



## Code Day Continues Its Successful Legacy

By Sydney Gitten and Chloe Zhang

On Friday, December 9, 2022, Washington School was treated to a day celebrating coding, science, technology, and robotics.

Ms. Cunningham, who organized the day, reflected on its success: "Seeing students excited about projects, colleagues excited about the robotics team, having the teachers talk about the robotics—that to me made all the work for months worth it. For me, it was a personal triumph. And for me, success was the excitement from students, the thank you notes I received. That's what I needed to feel—I did it!"

Code Day began with a special broadcast presented by Cunningham, who hosted Code Day for the first time. Every class had a schedule filled with various activities and experiences centering around problem-solving, technology, coding, and science.



Cody Braverman and Max Lacy enjoy Tinker Time.

The activities were Tinker Time, the MIT Challenge, Free Choice, Hour of Code, and the Stop Motion Project. The experiences included a demonstration from the High School Robotics Team, the STEAM Museum, and a special guest speaker for every class.

Tinker Time was held in the Media Den and the Spanish classroom. Students participated in many stations such as 3D Doodle Pens, Cue Robots, Merge Cubes, Micro Bits, and many



Students Brooke Anatol, Summer Cole and Preston Katz enjoy Code Day's STEAM Museum.

more. During Free Choice in the classrooms, students finished the MIT Challenge and the Stop Motion Project. They could also work on any coding or digital citizenship activities. The Stop Motion Project was completed in the classrooms. On a Google slide deck, students could make images out of tangrams. Millburn High School Students created the MIT Challenge. The MIT Challenge had two problems that had to be solved.

The STEAM Museum had many activity stations exploring STEAM in the gym. After a presentation, students moved from station to station run by parent volunteers.

The Guest Speakers came into the classrooms to talk about their jobs and their employment journeys. Some Guest Speakers included Mr. Braverman, Mr. Schimdt, and Mr. Gallagher.



Naomi Guinoo examines the 3D printer in the STEAM Museum.

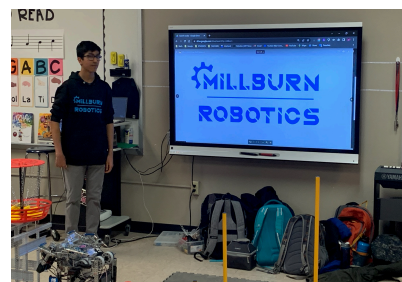
Cunningham said that the part of Code Day that was the hardest to plan was making the schedule for the high school robotics team.

Mrs. Haggerty created Code Day when Washington School started. Some of the activities are the same as the original Code Day. Those activities include the guest speaker, Code.org, doodle pens, and the STEAM Museum.



Sonia Singhal, Dani Kanevsky and Ani Hauptert enjoy the STEAM Museum.

Other activities were created by Cunningham this year; legos, peg boards, tangrams, and a presentation from the high school robotics team. Also, the MIT Challenge was updated. Cunningham said next year she would like to add more hands-on S.T.E.M. problems and more fun design challenges.



A big thank you to the PTO parents who made Code Day happen: Helen Teague, Laura Citrin Fisk, and Isabel Coelho. Thanks to Mrs. Nydick, the high school robotics teacher who brought the Millburn MIT Club and to Mr. Seibert, the high school teacher in charge of the Vex and FTC robotics teams. And a big thank you to all the parent volunteers. And last but not least, thanks to Ms. Cunningham for organizing Code Day and to Mr. Mercurio for always fostering fun and exciting activities for his fifth graders.



Students enjoyed working with robots in the hallway.

### Washington School Post Staff

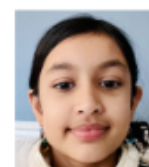
Editor-in-Chief:  
Sydney Gitten



Managing Editor:  
Dalia Beckerman



Art Editor:  
Chloe Zhang



Literary Co-Editors:

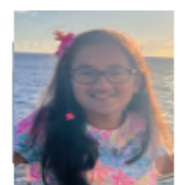
Kiara Pathak and Annika Vadhavkar

Faculty Advisors:

Ms. Irving, Mr. Bodmer and Mrs. Jones

Reporters:

The dedicated members of the newspaper staff  
Publisher: Peter Mercurio & Washington School PTO







Washington School students lined the halls to witness the Dragon Dance.

# Washington School Celebrates the Lunar New Year

By Aditi Hegde and Aditi Magal

The Lunar New Year celebration began on January 22, 2023. This sixteen day celebration welcomes the new year with over 1.5 billion people celebrating this global holiday. Each year is marked by the characteristics of twelve animals: the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig.

The Lunar New Year is one of the most important Asian festivals. In preparation for the holiday, houses are cleaned thoroughly to eliminate any “hui qi” or bad luck that has been collected during the previous year. Ritual sacrifices of food and paper icons are offered to gods and ancestors. Fireworks are set off to frighten evil spirits. Elders also give money to children in red envelopes.

Washington School celebrated the Lunar New Year with a dragon dance performance for the very first time in all the elementary schools. The dance event was sponsored by the Millburn Short Hills Chinese Association. The participating school students wore red and golden costumes and carried a big, long golden dragon around the school. The dragon went around the school with traditional music playing. Students Lucy Dawson, Kyna Mahadkar, Jessica Shen, Henry Klein, Tyler Xu, Shu Bailey, Sanjeev Chadavalavada, Xiao Mei Wang,

Continued on Page 3.

# A Labor of Love: Mrs. Loew Guides Washington Wolves

By Annika Vadhavkar and Kristin Zhang

Most Washington Wolves know Mrs. Loew as the helpful and kind guidance counselor. Students may wonder, how is she able to help so many fifth graders? They also may wonder about the person behind the help. Mrs. Loew’s favorite color is blue, and she loves to eat sushi and of course chocolate. Her favorite book to read with her two daughters, Sophia, age 13, and Susannah, age 10 is *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate. She likes to travel with her family, and enjoys yoga, running, the beach and hanging out with her friends.

Loew was inspired to be a guidance counselor by her mom who kept telling her how good she would be at the job. When asked how she feels about helping students every day she said, “I love it! There is no other job I’d rather be doing.”

She describes Washington School as the Disney World of all the



Mrs. Loew is always ready with a smile and a helping hand.

schools. Loew explained: “Washington School is the Disney World of schools because it is such a positive environment. All the staff in the school is invested in making Washington a good experience for all of the students, and the students respond to that by stepping up to become leaders in their learning and their community. I think it's quite remarkable.”

Continued on Page 3.

# Environmental Club Focuses on Recycling

By Aditi Hegde and Arya Samdani

Since November, the members of the Environmental Club have been meeting upstairs in Mr. de la Fuente’s classroom during recess and lunch. There, they brainstorm ideas to make Washington School eco-friendly. Mr. de la Fuente and Mrs. Chibaro advise the Environmental Club. During meetings, students brainstorm ideas about recycling, composting, and much more. “The Environmental Club will help us reduce our garbage, and it’s a great way for students to demonstrate their leadership by caring for our

school community,” de la Fuente said, explaining why the club is essential. The club’s goal is for the school to be able to recycle in the cafeteria during lunch. “I joined because I think everyone can change the world in their own way. And I chose to change the world in a way I wanted to. A way that could help all of us,” said Eva Johnson in Ms. Segel’s class. “This year, we have been talking about how to make sure that every student of the Washington School community is recycling properly,” said Mr. de la Fuente, explaining what the Environmental Club is currently

Continued on Page 3.



Catch Cody Braverman on Broadway in the searing play by Tom Stoppard, Leopoldstadt





## Lunar New Year

*Continued from Page 2.*

Ahren Dixit, Aditi Magal, Connor Chen, Sean Wu, and Arnav Kandula rehearsed before performing the dance up and down Washington School's hallways. Students lined up outside their classrooms to witness the traditional dragon dance as the participating students made their way through the school. Special thanks to the parent volunteers, Ting Wu, Jiannan Wang, Helen Teague, Isabel Coehlo and Laura Citrin Fisk who made this cultural event a reality.

The dragon dance was a truly memorable experience. Washington School staff member, Ms. Emni Mar said: "Like so many, I was so excited to watch the dragon dance as it ushered in the new year, bringing happiness and fortune to all! The faces of the student



*The dragon dance was performed for the first time in all elementary schools.*

performers and the audience was priceless. As I was walking around afterwards, I not only saw the "Fu" character correctly displayed upside down, but I also glimpsed students in Vietnamese ao dai and Korean hanbok sharing their traditions with their classmates. Lunar New Year is celebrated by many cultures and has different names, such as Seollal in Korea and Tét in Vietnam. I am proud to be a part of this diverse community!"

