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## Mr. Malinowski Goes to Washington

By Saul Zeitler, Editor-in-Chief

In congress, men and women represent the congressional districts of the U.S. Members of the legislative branch of government, their law-making job is important to our communities, our states and our country. On April 22, Millburn's Congressman Tom Malinowski visited our very own Washington School to commemorate Earth Day. The congressman opened students' eyes to our government's response to helping our planet. He spoke about what we can do in the future to preserve our home. Speaking to a rapt fifth grade audience, Malinowski said, "I truly believe that your generation's passion for conservation will make the difference,.. your passion for conservation will inspire the rest of us." Throughout his presentation, Malinowski answered students' questions about our environment. Malinowski also touched on the topic of refugees. Washington School students had previously sent him many letters after reading the global read-aloud book, *Refugee* by Alan Gratz. Malinowski is an immigrant himself, having escaped with his mother to America from Slupsk, Poland during the height of the cold war. Speaking publicly about how he wants to



### Washington School Students Celebrate Earth Day

By Maria Iodice and Ivy Lewis

Washington School Students, Staff and PTO members worked together on Earth Day. Beautification Day at Washington School was a fun, educational, and entertaining way to enjoy some sunlight and improve the school. Students planted herbs, vegetables and flowers as well as strawberries in raised beds of their own making. It took teamwork to put together the raised beds. Students were helped and instructed by parent, Oksana Sysoyeva, the head of the Gardening Committee at Washington School. "For a successful project, you have to have the participation of everybody," Sysoyeva said. "We were lucky that the town forester, Tom Doty, was willing to donate five cherry blossom trees. He and his team planted them around the main entrance of the school. We also had the amazing organizational skills of Mrs. Nord and Mrs. August who worked with all the teachers' schedules to make sure that no one overlapped." Sysoyeva was also pleased that Washington School teachers were helpful, pitching in to work with the students. She was also impressed that the students were "eager to do the job by themselves without help."

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Principal Mercurio welcomes Congressman Malinowski to Washington School.

## Congressman Malinoskwi

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give back to the country that gave him his freedom. Malinowski is a naturalized citizen which means although he enjoys the full rights of US citizenship, he is unable to run for the highest office of the land, the US Presidency. Malinowski's visit taught students not only about the position refugees face, but also about our environment. By helping our environment, we are helping the future generation. Fifth grader, Ben Zeitler commented, "I am so glad Congressman Malinowski visited our school, and it was nice to listen to his ideas on how to help the environment." Teacher Mrs. Jones also enjoyed the visit and said, "I was impressed with how the congressman answered the astute question about spending money to restore Notre Dame versus helping the poor. Saying we should do both, and that restoring culture is an important way to feed people was a really profound answer. The congressman would have my vote if I lived in his

district." Principal Mercurio commented, "The congressman was energetic in speaking to us about our environment, and making our community a better place." Malinowski is working towards a change to help our planet, and he sets a great example that students should follow. When asked how the congressman felt about student measures to help the environment, he responded, "Truly inspired. This generation's passion to protect the environment gives me hope for the better. One of the reasons we are talking about things like climate change, renewable energy, and protecting our oceans in Congress is because of you. Even though you can't vote yet, we know you will vote in the future, and we need to listen to you." When asked to outline

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## The Middle School Connection: Off to Middle School

*By Talia Sarafian*

Soon, the school year will be over. In September, the middle school will be filled with an entirely new 6th grade class. New students may be nervous in the weeks and days before middle school. Well, they shouldn't be. Washington School prepares its students well for 6th grade in numerous ways. The most obvious way is that the school allows students to get to know each other before they go into 6th grade. Also, in the Washington School, rotation gives students a taste of what switching classes is like. "The Washington schoolwork gets us prepared for the middle school because it's just going one step higher," says Scott Braunstein, a 6th grader. Mr. Leddy, a math teacher at the Millburn Middle School, adds, "I don't feel the 6th

grade math curriculum (Connected Math 3) is much harder than the 5th grade math curriculum (Math in Focus). The homework issue was addressed in the first issue of the newspaper, but students may need a reminder that it should not be on students' list of worries next year. "I would say the homework given in 6th grade is pretty similar to what was given in 5th grade," Mr. Leddy says. However, students may have two quizzes to study for on the same day. But in Middle School, students get a study hall period, 41 minutes each day to complete homework. Busy students should devise a plan for their day, and should determine their priorities. and decide how long that

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## Earth Day Beautification

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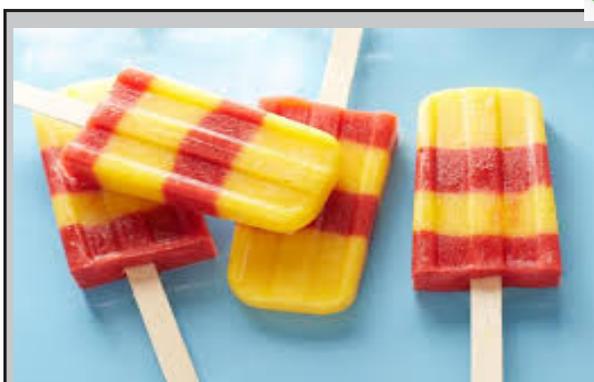
It was amazing to see how they were able to read the instructions, assemble the flower beds, install the flower beds, add the soil and bumper crop, and design the content of the flower beds." Sysoyeva wanted to be sure to thank all the parent volunteers as well as Mr. Mercurio "who was amazingly receptive to all the ideas for that day." Sysoyeva hopes that Washington students and staff will stop by in the summer to see how the garden is growing. Also, she welcomes everyone to stop by and sample some of the strawberries and summer vegetables. All the edible



*Luke Betlow, Claire Axelrod, Sabrina Abir.*

fare in the Washington garden is open to the school community.

