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head of school's message

Before writing this message, I glanced at the photographs throughout this edition of The WES Magazine. The images genuinely moved me, as they signal a return to normal and a reminder of the spirit and joy that radiates throughout the WES community. So many of our beloved events made their way back to our beautiful campus this fall.

In October, we held ServiceFest, where our community came together in the gym to make, collect, and organize various items to donate to more than 11 different charitable organizations (page 29). In November, Grandparents & Special Friends Day (page 4) made its triumphant return to WES after a two-year hiatus. Nearly 300 guests from across the globe gathered to spend time with their loved ones and celebrate the holiday at our Thanksgiving Chapel. The holiday season grew a little sweeter when we learned that the artwork of alum Alex Berko '21 was chosen as the holiday card for Vice President Kamala Harris (page 18).



While events like these are significant and beautiful ways to unite our community, our fundamental purpose is what happens in the classrooms. One of my goals entering this school year was to spend more time observing WES teaching and learning across all grade levels. Visiting classrooms during the first semester, I watched our students truly engage in the lessons and our faculty masterfully create joyful learning environments. I loved listening to the dialogue between the teacher and the students and among the students themselves. Students were pushed to act upon the knowledge and skills they had learned, and I could sense the level of comfort our students experienced with their teachers and peers based on the risks they would take and the flexibility they exhibited as learners. This level of student engagement does not happen naturally or accidentally; it is cultivated through positive relationships and dynamic learning experiences. All of which stem from the skill and dedication of our amazing teachers (pages 2-3).

Thank you for your engagement with WES—a school and community devoted to children and the adults who lift them higher.

Sincerely,

Danny Vogelmann



A Grade 2 student during Thanksgiving Chapel

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on the
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Grade 3 students play a math game using arrays to visually show their multiplication knowledge.

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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Elevating ENGAGEMENT

From constructing an igloo to creating tablets from ancient civilizations, from exploring sedimentary rock in the desert southwest to running an adjective fashion show, our teachers are innovators, engaging their students with creative, inspiring, and captivating lessons to boost learning inside and outside the classroom.

PLAY-BASED PROJECTS



Naturally, when the **PK4** class studied all about the Arctic, building an indoor igloo was on the agenda. Students learned about an environment far different from their own, applying many skills. They used math to count the number of milk jugs needed for the igloo and determine how many more would be needed to implement its design,

which was sketched out by one of the students. They labeled the animals and objects found in the igloo, using inventive spelling, practiced research, as they chose an Arctic animal to study and then presented to their classmates, practicing speaking skills and making language connections.

MAKE IT FUN!

Grade 1 teacher Lexie DePont put on a chef's hat and whipped up a hearty dish of punctuation in the kitchen of Ristorante Italiano for her **first-graders** for a lesson on punctuation and expression. To assess their knowledge of punctuation and expression, students chose from two menus containing sentences that needed punctuation. Their mission was to use dry pasta to complete the sentences— orzo was a comma, macaroni was used for the question mark, and ditalini was used for the period. No pen or pencil was necessary for this fun alternative to a traditional quiz.

When **Grade 4** teachers were searching for a way to make their language arts unit on adjectives more exciting, they decided that the class would present a fashion show, complete with a runway. Working in small groups, students took turns announcing what each “model” was wearing, using colorful adjectives to describe nouns as

classmates strutted down a runway in each classroom. “I was excited that they took ownership of this project,” said Grade 4 teacher Amnee Lindbloom. “All of them were creative in what they chose to wear, observed what others were wearing, and then described the garments and accessories.” They practiced public speaking as they learned how entertaining a part of speech can be.



SPEAKERS AND FIELD TRIPS

Grade 2 teacher Sarah Poland welcomes parents’ suggestions and involvement in arranging speakers and field trips that make learning a first-hand experience. The second grade’s social studies curriculum invites students to explore the world. A WES parent who built a school in Sierra Leone was asked to speak to students in the fall. Students became pen pals with the children at the Abigail D. Butscher Primary School in Catamba Town and even enjoyed a study trip to the University of Maryland, where engineering students are working to create sustainable infrastructure at the school in Africa.



Recently, second-graders looked closer to home in a historical context when, on a parent’s suggestion, they met with the Reverend Segun Adebayo of the 100-year old Macedonia First Baptist Church near WES on River Road. “The area where WES is situated was once a thriving African and African-American community,” says Poland. “A cemetery was located where the Giant stands today, and the courts are attempting to recognize that area as a landmark. We plan to take a walking field trip to the church and the sites which are rich in history.”

JIGSAW: COOPERATIVE LEARNING

In **Grade 5**, while students studied westward expansion, they used a cooperative learning strategy called “jigsaw.” Students were assigned to groups and studied a particular aspect of westward expansion using a variety of tools: articles, videos, and a Smithsonian website, “Native Knowledge 360.” Once the group members became “experts” on their particular subtopic, those group members taught the material to members of other groups. Then, students independently research a topic of their choice, writing a five-paragraph paper, and share their information with classmates through a skit, diorama, poster, or interview. “Throughout the process, we promote working together and learning how to compromise as a group in order to reach their goal,” says Grade 5 teacher Kathryn Sieminski. “A critical piece is coaching them on how to organize their work, to consider things such as how do you manage your group, divide up the tasks, and communicate with each other—and do it in a respectful, kind way.”



TECHNOLOGY & MANIPULATIVES

In math, technology and manipulatives help explain abstract concepts and hold students’ attention. Using “Plickers” to respond to multiple choice questions on the screen, students in **Grades 7 and 8** hold a card that contains something like a QR code that, when held a certain way according to their answer, transmits their response to the instructor. She then scans it with her cell phone to reveal the answer. In real time she knows who answers correctly, letting her know how well the class is understanding the material. The pressure is off the students whose responses are anonymous. Displayed on the screen is a graph charting the number of correct answers, and the class is rewarded with a “confetti” image on screen when they achieve 100% right responses. It’s like a math game show!

CHOICE GIVES VOICE

In **Grades 7 and 8** reading, providing variety and choice in different genres with each student is key to engagement. When given choices, they are drawn to books that interest them. “Choice Units” balance classic texts and young adult books, and some student choice of complexity level. The power is in making those choices themselves. Students also engage with a variety of formats—books, articles from databases, a play, a performance—which offers a new way to experience text.

A similar balance of choices within each writing unit encourages the burgeoning writers to make personal connections as they navigate assignments. The Grade 7 non-fiction inquiry project is driven by an issue or topic they want to explore, and then presented in a format they choose. Within this eight-week process, they use key elements of research as they create citations and sources. Students hit research and citation benchmarks with all units, interwoven with subject matter exploration, exploration of their own identities, and the exploration of the diversity of human experience.

MAKING IT RELEVANT

In **Grade 6** social studies, hands-on activities and projects are key to the understanding of ancient civilizations. When studying Mesopotamia, students shape clay to make cuneiform tablet replicas, and use implements to inscribe the tablets with ancient symbols. Grade 6 teacher Jon Marshall remarked, “Our cuneiform project drove home the concept that the materials and tools we have to manipulate stone and clay today were used thousands of years ago for pottery and writing. It’s important that we make these connections so that they can see the relevance in our contemporary world.” Although they cannot read the “writing” on the tablets, they appreciate the work that people invested in their communications so long ago. Students also mummified oranges with a process of using natron (a mixture of salt, sodium bicarbonate, and cinnamon) which mimicked how the ancient Egyptians preserved the dead.



