it’s about how hard you get hit and keep moving forward.”

MEHDI ELKASSEM

Science Teacher, Soccer Coach (21st year at WES)

- Judo/Martial Arts Age 7–18
- High school soccer and track
- Morocco Division 1 Soccer Club “Sporting Club Chabab Mohammedia”
- University of St. Petersburg Soccer Team
- Recreational soccer, running, and hiking



Athletics teaches life skills. While I was on the soccer club team or practicing Judo, I was living in the moment, working on perfecting my skills, and enjoying the competitive side of the sport. However, the older I get, the more I see that participating in sports helps me understand the true meaning of resilience, team work, handling victories and losses with maturity, treating opponents with respect and dignity, time management, and most importantly that hard work always pays off.

No matter what situation I find myself in with my students or soccer players—from coaching a soccer game, leading practice, hiking in Bryce Canyon, or completing a science project—I always find myself teaching the skills I learned as an athlete, both subconsciously or intentionally. Team work, collaboration, resilience, effort, respect, sportsmanship, doing your best, and never giving up help our young people in all kinds of domains and situations.

CAITLIN LENNON

PE Teacher, Soccer Coach (14th year at WES)

- Soccer and field hockey in high school, including travel teams and showcases
- Soccer at Towson University

Athletics has shaped me physically, mentally, and socially. It has also helped me build character. Sports teaches great qualities such as leadership, optimism, perseverance, respect, and confidence.

I want my students to enjoy being engaged in physical activity and to see that there are plenty of activities that allow you to just get out here and try something new and see what transpires. I think it's great for young people to jump right into being active—physical activity creates a better mindset and can lead to greater happiness. Building a love of physical activity helps everything else fall into place.



JOEL PIZARRO

Middle School Spanish Teacher, Soccer Coach (10th year at WES)

- Competitive soccer from elementary school through college
- Volleyball and rugby in high school
- Recreational tennis and table tennis



Athletics is an essential part of my life. Playing a sport is the way I like to exercise the most, but it also informs how I enjoy family and friends. My father was a huge soccer fan and would often get together with his friends to watch games over the weekend or listen to games on the radio. When he got together with friends to watch the games it would always be structured as a whole event with an accompanying lunch, dinner, or even party, and everyone's family would attend as well. That tradition remains the same now with my family.

I really enjoy showing my students how exciting it is to play a sport. As a Spanish

teacher, I teach my students that soccer, for instance, is more than just a common interest, it is a component of Latin American culture. When you are learning a foreign language, it is very important to understand the culture, and athletics is part of that learning.

JON MARSHALL

Grade 6 Teacher, Soccer and Basketball Coach (9th year at WES)

- High school baseball and basketball

I grew up in sparsely-populated Maine, and we would sometimes have to drive for three or four hours to reach our opponents. Coming home at 2 a.m. on a weekday was a frequent occurrence, so it was a very difficult decision to discontinue athletics my senior year of high school. That said, I regard foregoing sports as the first adult decision of my life.



One of my favorite activities as a teacher has been coaching soccer and basketball, which I have done every year of my career. Although I never played organized soccer, I am an avid fan and count myself a dedicated student of the game. Coaching allows me to work with students outside of academia in an environment where "sitting still" is the lowest of priorities. I regard helping kids find their comfort spot in a team enterprise as one of the most important contributions I can make as a middle school instructor.

NICK LELLENBERG

Assistant Director of Admission Coach, Cross Country and Track & Field (8th year at WES)

- High school track (4 years), team captain senior year
- Soccer since age 5

Growing up, athletics were the foundation upon which a lot of my life, including friendships, were built. As an adult, even though I tend to be pretty even-keeled emotionally, weekly soccer games are a fantastic

way to reset at the end of a week or to get into a great mindset going into a new week. When traveling, I use my daily runs to explore. I'm never without soccer balls in the trunk of my car or running shoes in my suitcase!

Because I am perhaps the only coach at WES who does not also teach students, being able to leverage my previous experiences into coaching cross country and track & field has been wonderful. I draw heavily from my own high school workouts when developing practices at WES. I cherish the times when a student finds out that they've found their new sport, carry that on into high school, and later tell me that their practices at WES really prepared them for what they found in high school.

CATHERINE VOELPEL

PE Teacher, Soccer and Track & Field Coach (4th year at WES)

- Track at University of Maryland, setting school records for the Indoor 600M and Outdoor distance medley relay

Athletics have always been about more than just winning and losing to me. Through my track and field career I was able to learn a lot about myself that continues to help me grow off the track. As an individual sport, I learned the importance of setting goals so that I always had something to keep me motivated. By setting difficult but achievable goals, I had to push myself past the point of being comfortable. The challenges I set for myself taught me to always keep a positive mindset and believe you are good enough to do it. I created a mantra during college that I would repeat out loud to myself during my warm-ups, and that's when I really saw an improvement in my performances. Track is considered to be 90% mental, 10% physical, so I realized how critical self-confidence and a positive mindset is for success.

These skills led to athletic success for me but are applicable to any aspect of life. Working with Nursery-Grade 8 students, I find it necessary to establish a goal that I want the students to reach that year, whether it's learning how to skip in Nursery, jump-rope in first grade, or win two games in our middle school soccer season. I recognize that each student is different and are all motivated by and interested in different things, so I challenge myself to find ways to connect with each student so that I can provide them with the guidance and support they need to reach those goals. It's also important that I teach them these lessons so they can use them in their lives. Whether I'm coaching a sport, leading a PE class, or just talking to students about school work, I encourage them to have a goal in mind and work towards that goal with confidence and a positive attitude.



CONTINUED
NEXT PAGE

PLAY

IT FORWARD *continued*

JESS NELSON

Grade 4 Teacher, Lacrosse Coach (2nd year at WES)

- Lacrosse in high school and at Princeton University
- Club volleyball at Princeton
- Running, yoga, and meditation as an adult

The major lessons I learned being a Division 1 athlete were time management, humility, and empathy. I had to develop discipline both on and off the field. And I found myself humbled – you might be the fastest, best player in high school but it's a different situation at the college level. I learned to have empathy as I was exposed to people from all walks of life. Athletics also taught me to come out of my shell!



Playing on a team teaches our students to work through challenges and feel that accomplishment as a team beats anything! Every player can be a leader in their own way and find their own strength. Through sports, students can learn to have a positive outlook – that you can achieve anything together, as a team.

NICK BOSMAN

Classroom Support Teacher, Basketball Coach (2nd year at WES)

- Basketball, football, track, cross country, and tennis in high school
- Recreational baseball



Athletics were hugely formative in my childhood, leading to lifelong friends and physical fitness habits I'll have for life. The lessons I learned in humility, toughness, and leadership have stuck with me to this day.