## New Wings of Fire Release

*By Ruina Lin*

Flame scorches the land, and a gigantic monster lunges more fire at the human villages. It is the beginning of the Scorching. Wings of Fire book, *The Flames of Hope* is the newest book in the series written by Tui T. Sutherland. Luna, a silkwing, escapes from Queen Wasp but her brother, Blue and her friend, Swordtail, are still trapped there. She wants to find a way to save them but even with the Pyrrhian Dragons, dragons from the distant kingdoms, it is too much of a burden on her shoulders. Suddenly when Sky and a human called Wren come to join, Luna notices that the humans seem to know something about the Breath of Evil, an evil plant that can control dragons. After many troubles and bump-ins with other controlled dragons, Wren leads them to the abyss. They also leave a note for their lost

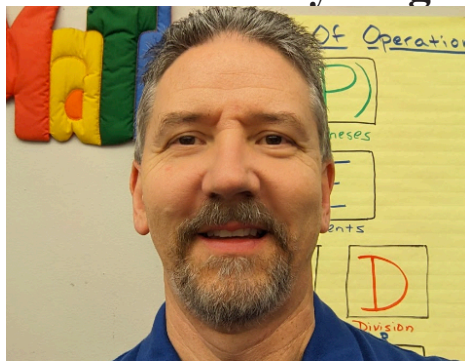
*Continued on Page 5.*

## Environmental Club Focuses on Recycling

*Continued from Page 2.*

discussing. "Students will create posters and show presentations to their classrooms to ensure that each class is recycling properly. Hopefully, we will also be able to start composting. We're also going to be creating a video to educate the school," said Mr. de la Fuente, explaining what the whole club will be doing this year. "Our members make sure that they are recycling properly in their classrooms and at home. Also, the club's members teach people outside of school how to recycle properly."

Environmental Club advisors and students are working very hard to educate Washington School about recycling. "There was a club years ago, and when I found out there was one, I brought it back," said Mr. de la Fuente, describing how he got involved in the club. "Last year, we did posters around the school and our own plantings." Not only did the club have a goal last year, but they also have one this year. "Our ultimate goal is to have members

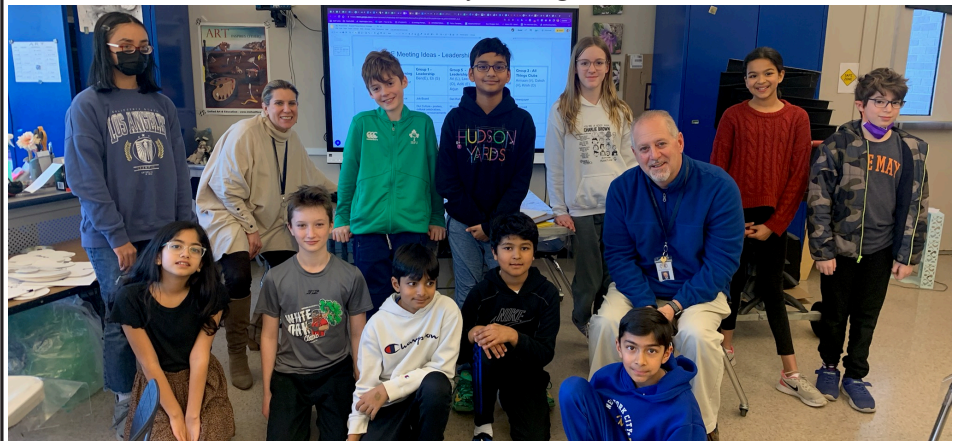


*Mr. de la Fuente resurrected the Environmental Club last year. This year he is working with Mrs. Chibaro.*

in the Environmental Club monitor cafeteria recycling." Mr. de la Fuente and Mrs. Chibaro enjoy seeing all the innovative ideas students brainstorm. "I'm thrilled with the number of students who participate in the club, and the positive energy they bring in," Mr. de la Fuente said. "I love how the Environmental Club is a club for people to get together and make sure that our school is doing good things for our earth," said Zara Sarfraz in Ms. Livingstone's class. Mr. de la Fuente, Mrs. Chibaro, and the Environmental Club members said recycling is effortless. "Think about the thing you're about to throw away, and where it belongs: if it belongs in the landfill or can be used again."

## Mrs. Loew Guides Washington Wolves

*Continued from Page 2.*



*Mrs. Loew and Mr. Mercurio pictured with some of the Lighthouse Academic Team, bottom left to right: Leena Rao, Benjamin Zatz, Aarman Saraf, Krish Kejriwal, Asher Shah, top left to right: Kaira Bambha, Will Manahan, Daksh Shivank, Lara Horgan, Aditi Bharatwaj.*

Loew's current goals this year for Washington School are to get the Lighthouse Team to make great projects for the school, and for all Washington School students to feel successful.

When asked what her ways of helping children are, she said, "The thing I do the most is be a really good listener, and then teach them problem solving skills."

Loew thinks Leadership Lunch is a great way to help build a classroom community at the beginning of the year because it is all about team building, and it brings the class together.

Loew was inspired to start the Lighthouse Team because she

wanted to make Leadership Lunch even better. She came up with the idea to let students lead in making this school what they want it to be.

Her favorite sayings are, "She believed she could so she did." "What's meant to be will be," and "Everything happens for a reason." For Mrs Loew, guidance counseling is her favorite activity. She is able to help so many students because she loves her job: helping children and watching them grow throughout the year. She enjoys hosting Leadership Lunch, and cannot wait to see how the Lighthouse Team turns out.



## Den Rallies Unite the School



Howl Award recipients, Naomi Guino, Owen Ladetsky & Sonia Singhal proudly display their certificates.

By Supriya Gururaj and Kiara Pathak

“I like Den Rallies because it feels nice that everyone cheers for the leaders,” says Aditi Magal in Mrs. Policarpio’s class. Den Rallies happen every month. At a Den Rally, everyone in the school gathers outside on the blacktop. The January rally was held virtually since it was raining. Even though the weather did not cooperate, the staff still managed to honor leadership at Washington School. This determination shows how important it is to the principal and the staff to celebrate leadership.

At each rally, first Mr. Mercurio announces student leaders from every class. Before the Den Rally, each teacher selects three students from their class who practice the seven habits and exhibit acts of leadership. These leaders receive a Howl Award certificate, a symbol of students’ leadership qualities. The awards inspire students to practice the habits daily. Teachers are also given “shout outs” and recognized by Mercurio. After the Howl Award ceremony for students and teachers, one of the packs sings a song or gives a presentation on a leadership topic or theme. Each pack will have an opportunity to perform for one of the den rallies.



Pack S entertained at an earlier den rally singing about the 7 Habits.

When asked how he came up with the concept of the den rally, Mercurio said, “We wanted to have a time when we brought the entire school together to celebrate leadership, highlighting both students and teachers.” The very first Den Rally at Washington School was held in October last school year. The principal, teachers and staff find unique ways to keep the school spirit alive. Den rallies play a major role in fostering that school spirit.

## Washington Wolves Howl in Harmony

By Leila Mu and Gitanjali Kameswaran

On certain days of the week, something unique takes place in the music room. Students from different classes come together to make music in Chorus. Chorus is defined as a musical ensemble; a group of singers. Many Washington School students participate in the popular weekly chorus program. Taught by Ms. Koch, who is in her first year teaching Chorus at Washington School, she first taught Chorus in Virginia before moving here. When asked why she began teaching Chorus, Koch said she wanted the chance to help students find their passion in music, just like she found hers. Her chorus teacher, Mr. Collaruso, also inspired her through most of middle and high school. Whenever Koch has a challenge, she emails her mentor for advice. Washington has always had a chorus available to all students. They meet once a week, although Koch thinks students might show more improvement if they met more often. Many students look forward to Chorus as a space to express themselves: “Chorus is a place where anyone can be special in their own unique way. It truly deserves a big



Chorus instructor Aileen Koch inspires students the way her mentor inspired her as a young music student in middle school and high school.

applause,” student Aarna Padri said. Koch teaches her students ways to improve their sound. She often tells her students to use their apple voice; to shape the mouth the same way an apple is eaten to produce a great sound. Arjan Batra in Mrs. Murphy’s class said, “She gives you a lot of tips to become a better singer.” Students often participate in a variety of games, such as “Sasha” and “I Let Her Go-Go.” It is not uncommon to see students smiling, enjoying themselves during chorus. With fun warm ups and great song selections, Koch makes sure students are having a fun, creative experience making great music together.

## Prolific Faculty Member Set to Publish Eleventh Book

By Jeremy Wang

Most Washington students know Mrs. Del Vecchio as a dedicated and kind hearted teacher. What they may not know is that she is also a phenomenal writer and has published ten books. Her first book, *Down on Harvard Street* published in October of 2020, tells the story of life before the era of modern technology. The book even has rhyming lines. But Del Vecchio doesn’t just write fiction. Inspired by the hard work and effort the Turtle Back Zoo puts into helping sea turtles, she decided to write *All About Sea Turtles*. Del Vecchio is donating some of the book’s profits towards the preservation of sea turtles.

Although Del Vecchio is a busy teacher, she still finds time to write books. Her new book entitled *Ice Cream Treats and Baseball Cleats* will be the fifth installment in her seasonal series along with *September S’mores*, *Cocoa Calling and Snowflakes Falling*, *Apple Pies and Hayrides* and *Cotton Candy Skies and French Fries*. *Ice Cream Treats and Baseball Cleats* will be released in the spring. Her seasonal series is one of her most popular series. The books are rich with description. Her use of personification and imagery throughout *September S’mores* brings the month to life.



Del Vecchio draws on her own life experiences as well as rich description to make her books unique.