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

It’s one thing to read about rock formations in books or online. But for years, **sixth-graders** at WES have taken study trips to the American Desert Southwest each spring, where they actually get to *touch* the rock, *climb* through the Valley of Fire in Nevada, *hike* among the hoodoos in Bryce Canyon, *reflect* upon the beauty of The Grand Canyon, and *imagine* what life was like in a pueblo town thousands of years ago. These experiences are the capstone of Grade 6 science and an opportunity to for each student to gain confidence through independence and grow together as a group.

During science labs, students apply the scientific method as they dissect a sheep’s eye, levitate magnets, examine cells under the microscope, wire a circuit, and calculate velocity with momentum charts. They explore ecosystems on the Capital Crescent Trail and gain a deep appreciation for our natural resources during a three-day study trip adventure to the Chesapeake Bay. These experiences are exciting and engaging, and they make learning memorable as students apply analytical skills to their observations. 🌱



Grandparents & Special Friends Day



Nearly 300 guests attended Grandparents & Special Friends Day on November 22.

One of the most beloved days of the school year, the day reminds us of our close ties to family and our diverse community, welcoming grandparents and cherished people from as far away as New Zealand, India, West Africa, and Norway, or as close as Baltimore, DC, Chevy Chase, and Bethesda. This was our first such day since 2019.



The morning began with a continental breakfast and welcome from Danny Vogelmann in The Deighton Alleyne Gymnasium, followed by classroom visits. Grandparents and grandchildren interacted in the classroom, meeting teachers and friends as they collaborated on art projects, solved math problems, and shared childhood memories. The full community gathered at the late morning Thanksgiving Chapel to conclude the visit. Early Childhood students sang "Happy Grandparents Day," the Middle School Band Ambassadors played, and students and families led prayers or provided readings of different faiths and languages. Two Middle School students sang "Give Thanks" with teacher LaKisha Yirenyi, and Grades 1 and 2 sang "May Peace Always Be with You."

"I always enjoy chatting with our grandparents and special friends on this day in November," said Danny Vogelmann, Head of School. "Having many generations together and seeing the love and admiration between the students and their families is heart-warming. This event is a wonderful way to reflect on our many blessings and a lovely way to start the Thanksgiving holiday."

Save the date for this year's Grandparents & Special Friends Day: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at WES!

During their morning at WES, our guests shared with us where they are from, favorite memories, what they love to do, and their favorite books. What variety!

Around the World: Africa, Bolivia, Cuba, England, India, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain.

Within the US: Alaska, California, Colorado, Washington, DC, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia

Memories: Planting vegetables with grandparents, having the whole family together for first communion, ice skating at Rockefeller Center, walking a mile to the mobile library, hearing stories from grandfather, climbing mango trees to get the unripe fruit, picking blackberries, vacations, sleeping on cots on the roof under a canopy of stars, spending Christmas with the family, playing with cousins, riding a bike to school, Minnie and Mickey Mouse, walking to a one-room school under a tree in a far-away village, carrying a bamboo pen, ink, and wooden writing tablet, spending time on the farm, swimming in the bay, playing with friends after school

Activities: Sports and games (baseball, basketball, cricket, football, horseback riding, jumping rope, skating, softball, soccer, roller skating, swimming, tether ball), fishing on the Chesapeake Bay, climbing trees, playing piano, crafting, crocheting, wrestling with brothers, biking to the pool, playing in the woods, going to camp, reading, pretending to be The Beatles

Books: *Alice in Wonderland, Aquaman, Black Beauty, Call of the Wild, Green Eggs & Ham, James and the Giant Peach, Madeline, Matilda, Number the Stars, Tarzan, Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm, To Kill a Mockingbird, Tom Sawyer, Treasure Island, Robinson Caruso, Wish for a Pony, Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys mysteries, and comic books*



Visiting Authors & Bookfair



Children's author/illustrator Lauren Castillo at WES

Children's author/illustrator Lauren Castillo visited WES on November 29, presenting to students in the library and having lunch with a group of Elementary and Middle School students. "Her time here with the students was extremely personal," stated Librarian Patrick Pané, "providing an insight into her life as an author was a real treat."

Castillo discussed the process and timeline of making a book, defining terms and showing examples of an idea sketchbook, character study, and thumbnails. Taking the students on a little journey through her life as an artist, she shared a crayon drawing of two bears that she made as a young child, as well as a photo of her Nana, the subject of her book *Nana in the City*, a 2015 Caldecott Honor book. She also showed many sketches for the book—from rough pen and ink drawings to refined colored illustrations. Students saw the artist create one of her book characters, Hedgehog, before their eyes, inviting students to add to the drawing. "Her work has been described as "magical" and we certainly felt that charm in her presence in the WES library," concluded Pané. The author visit was funded by the Parents Association and the school.

In early September, Middle School students wrapped up their summer reading with a virtual visit on Zoom with middle grade author Barbara Dee, whose 13 books tackle tough topics. She discussed her latest book, *Haven Jacobs Saves the Planet*, which deals with young people's anxiety around climate change.

Browsing and buying books and even a little visit from Santa Claus were the highlights of the annual Book Fair, held December 7-10 in the library. Parent volunteers created a holiday atmosphere and staffed the event, which culminated at the December 10 Admission Open House with story time and a visit with a jolly friend from the North Pole, so that students and families could enjoy selecting books to enjoy at home or to donate to the library or classrooms. The annual Book Fair is a celebration of reading and literature; it encourages reading, learning, and exploration while helping to build our extraordinary library collection.



Middle School virtual Zoom with author Barbara Dee



Annual Book Fair





Early Childhood

Nursery · Pre-K · Kindergarten · Grade 1

For the past 36 years, Washington Episcopal School has fostered a love of learning and brought forth the joy in a young child's educational experience. At the center of the Early Childhood program are engaged children in playful activities that encourage exploration, spark the imagination, lead to discovery, and offer opportunities for reflection.

PK3 students have ample time to explore the playground, create sand castles, and practice their pedaling as they navigate the bikes around the pathway. They discover farm life on their first field trip to Calleva Farm where they pet goats, ride a horse, and pick a pumpkin. Making slime in science lab offers a whole new sensory experience as the children roll, pat, and create imaginary objects with the fragrant, slimy substance.

The dramatic play corner in the **PK4** classroom sparks the students' imaginations as they pretend to live in an igloo imagining

about Arctic life. And learning comes alive as the children celebrate family traditions by sharing favorite recipes during the holidays. Treasure hunts for the letters of the alphabet, rhyming games that include each child's name, and puzzles that spell their friends' names encourage letter and sound recognition in a fun and exploratory way.

Kindergarten students reflect upon the power of friendship as they come together to celebrate their annual Thanksgiving feast. An exchange of friendship necklaces and a song of friendship sung together as a class illustrate their commitment to each other. When asked to take the lead in retelling the very first Christmas on stage, they confidentially rise to the challenge, knowing they can count on each other to produce a stellar performance. Number Corner in the daily math exercises encourages the children to look for patterns, make predictions, and then realize that sometimes more than one method can solve a problem.

Grade 1 students explore their bodies in motion as they create self-portraits in action. The students learn about ratio, spacing, and proportion to draw their posed figures. Music and PE provide opportunities for real life motion as the children scale the climbing wall, dance to the music of a famous composer, and work cooperatively to lift a parachute. Students write about their favorite pets and create "how-to books" about an activity they know well, connecting their awareness of sounds and letters to the written word.

The joy in learning is on display daily as our youngest students eagerly take on new challenges, greet their friends and teachers with smiles, and participate in all WES has to offer.



On the previous page, top to bottom:

- Kindergarten students romp on the turf at the end of PE class with teacher and coach Justin Black.
- Grade 1 students explore the hands-on maker space with Ms. DePont during a field trip to the Kid Museum in December.
- Ms. Kunze helps one of her Kindergarten students put on his costume for Christmas Chapel.