I've been able to call upon leadership skills and perseverance I learned in sports to do my job to the best of my ability, especially in challenging times. My years of competition as an athlete are personally rewarding, but now it's clear that they set me up to be a positive influence for the student-athletes at WES. Being able to

convey lessons of hard work and resilience, both on and off the court, is something that I'm really looking forward to while coaching and teaching at WES.

JUSTIN BLACK

PE Teacher, Basketball and Cross Country Coach (1st year at WES)

- Basketball at DeMatha Catholic High School
- Basketball at Morgan State
- Professional international basketball in France, Germany, Kosovo, and China (2017 FIBA Player of the Year)

I learned from playing that competition can be inspiring. It helped me to develop a philosophy about being super passionate and performing at my highest level and being happy with that level of achievement. Success didn't have to mean making it to the NBA. Playing sports pushes young people to ask themselves: *Can I give back to others? How will I chase my dreams? What am I best suited to do in life?*



I truly loved coaching cross country this fall. This sport requires students to grow and persevere. At the beginning of the season, students were intimidated by doing two laps but by the end they were doing two miles. That's an example of a caterpillar turning into a butterfly.

MEGHAN KELLER

School Counselor (1st year at WES)

- Water polo at Iona College (NY) a top-20, Division 1 water polo school, serving as team captain for two years
- All-American Athlete 2009/2010 and Academic All-American 2007-2010
- Scuba diving and other water sports as an adult



My mother said I majored in water polo and minored in psychology! But my water polo experience truly taught me empathy and hard work. I took on the role of providing emotional support as well as academic help to teammates. I recognized the mental health and academic issues my teammates, people from every possible background,

endured, and offered them an empathetic ear and tutoring. After college, I had to learn that skills I had developed with my water polo team could be used outside of sports: time management, hard work, and being of service to others.

Sports can help young people develop character—the ability to push through obstacles while still having empathy for others. In grad school I realized my greatest strengths were being caring, empathetic, and kind and I could put my leadership to use and be a good listener. 🌱

**Academic
Divisions**





Early Childhood

Nursery · Pre-K · Kindergarten · Grade 1

Students in WES's early childhood program are always on the move!

WES teachers encourage our youngest students to take on challenges, try new things, and learn through experience. Having the freedom to explore, move, and build enables Early Childhood students to experience the joy of discovery that helps them to grow, learn, and delight in the world around them. From the initial good-byes on the first day of school to their first ride on a school bus, our students learn to gain confidence and become more independent.

Our Nursery students found great rewards from their first field trip to the farm—whether it was petting a rooster or riding a real horse. Meanwhile, back at school, students practiced how to pedal a bike and pump the swings—experiences that provided further opportunities to explore, grow, and learn.

From the start of school, Pre-K students set their minds to tackling the monkey bars, crossing one bar at a time, even tolerating

a blister or two, until meeting success. They embraced the challenges of having science labs and foreign language added to their weekly schedule. Students built a light circuit, experimented with magnets, and discovered a new language—singing a familiar song in French or Spanish. Their daily activities stimulated them to observe, predict, experiment, and take a risk.

Kindergarten students expanded their motor skills as they explored every facet of the playground—climbing the boulder and sliding down the big slide. This year they were the first class to go on a local field trip in more than a year, climbing aboard buses that took them to the apple orchard where they picked and sampled a variety of apples and then brought them back to school to make applesauce the next day. A highlight of October was their visit to the pumpkin patch, where they plucked the perfect pumpkin from their stems. The annual Early Childhood Christmas Chapel always provides leadership opportunities as the entire class takes on the important work of

going on stage to tell the story of baby Jesus through dramatization and song. Role playing and sharing are ways Kindergarten students meet new challenges and discover the joy of learning.

Grade 1 students are the ambassadors for Early Childhood. From their first day in uniform to their help in leading EC's weekly chapels, they are role models for our younger students. Their social studies program has them looking at different communities—urban, rural, and suburban. Then, using a variety of common materials, they built their own community in three dimensions. This exercise taught them about balance, shape, and design, opening their minds to the worlds of architecture, engineering, and building. Making presentations about their model communities to teachers and classmates allowed them to practice skills of public speaking and explanation.



On the previous page:

- Pre-K students dance and explore moving to the beat in music class.
- A Pre-K student portrays an angel in the Early Childhood Christmas program.
- A first-grader makes "Blessing Bags" for Church of the Epiphany as part of our October community service project.
- Mr. Wright helps Kindergarten students peel the apples they picked at the farm for applesauce.

1. Students retell the Christmas story in a long-standing WES tradition.
2. Nursery students took turns mixing and measuring as they made their own Play-Doh for gifts for their classmates in December.

3. For their unit on communities, a first-grader constructed a model of a school.
4. Feeding a goat was just one of the fun things to do when the Nursery class visited the farm at Calleva.
5. A Kindergartener practices the letter "N."
6. A Pre-K student climbs on the play equipment during recess.
7. A first-grader works on *saludos y despedidas* (greetings and goodbyes) with Señora O'Kon in Spanish class.
8. In a Kindergarten science class, students learn about the scientific method by conducting an experiment on magnetism.



Early Childhood



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



Elementary Dragons were eager to be together once more as the academic year began. They worked to get to know each other, form new friendships, develop new classroom communities, and celebrate their amazing and unique identities. On Unity Day in October, students developed identity collages, and planted bulbs to signify our theme of “Growing Together,” and took a moment to recognize and remember our school motto to ‘Be Kind.’

Working together on shared goals and collaborating in groups is a regular part of Elementary life, as we support the development of skills in flexibility, problem-solving, cooperation, self-control, and communication. Music took center stage in Grades 2 and 3 as we joined together for our first ever “Community Sing.” These joyful Friday get-togethers led by music teacher Alicia Knox outside on the front steps enabled students to learn songs, practice their listening skills, and sing in rounds. When the weather turned colder, Ms. Knox added plenty of fun movement and action; Friday Community Sing has now become a regular and eagerly-anticipated part of the Elementary school week!

Just before Thanksgiving, Grade 4 students experienced a community ‘Culture Celebration.’ Students were invited to bring in artifacts or food items to share with their classmates that reflected some aspect of their culture and heritage. Fourth-graders practiced their presentation skills, listened intently to one another’s stories, and shared in the many edible delights from around the world.

Fifth-graders experienced the need to work together firsthand when they participated in a field trip to Calleva in November. Students were divided into three teams and were tasked with a number of increasingly difficult rope courses. The aim was not simply individual accomplishment and challenge but, most critically, teamwork and overall completion. Fifth-graders learned the importance of communication and peer support and thrived in this off-campus opportunity!

Collaboration and group-work features in all classes every day at WES and specials classes are no exception. Grade 5 students worked together to extract DNA from wheat in STEM class, and Grade 3 students experienced being part of an ensemble as they played the ukulele and Orff instruments. PE provides many opportunities for students to practice athletic skills, develop sportsmanship, follow rules, and collaborate in a team. By working together, Elementary Dragons tap into individual strengths, recognize and support others, and work towards strengthening the whole community.