In addition to working on the school garden, students participated in a variety of Earth Day activities all week long. Many students decorated the hallways with colorful posters, wrote ecology pieces, and created environmental art projects. Also, the environmental club offered tips all month long to help save the environment.



**Field Day,  
JUNE 18th  
Join the fun!!!**





## of the Town: Books Reviews, Restaurants Reviews and more...

### Book Review: *Out of My Mind*

By Sydney Barjesteh

Imagine not being able to talk, not being able to walk, not being able to write, and not being able to explain how you feel. It seems unthinkable, but some kids are born with this disease, cerebral palsy. Author Sharon Draper's eleven year old Melody suffers with this disease, and has spent her whole life not being able to express how she feels, with nobody understanding her. But she also

can remember every detail of everything she has experienced. She's the smartest kid in school, but no one knows it! Her teachers, her doctors, and her classmates, dismiss her as a mentally challenged classmate because she can't tell them otherwise. But once she is given an opportunity of a lifetime, she can finally reveal who she is on the inside, and can finally express how she feels. But is everyone else ready to hear her? Melody refuses to be defined by her disability. Read how Melody manages to push through her struggles... somehow.

### Book Review: *A Mango-Shaped Space*

#### What If Life were More Colorful?

By Nandini Goel

Looking for the perfect summer read? Searching for a good book to sink into? Reach for *A Mango-Shaped Space* by Wendy Mass, the summer pick for last year's fifth graders entering the middle school. Supervisor Mrs. Holly Foley confirmed that students entering 6th grade will have three book choices for summer reading, one of them being *A Mango-Shaped Space*. Get a head start, 5th graders! Wendy Mass even visited Millburn Middle School this year. This book is about a 13-year old girl, Mia Winchell who has a unique story problem: Mia has synesthesia. To her, numbers, letters, words, sounds, and even some people's auras each have their own color. For example, for Mia, the letter "a" is the color of a faded sunflower. Different synesthetes see different colors for different things, and there are different types of synesthesia. Mia has been seeing letters, numbers,

and sounds as colors for as long as she can remember, without knowing why, while hiding her "condition" from everyone. As the story unfolds, Mia discovers why she sees colors, and learns how to share and accept her condition.

"*A Mango-Shaped Space* is a heartwarming novel, and it was really fun to read," said fifth grader, Subhi Stephan. Read about Mia's journey and struggles as a synesthete, and how she overcomes her synesthesia, all while dealing with friendships and school. This story will have you empathizing with Mia, laughing, crying, and at times even wishing you could see colors and shapes the way Mia does. Mass paints a heartwarming tale about bravery and acceptance. After reading *A Mango-Shaped Space*, the world may seem just a bit brighter!



Reporter Itamar Kaplun pictured with LivBreads owner, Yaniv Livneh.

### Culinary Heaven Opens in Downtown Millburn

By Itamar Kaplun

"That is tasty!" is the refrain after people take a bite of Millburn's LivBreads fare. Offering bread, and savory/sweet pastries, LivBreads is a restaurant where people come for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The restaurant offers a mix of European, Israeli, and French food which gives it a cultural vibe. Packed on the weekends, the perfect time for students to go is after school, especially on Fridays, or after finishing homework for a special treat. Owner Yaniv Livneh who at first would have liked to open his restaurant in South Orange where he lives, said that South Orange is very very small, and had no open real estate spots...and the crowd in Millburn would be better for the products we sell." Yaniv said he loves all his foods but his most popular item on the menu is the chocolate babka, and boy, it is delicious. He then said his favorite was the cauliflower focaccia (which by the way is to "die for").

True to its name, LivBreads boasts many different kind of bread too. Yaniv's personal favorite is their seeded country bread. Livneh said that the bread is crunchy, because of the varieties of seeds on top: fluffy in the inside and best when fresh but, still yummy any time.

For students who really like cooking, and who would consider opening a restaurant and becoming a restaurateur, Yaneev advises to acquire good social skills. Yaneev explained that "some of them (customers) have complaints..., you need to be calm, ... and have .the ability to master many different skills... the business side and the culinary side..."

Yaniv wants to open more "LivBreads" all around NJ, but luckily, there is one right now, right here -- a little bit of culinary heaven right here in Millburn. Stop in to enjoy the delightful offerings at Millburn's one and only LivBreads.

## The Write Stuff: A Collection of Writing from Washington School Students

### Cupcake's Life

By Aadit Shrivastav

Freshly baked  
 Flavorful cupcake  
 Soft frosting  
 Moist cake  
 Colorful sprinkles  
 Paper wrapper  
 Muffin of creaminess  
 Cake in a cup  
 Waits on counter  
 Hand picks it up  
 Happiness Rises  
 Nom! Nom! Nom!  
 Licked and bitten  
 Dream destination: stomach  
 Had a purpose to  
 Be eaten after all



### Off to the Middle School

By Talia Sarafian

Washington School is the best,  
 All the students here are blessed.  
 Teachers and students are all kind,  
 Schools like this are hard to find.

When the school year draws to an end,  
 Students say bye to each and every friend.  
 Summer, Camp, vacation, and fun  
 Students begin to relax in the sun.

But soon, no more days in the pool,  
 Students go off to the middle school  
 New school, new teachers, and  
 many new friends  
 Then everyone waits for the autumn weekends.



### My Heart Soars

By Vaani Varma

The deafening waves crash  
 Then recede with a whisper  
 The pearly white sea foam  
 Speaks to me

The salty air  
 The sand that dusts the seashells  
 The breeze fingering with my hair  
 Speaks to me.

The wispy clouds  
 The melting sun  
 That traces the path  
 For the moon to shine  
 They speak to me  
 And my heart soars.