1. Kindergarten students make friends with a goat on a field trip to the pumpkin patch in October.

2. A PK3 student finds joy in chasing colorful scarves in PE class.

3. In science class, first-graders work in a group to build a 3D model of a cell.

4. Kindergarteners show the friendship necklaces they exchanged before their Thanksgiving feast.

5. PK4 students move the parachute to the beat in music class.

6. A PK4 student builds number sense with pegs.

7. Inspired by artist Jackson Pollock, a PK3 student uses print makers to create an action painting.

8. A first-grader works on his new year's resolutions.

9. An Arctic bunny hops around the igloo she and her PK4 students created.



Early Childhood



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

We started the school year enthusiastically and excited for new connections, classrooms, teachers, and classmates.

What would the new school year bring? After kicking off the year with the Welcome Back picnic, students settled into opportunities for leadership. Our Student Advisory Group (SAG) representatives were elected for the year and began planning events.

Teachers jumped at the opportunity to plan engaging activities and to get back in the field with an array of study trips. **Grade 5** traveled to Calleva for a day of team building and community connections; **Grade 4** visited Imagination Stage to enjoy a performance of *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson*, and attended MAESA's Episcopal Schools Celebration service at Washington National Cathedral. Grade 3 went to the Uniform Services NASA International Space Station (ISS) to participate in a broadcast with astronaut Frank Rubio as he answered questions from students around the area live from the ISS. Our **Grade 3** students were selected to submit questions for the event. **Grade 2** enjoyed an educational trip and tour of the University of Maryland Engineering School at College Park and went to the Kennedy Center to see *The Day You Begin*, followed by lunch in the Hall of Nations where they searched for various flags.

Beyond the excitement of the off-campus experiences, students deepened their understanding of content—from arts to science; there is always excitement on the elementary floors.

Music teacher and Band director Matt Eisenberg invited the Marine Band Brass Quintet to present an exceptional performance for our **Grades 4 and 5** students in October.



A fashion show isn't a fashion show if you aren't using your adjectives to describe what models are wearing! **Grade 4** put together a show with an array of exquisite accessories for their Adjective Fashion Show. Students expressed their creativity and understanding of adjectives as they described what their partner wore on the red carpet—highlighting the most fashionable choices for the fall season.

Our **Grade 3** students were back in action as the star of our annual Christmas Chapel with their beautiful rendition of "We Three Kings." Students showcased their talents in singing and instrumental music with the recorder.

Grade 2 authors celebrated finishing their personal narratives with a joyous publishing party. Students eagerly read their stories of an important event in their lives while their classmates attentively listened.

We look forward to a great spring semester with lots of fun in store for our Elementary WES Dragons!



On the previous page, top to bottom:

- Grade 4 students and teachers attend MAESA Episcopal Schools Celebration service at Washington National Cathedral in October.
- Team building was the objective for the Grade 5 adventure at Calleva in October.

1. Grade 2 students share their personal narratives with each other prior to their publishing party.
2. A third-grader joins her grandparents after speaking about the Indian holiday Diwali, the Festival of Lights, during a Chapel in December.
3. Grade 4 students practice their knowledge of colors in Spanish class.
4. A fourth-grader wears a hat naming the parts of the brain as he draws the human body in STEM class.
5. Ms. Lopez works with a second-grade student on attention-grabbing openings in writing class, such as onomatopoeia, a question, or a fact.
6. A third-grader sings a solo during the All-School Christmas Chapel in December.
7. A Grade 4 student sketches outdoors in art class.
8. Third-and-fourth-graders show their face paint designs at September's Welcome Back Party.
9. A third-grader works on multiplication facts in math class.
10. Grade 5 got into the spirit of Halloween at the parade.



Elementary



Middle School Grade 6 • Grade 7 • Grade 8

The 2022-2023 school year got off to an exciting start as we welcomed 97 students back to the third floor. We begin every school week with a meeting in “community” to get excited about the week ahead, celebrate victories, and share important stories. Our class-bonding trips are an important part of early autumn. This year **Grade 6** spent a day on the Shenandoah River getting to know each other and their teachers, while **Grade 8** spent two days in the Shenandoah mountains, where they reflected and prepared for their final year together as a class. **Grade 7** began a new tradition and spent three days learning and playing on islands in the Chesapeake Bay as part of their Life Science curriculum. This dedicated bonding time off-campus is an important element of our commitment to experiential learning in middle school.

Our fall and winter months are also full of opportunities for new friendships, trying a new sport or club, and diving deeply into new ideas in the classroom.

Students gather by mixed-grade advisory groups three times a week to connect, reflect, and play together. Some of the highlights of middle school advisory in the fall and winter are the October pumpkin decorating and the December holiday door decorating competitions, where student creativity and cooperation are on full display.

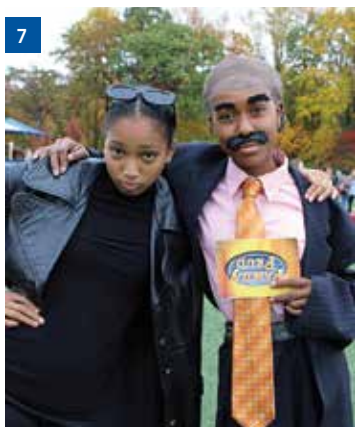
Fall soccer and cross country offer our students robust competition with peer schools as well as the chance to grow and refine their skills. Athletics always provides a wonderful opportunity to cultivate school spirit, and that is a highlight of the faculty-Grade 8 soccer game in November.

Our faculty-led middle school clubs meet weekly, and include traditional newspaper, yearbook, and student government as well as a highly skilled craft and crochet club, an anime and manga club, photography, art, and even a fledgling broadcast news club! Our clubs program was designed to offer students a chance to connect with other students who share talents and passions outside the academic subjects.

In the classroom, the beginning of the year finds students reconnecting with subjects they enjoy, learning new skills, and practicing strong study habits that are cultivated over their three years. Our students often comment on the strong relationships they have with their teachers, which is the foundation for joyful and successful learning. Whether it is learning new forms of measurement in geometry or physics, cracking the code of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics, delving into dystopian fiction or a research paper on climate change, students in middle school are guided, supported, and encouraged by their dedicated group of teachers.

The weeks before winter break are full of music and celebration as we head into the new year, where our middle schoolers look forward to all the traditions, old and new, that await them in the spring semester.





On the previous page, top to bottom:

- A sunset is the backdrop for Grade 7 girls on a boat on their Chesapeake Bay study trip in November.
 - Grade 7 boys find driftwood on the beach of the Chesapeake Bay.
 - Members of the eighth-grade Spirit Squad decorate the Commons with signs they painted and streamers and balloons to prepare for the Grade 8–Faculty Soccer game in November.
 - Grade 7 students compete for the most creative pumpkin in the advisory contest.
 - Mr. Vogelmann with two sixth-graders represented WES at the MAESA Episcopal Schools Celebration service at Washington National Cathedral.
 - Middle Schoolers load more than 1,600 cans of food onto the van to deliver to MANA Food.
1. A sixth-grader recreates art (Picasso's *Harlequin Musicians*) for a creative English project.
 2. Grade 7 students dissect a sheep's eye in life science class as they learn about anatomy.
 3. The Grade 6 rafting trip offered ample opportunity for team building (and fun).
 4. Monsieur Corcy and an eighth-grader enjoy battling it out at the Grade 8 Faculty soccer game.
 5. Grade 6 students compete against local peer schools at the middle school math meet hosted by WES in October.
 6. An eighth-grader writes in her journal during their September retreat at Caroline Furnace.
 7. Eighth-grade girls dressed up for the Halloween parade.
 8. Grade 8 students use geometry to create cartoon characters such as the Powerpuff Girls.