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2



3

Opposite page, top to bottom, left to right:

- Fifth-graders employ teamwork at the ropes course at Calleva in November.
- In STEM class, Grade 5 students work collaboratively on DNA extraction.
- A second-grader learns about machinery as he assumes the role of a foreman in an 1960s cannery at the Baltimore Museum of Industry.
- A third-grader's example of an "identity collage" that each Elementary student developed this fall.
- A second grader uses a brush to separate corn kernels during a field trip to Peirce Mill, an 1829 mill in DC.

1. Fourth-graders enjoy a rousing game of "Captain's Coming" in PE class.
2. Elementary students delivering Kindness Boxes filled with treats to residents of Sunrise Senior Living on Connecticut Avenue
3. Second-graders play Orff instruments in music class
4. Third-graders levitate magnets in their lab on forces and interactions in STEM.
5. In art class, a third-grader works on her cubist still life.
6. A fourth-grader shares cultural artifacts and food reflecting his heritage with classmates.
7. A group of Grade 5 students performs an original play about western expansion.
8. Grade 4 teacher Ms. Nelson and a student plant bulbs in the East Campus for Unity Day.
9. Students in Grade 3 learn about science, technology, and innovations in telecom munications from Verizon technicians.
10. Grade 5 students give a presentation on food insecurity in a November Chapel to encourage participation in our annual can drive.



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Elementary



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4



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6

Opposite page:

- Sixth-graders raft down the Potomac in a team-building field trip in September.
- Grade 8 students hike the Toadstool Trail of Kanab, UT, as they observe the geological similarities between that park and Bryce Canyon.
- Mrs. Durling leads Grade 7 students through the FDR Memorial during a field trip into DC.
- An eighth-grader's painting showing the effects of pollution on Bay crabs and oysters.
- Grade 8 students find a red bearded sponge in the Chesapeake Bay as they examine the bay ecosystem.
- Spirit Squad eighth-graders make a banner for the big Grade 8 – Faculty soccer game in November.

1. A special middle-school Zumba class during community time has everyone on their feet!
2. Inspired by *nierika* yarn paintings of the Huichol Indians in Mexico, a sixth-grader shows the yarn painting she created for a research project in Spanish class.
3. Students gather more than 2,000 cans which were donated to Manna Food Center in November.
4. An eighth-grader and Mrs. Earle record laboratory data in physical science.
5. Eighth-graders share a smile at the Grade 8-Faculty soccer game.
6. A seventh-grader uses the microscope to compare animal and plant cells in life science.
7. A middle school advisory group carves and paints a pumpkin for competition.
8. A seventh-grade student presents his Inquiry Project on electric cars in November for English class.
9. Walking a long distance with water, this seventh-grader learns about water insecurity around the globe.



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Middle School Grade 6 • Grade 7 • Grade 8

Middle School Dragons returned to campus in September to begin another year of “growing together,” our theme for the year. Our year started with class trips, to begin learning about each other and bonding through activity and play. Our newest middle schoolers in Grade 6 spent a day rafting on the Potomac, while Grade 7 students participated in a scavenger hunt in downtown DC and visited both the FDR and MLK memorials. But Grade 8 had the unique experience of traveling out west to the National Parks of Utah, including Zion, Bryce Canyon, and to the Grand Canyon in Arizona! These experiential learning events are the signature of the WES Middle School experience, and we were overjoyed to return to traveling.

Our Middle Schoolers were excited to have an updated and dynamic new third floor spaces, with fresh paint, new carpeting, desks, and chairs. Classrooms buzzed with hands-on science labs, French and Spanish games, sketching and drawing, and vibrant discussions about the ancient world, literature, and real-world math. Our Grade 7 students re-enacted a mile walk carrying gallons of water after reading *A Long Walk To Water* in geography. Grade 6 students began the audition process for their class musical, *Moana Jr.*, and Grade 8 students traveled to Port Isobel on the Chesapeake Bay for three days of marine science with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.



What sets our middle school apart is its tremendous sense of community. Much of this is fostered in our Advisory program, where small groups of Grade 6, 7, and 8 students form a special bond over their three years. The program provides a strong social-emotional learning element to the middle school experience. Our “Advisory Challenges” are a much-anticipated monthly event, from pumpkin decorating to the November canned food drive to spirited and whimsical holiday door decorating. Student leadership is thriving this year as our SGA has already sponsored a record-breaking canned food drive and a bake sale, featuring goodies created by many of our students.

In our vibrant community, WES middle school students are learning, playing, and growing together!



New Faculty



Top row: Meghan Keller, MJ Seo, Justin Black, Tracy Theal, Kayla Merryman
Bottom row: David Dallaire, Alessandra Meija, Kristina Ottomanelli

Front row (l to r): Trish Rana, Angie Myler, Ivanna Bandura, Will Layman
Middle row: Amnee Lindbloom, Alicia Knox
Back row: Madisyn Richards, Lauren Brooks, Kathryn Sieminski

Welcome NEW FACULTY



Ivanna Bandura, Early Childhood Spanish Teacher
Hometown: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Favorite destination: ANY beach or Paris!

Justin Black, PE Teacher
Hometown: Washington, DC
Favorite book: *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho and favorite movie: *Love Jones*

Lauren Brooks, Classroom Support
Hometown: Bethesda, MD
Favorite activity: Hiking with my dog Jasper!

David Dallaire, Facilities Manager
Hometown: Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Hobbies: Painting (acrylic, oil) and drawing

Meghan Keller, Early Childhood and Elementary School Counselor
Hometown: Houston, TX
Favorite destination: Anywhere I can scuba dive

Alicia Knox, Early Childhood and Elementary School Music teacher
Hometown: Denver, CO
Favorite hobbies: Crafting, knitting, and hand embroidery

Will Layman, Director of Development
Hometown: Wyckoff, NJ
Favorite book: *Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Amnee Lindbloom, Grade 4 Teacher
Hometown: Scranton, PA
Favorite sports: Playing or watching tennis

Alessandra Meija, Classroom Support
Hometown: Gaithersburg, MD
Favorite destination: Melbourne, Australia

Kayla Merriman, Classroom Support
Hometown: Gaithersburg, MD
Favorite destination: Maui, HI

Angie Myler, Early Childhood and Elementary School Learning Specialist
Hometown: Sydney, Australia
Favorite book: *The Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller

Kristina Ottomanelli, Development Associate
Hometown: Kensington, MD
Favorite destination: Greece

Trish Rana, Communications Associate
Hometown: Manila, Philippines
Favorite pastime: Road trips to National Parks with my dog

Madisyn Richards, Grade 1 Associate Teacher
Hometown: Washington Township, NJ
Favorite hobby: painting and creating art

MJ Seo, Human Resources, Business Office
Hometown: Seoul, South Korea
Favorite destination: Hawaii

Kathryn Sieminski, Grade 6 Teacher
Favorite book: *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
Favorite destination: Italy

Tracy Theal, Classroom Support
Hometown: Chardon, OH
Favorite pastime: Traveling and exploring

Dawn Harding

1962-2022

Lovingly referred to as our "Fairy Godmother" during her induction into the St. George's Society in 2014 for recognition of 15 years of service to the school, Dawn Harding was a treasured Nursery teacher from 1999 to December 2021. Dawn passed away from complications from her 18-month battle with cancer on January 2, 2022 at home with her loved ones.