### Maine's Bright Lightning

By Alex Grossman

The long drive up  
 the lap of soft waves over the rocks  
 Being pulled into the welcoming  
 current  
 The embracing sun of Maine  
 That tangles us in warmth  
 The bright fire punctuating the  
 darkness  
 Of the summer home empty  
 Speaks to me

The foxes walking across the long  
 Grassy landscapes  
 The stories the clouds tell  
 And fade into the night  
 The ponds that fill the land  
 The wet kayaks  
 The shell of crabs  
 Speak to me

The green sprouting leaves  
 And yellow flowers  
 My family's love, the Maine  
 summer's dinners that make mouth  
 sing  
 The porches  
 The view  
 The thousand stars spread over the  
 night  
 Like butter spreading over warm toast  
 Speak to me  
 And my heart soars.

### The sun

By Charlie Goldstein,  
 Managing Editor

(Inspired by e. e. cummings)

Bright  
 &  
 somewouldsay  
 (N  
 O  
 R  
 M  
 A  
 L)  
 butme  
 I  
 think  
 it's SPECIAL.

(like a rainy day in  
 summer)



### Skiing

By Jonathan Navin

Strapping on your boots,  
 attaching your skis,  
 waiting in line,  
 stepping onto  
 the ski lift  
 carried  
 up  
 the mountain,  
 unloading, looking down,  
 pushing off poles,  
 the wind blowing  
 yelling for  
 joy and happiness,  
 when you  
 finally reach the bottom.

### Spring

By Yash Sonchhatra, Features Editor

If Spring were a sport, it would be  
 badminton  
 If Spring were a color, it would be  
 light blue  
 If Spring were a flower, it would  
 be a rose  
 If Spring were a tree, it would be a  
 cherry blossom  
 But if Spring were a scent,  
 It would be the scent of freshly  
 cut flowers



### Meatball! Oh Meatballs!

By Ari Kremmidas

Meatballs! Oh Meatballs!  
 You're a wonderful dish  
 I love you, meatballs,  
 You fulfill every wish.  
 You're covered with sauce  
 And sometimes sprinkled with  
 cheese  
 Meatballs! meatballs!  
 I'm always so pleased.

Meatballs! Oh meatballs!  
 Your sauce is the best  
 You rock, yes you roll  
 I'll never give you a rest  
 You're covered with sauce  
 All over in the bowl  
 Meatballs! Oh meatballs!  
 You satisfy my soul.

Meatballs! Oh meatballs!  
 I love you a lot  
 You're soft, and you're savory  
 Delicious and hot  
 I gobble you up  
 Oh, I can't get enough  
 Meatballs! Oh meatballs!  
 You're wonderful stuff.

## Middle School

*Continued from Page 2.*

accomplishing each one will take. The list allows students to see what they have to do in one glance, and keeps students from taking too long on one task. There are some added responsibilities students will have in sixth grade. Sixth graders will need to be responsible for themselves, meaning: students have to get to their classes on time, they need to know when there are tests, and they need to remember to bring their own lunch money or lunch, to name just a few. These may seem overwhelming, but keeping track of their responsibilities will help. If



*DARE Officer Bryant Baerga with Mrs. Del Vecchio and her class of DARE graduates.*

students are still having difficulty even after making lists, then they can go to a teacher for guidance. Here's a tip to help get to class on time: put three zeroes before they put in their locker combination to help the locker open easily. Most students are more worried about

middle school than they should be. In fact, students should not be worried at all. But with homework and locker combinations off of the worry list, hopefully, students will be a lot less worried. Remember, your teachers and guidance counselors are there to help!

## The Write Stuff *continued...*

### Canoeing

*by Aadit Shrivastava*

I stood on the deck, the paddle in my hand, my life vest strapped around me. I squinted at the bright afternoon sun. It was a nice warm day in the Canadian Rockies, specifically Lake Louise. I looked down at the water, as the bright red color of the boat beckoned me to enter the seat. As I entered the canoe, I dipped my paddle into the water. I took a deep, long breath. Soon enough, I was ready to sail across Lake Louise, and off I went. The breeze blew into my face as my paddle cut through the calm water of the huge lake. I propelled the canoe towards the Victoria Glacier, as I saw the

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## **D.A.R.E.** Assembly Delivers Strong Drug-Free Message

*By Matthew Qiao and Siddhanta Mishra*

360s? Supermans? Tailwhips? These are some of the stunts that the Dialed Action Sports Team presented to Washington School students at the final DARE assembly. "It was a very exciting and interesting assembly," said reporter, Aadit Shrivastava. "I liked when the bike riders jumped over the teachers," another student commented. Students all seemed to agree this was an exciting assembly. The BMX riders first did easy and simple tricks as the announcer named the moves. Then, the announcer reviewed safety gear, which included a helmet, knee pads, gloves, and more. Eventually, the riders performed harder and harder moves, and then it was time for the teacher's turn. Students pointed to the teachers who participated in the stunt. In the first stunt, one of the riders jumped over six teachers. Mrs. Jones said, "My eyes were

closed so I had no idea what was happening or when!" The stunt after that, the other rider did a 360 right over three other teachers! At the end of the assembly, the emcee gave posters to students who could name the stunts performed.

This was really an excellent assembly. The BMX announcer continuously reminded students that living a healthy, drug-free lifestyle is what has propelled all the stunt drivers to perform at such a high level. The DARE message was heard loud and clearly as the emcee encouraged yelps and cheers from all the students. Washington School students are grateful to the DARE program for bringing Dialed Action Sports Team to Washington School!