Middle School

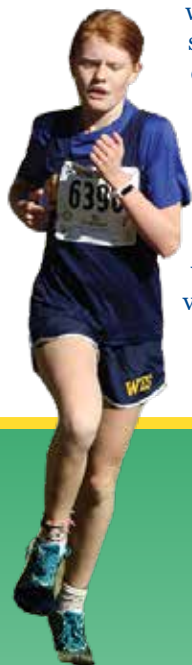
WES athletics has had its share of accomplishments over the years. The walls of the Deighton Alleyne Gymnasium are covered with banners that many of our successful teams have earned. The walls tell an outward facing story of tournament champions in soccer, basketball, lacrosse, and cross country, and our many teams that have gone undefeated.



This past fall was no different as our **girls cross country team** added to the banner tally with a truly impressive season. Led by Indy Sinclair (6th grade) and Jess Buckley (5th grade), the girls tore through middle school competition, coming in first place at the Bullis and Norwood Invitionals, and placing 4th at the Private School State Meet. Rounding out the top five runners and contributing to the team's success were Kate Subritsky (7th grade), Nefeli Steindal (6th grade), and Bea Milde (5th grade).

Also this fall, our **Grades 7 and 8 boys and girls soccer teams**, and our **Grades 5 and 6 boys soccer teams** all finished the season with winning records. While our 5/6 girls team fell one game short of .500, they showed impressive improvement and ended the season on a win streak.

Success and winning is always a goal, but as a program we do not measure ourselves on wins, losses, and championships, but rather on how it is we come to achieve these goals. Students with all levels of experience join these teams and it is our goal to place each one in a situation where they will be productive and successful, both as individuals and as a team.



GO DRAGONS!



Factors for WES Student-Athlete Success

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

Focus on Fitness: Fitness has always been an important part of our physical education curriculum and it is no different when it comes to our teams. Striving to improve the fitness level of our students not only helps them in competition but also helps them focus and achieve in their daily routine.

Coaches: WES students benefit from the experienced and dedicated coaching staff. Each has their own style from which student-athletes learn, and they all are united when it comes to the importance of putting these student-athletes in the best situation to be successful.

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



Visual Arts



PK3

4



PK4



8



3



Students learned about elements of art—line, value, color, space, shape, form, and texture—to create art this autumn. They used techniques and mediums such as paint, graphite, oil pastels, clay, and 3-D builds to develop their skills with projects that reflected their interests, personalities and the world around them.



2



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5



7



6



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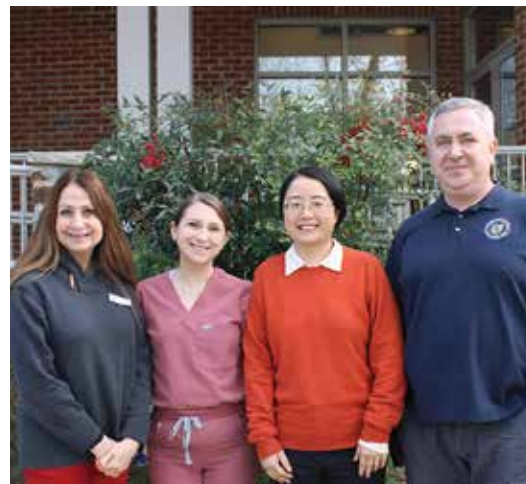


Performing Arts & Music



Students' diligence in chorus, band, and music class was evident as every grade performed in Chapels, holiday concerts and Christmas Chapels, which were culminating events of the fall. As they learned how to read music, make sounds from an instrument for the first time, or understand pitch, rhythm, and beat, one of the most important lessons was that working, discovering, and playing together could produce exciting and beautiful results.





Welcome NEW FACULTY

FRONT ROW (L TO R): Monica Shelly, Katie Abarr, Amina Devries, Erica Lopez, Britt Lawrence
MIDDLE ROW (L TO R): Danielle Werkmeister, Diana England, Lexie DePont, Conner Mace
BACK ROW: Annalisa Herrero, Kalila Henry, Emma Cowan, Jess Brockway, Na'Kia Simpson '10

L to R: Rana Ryan, Genna Tammaro, Hao Song,
Levan Mamatsashvilli Not pictured: Trish Peva

Katie Abarr, Grade 3 Teacher
Hometown: Atlanta, GA
Favorite travel destination: Cuba

Jess Brockway, Classroom Support Personnel
Hometown: Stephens City, VA
Favorite hobbies: Baking and playing softball

Emma Cowan, Art Teacher
Hometown: Bethesda, MD
Favorite travel destination: A recent hike from Antigua to Lake Atitlan in Guatemala; unforgettable scenery!

Lexie DePont, Grade 1 Teacher
Hometown: Rockville, MD
Favorite travel destination: Prague, Czech Republic;
I love anywhere in Europe

Amina Devries, PK4 Teacher
Hometown: Nairobi, Kenya
Favorite childhood movie: *Annie*

Diana England, EC Learning Specialist
Hometown: Winston Salem, NC
Favorite childhood movie: *The Sound of Music*

Kalia Henry, Grade 3 Assistant Teacher
Hometown: Jamaica, then Gaithersburg
Favorite place to travel: Paris!

Annalisa Herrero, Communications Associate
Hometown: Robstown, TX
Favorite hobby: Photography

Britt Lawrence, Grade 4 Teacher
Hometown: Horsham, PA
Favorite travel destination: London, England, where my sister lives

Erica Lopez, Grade 2 Teacher
Hometown: Linwood, NJ
Favorite travel destination: Greece (Athens, Santorini, Paros, and Mykonos)

Conner Mace, Campus Security Monitor
Hometown: Missouri Valley, IA
Favorite childhood movie: *Toy Story*

Levan Mamatasashvili, Building Engineer
Hometown: Rustavi, Georgia
Favorite hobby: Woodworking

Monica Shelly, Music Teacher
Hometown: Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Would love to visit: Paris—planning to go in July!

Na'Kia Simpson '10, Receptionist
Hometown: Washington, DC
Hope to travel to: Bali or the Maldives

Hao Song, Payroll and Benefits Specialist
Hometown: Shanghai, China
Favorite hobby: Arts and crafts

Trish Peva, Development Associate
Hometown: Cottage Grove, OR
Favorite hobby: Playing polo

Rana Ryan, Classroom Support Personnel
Hometown: Beirut, Lebanon
Favorite hobby: Painting, painting, painting, painting!

Genna Tammaro, Nurse
Hometown: Philadelphia, PA
Favorite destination: Goult, France

Danielle Werkmeister, Kindergarten Assistant Teacher
Hometown: Clarksburg, MA
Favorite hobby: Reading

Courtney Clark Appointed New Elementary School Division Director

Courtney Clark was appointed as Elementary School Division Director (Grades 2-5) in October 2022, after serving as the interim from July-September 2022. She joined the faculty in the fall of 2018, teaching elementary art for four years, and became WES's first Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in 2020.

Clark was immersed in art while attending Grinnell College, where she received a BA (art). She went on to earn an MA in Non-Profit Management from Trinity Washington University in DC. She was born in Richmond VA, and moved to Illinois to start first grade, finishing middle and high school in Chicago, where her parents still reside today.

According to Clark, what she values most about her new position as Director is "being a part of a great team. Many of the teachers have been colleagues of mine for years, but shifting to the role of Director and driving the overall direction of the group allows me to see the direct impact we have on the students." Having two children in the elementary division adds value to her perspective. "It brings me joy to see the smiles on their faces each day; that they continue to thrive in this environment and in our program is most rewarding."