Born and raised in Bethesda, MD, the first of four children, Dawn was a Winston Churchill High School graduate, attended Brigham Young University, and graduated from Kent State University. She was the mother of four sons—considered "rambunctious" by their own accounts. She began teaching early childhood students once her boys attended school and joined the WES faculty as a Nursery teacher in the fall of 1999. Two of her sons, Andrew '02 and Michael '05, are WES graduates. She found a new role as "Grammy" to her 12 grandchildren, and absolutely nothing brought her more joy than the vacations, sleepovers, art projects, outings, and creative activities with them. She so loved WES that two of her grandchildren attended WES's Early Childhood program.

Dawn was an extraordinary educator, instilling in her students a desire to learn and achieve. She was passionate about making learning fun, as she introduced young people to the brand new world of school. Guided by her seemingly infinite patience, encouraging words, and kindness, three- and four-year olds learned to do for themselves and became more self-assured, confident, and responsible. Dawn was ever calm and flexible. She could find the humor in the most challenging situation and summon a quick plan to redirect and adjust, without missing a beat. The results of her creativity in and outside of the classroom are legendary. Her students conducted a bear hunt that ended with a note from the bear (and special honey treats), rode ponies at the farm, hatched a dozen chicks in early spring, and released butterflies from caterpillars as they studied animal life cycles.

Parents considered Dawn a role model and relied on her gentle wisdom as she helped them navigate parenthood. Her approach was soft and positive, yet deliberate. Her demeanor was always composed and respectful, and she seemed to have all the time in the world to share something important or to just check in or chat with parents or colleagues. Her collaborative and cooperative nature made her a dependable resource for fellow faculty. She generously shared programming ideas as well as strategies to help a student, and pitched in at community-wide events. Teachers of all grades called upon her knowledge, advice, and insight to improve their curriculum. WES alumni visited her for a dose of encouragement and her trademark warm hug.

Dawn's enthusiasm for and dedication to her craft earned her recognition as a finalist for *The Washington Post's* 2017 Teacher of the Year Award. After being nominated by her colleagues, Dawn served as a faculty representative to the Board of Trustees in 2018, and she had an article, *Why I Teach in an Episcopal School*, published in the April 2018 issue of the MAESA Matters e-newsletter." Dawn served on the 2012 Strategic Planning Task Force, was a member of the Head of School Transition Team in 2010, served as a new faculty mentor, helped emcee the WES Auction Gala, donated creative teacher outings to the

Auction, and was a Room Parent in 2004. She also enjoyed helping with Early Childhood Chapels, leading songs and prayers.

Beyond the classroom, Dawn loved to travel, especially internationally. She was an avid seamstress, making beautiful quilts for family and friends and creating the WES banner among other handcrafted items. She loved gardening and cooking, often preparing a wonderful meal for a crowd out of very few ingredients. Her famous oatmeal and snickerdoodle cookies kept lacrosse players and girl camp members awaiting the next batch, and twice she graciously baked hundreds for an Annual Fund promotion. A woman devoted to her faith, she served her church her entire life and lived every day with grace and gratitude.

Dawn possessed an unmatched capacity always to see the positive in every situation and the best in every person. With one glance of her beautiful blue eyes and her warm smile, she made all of her students, their parents, colleagues, friends, and family feel valued and treasured. As she said this fall in a WES video, "I carry a piece of every student in my heart." And now we carry her in ours. ❤️



GOOD TO BE BACK!



The WES fields were once again full of life last fall as interscholastic sports returned.

WES student-athletes took full advantage of the opportunity to compete as participation in athletics neared an all-time high. Over 90% of the students in Grades 5-8 participated on a team during this fall season helping fulfill a goal of maximum participation for WES students.



But it doesn't stop at participation. Improving the athletic ability and fitness of each student, instilling the principals of teamwork and sportsmanship, and excelling in competition are some of the goals WES Athletics strives to achieve each season. Coaches and student-athletes alike worked over the season to improve and hopefully reach these goals.

The WES **soccer teams** all showed great progress this fall while entertaining the home crowds with exciting games and their fair share of victories. The Grades 5 and 6 teams not only had great participation, but also boast a solid core of athletes who will look to continue a strong WES tradition in soccer.



LET'S GO DRAGONS!



The girls **Grades 7 and 8 soccer team** enjoyed the most success. Led by eighth-graders Alex Bond (midfield), Arohi Narayan (center back), and Kathryn Marquardt (goalie), this team never backed down and was a tough matchup for all opponents. The girls concluded their season with a dominating 3-0 victory, bringing home the championship banner at the St. Andrew's Invitational.

Cross country continued to be an area of strength for WES as they had runners place in the top 10 of all races they ran this season. With a base of dedicated seventh- and eighth-graders who were able to set a positive tone, and a strong and dedicated group of fifth- and sixth-graders, WES cross country had an excellent showing. Fifth-graders Henry Hasselwander and Indi Sinclair emerged as forces to be reckoned with, having top finishes in all races run for WES.





GRADE 3 - CUBIST STILL LIFE

Grade 3 students immersed themselves in the world of color and shape. By learning about the Cubism movement, they learned how to create simplified, abstract paintings based on real objects. Using bright colors and bold outlines, the work reflects the unique approach of this style of art.

BACK in ACTION

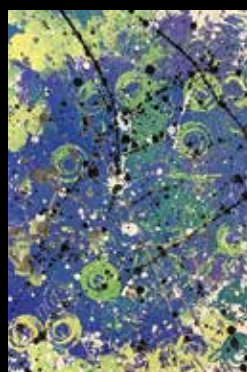
Students Return to the Art Studios for Classes

Students started the school year enjoying the space of our three art studios—one for each division. With the expansion of the ceramics studio, elementary students now have a dedicated space for classes. We have been excited to be back in action with more collaboration and the ability for students to interact and inspire each other. Here's a glimpse of projects from autumn.



GRADE 7 - NATURE DRAWINGS

Grade 7 experienced art inside and out by selecting objects from outside, photographing their object, and using the photograph as a reference for their drawings. They grappled with making their object look three-dimensional using a wide range of values (darks and lights) and accurate proportions to realistically capture their objects.