Since Mrs. Del Vecchio is a teacher, it is no surprise that some of her books are used as mentor texts to help her students with writing. Her advice to young writers is to keep their ideas safe, because no idea is a bad idea, and ideas can always be used later. She also believes in never giving up and being appreciative and grateful for the smaller moments in life, not just grand moments. When Del Vecchio was a fifth grader, she enjoyed *Amelia Bedelia* books, and was inspired by author, Cynthia Rylant. Perhaps there are future budding fifth grade writers inspired by Washington School’s own teacher and author, Mrs. Del Vecchio.





Mrs. Van Dzura and family are big Philadelphia Eagles fans.

## Washington School Roots for Superbowl LVII

By Vir Doshi

Around 150 million viewers settle on to their couches and tune in to watch the most popular sporting event in the nation. 100,000 more people attend the football event live. There is no doubt that football is popular around the country. In the NFL there are two conferences, the NFC and the AFC. In each conference seven teams qualify for the playoffs, four division leaders (seeded 1-4), and three wild cards (seeded five to seven).

In the NFC the Philadelphia Eagles rolled their way through the regular season, clinching the number one seed and a bye. The San Francisco 49ers and the Minnesota Vikings finished close behind and took the second and third seed. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers were fortunate enough to clinch the number four seed due to a weak division after a mediocre eight wins and nine losses. The Dallas Cowboys, Seattle Seahawks, and the New York Giants all collected the wild card spots, the Giants returning to the playoff for the first time since 2016. The NFC conference is strong and fans can expect a battle on the NFC side. The NFC conference is strong and fans can expect a battle on the NFC side.

In the AFC Patrick Mahomes II and the Kansas City Chiefs get the advantage of a bye, due to a tragic event. On Monday Jan 2, the Buffalo Bills were scheduled to face off against the Bengals. During the first quarter, Bengals wide receiver, Tee Higgins rammed into 24 year old Damar Hamlin's heart. Hamlin jumped up, only to collapse a few seconds later. The game was canceled causing the Bills to be one game behind. However, Hamlin is fortunately making steady progress to recover. Bills clinched second seed while Cincinnati Bengals and Jacksonville Jaguars take third and fourth seed. Miami Dolphins, Los Angeles Chargers, and the Baltimore Ravens grab the wild card spots. The Dolphins miraculously qualified for the playoffs because of their win over the New York Jets, after a rocky season.

By the time this issue goes to press, Super Bowl LVII will be history, played out in Arizona on February 12, 2023 between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Philadelphia Eagles. Many Washington students will have enjoyed the Super Bowl. "I go over to a friend's house to celebrate the Super Bowl. I really hope the Chiefs win the Super Bowl," said Mason Leibowitz from Mrs. Jones's class. Some people just hope for a well played game. "I will probably stay home and maybe invite over some friends," said Mr. Mercurio. "I just hope for a good game." The season had many surprises, finishing with thrilling playoffs. Hopefully all Washington Wolves will have enjoyed watching the final matchup in homes and Super Bowl parties all across New Jersey.



The Van Dzura family will be rooting for the Eagles.

## New Wings of Fire Release

Continued from Page 3.

teammates which leads the Pantala dragons to the abyss where the evil human, Cottonmouth, and his dragon, lizard, and the Breath of Evil's heart are found. "The book is very adventurous," said Wenqing Bao, a student in Washington School. *The Flames of Hope* is a book that keeps its readers on their toes. Will Luna fix it all and save Pantala from the Breath of Evil?

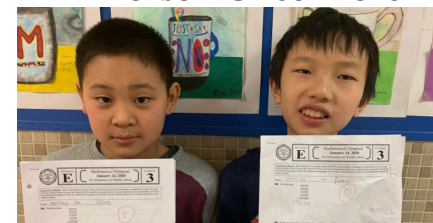


## Millburn Boasts Young Mensa Member

By Dalia Beckerman

Amogh Banagere, currently a second grader at Wyoming Elementary School became a member of the international high IQ (human intelligence quotient) society, Mensa, at the age of five. "My school district in Tennessee administered several tests such as reading, writing, comprehension, logical reasoning, and critical thinking over a period of three months. My parents found out later that one of the tests was Mensa approved." Banagere added, "Interesting thing is I got the highest IQ score in the school district and I was the first ever kindergartner to be accepted for the Gifted Education Program in my school district when the regular testing usually starts at third grade." Banagere's family decided to move to New Jersey from Tennessee because he needed an academic challenge that Millburn schools could provide. Banagere was a precocious child; he knew the alphabet and could write it at two years old. Not only was he advanced intellectually, but he can also play

## Math Olympiad: Live and in Person Once More



Matt Shi and Aaron Yu were live pre-pandemic Math Olympiad students back in 2019.

By Aditya Singla

Math Olympiad is a competition created in 1979. Designed to teach out of the box thinking and problem solving, the Math Olympiad questions combine logic and mathematics into a five question quiz. When Covid hit, resulting in schools going virtual, the Math Olympiad had to follow. The first online test this year for the students of Washington was filled with tech problems. In addition, Covid has been declining so the decision was made, during December of 2022, that the Math

Continued on Page 7.



basketball. When he was four years old, Banagere read chapter books and completed double-digit addition and subtraction problems. In preschool he solved multiplication and division problems, built electronic circuits, and solved 9x9 Sudoku without any help. Banagere is a well-rounded boy who enjoys playing chess, reading nonfiction books, building legos, conducting science experiments, completing jigsaw puzzles, and playing basketball. Another one of Banagere's

Continued on Page 6.



## Washington School Hosts Successful Spelling Bee

By Alyssa Liang

The Spelling Bee at Washington school was a great thriller for all who participated. The Spelling Bee began in October with its first round and ended on January 11 for the final showdown.

There were three rounds of The Spelling Bee at Washington School which lead up to The Essex County Championship. The winner of Washington's Spelling Bee was Annika Vadhavkar. The faculty advisor and organizer Ms. Scharer said, "The Spelling Bee was a great way to let children show their knowledge of phonics. It was also a great way for the entire school to come together to celebrate spelling." The final Spelling Bee was held in the auditorium, where the finalists waited in a line to spell their word. As contestant after contestant was eliminated, there were only a few left until finally, Annika



Pictured above are the nineteen super speller finalists for the Washington School Spelling Bee. Vadhavkar was crowned Washington School's winner. Her final word was "clerisy." Both Vadhavkar and the runner up, Myra Wadhawan will compete in the Essex County Championship. *The Washington School Post* congratulates the winning spellers, Vadhavkar and Wadhawan and all the students who competed in this annual academic contest.



Mr. Mercurio congratulates the Washington School spelling champion, Annika Vadhavkar.

## Millburn Youngest Mensa

Continued from Page 5.

hobbies is playing guitar. His favorite song to play on the guitar is Zombie by The Cranberries. One subject that Banagere finds tough is art. He's trying to improve his watercolor skills. Banagere's favorite book is *Who was Isaac Newton?* and his favorite author is Lauren Tarshis. Banagere likes going out in Millburn, and one of his favorite stores is Häagen-Dazs. His favorite meal is veggie tacos. Banagere has fun surprising adults with his intelligence: "When I was five years old at a party where adults were playing Kahoot, I answered most of the hard questions correctly." Banagere still keeps learning and surprising adults, teachers, family, and friends.



## Guest Editor, Eli deLaurier Reflects

### on Anna Crowley Redding's Workshop

By Eli deLaurier

On Friday, January 20, we had a writing lesson with Washington School's author in residence, Anna Crowley Redding. Anna Crowley Redding writes mostly non-fiction books for children and young adults. Recently, she has been writing biographies of interesting people. Her most recent book is called *Courage Lake Kate!* which tells the story of Kate Moore, a 12-year-old girl who was a lighthouse keeper in the 1800s. Kate Moore saved 23 lives during her time as a lighthouse keeper by warning people of the coastline, and also finding and helping injured sailors. In our workshop, we learned how to use primary sources to uncover clues in the text and documents that would be valuable to our research.

The workshop for Mrs. Jones's class took place in the Washington School Media Den. Our class was divided into five groups by our substitute teacher. Anna Crowley Redding began the workshop by introducing herself and telling



Guest editor deLaurier is a quintessential Washington Wolf pictured with his Howl Award. A member of band and orchestra and percussion soloist for the Chorus concert, deLaurier sits on the Lighthouse Academic Team. He recently had one of his poems accepted for national publication.

the class about Kate Moore. She described how she had researched Kate Moore by looking at old articles, community documents, maps, and other kinds of primary sources that existed from when Kate Moore lived. She gave us packets of some of these primary sources and we looked at them as well in our group. Our group discussed what we saw in the different documents. I learned how to pick out little details from the articles and Kate's journal to understand more about her, such as how she got to the lighthouse and what the weather was like there. We took notes on these interesting facts.

Continued on Page 7.

## "The Sound of Music" Resonates at Millburn's Paper Mill Playhouse

By Sydney Gitten

"The Sound of Music" is a beloved classic, both the movie and the play. There were some differences between the musical and the movie. "The Sound of Music" was originally a musical, and then the movie came out in 1965.

"The Sound of Music" is about a woman named Maria who is made the governess of seven children to become a nun. "It'll get you singing along," said Theo Cohen, a student in Mrs. Policarpio's class.