With an emphasis on preparation in the elementary grades, Courtney added that "it's fulfilling to see their development — as a direct result of the work we are doing as a team. What motivates me each day is to be able to support the teachers as



well as the students so the children can experience success and are prepared for Middle School."

As "an artist first," she feels that it is important to engage in activities that keep her mind stimulated and connected to the art world. She enjoys sewing—garment sewing primarily—and learning new techniques and pattern making, and dabbles in a few other handmade crafts.

Clark resides in Hyattsville, MD, with her husband Wes, who is also an artist, and children Layla (Grade 5) and Langston (Grade 2) who have been WES students since 2018.



Board of Trustees 2022-2023

FRONT ROW (L TO R): Shivani Gupta (Parents Association Representative), Jessica Mailloux (Kelly), Anastasia Gekis (Piris) (Treasurer), Stacie DeRamus (Chair), Theresa Carnegie, Cri-Cri Randolph '98, Jay Irwin, Wes Hays

BACK ROW (L TO R): Mike Nelson, Jay Panchal, The Reverend Prince Decker (Bishop's Representative), Samira Woodings, Liz Tyndall, Danny Vogelmann (Head of School), Jeff Tignor (Vice Chair), Mahmoud Bah

NOT PICTURED: Robert E. Freer, Jr. (Chairman Emeritus), Jason Gray, Nigel Howard, Nicole Miller (Secretary), Britt A. Snider '88 (Trustee Emeritus), Kathryn Stewart

Alumni PROFILE ALEX BERKO '21

Artist's design chosen by Vice President Kamala Harris

What began as a simple request from his teacher last summer landed Duke Ellington School of the Arts sophomore, Alex Berko '21, in an embrace with Vice President Kamala Harris' 2022 holiday party in and in *People Magazine's* online newsletter.

Alex reports that late last July his visual arts teacher, Mike Easton, gave him a random assignment: paint the Vice-President's house at the Naval Observatory for a client. The deadline was in four days. "I did the assignment, using gouache, a paint similar to acrylic," explains Alex. "I painted the house in a snow globe, on a wooden table, with pine cones, red berries, and fir leaves. My teacher asked me to make some revisions and I sent it back to him."

He said he forgot all about it until his mother mentioned in November that he was going to "meet the client" on a Zoom call. "The strange thing was that this meeting was scheduled for Thanksgiving Day, mid-afternoon, right before we were going to have our Thanksgiving dinner. And I had to "look nice" for this virtual meeting. So my family shows up all dressed up in suits in the living room," which made him very curious. "The Zoom begins and it's Vice President Kamala Harris, congratulating me on winning the holiday card contest! I was so confused as I had no idea that what I painted in July was for a contest, and that now my painting would be on all of the Vice President's holiday cards that are sent around the world!" Harris told him that an ornament with his design would be made as well.

"I had never kept a secret so long," states Julie Berko, Alex's mother. "Ms. Harris' press secretary let me know back in August that Alex had won the contest but I could tell no one—which I had to guarantee with my signature. It was so exciting but it was nearly impossible to keep this to myself."

Alex and his parents were invited to the VP's residence for their December 6 holiday party to meet the second couple in person. "We kept the party a surprise, telling Alex that he needed a really nice outfit for a party that I needed to attend," says Julie. They shopped together and Alex landed on a blue bowtie with Christmas trees for the upcoming party. On a rainy afternoon he left school early, changed clothes, and arrived at the VP's residence. After a quick Covid test (his father's results took longer than expected), they waited in a tent as the Naval Band played. "Someone led us to the front of the line, and I was so nervous that my legs wouldn't stop moving!" exclaimed Alex. "As the door opened, I could see Doug Emhoff and a large Christmas tree. Then Vice President Harris came forward with her hand extended, but she noticed that I was ready to give her a hug, so she embraced me. She was so happy! She congratulated me and presented the printed card to me—she had written a note in it to me. It was so exciting but at the same time surreal." Alex said he felt proud and honored but also surprised that this was happening to him.



Doug Emhoff, Vice President Kamala Harris with Alex Berko '21 • Alex's design on the Vice President's holiday card (photos courtesy of The White House)

WES has long recognized and appreciated Alex's artistic talents throughout his 10 years as a student. His reindeer design was chosen for the 2017 WES holiday card, as well as his flamingo painting for the cover of the 2021 Auction catalog, and he received the Art Award at Graduation in 2021. Among his most memorable projects at WES was one with art teacher LaKisha Yirenkyi, creating a ceramic octopus. "The biggest challenge was making sure the legs would not fall off," Alex says with a chuckle.

Alex attended the Alumni reunion in early January, showing us the card. He loves coming back to WES. "Being here brings back so many good memories," he comments.



Alex feels that going to Duke Ellington was the best choice for him. Floor by floor, the school is filled with writers, artists, dancers, and actors. The academics are good and challenging as well. Currently, he has a piece of artwork on display at Reagan National Airport in the Youth Art Walk Display, along the pre-check walkway between the Southwest terminal and the main gates. Alex is selling a few pieces of artwork, by commission, and he intends to keep up his art when it's time for college but will consider other majors when the time comes.

Any advice for WES students, artists and non-artists? "Follow your passion. Anything can happen. Just keep pushing it."

Alex Berko '21 at WES in January

WASHINGTON EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Alumni

CLASS NOTES



2

- 1 Jack '08 and Anna Fowler on their wedding day
- 2 Ellie Durling '09 and Kian Byrne on their wedding day

'22 **Alex Bond** played on the varsity soccer team at Potomac School. **Bobby Bulman** ran on the cross country team at Georgetown Day School and joined the Debate Club. **Gloria Burkhardt** is on the swim team and sings in the chorus at Georgetown Visitation. She continues to sing in the chorister program at St. Paul's K Street and studies voice at the National Cathedral. She loves seeing her WES friends whenever she can. **Charlie Carnegie** played soccer at Georgetown Prep in the fall. **Isaac Horne** participated in *It's Academic* and Model UN at St. Anselm's Abbey School. **Meg Lattin** is on the Pom Squad at Whitman. **Tyler Nickel** played soccer (goalie) at St. Andrew's Episcopal School. **Miles Stevenson's** favorite classes are math and global studies at St. Andrew's.

'21 **Daniel Pressley** played football at DeMatha Catholic High School again this year.

'20 **Carmell Beamon** now attends Georgetown Visitation. **Lucy Carnegie** plays fall and spring tennis at Holy Child. **Marco Burrows** is busy rowing crew at St. Albans, playing soccer, and is a co-leader with **Ethan Vogelmann '19** of the Asian American Pacific Islander Affinity Group, and is a peer tutor. After winning the title of Morocco Champions in different strokes, twin brothers **Nasim** and **Samir Elkassem** were selected to represent the Moroccan national team in the Annual Arab Games in Cairo, Egypt last August, where Nasim won three bronze medals for Morocco. **Declan Jamberdino** played hockey

at Georgetown Prep and will play lacrosse (defense) this spring. **Anna Maher** is in the ensemble for the upcoming musical *Mamma Mia* at Maret School and also plays tennis. **Grace Pressley** had the lead role in Howard Community College's production of *Sister Act* in August. Kristin Cuddihy and Katie Hopper attended one of her performances and congratulated her after the curtain closed. Grace is active in theater at the Academy of the Holy Cross and is on yearbook staff as well.