NURSERY - ACTION PAINTINGS

Nursery students loved creating action paintings inspired by artist Jackson Pollock. They began by using various gadgets to print designs on their papers. Finishing touches were added with splattered, squirted, and flung paint.



The highlight of the season was a return to in-person performances following a 21-month hiatus due to safety concerns.

The Christmas season was joyfully ushered in with the Grades 7 and 8 Band and Choral Concert, with lovely instrumental and choral selections played to the delight of the performer's families. The Grade 6 chorus was also represented with a recording of their singing the Christmas Canon. Next was the All-School Christmas Chapel led by students in Grades 1-4, which featured lessons and carols. Christmas caroling moved outdoors on an uncommonly warm December day, as our faculty musicians led a spirited all-school group of students and faculty in the front of the school. And for the last performance before winter break, our littlest angels, shepherds, kings, and singers continued one of our favorite and most precious holiday traditions as students in Nursery, Pre-K, Kindergarten, and Grade 1 presented the Christmas story on stage with costumes, before an audience of family and students.

Although band and chorus rehearsals were altered somewhat to accommodate safety measures, music classes continued as students sang, played the ukulele, and Orff instruments. Hearing joyful music throughout the building was a welcome treat! New this fall was Community Sing, an outdoor gathering of students in Grades 2 and 3, in which students sing and act out songs led by music teacher Alicia Knox.

Technology was essential for Grades 4-8 music classes. Soundtrap, a digital music program, was implemented early in the school year before transitioning to actual chorus rehearsals. Students used this program to compose original songs, remix pre-recorded songs, and learn to collaborate and create podcasts, music selections, and radio commercials as they sang along and created full story-centric music videos. Using tools such as audio recording, loops, and digital instruments, they also learned about arranging, mixing, and creating content and original music.



**PERFORMING
ARTS & MUSIC**





Spread YOUR WINGS!



It was great to once again have our campers back on campus for Summer@WES last June and July! The non-stop adventure, fun, and discovery offered many of our favorite activities, featuring arts, sports, technology, cooking, science, and more. "After a year off, our hearts were full to once again have the children, as well as our counselors and alumni back at WES together, having fun, and just enjoying their summer," said Summer@WES director Bill Isola.

Summer@WES lets kids be kids and provides a classic summer day camp experience but with an exciting variety of contemporary offerings that appeal to today's children. They can discover a new skill such as archery, or learn how to program a drone and fly it through an obstacle course. Campers launch a rocket on the field, use engineering principles to build an amusement park model, meet a new teammate during Field Day, or whip up a dish for a competition in the spirit of Food Network's Chopped. WES campers spend their time in a safe, welcoming atmosphere among talented staff. Children are able to explore their world in an independent way outside of home or school as they march in the Independence Day parade, create a hamburger sculpture, learn to set a pick on the basketball court, brush up on an academic subject, or just run through the sprinkler. Summertime provides a distinct opportunity to spread one's wings and dive into a happy place—which is right here in your community at WES!



Enroll in Summer@WES 2022 now for one-week in-person sessions from June 13-July 29 at www.w-e-s.org/summer.

WASHINGTON EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Alumni

CLASS NOTES



1



4

'21 **Jordan Emerson**
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Olivia Girson
Olivgiagirson@icloud.com

Tiny Nelson
paigemelonss@gmail.com
Rhian Williams
rwpony4@icloud.com

Alex Berko had an exciting first semester at Duke Ellington School for the arts, with an invitation to participate in a Smithsonian poster contest for the American History Museum jazz festival. **Aidan Deshpande** played varsity soccer at Maret and will play baseball this spring. **Olivia Girson** writes for Madeira's school newspaper. At Madeira, **Emerson Jordan** is a staff writer for the school newspaper. In The Washington Ballet's Nutcracker, she danced the role of Frontier Girl in 10 performances at the Warner Theatre. **Zoe Linkins** played JV volleyball at Holy Child in the fall and is running track. **Anna Maher** played tennis at Maret. **Tiny (Paige) Nelson** is enjoying life at Sandy Spring Friends School. In July, **Ethan Oeltmann**, **Davis Oeltmann** '20, and **Rhian Williams** helped assemble backpacks in support of Jen Lilley's "Christmas Isn't Cancelled" campaign to provide 2,021 backpacks to foster children. **Ethan Oeltmann** was the kicker on the freshman football team at Georgetown Prep and plays on the JV hockey team. He was also an inaugural member of the trap shooting team. **Daniel Pressley**



2

3

1 **Mariam Ayub** '97, **Kim Bair**, and **Alia (Ayub) Campbell-Crawford** '91 at WES in August 2021 2 **Maya Grebowsky** '18 3 **Ben Meyer** '19 gives a hug to his former cross country coach **Nick Lellenberg** at a WES vs. GDS cross country meet last October. 4 **Isabella Dodro** '18, **Julian Haas** '18, **Conner Nickel** '18, **Iris Zola** '19, and **Rhian Williams** '21 at St. Andrew's last November

played linebacker on the freshman football team at DeMatha. **Rhian Williams** was in one-act plays at St. Andrew's Episcopal School and is thrilled with her new horse, Mr. President.

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

Marco Burrows is rowing crew at St. Albans. **Rasmus Byskov** helped coach the robotics team last fall. **Lucy Carnegie** played on the tennis team at Holy Child. She also volunteers with The Janie Foundation and organized a toiletry drive to empower girls and women of color at the WES Book Fair in December. **Alex High** is rowing crew at St. Albans, plays guitar in the jazz band and orchestra, and is enjoying voyager rock climbing. **Davis Oeltmann** played football last fall and JV hockey this winter for Georgetown Prep. He was also on the inaugural trap shooting team.

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

Aidan Linkins played soccer at St. Anselm's and is playing JV basketball.

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.

Alumni Class Notes

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

Arya Balian will attend Columbia University in the fall. Her sister **Sareen '15**, is in her junior year at Columbia. **Julian Diaz** earned Eagle Scout this fall with Troop #61. **Caroline Dickey** enjoyed a summer internship at Howard University Hospital's Neurology Research Lab, which was through Holton's science research program. **Maya Grebowski** will attend University of Pennsylvania in the fall. She is a senior at Holton-Arms School and started The Janie Foundation. The organization held an outdoor movie night on the WES turf field in early September to collect toiletries. **Lucy Carnegie '20** helped organize this event that provided over 2,000 needed items. Other WES alums, including **Ian Shaiyen '18** and **Julian Haas '18**, came out to support this endeavor. We chatted with Maya, who expressed her passion around empowering girls and women of color, helping them to become more confident and reduce stressors in their lives. Find out more @thejanie-

foundation. **Conner Nickel** is captain of the St. Andrew's Episcopal School swim team and holds school records for the 100 and 50 free and all relay team records. His team qualified for Metros in early winter, the DC, MD, and NoVa state championship. Conner runs a service project at Interfaith Works to collect school supplies for families receiving social services, and runs an adopt-a-family project that he introduced to St. Andrew's last year. He is the 2019 recipient of the Humanitarian of the Year from Interfaith Works. Conner will attend Emory University in the fall.