"The Sound of Music" is recommended for viewers of all ages who enjoy music-filled movies and performances. Even though the Papermill Playhouse production of "The Sound of Music" is no longer being performed, viewers can continuously be delighted by the classic on many television platforms. "The show was full of non-stop excitement! It was incredible to see a live version of the movie and experience some changes from the film. The cast did a tremendous job," said Mr. Bodmer, one of the Newspaper faculty



Washington School's Cody Braverman (second to right) as Curt pictured with his castmates.

advisors. Mrs. Jones added, "It was such a thrill to see our student, Cody Braverman, perform on stage at the Paper Mill. And the show is so uplifting."

This beloved classic was brought to life by the actors, the props, the sets, and the performance itself. So will Maria ever accomplish her dream of becoming a nun? Viewers can go to amazon prime or Disney Plus to watch this touching movie to find out.





## Guest Editor Reflects on Redding Workshop

*Continued from Page 6.*



*Children's author Anna Crowley Redding pictured with her books.*

I also learned to look at an old map and use what I saw there to add more to Kate's story, including where the lighthouse was located.

Spending time with and learning from Anna Crowley Redding was very interesting. For me, the highlights from the workshop were analyzing and writing down what I noticed in the documents and learning the story of Kate Moore and her heroism. I think it is impressive that someone so young can be so courageous and selfless in helping others. I believe that going forward what I learned will be valuable to me because it will help me to be a better researcher and writer as I now know more about using primary sources. Also, I hope I can be inspired by Kate Moore to be a better person. I am looking forward to another session with Anna Crowley Redding and am curious to see what kind of documents we will look at or if we will hear about her other books. Overall, I loved the workshop because I found it educational and helpful and I think I learned a lot.

## Secret Menu Unveiled

*By Norah Reich*

Students in fifth grade go into town to relax, spend time with friends and grab a tasty treat. But often, going to the same places time after time can get boring. So, something new and fun to try is the Starbucks SECRET Menu. What is the Starbucks Secret Menu? The Secret Menu is not posted in the store, but has items created by Starbucks to surprise and delight their best customers. Some of the new drinks from the Secret Menu are the Nutella Frappuccino or (*pictured below*) or the Rainbow Refresher.

However, there are some important tips to keep in mind when ordering from the Secret Menu. The first tip is to know the ingredients. Employees who work at Starbucks might not be familiar with the recipe needed to make the drink, so quickly research the "Starbucks Secret Menu" online and show them what to include. The second tip is to use the official "Starbucks Secret Menu." Some online



*Continued on Page 8.*

## Math Olympiad: Live and In Person

*Continued from Page 5.*

Olympiad should be switched back to in person. For many Washington School students, December, 2022 was the first in person Math Olympiad ever. "I felt very nervous. It was a very different environment," said Aryan Singla from Mrs. Schaefer's class. Dr. Singla, chair of Math Olympiad at Washington School said, "I did not really see a difference in scores, but I did see a lot of excitement and enthusiasm among students and parents. Going from the virtual format to in person brings its benefits and challenges. One benefit is that technical issues and problems are avoided. The challenge is crowd control with more than 100 students in the room at the same time. Overall due to parent volunteers, I believe the program ran smoothly and successfully. I could not have done this without the assistance of Ms. Todd and Ms. Supanekar-Khalap." After two long remote years and with the third Math Olympiad successfully completed, Washington School students are getting back into the groove of in-person Math Olympiad.

## Millburn Success Story

*By Emma Zhu and Anish Ghiya*

Inspired by Millburn teacher, Ms. Mormak, Ms. Livingstone is back in Millburn schools.

"My teacher, Ms. Mormak inspired me to become a teacher," Ms. Livingstone said. "She showed me that it was okay to make mistakes, how to work through problems, and that teaching could be fun."

When asked what she loved best about Washington, she said, "I love that Washington is an all fifth grade school, and I wish that I was in it when I grew up here. I really love the community." Livingstone has always wanted to be a teacher from when she was a kid. "I always knew I wanted to be a teacher. When I was little, I would play school with my sister and we would switch between the roles of being the teacher and the student." Livingstone really loves teaching, especially because she really loves teaching math and watching her students'

*Continued on Page 8.*



## New Teacher Brings Joy to Washington School

*By Kristin Zhang*

Her favorite color is blue and she enjoys spending time with her family and reading. She likes the book series Harry Potter, which she is currently reading to her daughter. She taught at a lot of places before coming to Washington School. She brings a huge amount of joy to students at Washington School. Well, who is it? Give up? Well, it is Mrs. Nishimura, the new strings teacher at Washington School.

When she was little, she lived in South Jersey, the southern part of New Jersey, very close to Delaware. With four siblings growing up, she was the middle child. She also had a dog, Oliver.

Currently, she is living in Branchville, New Jersey with her husband, Ed, and two children, Junko who is six and Kai who is four (*pictured top left*). It is hard to believe that her son, Kai, who is only four, is playing the cello. When asked when Junko and Kai started playing the violin and the cello, she said, "They both started when they were three years old." Their love of music was influenced by her love of music. She has a pet dog named Neko, which is Japanese for cat because she said that her dog acts like a cat.

At the moment,

she is running every day to train for a half-marathon coming up in March.

When asked what her goal is, she said, "My goal is to get done in under under two

hours." A half-marathon is 13.1094 miles, a long way to run in two hours.

Nishimura actually began teaching in high school. She explained: "I was influenced to become a music teacher by my high school cello teacher. He would always have me teach his younger students over the summers when he was away on tour. I loved the experience. My love of teaching music also was influenced by a former teacher at Millburn High school, Karen Conrad. I did my student teaching at Millburn High School with Mrs. Conrad, and learned so much about the joys of teaching music." When Nishimura was little, she loved going to school. Her favorite subjects were Math and Science which may explain why she came to



*Continued on Page 8.*



## Secret Menu Unveiled An Interview with Supriya Kelkar

*Continued from Page 7.*

menus may include drinks that no longer exist or are out of season. The third tip is to be prepared to pay extra. Some employees may not know the exact price for the drink you are ordering, and the Secret Menu doesn't always list the exact price. And the final tip to remember is to reconsider your drink order if there is a long line behind you. A drink can take a while to make, and it is always good to be considerate of others. There are ALSO fun Secret Menus to order at other fast food restaurants like ChickFila or Wendy's. Check it out and spread the secret just like the Starbucks Secret Menu!



*By Aniruddh Thupil and Karman Gadh*

*Strong as Fire, Fierce as Flame*, by Supriya Kelkar is the global read aloud book for 2022. Supriya Kelkar said in an interview that getting chosen for the global read aloud "Was the greatest honor." The book is all about Meera, an Indian girl from the 1800's, fighting for her freedom during the British occupation. The historical novel shows how fervently Kelkar wants to promote equal rights for

women by using the culture of the 1800s as an example. Kelkar chose to write about that time period instead of the present time because, "I was really interested in telling the story of colonized people whose story has been overlooked in history, and to shine a light on what colonization was really like." She further explained, "As I developed that concept, the idea of writing a story with women's rights came to be. What I really like about writing historical fiction is, even if a story takes place almost 200 years ago, it still has themes that are relevant today. The way women were treated in India in the 1800s was similar to how they were treated in England and America, and many of the concepts from this historical story are still relevant today in America."

I find it so fascinating how we can connect to stories in different places and times and grow our empathy, and that's why I chose to explore this story in 1800s India rather than in today's time." When asked why she wrote about Meera and not her contemporary Rani Lakshmibai or peace activist Gandhi, Kelkar said, "I think the stories of people who were overlooked and not memorialized in history are far more interesting and relatable to us, so that's why I choose to write about kids in historical time periods."

The book shows Meera is growing as a character, making decisions she wouldn't normally make as the plot unfolds. She grows in confidence, and people who read the book can almost

*Continued on Page 9.*

## New Teacher Brings Joy to Washington School

*Continued from Page 7.*

Washington School to teach. She said, "I like how Washington is fun, energetic and welcoming." Students think that Nishimura is fun. "She finds ways to make both practicing and lessons fun and interactive. She is always there to help and I always look forward to her lessons each week," said Gitanjali Kameswaran. "What I really like about Mrs. Nishimura is that she is very kind. She is a great orchestra teacher and she will always help me. She also picks out fun practices and songs for us. I also have lots of fun during our lessons with her. I think she is a great teacher and a great addition to Washington School," said Conner Chen. "What I like best about Mrs. Nishimura is that she teaches with enthusiasm and is extremely patient. She uses interesting techniques to help her students remember things, such as using memorable rhymes to help with timing. I have learned so much from her already on how to play the cello," said Vaanya

Aggarwal. Mrs. Nishimura certainly has brought a lot of joy to Washington School with her. Her message to students is, "Come join the music program. We have a lot of fun here."



*Nishimura pictured with her husband and children enjoying family time.*



## Millburn Success Story

*Continued from Page 7*

path of growth. "I would like my students to become responsible leaders, and excited, organized learners."