'19 **Eliza Horne** coordinated a stuffed animal collection to benefit CASA at WES's ServiceFest event in October. **Mareina Mitchell** performed the lead role in St. Andrew Episcopal School's production of *Les Miserables* last winter. **Charlie Sagely** worked as a U.S. Senate page last summer and also took a service trip to Los Angeles volunteering for an organization focused on reducing gang recidivism. He played football for Gonzaga (OLB/S) and was named to the 2nd Team All-WCAC for special teams, and was recognized as an academic player of the week for the first week of the season. He is a Booster Club member. **Ethan Vogelmann** is captain of the varsity basketball team (guard) at St. Albans. Ethan is also a co-leader with **Marco Burrows '20** of the Asian American Pacific Islander Affinity Group. **Lucy Weems** was captain of the cross country, track, and indoor track teams at Holton-Arms, and has held VP and treasurer positions of the student government since her sophomore year, and is president of the Young Democrats Club. Lucy was named a National Merit semifinalist and spent last summer as a tennis coach for little kids at Edgemoor Club. **Iris Zola** has been very active at St. Andrew's during the past four years, playing softball and being involved in the Lions Club Program, Hearts 4 Haiti, and being a student ambassador.

Alumni Class Notes

'18 Katie Skinner let us know that Bucknell has been great so far. Her artwork was featured on the cover and in St. Andrew's literary and arts magazine, *Creaturae*, last summer. **Theo Soto-odehenia** was inducted into the Cum Laude Society at St. Albans in June 2022. Members of the class of 2018 received these awards and honors at Holton-Arms' graduation last June: **Maggie Brett-Major**: Heads Award, Cum Laude Society
Caroline Dickey: Head's Letter, Cum Laude Society, STEM Scholar
Maya Grebowsky: Community Engagement Award and Global Scholar
Joy Alycia Kramer: Global Scholar
Fiona Turnbull: Alumnae Award and French Award

'17 Christian Berko is captain of the mens tennis team at Rochester Institute of Technology. **Joanna Dematatis** is studying finance at Clemson University. After a successful Morocco championship in Casablanca last August, **Karim Elkassem** won the 100 breast stroke and finished second in 50 free. Karim retired from swimming and is enjoying being a student at the University of Maryland Robert H. Smith School of Business. **Randolph Kaminskis** is a psychology major at University of Tennessee and went to nearly every football game in the fall. **Lily Talieh** has chosen to major in psychology at Trinity College. **Madeleine Voth** is enjoying being on the west coast, studying political science at Reed College in Oregon. Congratulations to **Holden Woodings** (forward) and his UNC Greensboro Spartan soccer teammates as they were crowned Southern Conference regular season and tournament champs, making it to the Elite 8 of the NCAA tournament for the first time in school history.

Miles Woodings attends University of Maryland, studying business.

'16 Ben Deobald is spending the spring semester in Spain with Washington University (St. Louis) in a study abroad program in engineering and the Spanish language. **Felicia Gelos** completed a semester abroad in Berlin. Her family visited her there in early December.

'14 Nick Gelos graduated from the University of St Andrews (Scotland) and started a masters degree in Sustainable Development, also at St Andrews. He traveled to the Scottish highlands, Portugal, England, Spain, Germany, France, Latvia, and Ireland. **Carolyn Martin** lives in the West Village, NYC, and enjoys the concerts, food, and friends there. She started a new role this year as a sales executive at M Science, a research and analytics firm. **Anna-Sophia Massaro** graduated from Bates College in May, and enjoyed writing her senior philosophy thesis on the ethics of time travel. She is an office

assistant at the Institute for Justice, a non-profit law firm in the DC area. Anna-Sophia enjoyed lobstering in Maine in September and spent winter break with her family in the Bahamas. **Brendan O'Donnell** graduated in December from Loyola College of Chicago with a degree in physics. He published an article in the European Journal of Physics: "Dynamics of the Looping Pendulum: theory, simulation, and experiment," September 2021.

'13 Sarah Collins is living and teaching in Lyon, France. Her family spent the Christmas holidays with her in France. **Amiri Hill** has worked as a legislative correspondent for Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) since January 2022. **Matt Jackson** is working on a Master's degree for computer science at Virginia Tech. **Jack Szulc-Donnell** graduated *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa from Pomona College last May with a degree in music. During the pandemic, he spent time at a college friend's home in Hawaii, which was



L-R: Charlie '22 and Lucy '20 Carnegie at the WES Book Fair • Hygen Bjorvig family visited WES from Norway in June: (l to r) Katya Elkassem, Birgitte Hygen, Kaja Hygen Bjorvig '21, Jonas Hygen Bjorvig '19, Nasim Elkassem '20, Danny Vogelman • Michalea Karam '12 at her White Coat ceremony at The George Washington School of Medicine event in August.



L-R: Sterling Myhre '11 with his parents Betsy and Eric Myhre at SMU • Justin Black with Alex Bond '22 and Gloria Burkhardt '22 • Lawrence Redmond '14 with Joyce O'Donnell in December





@alumniwes on Instagram

a really valuable learning and growing experience. Since getting home, he has been writing the musical score for an independent film called *Angel of Death* that releases next year.

'12 **Grace Dickinson** is a teacher in the DC public school system in Adams Morgan. She told us that chief among her career goals is closing the achievement gap. **Olivia Heflin** lives in the Fells Point neighborhood in Baltimore and works in marketing. **Richard Royle** graduated from Boston University with a BA in philosophy in 2021. **Mayowa Tinubu** is a credit sales analyst for Barclays Investment Bank in NYC. He graduated from Amherst College where he was a sprinter for their track team.

'11 Georgetown medical student **Peter Abbow** is studying neurosurgery and will be doing general surgery until April. **Sarah Bair** and Robby Hale became engaged in October. Olympic rower **Claire Collins** competed in Prague at the 2022 world championships this summer taking a bronze in the pair. She also won silver in the pair at the 2022 World Rowing Cup II. **Chandler Hughes** works for Apple and lives in Austin, TX. **Cameron Link** graduated from Rhodes College in 2019 where he played lacrosse (captain), twice making it to the Sweet 16. He says he "Could not have done that without WES exposing me to lacrosse." Cameron is back in DC and is still great friends with classmate **Buck Browne**. **Sterling Myhre** worked for the Nationals over the summer and now is the Assistant Director of Marketing for SMU's Athletics Department. He enjoys living in Dallas and has fulfilled his dream of working in college athletics.

'10 **Lindsay Bratun** moved to Queens in New York in September. She met up with Bill Isola in November when he ran the NY Marathon. **Dana Martin**, **Olivia Givens**, and **Rachel Weinberger** also live in NYC. **Jonathan Butturini** is living in Bethesda. **Hunter Heflin** moved to Nashville in September. **Marina Jackson** is engaged to Billy Reid. They met while students at Drexel University; he is from Long Island, NY. The wedding is planned for November 11, 2023. **Pat Lansdale** is in his second year of physical therapy graduate school at University of Delaware. **Dana Martin** as lived in NYC for five years and

calls the West Village home. Since August 2022, she has worked with PayChex as a sales representative of its retirement benefits. Dana volunteers with the New York Junior League to improve local communities. **Na'Kia Simpson** is working at WES and is finishing up her degree.

'09 **Claire Bork** spent an afternoon this fall with her Transition (PreK4) teacher Martha Jenkins at Martha's home. **Ellie Durling** and Kian Byrne were married on September 3, 2022 in Chevy Chase, MD. **Ted Bevan '05** was a groomsman. Ellie's is a cyber security and data privacy specialist for Cloudflare. She graduated from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service with a Masters in German and European Studies in 2021. **Bethany Mark** will receive her masters in social work this summer. She has a three-year-old daughter.