'17 **Thomas Carney**
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Emelia Isola
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Joanna Dematatis
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Randolph Kaminskas
Randolph.kaminskas@gmail.com

Christian Berko enjoyed his first semester of computer science coding at Rochester Institute of Technology, and has terrific suitemates. **Thomas**

Carney is studying political science at Occidental College In Los Angeles. He writes: "Without WES, I don't think I would be the outgoing person I am today." **Joanna Dematatis** is living on campus at Clemson. **Emelia Isola** enjoyed her first semester at Penn State. **Nick Leahy** is a sophomore at Northwestern University, studying theater and film production. Last fall he had a job as a "grip" on a senior thesis film. **Garrett McCally** and **Jacob Stefanick** both achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in the same Washington DC Troop #61. **Sarah Myhre** is studying architecture at Clemson University. **Holden Woodings** chose to red-shirt his first season on the UNC-Greensboro soccer team. He anticipates playing this coming fall. He also made Dean's List/Honor Roll first semester. **Miles Woodings** enjoyed his first year at University of Colorado and joined Delta Sigma Phi fraternity.

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

Geoffrey Shaiyen is a manager for

the St. John's University basketball team.

'15 **Ryan Kyle**
Ryankyle36@gmail.com

Tatev Gomtryan, a long-time basketball enthusiast, tried out for and made the Women's National Basketball Team in Armenia in 2017. She played on the U16 and U18 National teams that year in the FIBA European Division C Championship. Her U18 earned second place and her U16 team won first place. Tatev then joined the U18 National Team in 2019 and won the championship. **Trish Massaro** is spending the spring semester abroad in Dublin, Ireland with Trinity University. **Mark Schlager**, a junior at The George Washington University, writes, "I spent the semester interning at the Office of National Drug Control Policy, which was an amazing experience. I'm also currently serving as the Public Relations chair for my fraternity, TKE. I'm currently a political science major and a Spanish minor. I would say WES instilled in me great



L-R: The Tareq and Elkassm families celebrate Eid together last May: Tayyaba '14, Maimuna '12, Katya and Mehdi Elkassem, Nasim '20, Samir '20, and Karim '17 and Sayema '08 • Ethan Oeltmann '21 and Daniel Pressley '21 after playing against each other in the Georgetown Prep vs. DeMatha football game last fall. • Sisters Maria '17 and Elen '14 Stepanyan at WES last June



Top-bottom, L-R: Cole Montrose '17 at home • Alex Berko '21 with Michelle Obama's portraitist, Amy Sherald • Brothers Tayo '17 and Tendai '18 Ball in Lisbon, Portugal last November • Caroline Dickey '18 and Patrick Pane at the Grade 8 - Faculty soccer game • The Gelos family (Nick '14, Gaston, Elisabeth, and Felicia '16) in California last summer

values such as selflessness and caring for the community around you, which have molded my friendships and is what inspired me to work in a public service job."

'14 Samantha Liggins
samanthaliggins@gmail.com

Nick Gelos is in his fourth year studying geography at the University of St Andrews. He told us that WES definitely played a role in making him interested in the world with all the study trips, not to mention the Geobee. **Aadil Husain** has one more semester to complete at University of Maryland. He writes, "WES taught me from a young age to work hard in every aspect of life, and this helps me even today, over 10 years later. I still remember so much from my elementary school classes, which says a lot about the teachers that I had. I was always excited to go to school." **Naveen Siddique** is working in corporate finance for Kroll in New York.

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

Mary Butler received her degree in English at Cambridge (UK), followed by a Masters in Psychology. She has just started work as a trainee social worker in south London. She writes, "I love the work and get to meet so many amazing kids, which has always been the best part of all my jobs. Last year I worked at a school for children on the autism spectrum, and did a psychology masters program. Next year I'm due to start training as a psychotherapist. WES has influenced my life massively. I was so supported [at WES], and learned so many important lessons about kindness and perseverance. Ms. Postorino hugely inspired my career choice, and gave me my first work experience. I also made some amazing friends at WES." **Sterling Myhre** is in graduate school at Tulane.

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

Douglas Chen-Young is working full-time and is considering grad programs. He shared that "The math and science classes at WES made high school and university classes easy because I started with a strong base. The same can be said for English." **Emerson Cox** graduated from Ranger School in July and was promoted to First Lieutenant in November 2021. He is stationed in Ft. Campbell, KY. **Matthew Karam** is in a seven-month gemalogical program in London, which began in October 2021. **Michaela Karam** was accepted to medical school at The George Washington University and will begin in August. After graduating from University of San Diego, **Grace Recka** has been working at Skin Authority as a certified skin coach, podcast producer, and social media manager in San Diego. She and her brother **Nicholas '09** ran the Encinitas Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving. She loves the west coast.

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

Peter Abdo attends medical school at Georgetown University. **Claire Collins** was on the USA women's coxless four rowing team in the Tokyo Olympic Games last summer. Her boat placed seventh. She is training for the 2024 Olympic Summer Games in Paris. Read about Claire's homecoming visit to WES in October on page 25. **Cornelia Smith** lives in Brooklyn and is a graduate student at the School of Visual Arts' Masters program for Design Research, Writing & Criticism. She also does editorial and writing work for the arts auction website Artsy.

'10 Lindsay Bratun
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Jonathan Butturini
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Shelby Mahaffie
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Madison Sharp
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Lindsay Bratun visited a friend in Paris in November. The highlight was seeing all the fabulous art, particularly Monet's waterlilies at Musée de l'Orangerie, which brought back fond memories of art class in

Pre-K. **Evan Sanders** will begin a graduate program in data analytics at Georgetown University in August. He continues to work for Guidehouse. **Mike Schmandt** is pursuing his JD at The University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. **Rachel Weinberger** started a job at Deloitte in NYC last summer.

'09 Kelsye Little
klittle5@scmail.spelman.edu
Bethany Mark
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Claire Bork is living in Rockville, and her family relocated to Charlottesville, VA. **Betsy Bowman** and **Clara Zou**, whose 20-year friendship started at WES, spent a girls weekend together in Santa Monica, CA in September. Clara works remotely for a Boston-based company and has been living in New York City for the past four years. **Courtney Bratun** is working for Compass in Bethesda. **Claire Butler**, in an exchange with Mehdi Elkassem wrote that "WES definitely sparked my love for science (which I went on to study at uni) and for nature (Chesapeake Bay trip and trash clean ups) which led me to my job today." She works as a sustainability manager at Deloitte in London, focusing on decarbonization, climate change, and sustainability strategies for businesses. **Alex Cox** was married last summer. **David Mould** lives in New York, works at SONY, and is working on his MBA at NYU in a part-time program. **Nicholas Recka** is finishing his MBA at Duke's Fuqua School of Business. Upon graduation he will work in NCY at PWC in the consulting division as a Senior Associate. He ran Encinitas Turkey Trot with his sister **Grace '12** on Thanksgiving.