*Señora, Mr. Weisberger and Detective Ed preparing for wheelies overhead.*

## Congressman Malinowski *continued from Page 2.*

some of his ideas on helping the environment, the congressman answered, "We need to support our scientists. It's the scientists who are researching the causes of climate change, and how we can limit our impact on the environment. But it's also important to support companies that are leading the way in making environmentally friendly changes to their businesses. Whether it's getting rid of unnecessary plastic packaging, or running their facilities on solar energy, there are many ways for companies to become more green." Representative Malinowski further explained some of his initiatives to improve life on our planet: "One of the most important pieces of legislation I'm supporting is the Climate Action Now Act. This bill would commit us to the same goals of the Paris Climate Agreement, and make sure the president creates a plan on how to cut US climate pollution. I'm also supporting many pieces of legislation that address the issues of climate change, increasing our renewable energy usage, and promoting conservation efforts across America." In eight or nine years, the class of 2026 will hopefully all be registered voters. Students can get ready now by being informed and staying informed. Perhaps by then, the congressman will be in the United States senate!

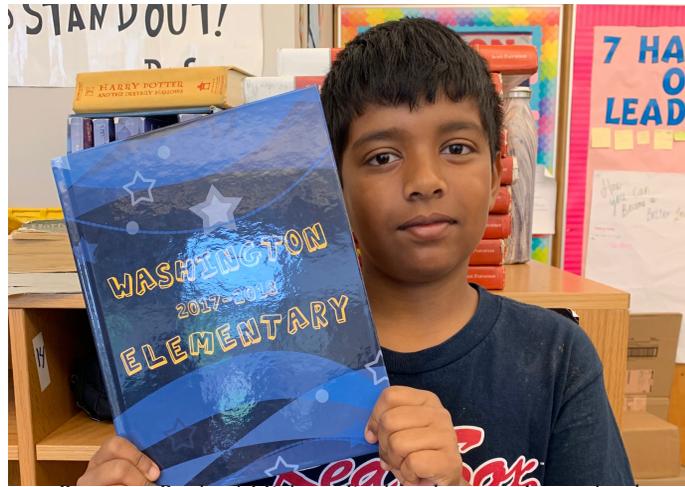
## The Write Stuff

Continued from Page 5.

**Canoeing** Continued from Page 5.

twelve story hotel fade in the distance. The paddle created a soft ripple spreading out towards the grassy shore where the scent of freshly cut grass on damp soil greeted me. The force of the water pressed against the paddle forcing me to paddle harder. Snowy milk white glaciers blanketed the stony rugged mountains. Tall green pine trees bowed down, their branches drooping and swaying in the wind. After surveying the scenery in awe, I knew I needed to return to the dock. I dipped and swung my paddle back to the dock. The experience was stunning. I had to sadly depart the dock. Goodbye, Lake Louise!

## PTO Parents Working to Put Out Yearbook



Reporter Rusheel Mishra displays last year's yearbook.

By Mia Zhou

The end of the school year is approaching. The second-ever Washington School yearbook is in the process of its creation. The 2018-2019 school year was a blast that students will want to capture in pictures forever! Four parents were involved in the

yearbook this year—Laurence Piergentili, Oksana Sysoyeva, Alexis Benbassat, and Nithya Vinayak. Oksana Sysoyeva, the mother of one of our very own newspaper reporters, Maria Iodice, enjoyed the process of the yearbook. Sysoyeva said, "It's a

collaborative effort. They were making pictures of this year and we also used the pictures sent by teachers and class parents. Mrs. Haggerty helped a lot by sending pictures from Code Day and other events." Sysoyeva further explained, "Mrs. Todd and Mrs. Khalap helped us identify staff members, and kids and were a great help throughout the year! It's wonderful for everyone to see that people are helping the yearbook staff. Teamwork is a huge part of making the yearbook." The process was a lot of hard work, but Sysoyeva enjoyed it. "All the team members are not professionals in this field but rather very dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers."

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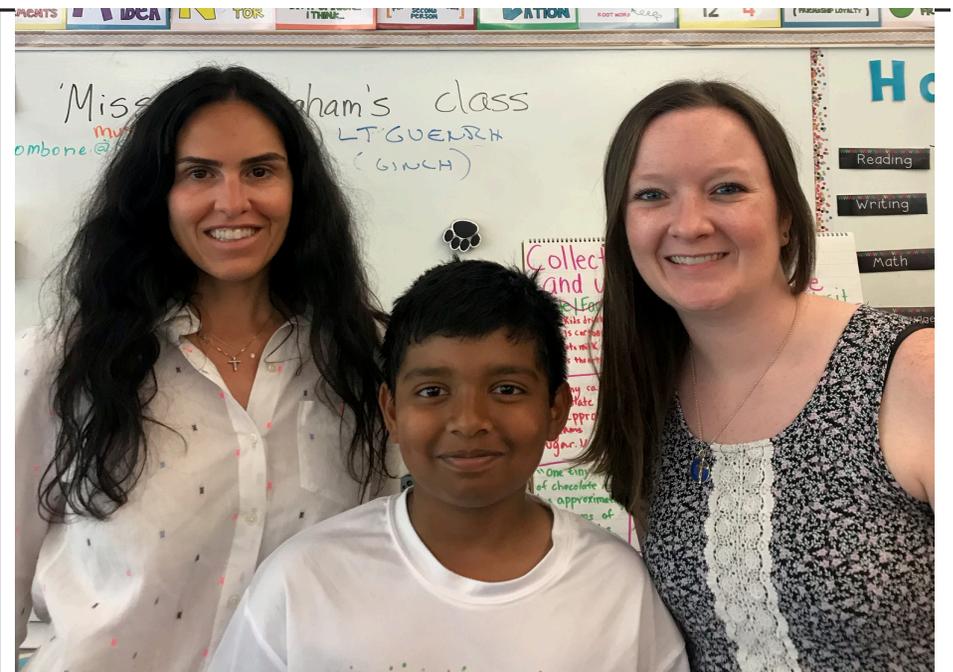
## Washington School's Dazzling Duo