Livingstone, born and raised in Millburn, was also taught by two familiar teachers, Mrs. Monaco and Mrs. Jones as her fifth and third grade teachers. What had changed about Millburn since she had gone there was that there is now an all-fifth-grade school, and she feels that students can connect more since they are all in the same age range. In her free time, Livingstone enjoys hiking, spending time at the beach, reading, and spending time with her family and friends. Livingstone grew up in sailing school when she was younger, and she taught sailing as her summer job. She loves teaching math and witnessing her students blossom. Though she didn't have a least favorite subject in school, she feels that reading is the toughest as there are so many different ways to explain the text. "Ms. Livingstone tells her stories that makes everyone's day



*An award-winning teacher, Livingstone is pictured above in her fourth grade classroom in Springfield where she earned the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.*

brighter," Arnav Chhabra, a student in Ms. Livingstone's class said. Ms. Livingstone misses her former students from her former school, and one of her proudest accomplishments was being one of Union County's Educators of the Year while teaching in Springfield. A parent of one of Livingstone's students said of her: "From the very first day of this challenging year, Ms. Livingstone has shown extraordinary professionalism, empathy and dedication." Livingstone, who holds a Masters of Education from Syracuse University, is back in Millburn to bring her special brand of magic, positivity and professionalism to the students and staff at Washington School.





Trevor Siegel delivers the news on the January 25th live broadcast.

## Broadcast Club Empowers Students

By Tina Pratap

The Washington School Broadcast is a weekly program that goes live every Wednesday morning for all fifth graders to view on their class SMART boards or their individual chromebooks. Produced by the Broadcast Club which teaches scriptwriting, broadcasting and TV production for fifth grade students, the live Wednesday program inspires fifth graders as they get ready and unpack for the school day.

The Washington School Broadcast is devoted to delivering news about school events and activities, and other newsworthy happenings around Millburn.

The Broadcast Club provides a hands-on leadership experience for fifth graders as it mimics the newsroom in a real-world scenario with student leaders delivering the news independently.

Ms. Cunningham is the broadcast's director and executive producer. During the broadcast, she is the one taking care of all the technical aspects including adding backgrounds, switching on cameras, music, and more. She helps members with the editing and its final product. "She is a great executive producer and helps make our broadcast successful," said broadcaster Aditi Bharatwaj.

One of the favored topics among the reporters is the Mystery Staff Member. As part of Mystery Staff Member, the reporting crew mentions some interesting facts about a teacher or staff member of the school. The students then have to guess who the person is. Students in their classrooms enjoy guessing who the mystery staff member could be. At the end of the broadcast, the crew reveals who the Mystery Staff Member is.

The Washington School Broadcast is an excellent activity to improve public speaking and leadership skills, and to build confidence by being in front of the camera and presenting to the whole school. Also, the weekly broadcast is a great way to send messages and news to the entire student body and staff while empowering the voices of the next generation of storytellers.

Each student reporter gets hands-on experience researching and writing the articles and editing their scripts as they prepare to go live on Wednesday. Although broadcasting may look easy, there is a lot of hard work to do and not much time to do it. The task is tough, but the reward of broadcasting live is an enriching experience. Whether in the Broadcast Club or in the viewing audience, the experience gives students confidence and empowerment.

It was...

Mr. Bodmer!



Newspaper faculty advisor Mr. Bodmer was the Mystery Faculty Member on February 1, 2023.

## TREPS Grooms

### Future Entrepreneurs

By Aryan Singla

The TREPS program has just begun and is giving students the chance to make some real money at the TREPS marketplace. Up until the marketplace, students will make and design a product that they can sell for real money. TREPS is short for entrepreneurship. In the TREPS program, the format is first a lesson which teaches an important step in growing a business, like marketing, or business selection.

Then there is a timed challenge that requires students to use teamwork and creativity. The first challenge was the candy bar challenge. Students had ten minutes to come up with a candy bar and its wrapper. Students also created an advertisement to market the candy bar. Students presented their candy bar and advertisements. There is also a question and answer period. Students learn how to advertise something and how to plan it to hook the audience. Students learn that when marketing a product, it's important not to leave the

audience with too many questions because that leaves people unsure about the product. When consumers have too many unanswered questions, they won't buy the product because they don't want to risk buying it and not liking the product. "I liked the activities that we got to do. I like working in groups, so it was fun for me. You can come up with better ideas in groups than alone," said Aditya Singla in Ms. Segel's class.

TREPS is a fun learning program, giving students the chance to be entrepreneurs.

Throughout the course of the program, students will create and market a unique product which they will sell at the final TREPS Marketplace. TREPS proves that learning can not only be fun, but also profitable.



## An Interview with Supriya Kelkar

Continued from Page 9.

feel Meera growing to be more independent and closer to freedom. As Kelkar revealed to Washington School students, "The cover was fully thought through. The kite was to show that Meera was almost free, but could be easily pulled down, and the bird to represent that she was really free." *Strong as Fire, Fierce as Flame's* plot twists keep readers guessing and wanting to read on. The plot also captures what India looked like in the 1800s in a way that takes the readers back in time and makes them see what is going on in colonial India.

Kelkar was inspired to write *Strong as Fire, Fierce as Flame* because of a book she read as a child. "When I was growing up, I never got to see characters who look like me in American books, TV shows, or movies. One day my teacher read us *The Secret Ahimsa*, took 14 years of drafts before it was published. If I had thought the first draft was the best and never worked on it more, I would never have been a published author!"

*Strong as Fire Fierce as Flame* is not just a children's book. Every global citizen would profit from reading this thought-provoking book of historical fiction.

even described as humans. I felt ashamed and embarrassed and remember wanting to disappear. When I thought back on that experience, I wanted to write a book that challenged who is centered and whose story is erased in history and in books some people consider classics." Kelkar's advice to young writers: "My advice would be to not be attached to your words. This helps me when I'm revising, because I know the next draft will always be stronger than the previous one. My first published book, *Strong as Fire, Fierce as Flame*, took 14 years of drafts before it was published. If I had thought the first draft was the best and never worked on it more, I would never have been a published author!"

*Strong as Fire Fierce as Flame* is not just a children's book. Every global citizen would profit from reading this thought-provoking book of historical fiction.





## Washington Wolves Learn About Drug Prevention

By Harini Prakash

D.A.R.E. is a program held in Washington School, where a police officer comes into a classroom once a week for ten weeks teaching students about drugs. D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. D.A.R.E. is a national program taught around the country to fifth graders in all fifty states. It is important to teach kids about D.A.R.E. as early as fifth grade because the program gives students strategies for the rest of their lives. The program is designed to ensure students never use drugs. Also, the officers teach students ways to make good and correct choices. D.A.R.E. is conducted by Police Officers in Millburn Township. The officers who teach D.A.R.E. at Washington School include Detective Barbosa, Sergeant Smeraldo, Lieutenant Guensch, Officer Salemi, Sergeant Poyner and Officer Baerga.

Students learn a lot from their D.A.R.E. classes. Students find it helpful that the D.A.R.E. officers use real life situations as examples so they can be prepared, just in case they find themselves in these situations. Hana Letang, a student from Pack S said, “D.A.R.E. is helpful because it teaches us what not to do.” Diya Popat, from Pack V said, “It is interactive, educational, and inspirational.” Aashi Mishra from Pack W said, “I like D.A.R.E. because it is a good opportunity to learn something from an officer’s point of view.”

A helpful tool that students can use is the D.A.R.E. box. If some students have a personal question that they do not want people to know about, but want to ask the officer, they can write it on a piece of paper and put it in the box.

A D.A.R.E. officer will answer anonymous questions during the next session with the class. One feature that all students should always remember in DARE is that



whatever is said in the room is private and stays in the room. Each student is also given a workbook in which all of their tools and activities are recorded for future reference. In each D.A.R.E. class, all students write in the book and then read from it. Making choices is something everyone must do in their life and D.A.R.E. breaks down the process and helps many students travel through tough choices. For example, some choices might be tough but the D.A.R.E. officers encourage students to break down the process to three simple steps. The first step is to describe the problem. Then, students have to make the choice and lastly students have to list the positives and negatives of their choice. The D.A.R.E. decision making process helps lots of students make the right decision.

D.A.R.E. is an important program that students find fun, useful, and informative. They learn about drugs, and why no one should ever use drugs. Officer Salemi highlighted the significance of the program in her own words: “I have seen drug abuse numbers reduce because of D.A.R.E. Students should never use drugs, and should make safe and responsible choices.”



Every classroom has a D.A.R.E. box for students to write down questions for the D.A.R.E. officer as they crop up during the week.

## Washington School Fosters Winners

By Chloe Zhang and Sharanya Bhattacharya

Washington School competes in the Odyssey of the Mind creative competition, using creative techniques to form championship teams. Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem-solving program involving competing students from kindergarten through college. The competition is also called the “Olympics for Minds.” Team members work together at length to solve a predefined long-term problem and present their solution at a competition. They must also participate in the spontaneous portion of the competition by generating creative solutions to a problem they have not seen before. While the long-

term problem solution often takes many months to complete involving various elements of theatrical performance, construction, and design, the spontaneous portion occurs on the day of the competition. The diverse, five problems include a vehicle problem, a STEM problem, a musical problem, a structure problem, and a performing problem. Solving each long-term problem harnesses students’ creativity and expands their minds.