'08 **Jack Frye** started law school at The George Washington University in August. **Jack Fowler** and Anna Robertson were married on December 10, 2022 in Baltimore. His brother **Graham Fowler '07** was a best man, WES classmate **Sean Dwyer** was a groomsman, and **Spencer Veirs** attended. The couple resides in Georgetown after a honeymoon in St. Maarten. **Will Lynch** is enrolled in Boston College's graduate program for neuroscience. He earned a BA at Oberlin College, majoring in neuroscience and minoring in chemistry. **Ben Martin** anticipates completing his MBA at Georgetown University this spring. He is employed at Solebury Strategic Communications, helping to grow the ESG Corporate Advisory group in DC, where he also lives. Ben enjoys his volunteer work as a member of the Junior Board of Washington Performing Arts.

'07 **Susie Bair** and her husband, Oliver Jones, live in Atlanta, where Susie works as a senior events manager for SI Tickets, a Sports Illustrated ticket purchasing platform. Congratulations to journalist **Jeff Cook** for winning his second Emmy! He was a producer for ABC's World News Tonight's winning short form report "The Climate Crisis." Jeff is a field producer covering Colorado, the American West, and international news.



Danny Vogelmann with Bobby Bulman '22 at his sister's soccer game at WES • Mareina Mitchell '19 at SAES



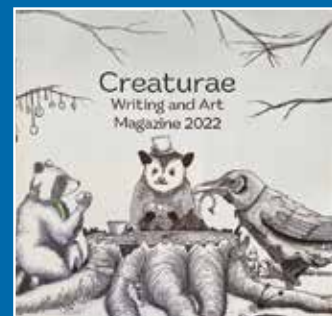
Byron Jones '10, Phoebe Christofides '10, Hunter Heflin '10, Brian Jones '06, Matt Peel '10, and Jorman Heflin '07



Transition teacher Martha Jenkins with student Claire Bork '09 in October



Class of 2022 came out to support Meg's pom squad at a Whitman game: Katie O'Connor, Abby Chen, Meg Lattin, and Alex Bond



Katie Skinner's '18 design was chosen for the cover of St. Andrew's *Creaturae* magazine.

Top to bottom, L-R: Kristin Cuddihy, Marco Burrows '20, Barbara Burkhardt • Ethan Vogelmann '19 and Evan Deobald '17 at Boston College in September • Katie Hopper with Grace Pressley '20 and Kristin Cuddihy after Grace's performance in *Sister Act* in August • Becky Durling '04 and her children Clementine and Patty and her mother Linda in September • UNC Greensboro soccer team member Holden Woodings • Laura Wright '01 finishes the Marine Corp Marathon last November • Eliza Horne '19 and Kristin Cuddihy at ServiceFest in October • Caitlin Lennon and Amy King '20 at Grandparents & Special Friends Day • Class of 2017 friends gathered over winter break at the Woodings' home: (l to r) Greg Jones, Christian Berko, Sean Lasner, Miles Woodings, Holden Woodings, Zach Alexander • Bethany Mark and daughter • Courtney Bratun '09 and a Grade 7 student make friendship bracelets at ServiceFest. • Linda Durling and son Jamie Durling '06 at a WES field trip to the U.S. Supreme Court



'06 Jamie Durling is clerking for retired Justice Anthony Kennedy which is a one-year appointment. Before that he worked as an attorney for the Office of Legal Counsel at the Justice Department for two years. He was on hand for Grade 8's field trip to the Supreme Court in January for Linda Durling's US history class. **Chloe Lansdale** lives in the Battery Park neighborhood of NYC and is engaged to be married. A September 2023 wedding is being planned. She works in finance.

'05 Evan Fatheree and his wife Jaymi had a baby boy in August. They live in Arizona. Congratulations to **Lindsay Lynch** whose first novel, *Do Tell*, is in presale with a publication date of July 11, 2023 from Doubleday publishing. **Anna McKinnon** is a psychotherapist in New York City.

'03 Allie Pownall Luchs' son is in Kindergarten at a school in Montana that reminds her of WES. She and her husband have a flourishing dog boarding business. **Liz (E.J.) Tanney-Palmer** caught up with us this summer. She is teaching Grades 2 and 4 at the Ecole International Antonia in Montpellier, France and hopes to initiate a pen pal program with our Elementary students. After graduating from NCS and William & Mary, she received her masters in education from the University of Maryland in 2015. She moved to France in 2019, and worked at the Faculté de Médecine (Medical School) at

the University of Montpellier, the world's oldest continually operating medical school.

'00 Greg Wall stopped by WES in December and chatted with Director of Athletics Bill Isola. He used to teach Kindergarten and now runs a soccer clinic. He has a son and lives in Virginia.

'91 Alia Campbell-Crawford and dear friend and WES classmate **Shalini Vaid** met up for lunch in September in DC. They reminisced about their amazing time at WES. Alia served as an Annual Fund Rep this year. **Andrew Dinsmore** received his MBA in May 2022.

Condolences to:

Christopher Phalen '88 on the passing of his mother, Janice Bernhard Phalen on June 26, 2022.

Tory '10 and **Will '08 Lynch** on the passing of their brother, Aaron, on July 7, 2022.

Brian '06 and **Byron Jones '10** on the passing of their father, Ronald Jones, on September 3, 2022.

The Schuessler family on the passing of Donald Schuessler, husband of founding Head of School Isabelle Schuessler on September 6, 2022.

Emily '00 and **Katie '05 Rayford**, on the passing of their mother, Kim Elliott on September 20, 2022. Kim served on the WES Board of Directors from 1998-2004, held the position of Board Chair from 2000-2004 and spearheaded the WES Capital Campaign for Faculty (2002-2008). She also received the Founders Award for her dedication to the school in 2007.

Zakariya '22 and **Layla '28 Mezoughem** on the passing of their father, Lyes Mezoughem, on October 1, 2022.

Hannah Brown '13 on the passing of her father, Elton Brown, in November 2022.

Lachlan Bond '17 on the passing of his mother, Karen Bond, on January 10, 2023.



Top to bottom, L-R: Nick Gelos '14 at his graduation from St. Andrews • Alia Campbell-Crawford '91 and Shalini Vaid '91 • Rhian Williams '21 at SAES • Cat Wagner '12 with Mehdi Elkassem and Cat's dog Boone in December at WES • Lucy Weems '19, cross country team captain, Holton-Arms School • Alexander Bobo '22 and Thatcher Stuart '22 in London, summer 2022 • Alex Bond '22 and Natalya Bah '22 attend their sisters' concert in December.



CALLING ALL WES Alumni & Parents of Alumni:

Please email or call us with photos & any news you wish to share - *thank you so much!*

BE in
TOUCH

- Class Correspondent
- alumni@w-e-s.org
- abratun@w-e-s.org
- Development Office
301-652-7878
ext. 212, 214, or 215



Top to bottom, L-R: Meg Lattin '22 and Katie O'Connor '22 drop by the Grade 8 vs. Faculty soccer game and chat with Danny Vogelmann • Sarah Bair '11 and her fiancée, Robby Hale • The Gelos Family in Germany: Gaston, Elisabeth, Felica '16, and Nick '14 • Anna-Sophia Massaro '14 at her graduation from Bates College • Shannon Egan '07 visiting from Brazil, with Matt Foster, Courtney Clark, and Andy White in June at WES • Nasim '20, Karim '17, and Samir '20 Elkassam wear medals they won for the Moroccan National swim team last August.

Past Faculty News

It's always a treat to connect with our former faculty, either in person or when we hear from them!

Here's the latest:

- **Anna (Giovanetti) Duhaime** and her husband and son now live in Lincoln, RI.
- **Allison Kloth** and Zack Lenkowicz were married on July 17, 2022 in Chevy Chase, MD. Nick Lellenberg and Rachel Luehrs attended.
- In early September, **Nancy Wright** achieved her goal of visiting 50 states with a trip to Oklahoma and Arkansas.
- Thank you to members of the **Retired and Former WES Faculty** who helped prepare the WES holiday cards for mailing in December.