By Rusheel Mishra

Which Washington teachers co-teach as an amazing duo? Give up? It's Miss Cunningham and Mrs. Lederman. These brilliant teachers have many things in common. Both Miss Cunningham and Mrs. Lederman love swimming and country music. In addition, both are huge fans of sports and Starbucks. Miss Cunningham has a passion for softball while Mrs. Lederman is a huge jogger. Together they're a dazzling duo. The variety of students whom Mrs. Lederman and Miss Cunningham have taught is amazing. Mrs. Lederman has taught students of various levels. For example, she has taught students with Tourette Syndrome. Miss Cunningham has taught in Millburn for five years, and has been a spectacular teacher. While Mrs. Lederman has taught in Millburn for twenty years. Both are Washington classics. Outside of school both Cunningham and Lederman

lead unique and interesting lives. Cunningham loves to spend time with her family. She especially likes spending time having fun with her sisters, Nora and Deirdre. On the other hand, Lederman has a very busy schedule. She lives in Florham Park, NJ with her four children ranging in age from 12 to 5. "Miss Cunningham can relate to us quickly, and she's a lot of fun," says Parker Justice in Cunningham's class.

One feature that is unique about Cunningham and Lederman is that they co-teach. Co-teaching means two teachers work together to teach a class. "I like it because both of the teachers teach what they are good at so then I get the most benefit," says student Ryan Goldblatt. This shows how rich the co-teaching experience is. Cunningham and Lederman are excellent teachers, and Washington School students are fortunate to have them. When asked what their favorite grade is, they both replied "Fifth!"



Lederman and Cunningham posed with reporter Mishra.

## The Knock Knocks Continued...

By Rusheel Mishra

Q: What is something that has to be broken before you can use it?

A: **An egg!**

Q: What kind of bug likes to sneak up on you?

A: **Spy-der**

Q: Why should you worry about the math teacher holding up a piece of graph paper?

A: **She's definitely plotting something.**

Q: What do you call a number that cannot stop moving around?

A: **A roamin' numeral.**

Q: Why do plants hate math?

A: **Because it gives them square roots.**

Q: Yesterday a book fell on my head ...

A: **Well, I only have the shelf to blame.**

Q: Why did Shakespeare write with ink?

A: **Because he couldn't decide which pencil to use... 2B or not 2B!**

Q: Where does a cow go when it's hungry?

A: **To the calf-eteria.**

Q: What's Beethoven's favorite fruit? A: **Ba-na-na-naa**

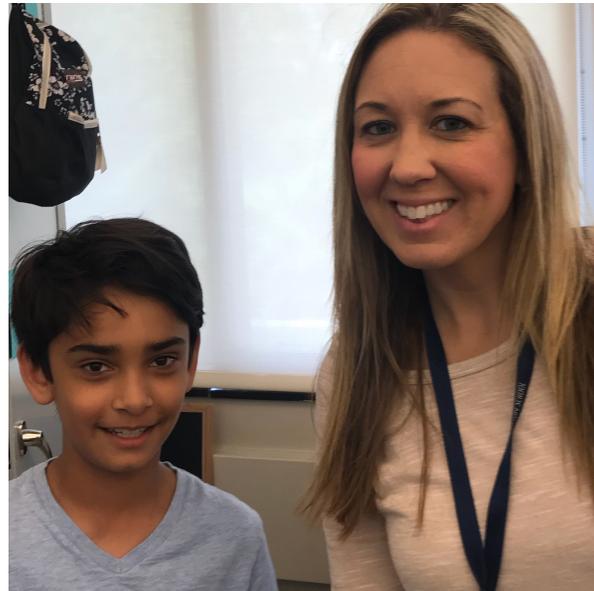
## Dynamic Del Vecchio

By Aadit Shrivastava

Almost everyone in Washington School knows Mrs. Del Vecchio, a teacher in Pod L. But, did you know she has two kids, four year old Matteo and two year old Avianna? Mrs. Del Vecchio is an amazing teacher from Wyoming School.

There's more to her life than teaching! Every morning, she takes a 25 minute drive without traffic, and an hour drive with traffic from Nutley, NJ. In rotations, she is the science teacher. Her favorite part of Washington School is the Leader in Me program. "It has made my students goal oriented, organized, and responsible," she said. She also tries to make her teaching as

## People are talking about.....



Reporter Shrivastava pictured with Del Vecchio as fun as possible. After school Del Vecchio likes running, and loves the outdoors. In summer, she loves the beach.

Del Vecchio is an amazing teacher at Washington School whose students really appreciate her enthusiasm and passion for life.

## The Amazing Mrs. O'Gorman

By Josephine Weaver

Cuts and scrapes, viruses and stomach aches, the nurse has cured it all. Think back to a time when someone in your class said "I don't feel well" Where did they go? To Mrs. O'Gorman! You might not think of the nurse as anything other than the nurse, but this woman is so much more. She is not only a school nurse, but a mother of three. Let's look at the spectacular things Mrs. O'Gorman has done throughout her life, and does every day. This nurse wasn't always a nurse. She was inspired to be a nurse when her own children were in school. All mothers work very hard every day. Imagine being a mother with a full time job as a school nurse. That's what Mrs. O'Gorman did for many years.