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

Tommy Finton moved to Chicago last summer and is attending the University of Chicago Booth School of Business while continuing to work for the Boston Consulting Group in their Chicago office. **Jake Bradt** and his wife Becky are happy newlyweds in Cambridge, MA.



Kristin Cuddihy and Lucy Carnegie '20 at the Grade 8 - Faculty soccer game in November • Garret McCall '17 and Jake Stefanick '17 earn their Eagle Scout rank



Wes Cooper '21 and Barbara Burkhardt at the Grade 8 - Faculty soccer game in November 2021 • Eagle Scout Julian Diaz '18 showing the trail kiosk he built in Spring Valley Park.





Alumni at SUMMER@WES



L-R: Emelia Isola '17 and camper • Ethan Vogel-man '19 during a camp Field Day • Clara Knott '18 with a camper on the playground • David Stevenson '18 with three campers • (Back row) Nasim Elkassem '20, Alex McMillan '17 Forrest Wright '04, David Stevenson '18, Samir Elkassem '20 and (Front row) Alexis Doyle '10 and Clara Knott '18 gather in the library after an alumni lunch in July



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

A story about **Skylor Bee-Latty**, who is a search engine optimization manager, appeared in the *New York Times* (Aug. 28, 2021), about traveling abroad during the pandemic and enduring quarantining and testing to enjoy a vacation with her boyfriend, who lives in Manchester, UK. **Louis Ghanem** checked in with Mehdi Elkassem late this fall. He is an account executive at Salesforce. He wrote that "WES, on a professional level, taught me the value of hard work, embracing challenges and new experiences, and always to be kind to others. On a personal level WES taught me the value of being open-minded and loving differences in people. I've learned that people who understand that are typically very happy."



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

Della Bradt is enjoying living in Brooklyn while working at Hello Fresh. Her wedding is planned for June 2022. **Mairead Deeley-Wood** is living in Boston working as an early intervention specialist, doing visiting therapy



for babies and toddlers under age three who have or are at risk for developmental delays. She writes, "WES taught me to be comfortable learning and trying new things. I learned that being open to how other people see a situation or view the world will help you understand the larger picture. This is a mindset that I use at work every day as I work with all different kinds of people and families. WES exposed me to so many different experiences I wouldn't have had otherwise. I love traveling and exploring new places." **Clark Pastrick** shared the good news that he got engaged to Katie Robino in October 2021.

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

Lindsay Lynch began writing a novel while earning her MFA in fiction at the University of Wyoming, after graduating from Kenyon College. Her debut novel, *Do Tell*, will be published soon by Doubleday Books. She has written for *The Adroit Journal*, *The Atlantic*, *Electric Lit*, and *The Offing*, among others. Lindsay works as a buyer at Parnassus Books in Nashville which is owned by award-winning author Ann Patchett. You can read her stories at lindsaylynch.net. Lindsay's parents

have relocated to Annapolis. **Nicholas Procelli** and Maura Berry were married on August 1, 2021 in Bedminster, NJ.

'04 **Sofia Selowsky**
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Jeffrey Scholl
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'03

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

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

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

Hayley Henderson moved to Birmingham, MI (a suburb of Detroit) in mid-August after being recruited for a job in the thoracic surgery department at Beaumont Medical's Troy and Royal Oak hospitals as a nurse practitioner. She is settling into her home and recently adapted a kitten, Cleo.

'99

'98

Top to bottom, L-R: Courtney Bratun '09, Jack Fowler '08, his fiancée Anna Robertson, Sean Dwyer '08, and Lindsay Bratun '10 at a WFT game in December 2021 • Mairead Deeley-Wood '06 • Clark Pastrick '06 with fiancée Katie Robino last October • Caroline Dickey '18 during her internship at Howard University Hospital's Neurology Research Lab last summer.

'97 **Nate Guggenheim**
Nate.Guggenheim@WFP.com

Mariam Ayub reunited with Kim Bair last July with a visit with Mariam's sister **Alia (Ayub) Campbell-Crawford '91** and their mother. Kim taught Mariam in Pre-K and was a flower girl in Kim's wedding in November 1989 along with other students. Mariam is Chief of General Internal Medicine at Medstar Georgetown University Hospital and lives in Bethesda. **Chris Hill** stopped by WES in July while running on the Capital Crescent Trail. He lives in San Francisco. He was running so fast that we didn't get to chat with him long enough!

'94 **Charlotte McCormack**
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'93 **Palmer Seeley**
Palmer.Seeley@caryacademy.org
Dan Freer
Dan.freer@gmail.com

'92 **John Pinto**
johnp1979@yahoo.com

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

Kim Bair had a delightful visit and tour of WES with alumni sisters **Alia (Ayub) Campbell-Crawford** and **Mariam Ayub '97** and their mother last July. Alia lives in London while Mariam lives locally.

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

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

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

Rebecca (Schneider) Luria told us that her family plans to stay permanently in Hawaii now, dashing hopes that her children would one day attend WES. She continues to practice at Hawaii Dermatology and Plastic Surgery Centers. Her husband, Joe, an anesthesiologist, is retiring from the Army, and their children, ages 8, 10, and 12, are happy and doing well.

Condolences to:

The family of **Frances Scott Pate Hamby** who passed away on Sept. 1, 2021. Mrs. Hamby's tenure at Washington Episcopal School spanned more than two decades. She taught Kindergarten from 1986-1990, held the position of Kindergarten Resource teacher from 1990-2001, and worked part time in the Development Office on the Annual Fund from 2001-2006, raising funds and helping with design plans for the school. After her retirement in 2006 she frequently and generously continued to work in the Development Office, doing whatever she could to assure the future of the school she helped to create.

Before coming to WES, Frances taught Kindergarten for 25 years at St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School in Washington, DC. She also volunteered at her church, All Saints Episcopal Church, in Chevy Chase, MD, and at the Friendship Place homeless shelter.

The **Harding** family on the passing of **Dawn Harding** on January 2, 2022 after a struggle with cancer. Dawn taught preschool from 1999-2021. She was the mother of **Andrew Harding '02**, **Michael Harding '05**, **David Harding**, and **John Harding**, and grandmother to 12, including **Adeline Harding '25**, and **James Harding '29**. Please see page 13 for a tribute to her.

The **Jackson** family on the passing of **Gail Skofronick Jackson**, mother of **Marina '10** and **Matthew Jackson '13** in September 2021, following an accident in the British Virgin Islands during a business trip.