Top right: Nancy Wright visiting her 50th state (Arkansas) this fall. **L-R:** Claire Henderson, Wendy Connolly, Nancy Wright, and Kris Butler at WES in December • Rev. Nathan Humphrey was appointed the rector at St. Thomas's Anglican Church in Toronto, Canada in 2021. • Rachel Luehrs, Allison Kloth Lewkowicz and Nick Lellenberg at Allison's wedding in July 2022 • Tiffney Brockway and Eric Chalfin at the Back to School Party in September • Nancy Wright and Maryalys Hopkins catch up at WES in October. • Susan Stern, Fran Caterini, Isabelle Schuessler, and Annette Poston at WES in October



Alumni at SUMMER@WES

Top-bottom, L-R: Ethan Vogelmann '19 with campers • Clara Knott '18 (with campers) at the Fourth of July parade • Emelia Isola '17 and campers celebrate July Fourth • Campers with Alex Bond '22 • David Stevenson '18 with a camper



Top-bottom, L-R: Gloria Burkhardt '22, Meg Lattin '22, Abby Chen '22, Alex Bond '22 • Daniel Pressley '21, Isaac Horne '22, Naomi Horne '19, Grace Pressley '20 • Class of '22 friends at the reunion in September: Abby Chen, Arohi Narayan, and Gloria Burkhardt with Amel Johns '23 • Davis Oeltmann '20 and Declan Jambardino '20 • Gabriel Piris '20 and Rasmus Byskov '20 at WES in September • Naomi Horne '19 and Isaac Horne '22 with LaKisha Yirenkyi in September

ALUMNI REUNION



It was wonderful to welcome back more than **40 ALUMNI** at the January Reunion for great conversation, impressive basketball skills, pizza, and a couple of prizes. Thanks for attending!



FRONT ROW (L TO R): Abby Chen '22, Gloria Burkhardt '22, Madeleine Voth '17, Randolph Kaminskis '17, Joanna Dematatis '17, Grace Pressley '20

BACK ROW: Luca Acharya '21, Nate Zola '17, Patrick Moore '17, Christian Larson '17, Zach Mahan '21, Nico Palombo '22, James Bailey '21, Aidan Deshpande '21, Joseph Minichello '21, Daniel Pressley '21, Wesley Cooper '21, Rhian Williams '21, Alex Berko '21, Olivia Girson '21, Zoe Linkins '21, Ani Grigorian '21

FAR BACK ROW: Jack Lasner '21, Thomas Cantwell, Najee Ankoma-Sey '21, Alessandro Cusani-Visconti '21, Will Ehrenberg '21, Julian Matthews '18, Leon Phillips '21, Christian Berko '17, Ian Shaiyen '18, Ethan Vogelmann '19, Tendai Ball '18, Aden Linkins '20

NOT PICTURED: Luca Cusani-Visconti '22, Eliza Horne '19, Isaac Horne '22, Naomi Horne '19, Davis Oeltmann '20, Ethan Oeltmann '21, Ishaan O'Neal '19, Na'Kia Simpson '10



Top-bottom, L-R:

Allessandro Cusani-Visconti '21 during the game • Tendai Ball '18, Juilan Matthews '18, Christian Berko '17 • Ian Shaiyen '18 and Grace Pressley '20 • Gloria Burkhardt '22, Daniel Pressley '21, Isaac Horne '22, Naomi Horne '19, Eliza Horne '19, Nate Zola '17, Patrick Moore '17, Christian Berko '17, Alex Berko '17 • Class of '17 Madeleine Voth, Randolph Kaminskis, and Joanna Dematatis with Bill Isola • Class of '21 Will Ehrenberg, Ethan Oeltmann, Aidan Deshpande • Julian Matthews '18 and a magazine cover from 2010





Campers dove into **Summer@WES** last June and July, trying new sports, creating art, making friends, and using their imagination to enjoy a rite of passage: **summer vacation**. From performing with a group of friends during a talent show, to exploring a DC landmark, to marching in the July 4th parade, to making pizza, to canoeing at sleepaway camp, learning how to shoot an arrow, creating a sculpture, or cooling off on the water slide on a hot sunny afternoon, Summer@WES gave students and something to smile about and remember.

Limited spaces remain for **Summer@WES 2023** for children in PK3-Grade 8. Camp offerings are grouped by age under the direction of caring and experienced counselors, with after care available.

Camp runs **June 20-July 29**, with a bonus week of Sleepaway Camp June 13. Register now and see why **Summer@WES** has been a favorite day camp for more than 30 years!

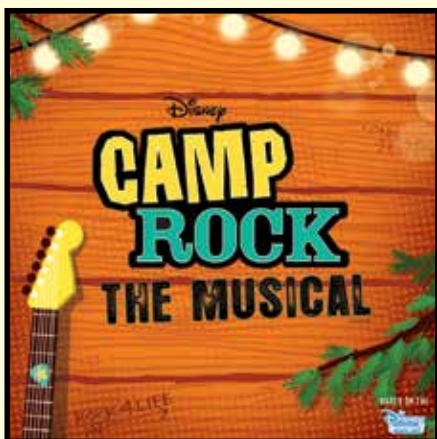


Summer Adventures!



www.w-e-s.org/summer

The whole family is invited to the Sixth Grade's Presentation of:



Friday, March 17
at 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 18
at 1 p.m.

Tickets:
www.w-e-s.org/tickets

Help **WES** go

BEYOND

Make your Annual Fund gift now!
www.w-e-s.org/makeagift

Community Service LEARNING

SERVING OTHERS is central to our identity as a community and as an Episcopal school, and efforts to give back were in full swing with several initiatives in the first half of the school year.



The main event of the fall was **ServiceFest**, under the direction of the Community Service Committee. This evening event on Friday, October 14 gathered our entire community of students, families, and faculty/staff to create, collect, and organize items to benefit more than 11 organizations chosen by students and faculty. Faculty and staff members—and even an alum from the Class of 2019—made sure that projects were available for all ages, providing materials and overseeing the stations. A crowd of eager participants dove right into the projects as they crocheted baby beanies (*NICU at Medstar Georgetown and Winchester Memorial*); created blankets (*Project Linus*); decorated pencil cases (*Mary House*); painted wood ornaments (*Sunrise Retirement*); and made soup kits and friendship bracelets (*Small Things Matter*).

Also at ServiceFest, the Student Government Association (SGA) sold baked goods to benefit South Carolina University Children's Medical Center in memory of Grade 6 classmate Charlie Kurtz. Collections of stuffed animals (*CASA*), coats, and dental care items (*Small Things Matter*) were part of the efforts. Families donated cakes for a cake walk game (*Homewood Trails Animal Rescue*) and a selfie wall (*The Purple Door*) added to the festive atmosphere while attendees immersed themselves in projects. Students wrote inspirational messages on small metal carabiners that were later attached by Grade 2B students to the fence near the Capital Crescent Trail for passersby to take and pass along to others. Middle Schoolers picked up trash along Little Falls Parkway as well.

"We have received numerous notes from organizations, expressing their gratitude," states Service Learning Chair, Tiffney Brockway. "WES should be proud of the way we came together to help others."

Later in the fall the SGA and Elementary SAG (Student Advisory Group) organized a school-wide non-perishable food collection and sorted more than 1,600 cans which were distributed to MANA Food Center-Montgomery County in December.

On December 3, Grade 3 students and parents met for an afternoon to create brown bag lunches for people experiencing homelessness in the DC area. Afterwards participants had a holiday cookie swap, sharing the meaning of the holiday season through giving as well as receiving. 🍪





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Grade 7



In action at the Chesapeake Bay



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