In addition to working as a nurse, "I worked in real estate and I taught English when I lived in Asia," said Mrs. O'Gorman. These jobs are very different from nursing, but she still did it all! *Continued on Page 8.*

## Mr. B Inspires Washington School Students

By Vaani Varma and Renee Ding

Mr. Berezny, our current technology teacher, has had quite a unique life: a teacher, then a rapper, then a teacher again. With years of rapping experience, and "always [being] on the grind," he's an inspiration to everyone - through his music and his teaching. He was inspired by many rappers such as Eminem, Nas, Big L, Notorious Big, Jay-Z, 50 Cent, and various other 90s rappers. "Their music connected me, and I fell in love with that whole genre of music," says Berezny. It was in 8th grade, when the young Berezny started freestyling with his friends. When Berezny started rapping, his parents disliked the idea. "They weren't supporters until one or two years ago," explained Berezny. Rapping may seem simple, but it sometimes takes Berezny months to write, record, and post just one song. Recently, Berezny reached 1,000 subscribers on his YouTube channel. "I achieved a small goal. I'm excited, but I don't put much importance in the numbers."

Berezny is very talented, and even won a rapping competition with a prize of \$50. Berezny was inspired to become a teacher because of his high school psychologist, Mrs. Cerza. Berezny loves teaching, but the experience can be frustrating. "One thing I don't like to see is kids not living up to their potential." He explained that he was once *that* student, but once he started wanting to learn, he excelled. "Not having enough time to teach kids what they want to learn is frustrating," said Berezny. As an educator, Berezny is motivating and encouraging. "Students of Washington [School], you are in one of the best school districts in the world. Be thankful for what you have," Berezny exhorted. "Take advantage of this opportunity to become as successful as possible. LIV3 YOUR DR3AMS!" Berezny's biggest dream is to be one of most inspirational teachers in the world. So go, get inspired and live your dreams, just like the one and only Mr. Berezny!



## Bus Driver Dispenses Extra Dose of Daily Kindness

By Vidya Bindal

Ms. Aida, bus driver for Bus 6 is a kind and thoughtful woman who cares about her bus students, and takes it upon herself to get her bus students gifts for their birthdays. "She treats every child she has on her bus as one of her own," a Bus 6 student rider commented. Aida has two beautiful children, 36 year old Jossian and 38 year old Marian.

When asked the question of why she likes being a bus driver, Aida responded, "I love kids, so being a bus driver is a thrill." Her heart is filled with kindness and sweetness to all. She gives each of her students a hug when breezing in and departing the bus. She interacts with each and every one of her student bus riders with a "good morning!" or "see you tomorrow!" In fact, she even helped students memorize their dialogues for Spanish class, helping with pronunciation and memorization. Aida is the best bus driver anyone could ever have, and she is a unique and special person to have in the lives of Washington School Bus 6 students.

## The Amazing Mrs. O'Gorman

*Continued from Page 7.*



*Reporter Josephine Weaver enjoyed getting to know the many unique facets of Mrs. O'Gorman.*

Mrs. O'Gorman is very cultured. She has lived in or been to many different places around the world. In fact, she was born in Ireland. O'Gorman has also worked as a nurse in Ireland and England, and she even lived in Asia. She went to nursing school in Dublin, Ireland. Before being a

school nurse, O'Gorman worked as a hospital nurse, a pediatric nurse, and nurse for a liver doctor.

Every Friday O'Gorman stands in the main office and delivers the Friday "Mindful Moment." "The Friday mindful moment is important because it reminds us to take care of ourselves, and that we need to relax, and be present, and not worry about the future or the past," explained O'Gorman. She has been meditating and practicing yoga for 14 years. She believes both help the mind and body stay centered, calm, and healthy.

O'Gorman may be a school nurse, but really she is so much more. Not only is she well cultured, but she is calm, and a great person not only to talk to, but just in general. Next time you need to go to the nurse whether to get tissues, or because you're not feeling well, don't be nervous, because the wonderfully amazing Mrs. O'Gorman will be waiting for you.



*Mr. B. teaching Mrs. Jones's class about Mindset Mondays.*

## Mindset Mondays with Mr. B.

*By Charlie Goldstein, Managing Editor*

Mindset Monday was created by Mr. Berenzy. He designed it to help students stay on track in school and have the right mindset in life. To understand Mindset Mondays, it helps to know why it was created. Mr. B. said, "talking about mindset is a good way to teach students to live their dreams." Mr. B. enjoys teaching ways to expand student thinking and broaden their mindsets. He wants students to identify their dreams, set specific goals, and achieve their dreams by living them.

## Getting to Know Mrs. Khalap

*By Emma Marx*

Which staff member has lived in India, Australia, England, and the Maldives? Our own office administrator, Mrs. Khalap. She has worked at Washington School since it began. Khalap has also worked at all the Millburn schools as a substitute teacher. Her work life has not been a series of school jobs. Khalap has also worked at Four Seasons Hotel.

When asked about her present job, Khalap said, "The most challenging part of my day is dismissal." Khalap also explained how the most exciting day of her day is seeing all the students happy every day. When asked what she likes most about Washington School, she answered, "I like that the students from all the different schools are all together before middle school."

Speaking of students, Khalap has two children in the Millburn School District. Mrs. Khalap has visited many countries. Readers may also be surprised to find out that cooking is one of Khalap's many talents. "I have a culinary degree," she divulged. Washington School is lucky she has decided to put her many talents to work right here!



*Globetrotter Khalap pictured here in Rome on one of her many exciting vacation destinations.*

## Ms. Rosa Wows Washington School Music Students

*By Yash Sonchhatra, Features Editor*



Who is the teacher who loves NYC, ravioli and cheese? Ms. Rosa of course! Rosa joined the Washington School faculty in January, when Mr. Mulford, the Monday Band teacher, was transferred to the Middle School. Rosa grew up in New Jersey and loved sports like soccer. As a child, she also liked skateboarding. Her father and sister were musicians which is part of the reason she chose to become a music teacher. "Music has always been a big part of my

life." says Rosa. Mr. Mulford, Ms. Feng and Ms. Rosa have all been to the Eastman School of Music but at different times.