The **Weinberger** family on the sudden passing of **Ben Weinberger '14** on July 19, 2021. Ben attended WES from Nursery through Grade 2. He leaves behind his siblings, **Rachel '10**, **Noah '12**, and **Sean '14**.



Top to bottom, L-R: Rhian Williams '21, Ethan Oeltmann '21, Jen Lilley, and Davis Oeltmann '20 volunteering at a Christmas in July charitable event • Michaela Karam '17 and her dog Kronos in Canada • Nicholas Recka '09 and Grace Recka '12 in Encinitas, CA, in November • Claire Collins '11 at the Tokyo Olympics • Rebecca Schneider Luria '88 with her family at Aulani Resort in Kapolei, HI in 2021 • Juwan Reid '08 with son Jaylen Elijah (4 months), girlfriend Macey and her daughters Rylee (8), and Kinzleigh (6) at WES last July • Class of 2013 friends Genevieve Dickinson, Mary Butler, and Alya Ahmed in New York last October • Kristin Cuddihy and Aidan Deshpande '21 at WES, December 2021 • The Myhre family (Sterling '13, Sarah '16, Betsy and Eric) at a Clemson football game • Rasmus Byskov '20 helps Matt Foster coach the Robotics team this past fall





WASHINGTON EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Alumni PROFILE

LAWRENCE REDMOND '14



We chatted with **Lawrence Redmond '14** during his winter break from Emory University, where he is on the pre-med track. An NCAA Division III college swimmer, he shares with us how WES fueled and supported his passion for being a top-level athlete.

What was your athletic experience at WES?

WES gave me a great introduction to team sports. I played soccer, basketball, and lacrosse all four years in Grades 5-8. I loved lacrosse, playing defense. I learned that all team members have roles, and their jobs are to support the team to the best of their abilities. Although you might be playing only a small part on defense, what you do affects the midfielders and the attacks. Every member of the team contributes to the team's success.

Tell us about your goal of launching the WES swim team.

I was passionate about swimming—swimming on summer and club teams. I wanted to swim for WES in eighth grade, but WES didn't have a swim program. So, I approached Mr. Isola and Mr. Elkassem about organizing a team to participate in the annual meet at St. Albans. Of course, Mr. Isola and Mr. Elkassem were super-supportive, and Mr. Elkassem agreed to be our coach. In 2014, the WES swim team was launched! We had gold swim caps and t-shirts made for team members. The St. Albans meet was a success, and WES faculty and parents came out to support us. The WES community got behind my passion, which was a springboard into high school.

SWIMMING IN HIGH SCHOOL

I attended Gonzaga College High School, graduating in 2018. I swam on varsity (100 Back, 200 IM, and Free relays) all four years and played water polo my first three years. At Gonzaga, we were four-time WMPSSDL Champions (2015-2018), two-time Metros Champions (2016, 2017), National Catholic Champions (2017), and WCAC Champions (2018). It was a great feeling being a contributing member to the Gonzaga swim team and sharing in the team's successes.

COLLEGE ATHLETICS

I visited many colleges looking for the balance between rigorous academics and a nationally-ranked team. I chose Emory University and felt that the swim team was one big family of 70 best friends. College athletics gives you a support system and access to information from teammates about classes and professors. Many on the team are TAs (teaching assistants), and they provide sound advice on satisfying major requirements and have become a great support network to me in swimming and academics. At Emory, I have been a member of the Conference and National teams, and we were National Runner-Ups my freshman year (2019) and have been two-time UAA Conference Champions (2019, 2020). *[Lawrence received an All-American Honorable Mention in 2019 and was awarded All-American in 2020 for the 200 Back.]*

How has college sports enhanced your education?

Being a scholar-athlete requires discipline. Attending 5 a.m. practices, sometimes two-a-day, along with classes, schoolwork, and research, means you are juggling 50 things at once. Whether in or outside

of the pool or in your career, this experience gives you the skill set to succeed. The second takeaway are the friendships that are built within the team. Swimmers have strong bonds with their teammates, traveling together to competitions across the country while also working together in the classroom; we get to know each other well. I see that the Emory alumni return for parents and alumni weekends and stay in touch with each other and the team. Swimming has provided me with a community of lifelong friends.

How has swimming helped you maintain balance in your college life?

Swimming helps me stay in shape and keeps me healthy. In Atlanta, I live in off-campus housing with two swimmers as roommates and nine other swimmers in our building. We tend to be in bed by 11 and are a quiet crew overall. We like to stay on point because we won't perform well if we don't take care of ourselves. And as a group, we are motivated to do well. Swimming makes for a healthy lifestyle.



Lawrence Redmond '14 and the inaugural WES swim team, 2014



CLAIRE COLLINS DAY



CLAIRE COLLINS '11 helped propel the US women's rowing team to a 7th place finish in the women's coxless four event last summer at the Tokyo games.

WES's first-ever Olympic alumna, Claire Collins '11, came home for a visit to WES on October 15—a day declared "Claire Collins Day" to celebrate and honor her success. On a warm, cloudless, she addressed students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 and faculty, many of whom were her teachers and coaches between Nursery and Grade 8. Students were clad in red, white, and blue, wearing small American flag stickers, and hung on Claire's every word as she delivered a message of "Dream big, because I was just like you." Grade 5 students greeted her at the front of the school with banners, signs, flags, and cheers, as Mr. Vogelmann and several of her former coaches and teachers gathered to welcome her.

Claire, sporting a Team USA shirt and with a broad smile on her face, toured the school to see the new STEM and science labs, dropped in on a few classes, and chatted with some of her for-

mer teachers, before speaking to the crowd on the Turf Field. "I have to say that none of her teachers or coaches were surprised that Claire was headed to the Olympics," stated Athletics Director and coach Bill Isola, who introduced her to the gathered crowd. "I mean, where else would she be?" She recounted some of her favorite WES memories, sprinkled in some of the lessons she learned as a Dragon, and shared her experiences from years of training for the Olympics, as well as being in Tokyo this past summer. Showing the grace and kindness that she was known for at WES, she showed students her Olympic credentials, answered questions from the rapt and inspired audience, posed for cell phone pictures, and signed autographs at the conclusion of her presentation on everything from shirts and small pieces of paper, to computer bags and even a shoe!

Collins ended her presentation with a promise of bringing home a gold medal in just two short years. One thing's for certain: your alma mater will be cheering you on!



A BIT MORE ABOUT CLAIRE: At WES she played soccer, basketball, and lacrosse in Grades 5-8. Claire attended Deerfield Academy, where she was on the rowing, volleyball, and swim teams. At Princeton University she received the 2019 top female athlete award and was a three-time All American and four-time All-Ivy recipient, earning medals in the World Rowing Championships. Claire graduated in 2019 with a degree in economics.



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“When I first saw the Grand Canyon, I was in shock at the sight of the steep drops of the cliffs. I feel extremely happy that we got to go.”

—Grade 8 Student
September 2021