Ms. Cunningham and Ms. Lepinsky conduct Odyssey meetings in school during lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Washington School has a blue team and a white team. They compete against each other. Cunningham and Lepinsky guide



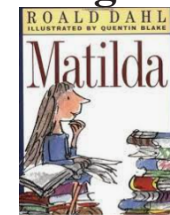
Continued on Page 11.

## Revolting Children Delight Audiences

By Dalia Beckerman

“Matilda the Musical” was finally released on Netflix in December, 2022. Based on the famous Roald Dahl book Matilda, the theatrical film was directed by Matthew Warchus from a screenplay written by Dennis Kelly and lyrics by Tim Minchin. The “School Song,” music and lyrics written by Tim Minchin, is a cautionary tale the older students sing about the horrors at Crunchem Hall Elementary School. The older students sing this creative and unique song emphasizing letters in alphabetical order, “So you think you’re A-ble, to survive this mess by B-ing, a prince or a princess, you will soon C, there’s no escaping trage-D.”

Another hit song from “Matilda the Musical” is “Revolting Children” where the actors and actresses perform front and back aerial somersaults, hang from the ceiling, launch into acrobatic twists and turns off of school



The movie and the musical are both based on the classic book.



lockers, flip off walls, and also perform head spins, and handspring down the halls. The choreography pumps the audience up. Headmaster Miss Trunchbull might find these children to be horrid and revolting, but they show her what revolting children really look like by fighting back and standing up for themselves. Another catchy song is “Bruce” where viewers cheer on Bruce played by Charlie Hodson-Prior. Students sing, “Come on Bruce, be our hero, cover yourself in chocolate glory,” while dancing on cafeteria tables and wearing shiny coats in a dreamlike state in this disco and fun number.

Viewers should find this musical film enjoyable while rooting for the children Miss Trunchbull finds revolting.





Pictured from left: Claire Yu, Chloe Zhang, Jeremy Wang, Jayden Guo, Emma Zhu, Sharanya Bhattacharya, and Gitanjali Kameswaran, all members of the Odyssey White Balsa Structure Team.

## Washington School Fosters Winners

*Continued from Page 10.*

35 students per meeting, giving advice, training creative minds, and most of all helping the group have fun.

“It’s fun and intriguing. It’s nice to make new friends, and you have many opportunities to be creative,” said Aarna Padri, a member of the Odyssey blue team. Gitanjali Kameswaran, a member of Odyssey White said, “It’s a great opportunity to meet new people and become a better team player. Odyssey builds your problem-solving skills.” Competitor Sarah Nasri said, “I like seeing different ideas and going to the workshop.” Cunningham herself said, “It’s an incredibly unique and rewarding program. It truly teaches students so many skills from writing a script to building sceneries, collaborating, problem-solving, and so much more.” The enthusiasm of student participants and their faculty advisors shows how much gratitude and passion Odyssey of the Mind inspires.

Odyssey of the Mind competitions begin at regionals, and teams that advance go to state finals, then world finals. Countries from all over the world compete

including Canada, China, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, and many more. In total, more than 24 countries participate. In last year’s world finals held at Iowa State University, the USA, South Korea, Switzerland, and Poland competed. Over the past few years, fewer teams competed, as Covid-19 had heavily impacted participation. But in this year’s finals to be held at Michigan State University, hopefully the numbers will increase exceedingly. Many Washington students love Odyssey. “I think Odyssey expands your mind and it’s really nice,” said Emma Zhu, a member of the Balsa Team White.

Odyssey is a fun and creative experience that many students love. Washington School allows students to pursue their journey, hopefully, all the way to the finals as winners.



A former Odyssey team competing in finals.

## Get Ready for Winter Sports

*By Annika Vadhavkar*

As the Italian proverb says “Those who sing through the summer must dance through the winter.” Most are missing the warm weather outdoor activities, yet the winter sports are on the horizon as the temperature drops. So which favorite winter sports are Washington Wolves interested in? This question is worth exploring. Just as soccer is played by a lot of Washington Wolves during warmer months, the winter season brings skiing and snowboarding to the forefront for many. Skiing and snowboarding are popular winter sports played by a lot of Washington School students. Many people are looking forward to hitting the slopes. People who ski make smooth turns down the ice and snowboarders glide down the slope. New Jersey is a very important place in ski and snowboard history



Washington Wolf Jeremy Wang demonstrates expert techniques on the slopes of Alta, Utah.

because some significant discoveries and inventions were made in New Jersey. Also some famous winter Olympians started their debut right here on New Jersey ice. For example Donna L. Weinbrecht who won the first gold medal awarded in the first Olympic mogul competitions in freestyle skiing grew up in West Milford, New Jersey. People have different opinions on whether skiing or snowboarding is better. Skiing originated in Scandinavia.

*Continued on Page 12.*

## Millburn Sets the Standard in Dining

*By Cynthia Hu and Alyssa Liang*

The Millburn Standard is an inviting place to eat, filled with fresh food and drinks. Located on 42 Main Street in town, and currently rated 4.5 stars with a plethora of positive Yelp reviews, The Millburn Standard offers outdoor dining and indoor dining, with takeout available too. A sign out front showcases the menu. “The Millburn Standard is an exquisite restaurant with a wide variety of menu items. You can taste the high quality ingredients in each menu item. The Standard is also the perfect setting for a casual family dinner,” said Olivia Liang.

The appetizing menu has a kids section, entrees, salads, sides, burgers



and sandwiches, starters, and hot and cold beverages. Open from 11:30 AM to 2:30 AM for lunch and late dinners, The Millburn Standard is not a chain restaurant; it is only located in Millburn. The menu has symbols for gluten free, nut free, and which dish is vegetarian with an online

*Continued on Page 12.*



**The Washington School  
Post  
wishes everyone  
a happy and safe  
February Break**





## Get Ready for Winter Sports

*Continued from Page 11.*

There are two different styles of skiing. There is alpine which is downhill skiing, using chair lifts or gondolas to get the skier up the slope. Alpine is perfect for beginners who just want to glide down a mountain with swift turns. Then there is Nordic which is cross country skiing and ski jumping, using backcountry areas. Skiing is a sport which uses two skis, and some people ski with poles. Skiers clip their boots in and make swift parallel turns across the ice. "Skiing is really breathtaking once you are on that mountain, going down it feels like you're flying and you are on top of the world," said Sanaya Pamnani from Pack O. Skiing takes place on a mountain just like snowboarding, and there are four different difficulty levels. First there are bunny slopes and then green. After that, skiers move on to blue and eventually go on to black. After that there are double and triple blacks. "Accomplishing harder slopes is my favorite part of skiing, and being able to try many new slopes. Some of my favorite places are Colorado and Stowe mountain in Vermont," said Saachi Chadha from Washington School. Skiing gives many people opportunities, and it is a favorite for many in the winter time. When there is a snowfall, skiers and snowboarders alike are excited to glide down a slope. "I did both sports and for me skiing was way easier to learn, and I felt safe to try really hard slopes," said Ari Jain from Millburn Middle School, sixth grade. According to Wikipedia, snowboarding was inspired by surfing and skateboarding, and became an official winter Olympic sport in the 1998 winter Olympic games in Nagano, Japan. There are a couple of different types of snowboarding. First there is



*Fifth grade expert skier, Jeremy Wang, on the slopes in Killington, Vermont.*

freestyle which is a type that allows snowboarders to focus on jumps and tricks. Snowboarders use softer boots to reduce weight while maneuvering through the air. The snowboards are softer, lighter and shorter. Next there is Alpine Snowboarding which is all about speed and the ultimate carving turn in snowboarding. Alpine snowboards are stiffer and longer to provide stability and edge holding ability. Freeriding is perfect for beginners as it focuses more on enjoyment than techniques. In freeriding there are soft snowboard boots, plate bindings and strap or flow bindings. "I love snowboarding because it's like surfing, maybe even a little better, and it allows you to take more risks and try out more trick shots," said Praveen Wickramasinghe, a sixth grader from Millburn Middle School.

Skiing and snowboarding have their own pros and cons. There could be any number of reasons why one would follow one sport or both. The best part is, both give a reason for people to be outdoors in the winter. In both sports people love trying out new slopes and challenging themselves with different types of skiing and snowboarding.



*Student Aditi Magal at Mt. Peters in upstate New York where she endured a series of crashes, but still enjoyed skiing!*

## Celebrating the New Year Around the Globe

*By Aditi Magal and Leela Kalyanpur*

The new year is a time for people to think about how they can make this new year amazing. It is a time for relaxing and sharing hopes and dreams. The new year is also a time to think about the seven habits and how to apply them to the new year.

Different countries have different ways of celebrating the new year. For instance, people celebrate the Jewish New Year, called Rosh Hashanah, in the months of September and October. Asians celebrate the new year in January with festivities wishing good luck and prosperity to each other. In South India, the new year takes place on the winter solstice and is a religious holiday. In America, people celebrate the new year with fireworks on January first, every year on the same day. Many Christians go to church and many other people enjoy going to parties. This year, millions of people crowded in Times Square to see the ball drop, releasing thousands of resolutions made by New Yorkers. Speaking of resolutions, Aditi Hegde in Ms. Segel's class said, "My new year's resolution is to practice violin and flute more."