Rosa has a pet rabbit, and her favorite food is ravioli. Rosa's high school band director was her inspiration to become a music teacher. "He was very kind and supportive," said Rosa. Queen, The Beatles and Green Day are all Rosa's favorite bands. She likes punk rock, classic rock and classical music. As a child, Rosa loved music, and has written numerous songs and arrangements which have been played across the country and even overseas! Rosa also plays numerous instruments, for example, the bassoon, saxophone, piano, flute, clarinet and many more, but her main and favorite instrument is the bassoon. She was also once on TV for her songs. Her favorite city is NYC, and she says that she will always love it. Washington School is lucky to have Ms. Rosa teaching its music students.



of the Town *continued from Page 3...*

### Book Review: *Keeper of the Lost Cities* By Talia Sarafian

For 12 years, Sophie Elizabeth Foster has been living among humans with a big secret: she can read minds. But living with humans is torture for her, because she can hear every single thought of the people around with no way of tuning out or turning off all the sounds. Sophie desperately tries to blend in, but being the only 12-year-old high school senior, she sticks out like a sore thumb.

Sophie's life changes when a mysterious boy takes her to a huge glittering, crystal city of elves with special abilities like her. But elves are definitely not what humans think they

are. Elves are beautiful creatures with blue eyes (except Sophie has brown eyes) giant crystal houses, and million-dollar birth funds. Living with the elves gives Sophie a fresh start, but life remains difficult. She knows no one, and has no true family. And even there she doesn't completely fit in. Read to find out all about Sophie's trials and struggles to find her place, and all the lessons she learns.

In this compelling seven book series of fantasy, heartache, and fast-paced action, Shannon Messenger spins an engaging, epic tale with the themes of friendship, uniqueness, and unity that will keep readers on the edge of their seats.



### Spy School Series

By Siddhanta Mishra

*Spy School* by Stuart Gibbs is an amazing series that feels like the real world. Twelve year old Ben Ripley is recruited to the CIA as bait to get rid of the agency moles. But the CIA grossly underestimates the youngster. Check out Ben's many adventures that lead him to Mexico, France, and Britain. Be prepared for some exciting plot twists and turns!

### Book Review: *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*

By Franna Hawkworth

*The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill is an amazing tale with equally amazing characters who make the story so engaging. Since the story's townspeople believe a witch lives in the woods, every year they leave a baby on the Day of Sacrifice to appease the witch. The witch is actually kind, and brings each baby to another city to be raised. One year, the witch accidentally gives her magic to the baby. Read to find out what happens as the baby grows up. There are exciting twists and turns as she learns the truth about herself, and tries to save everyone she loves.

## Washington School Musicians Hit All the Right Notes

By Daniel Han

Audiences were treated to the melodious orchestral sounds and action packed strains of band music at the awesome strings and band concert on May 21st and May 29th. These were momentous events for the student musicians and all their family members. While Mrs. Langer, Ms. Feng, Mr. Bloomquist, Ms. Rosa and Mr. Miller conducted with astonishing moves, the audiences enjoyed two amazing concerts with a variety of songs and arrangements from Tchaikovsky to Del Borgo.

Held on May 21st, the band concert showcased the two well rehearsed bands from Ms. Rosa and Mr. Miller. Each performed four selections which they had practiced all year long.

The May 29th strings concert presented the three orchestras from the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday groups. Each performed four selections which



Langer leads Wednesday's strings group in final Millburn concert. Students and colleagues will miss Langer's creativity, musicianship & warmth.

showed their months of hard work and practice paid off. Listening to how well all the stringed instruments played together from the bass to the violins is a testimony to Habit 6: Synergize. Sadly, one of the big moments of the evening came when strings teacher and music expert, Mrs. Kathryn Langer announced her move to Pennsylvania. *The Washington School Post* wishes her well in all her future endeavors - she will be missed in Millburn!

## Focus on the Future:

### Fifth Graders Pay a Visit to Middle School

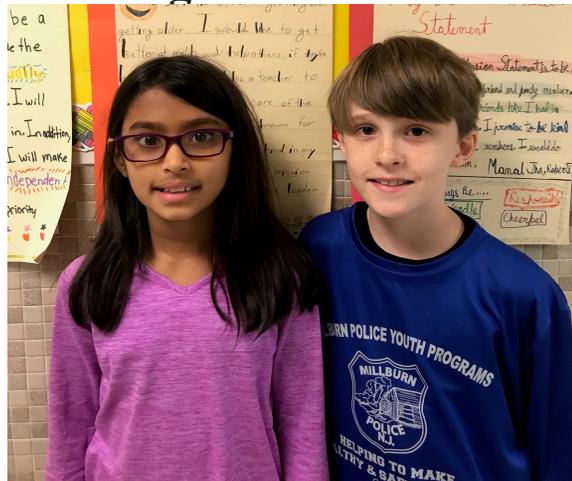
By Vaani Varma and Renee Ding

Buses rolled into the school's driveway, making just as much noise as the students walking towards them. Crammed into the bus, the fifth graders were on the way to their future school. Greeted by 7th grade peer leaders, some students proceeded on a school tour while others went to the Maker Room. All students met at the cafeteria where a video was presented, and questions were asked and answered. After rotating activities, all pods met in the auditorium for a wonderful performance by the 6th grade band, orchestra, and chorus. The principal, Mr. Connolly, had a few words about the teachers and

administrators and the middle school experience as a whole. The students of Washington School had a few words as well, "I'm really excited!" remarked a fifth grader boarding the bus back to Washington School. "It will be fun to switch classes and have lockers." commented Teagan Kane. "The general opinion on the middle school is that it's scary, but the visit definitely helped people get over their fears," remarked Charlie Goldstein, Managing Editor of *The Washington School Post*. Middle School will be a different experience for Washington School students, but by all accounts, the class of '26 will be well prepared and ready for what lies ahead.