*12 feet in diameter weighing 11,875 pounds, the Times Square Ball is covered with a total of 2,688 Waterford Crystal triangles.*

The new year is also a good time to start focusing even more on the seven habits. Fifth grade teacher Ms. Segel had a good idea of how her students could practice the habits. She said, "Students can 'Begin with the End in Mind' and prepare for middle school."

Mr. Mercurio gave his advice to the Washington Wolves on the new year: "I hope all students continue to show acts of leadership and make good choices."

The new year, although on different days for different countries and cultures, will forever be a time for people to celebrate their religious beliefs, but also share their hopes and dreams for the year ahead.



## Millburn Sets the Standard in Dining

*Continued from Page 11*

menu and website. The cozy table and chairs and the dim lighting create an intimate dining experience. Waiters are kind and efficient. On a recent visit to the restaurant, the food came super fast and was piping hot. The restaurant boasts signature dishes such as the Standard Burger topped with bacon and a unique Hickory sauce, with a flavorful patty gently placed in between the two slices of bread (*see picture on page 11.*) The Standard Burger also has lettuce, onion and tomatoes.



*Opened in 2020, The Millburn Standard has become a town classic.*

A top notch restaurant, with many satisfied customers, including positive reviews, The Standard is a great place to eat on the weekends or weekdays, and really is a Millburn classic.



## Washington Wolves Enjoy Rotating

By Myra Wadhawan

Rotation Classes are one of the many unique features that make up Washington School. The rotation classes are Science, Social Studies, and BUILDER. Washington School students rotate the classes every trimester which teachers from their pack teach.

**Science:** Many students say it's their favorite subject. Sixteen out of nineteen students that were questioned reported that Science is the best part of learning Science." among their top three favorite subjects. Students discover the mysteries of matter, and study life science which includes food webs, weight and density using different chains, and ecosystems. They also study space, the planets, and much more. According to fifth grader Karine Mitrikov, "Experiments are performed and topics studied, no wonder so many



Technology expert Mrs. Haggerty (currently on maternity leave) created the BUILDER course with Mrs. Emmanouilidis (who came up with the acronym). Together they created the course and lessons expressly for the students of Washington School.

students enjoy Science.

**Social Studies:** A favorite for students who love history, thirteen out of nineteen students questioned reported that they enjoy the subject. "Social Studies helps us understand the world around us in different ways." said Anika Vinayak from Mrs. Del Vecchio's class. Students learn all about the history and geography of this great country, and how it came to be as people know it today. Students also study the fascinating Native Americans and their various cultures. Students also study European explorers, the colonies and the Revolutionary War. There are projects along the way and so much to learn. As Winston Churchill said, "He who does not learn from history is doomed to repeat it."

**BUILDER:** Last but not least is BUILDER, Brainstorm, Understand, Imagine/Invent, Learn, Design, Engineer, Research. Twelve out of nineteen students questioned said they think the class will be fun and exciting. In BUILDER, students learn about technology, discovering the importance of digital citizenship. Learning about cyberbullying is essential as a preventative measure. Students also learn how to code.

Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." He meant that if students work hard and learn, they can change the world. The three key rotation subjects just may help students on their way to changing the world for the better.

## Behind the Scenes at

### The Washington School Post

By Navya Panwar

The Washington School Post is a place where students are able to write articles in a safe and comfortable environment. Students can choose their own article topics such as big events and other small school occasions. Before Thanksgiving, they published their first issue of the school year. All of The Washington School Post staff worked very hard with their articles, and each student in the school received their own copy. Editor-in-chief Sydney Gitten helps edit fellow reporters' articles along with faculty advisors, Mrs. Jones, Ms. Irving and Mr. Bodmer.

The Washington School Post has been running for six years. They hold meetings every other Tuesday in room 121. Mrs. Jones posts style guides and other lessons and tips to help reporters become even better writers.

The Washington School Post has been publishing ever since the year the school opened its doors,



but it really improved once Mrs. Jones teamed up with co-teacher, Ms. Katy Briber. Since then, they have managed to publish four issues each year. Even during the pandemic they were able to meet with reporters virtually and publish four issues. "Working with student reporters and editors is one of the more satisfying aspects of my teaching life here at Washington School," said Jones. "Mr. Mercurio and the PTO give the newspaper their full support which makes the process much easier," Jones added.

The Washington School Post meetings are full of encouragement and kindness where everyone feels valued and has a great time. Students always feel content when they come to write, and where all opinions are valued at all times.

## Washington Wolves Cheer for The World Cup

By Armaan Saraf, Matthew Kurias, Sarah Nasri, and Sharanya Bhattacharya

The FIFA (Fédération Internationale De Football Association) World Cup takes place every four years. Usually the worldwide event takes place during the summer, but since Qatar was hosting the 2022 matches where the usual temperature is 117 degrees Fahrenheit, the World Cup took place during the fall. The final match was between France and Argentina. Croatia and Morocco were third and fourth place. The Washington Wolves waited all month for this epic showdown with the favorite Argentina coming on top, and Croatia beating the underdogs, Morocco.

Since the FIFA World Cup took place during the school year, Washington Wolves have had a lot of interest and excitement. Everyone seemed to be watching the matches and cheering. On the bus, Gym, and even at recess. Lots of students pulled out their phones and watched the World Cup on the bus. During recess students would huddle around Mr. Hogan and watch the match on his phone, and in their Gym period,



Lionel Messi lifting World Cup trophy with Argentina teammates.

Mr. Hogan broadcast parts of the matches. Students cheered when goals were scored. Students loved seeing their favorite players score. "I loved to watch Messi," said Aniruddh Thupil from Pack E. Mr. Mercurio and Mr. Hogan discussed the pros and cons of putting the World Cup on the screen. After a discussion they decided the positives overpowered the negatives, and the World Cup was broadcast live during gym periods. "We did the soccer unit during the World Cup because it is a great example of different ways to play," said Hogan. Also, Mercurio wanted to share world culture, "... and the student body loves seeing soccer," said Mercurio.

Continued on Page 16.



# The Write Stuff: A Collection of Creative Writing from Washington Wolves

Literary Editors: Annika Vadhavkar and Kiara Pathak, Art Editor: Chloe Zhang

## Chance to Say Goodbye

By Zoe Griffith

I skipped through the gate and into my great-uncle's front yard. There I could see all the stray cats that my great aunt fed. They were sickly and not as plump as usual. I knew something was off. It might have been because everyone had Covid. But that was months ago. I was too excited to care. "I miss Tio Benito so much," I thought. I was expecting an excited man, but that's not what happened. I reached for the doorknob and it was then I heard a faint groan. "Tio," I yelled. Another groan. That's when the door swung open. There was my great aunt, crying. All I could think was, "Oh no this can't be good. What's wrong with Tio Benito?"

Once we went inside, I saw what was wrong. He was weak and paralyzed. He couldn't be near the sun and he wouldn't eat. He kind of looked like the cats I had just seen seconds ago. My heart sank. Only three years had passed since the last time I saw him. What had happened? After a while my mom couldn't take any more. Neither could I. So we left promising to return. Little did we know it would be too late.

A couple of days later we were driving down a winding road to get to the house from a celebration. That's when my mom got the call. One of those calls that has the power to change your life. You know the kind. I could hear the faint sound of my great aunt's voice. I didn't think much of it at first. I watched my mom slowly lower the phone in shock. That's when she said it. He was dead. Tio was dead. It couldn't be true. It was probably just a mean prank. "Why would you lie like that?" I asked half screaming, half crying. My mom decided not to say anything. She knew I was stubborn and upset. Two of my very annoying traits that don't go well together. It took a while for me to admit it to myself, but deep down I knew she was right. Maybe I knew it all along. Maybe I knew he was never coming back. Never to be seen again.

The next day was the funeral. When I climbed into the car to go to my great-aunt's house after the funeral, I had to fight the tears. I noticed my mother was trying to keep down the tears too. Her eyes became glossy and the faint sound of her whimper was all I heard. Magnified in the silence. That's when I realized, not only did I have to be brave for me, but for my mom too. She spent every day of every summer with him.. I spent just a few summers with him. I couldn't give my mom any more trouble than she already had. So I pretended that I wasn't in pain. Somehow that hurt more than missing my uncle. Maybe because I wasn't being honest with my mom. Or maybe because I wasn't being honest with myself. When we finally arrived, I opened the gate another time. This time the gate and the air around it felt different. Not as pure or loving as before. I walked in slowly. Just barely stepping away from the gate. My mom and brother walked into the house. I stayed outside. I couldn't walk inside anymore. I loved my aunt dearly, but going into what I refer to as my uncle's house without seeing my uncle would be like treason. The room that changed into his bedroom was the dining room. They had to change it because he couldn't walk. I didn't want to see the furniture back in place. It would feel wrong. Like forgetting he was ever alive. Once my aunt came outside to say goodbye I gave her a hug and opened the gate. "Ciao!" I heard my mom say. Once everyone walked out I shut the gate for the last time.

In retrospect, I was being kind of dramatic. I mean, it wouldn't be the last time I would close the gate. I would do it next summer, and the one after that, and the one after that as well. The point is, I would be there again. Even if the house would feel different without Tio. I will also admit that I was being kind of dramatic regarding Tio's death. The man was ninety years old. He lived a beautiful life. He not only got to meet close family, but also distant family like me. He isn't gone either. He is watching over me in clouds of heaven. And maybe one day, if I keep on praying, he will come back and visit. Just for a little while. Just so I can hold his wrinkled hand and kiss his wrinkled cheek.

## Zara and Zoya with Love

by Zara Sarfraz

Zesty is my life story,  
Amazing life is, so spend time wisely by the hour.  
Right now is the time to live in your glory,  
A memory is usually sweet but sometimes sour.

Zen is how I felt when I used to be an only child.  
Oh! but now it's noise, chaos, running around, and  
lots of giggles.

You looked like a tiny little elf at first, when I saw  
you, I smiled.

A dear sibling you are to me, and we both love to  
wiggle.



Illustration by Art Editor, Chloe Zhang

## Man on the Street

by Angela Zou

He's right there  
He rests there  
He sleeps there  
He eats there  
His blankets covering the ground  
His clothing dusty and old  
His shoes almost as old as he is  
He is ignored  
He is unnoticed  
As if he were a ghost  
The way he is turned down  
As if he weren't alive  
The way people look at him  
As if he weren't human  
But he is  
And if you just woke up  
And see that the world is full of  
people like him  
People who had the mind to think  
People who had the heart to seek  
You would see the world and him  
Right there  
Waiting.



## Butterflies

By Emma Zhu

An ocean of butterflies  
Small like specks  
Brush through vast,  
light green hills  
and yellow grassy fields.  
Birds chirp in song as they fly  
Orange and white highlights  
sparkling through mountains,  
hills, streams and oceans  
Flying until they find  
a perfect home.  
The scent of lilies and roses  
carries  
through the air,  
As perfect breezes sway them  
towards fields of flowers,  
Lilies, roses, daisies, and more,  
Nectar is like a melody  
notes carrying through the sky.  
Crisp and cool,  
perfect for the butterflies.  
Until they can find their home,  
Until they can finally rest,  
Nectar will carry them on  
until winter brings them death.



Illustration by Art Editor,  
Chloe Zhang.

## Spring

By Kristin Zhang

The winter snow  
disappears,  
in a great magic trick,  
the animals awaken,  
from their lovely dreams.  
The wind whistles  
a happy tune,  
the apple trees fling  
their great blossoming arms,  
the birds sing a melody,  
that goes along  
with the flowers dancing.



**The Write Stuff** *Continued from Page 14.***Differences***By Gitanjali Kameswaran*

How can so many people  
feel so many emotions  
and all get along?  
How can everyone have  
a different opinion and  
still be unanimous?  
Because we can't, can't yet,  
and that is the beauty in us.  
If the birds can all sing  
different melodies  
to combine into a lovely tune.  
If the snowflakes that fall  
can unite in a snowball  
why can't we too?  
Because we can't, can't yet,  
and that is the beauty in us.  
Because as different people  
with different thoughts,  
emotions, opinions.  
Different birds with different  
songs, tunes, calls  
Different snowflakes with  
different  
patterns, structures, looks.  
Our beauty is in our differences.  
And sometimes we need  
something.  
A difference, from everyone,  
to help each other.

**Night***by Ebba Casile*

Stars wander in the darkening sky  
searching for a home  
illuminated by moonlight  
Hushed whispers weave across the land  
Grasping  
Cold chills ride on the winds  
Bringing the night

**Trust***By Saanvi Vuppu*

What is trust?  
You may think  
trust is loyalty  
But trust is not just loyalty.  
Trust is knowing  
that someone will risk  
or sacrifice  
everything for you.

But some people  
use your trust for  
their selfish needs

Why,  
why does the dark at dusk  
frighten people  
they are helpless  
when darkness consumes the  
light.

When you are helpless  
you need to consume power  
It is one of the many human needs

If you trust  
then they trust  
If they trust  
then you  
trust

**Abuelo***By Naomi Guinoo*

My pain is deeper than the sea  
Higher than a bird can fly  
My pain is farther than the eye can see.  
I cannot laugh or smile  
I feel sadder every day he's gone  
I try to think of him  
But it's all a blur  
I wonder what would happen  
if I could ever  
see his smiling face  
once again.

**After Winter***By Angela Zou*

Swallows in the sky  
Flowers sprouting from winter  
Buds of the tree grow

Snow melting away  
Kids laugh and play on the grass  
They sing spring's song

**Boat***By Eva Thomas*

The sound of paper folding and crumpling coming from the little girl's room, hands working to soon create a masterpiece. After hours of cutting, crumpling, and frustration, it was finished. It was an origami boat. The little girl ran out to the pond to place her masterpiece in the cool, clear waters. The water shimmered like glass, with a soft glow of blue reflecting onto the great-leaved plants, colored the color of a shimmering emerald. The boat calmly glided across the shimmering waters, eventually gliding out of sight, free as a bird.

**The Land of My Dreams***By Alyssa Liang*

Cotton candy clouds.  
A sky made of sweets.  
I like to visit that land in my dreams.  
A forest filled with fantasy.  
A new enchanted galaxy.  
A candy filled lake.  
A land to forget our mistakes.  
A land no one knows.  
The land where kindness flows.  
Everyone is just like you.  
There are no rules, no feuds.  
Sometimes I dream that  
dreams will come true.

**Basketball***By Maddy Shen*

The first time I ever picked up a basketball  
With my brother and my dad, I was six  
Warm and sunny I felt very light  
With my basketball in my arms  
July. The sun beaming down  
As I walked toward the place  
That I would be accustomed to seeing,  
The basketball court.  
With high hopes, I took out my  
Ball and took my very first dribble,  
The sound that I would be hearing  
For the next four years finally showed its face  
Bong, the ball bounced right back up to me  
As I did more of them,  
I would be sure I would be doing this for  
years to come.

**One Window***By Chloe Zhang*

Dusk in the city,  
Every light switch is flicked off,  
Except for one window.





From the Principal's Desk



Dear students,

The articles in this issue reflect all the happenings at Washington School designed to get students involved, from morning announcements to the fine work of the Broadcast Club and the newspaper. As we embark on Black History Month in February, we can also reflect on the many activities and learning experiences designed to bring diversity to the forefront on a daily basis: our first ever Dragon Dance to celebrate the Lunar New Year and the Chinese Calligraphy lessons during Art class as well as our Global Read Aloud highlighting the plight of colonial India. We have students involved in TREP\$ learning to become entrepreneurs as well as students sharpening their Math skills in the Math Olympiad Program. Chorus, Odyssey of the Mind, Band and Orchestra and our student Lighthouse Team are further examples of how students can participate and make a difference here at Washington School.

We still have half a school year ahead of us; five more months where students can get involved. It is my hope that every student pushes himself or herself to participate in the many offerings here. Be the best you can be right in your classrooms and in the hallways. Make a new friend at lunch and recess. Practice kindness -- to others and to your school and to the building itself.

My best wishes to everyone for a relaxing and enjoyable February break.

All the best,

*Peter Mercurio*

Peter Mercurio  
Principal, The Washington School  
Publisher, *The Washington School Post*

From the Editor's Desk...

February, 2023

Dear readers,

Can you believe that we are almost halfway through the school year? The saying, "Believe you can, and you're halfway there," by Theodore Roosevelt reminds me that just believing in yourself is crucial and means that you are almost finished with the task ahead of us. Sort of like this school year. We are almost halfway through the school year! And there are so many more fun activities to come: TREP\$, Odyssey of the Mind, the Music Concert, Anna Crowley Redding Workshops, Wolves Night Out, and so much more.

Remember, if you believe you can, then you're halfway there.

You've got this,

*Sydney Gitten*  
Sydney Gitten  
Editor-in-chief  
*The Washington School Post*



World Cup at Washington School

*Continued from Page 12.*

"I get to bond with my classmates over soccer, and support the same team. I also get to enjoy a famous sporting event with my friends," said Gitanjali Kameswaran, a student from Ms. Murphy's class. The World Cup brought many Washington students together through the love of the game. The FIFA World Cup brought students closer when they cheered for their favorite team, and watching the contest was a great addition to the soccer unit.

The editors and advisors of The Washington School Post apologize for errors in last issue:

- \*Ms. Segel's name was misspelled in "Ms. Segel Brings Out the Best in Her Students."
- \*Reporter Alyssa Liang should have shared the byline with Dalia Beckerman in the article, "New Teacher Shares Talent and Creativity with her Students."
- \*Brooke Anatol's last name was misspelled in the caption for the article, "Washington Wolves Celebrate Halloween Up Close and In Person."
- \*Supriya Gururaj's last name was omitted in the byline for the article, "Secrets of the Secret Kitchen are Unveiled."
- \*Anya Lisansky's name was misspelled in the article, "Eating Lunch Inside Versus Outside."

Coming in the next issue:

- \*Cody Braverman on Broadway
- \*Obscure National Holidays Uncovered
- \*Washington School celebrates Black History Month and more!

The editors, reporters and faculty advisors wish everyone a wonderful February break.

We would like to apologize for any errors from last issue that we did not uncover, and any errors or omissions in this issue. In a project of this scope, mistakes will be made. We have tried our