## Washington School Students Make Headlines!



Washington School Post editor-in-chief, Zeitler pictured with contest winner Bhandari.

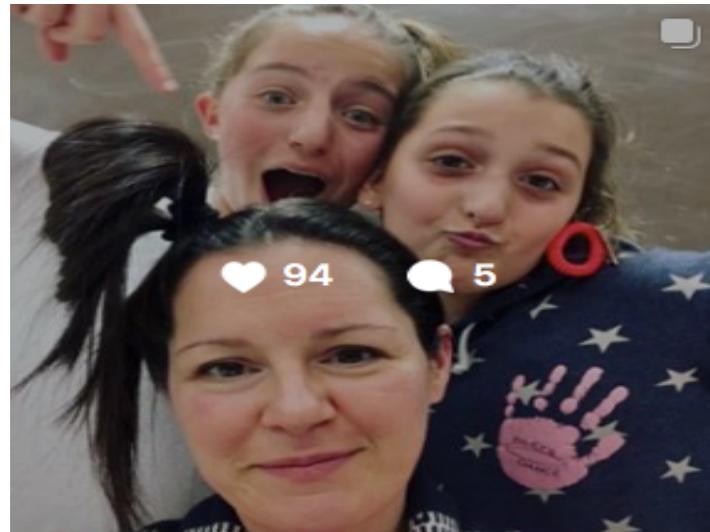
### Bhandari Wins Writing Contest

By Saul Zeitler, Editor-in-Chief

After noticing a small contest ad on the back of *Scholastic Scope Magazine*, Washington School student Isha Bhandari, prompted by her tutor, decided to enter the "Spicy Contest." Bhandari was tasked with convincing the Scope Bistro to put spicy food on the menu. In this

hypothetical situation, Bhandari rocked her piece, and after months of waiting, finally in May, received a letter from Scope Magazine telling her she was one of the select few to win the contest. After receiving her prize of a \$25 visa gift card, she commented, "I was shocked. I thought there was no chance I would win because I entered in February and got awarded in May." Bhandari doesn't plan on stopping here, in fact, she is currently entering "the welcoming contest."

Bhandari has been writing since she was six, and plans to eventually use her talent to be an author when she grows up.



Entrepreneur Axelrod pictured with her Hebrew School teacher and pal, Maya Barness.

### Hair by Claire Poised to Go Viral

By Yash Sonchhatra, Features Editor and Jane Shornos

Fifth grader Claire Axelrod is a bonafide entrepreneur. Started in March of 2018, her "Hair by Claire" business has blossomed on Instagram. Self-taught from Youtube videos, Axelrod has become an expert at braiding hair and creating intricate hair styles for her clients. "I taught myself how to do a regular braid and I watched

*Continued on page 11.*

## Ishaan Satish Becomes Robotics Champion



By Jane Shornos

The Washington School Post congratulates fifth grader, Ishaan Satish who became first place champion for Teamwork in the New Jersey State Robotics Contest. Satish took second place in the "Skills in Robotics" category which qualified him to participate in the World Robotics Championship in Kentucky. The whole school is proud of Ishaan.

"I was not surprised to hear of Ishaan's accomplishments - he's a talented and gifted mathematician and a creative thinker," commented his teacher, Mrs. Jones.

Above, Satish holds his awards. Below, Satish and teammate proudly display their newly won banner for Teamwork Challenge Champion. Kudos, Ishaan!



## The "Cactus Crew" Inspires Cunningham's Class

By Rusheel Mishra

Every year hundreds of students write letters to their favorite authors. The "Cactus Crew" made up of students Isla Tomko, Zoe Kremmidas, and Leilani Westfall Kwong were three among the hundreds of other students who contacted their favorite authors. But with Miss Cunningham's help, the "Cactus Crew" got their whole class involved. The "Cactus Crew" was born when Tomko, Kremmidas, and Westfall Kwong were planning their Leadership Day project. Since three students were inspired by Bowling's *The Insignificant Events in a Life of a Cactus*, they decided to research the author. Cunningham advised the students to get in touch with the author, thus the skype connection was in the works. On May 28, author Dowling paid a cyber visit to Cunningham's classroom. All of Cunningham's students participated in the engaging skype experience with author Dusti Bowling.



### As 5th Graders Move On, 4th Graders Move In!

By Jacob Parker

As fifth graders get ready to graduate from the Washington School, they can reflect on their first introduction of the school. Seeing fourth graders walking the halls for the first time during their recent orientation, perhaps the current fifth graders remembered walking these halls for the first time. The students of Hartshorn, Glenwood, Deerfield, South Mountain, and Wyoming will come together for the first time at school. New people, new school, new everything. Perhaps fifth grade readers remember when they were smaller, and less experienced, remembering how they felt facing a new school, making new friends and meeting new teachers. Worried, scared, or excited?

*Continued on Page 11.*



### Martha's Vineyard Offers a Fun Filled Vacation

By Charlie Goldstein, Managing Editor



The school year is coming to a close, and some students at Washington School are looking forward to a fun filled vacation at camp. But some students don't go to camp. A fun filled summer off of school should be, well... fun, and one place lives up to that expectation... Martha's Vineyard.

The Vineyard is a haven for all types of people. With amazing bike trails and pristine beaches. The Winnetu is a 4.6 star kid-friendly hotel by the beach. Situated near a farm and a great restaurant, the hotel is a ten minute ride from Edgartown, the main town with ferry access to Chappaquiddick, a great place to bike and run. The restaurant by the Winnetu, The Right Fork Diner has excellent food including super family breakfasts, and offers biplane rides for the family. You can take a five hour drive to a ferry that carries your car, as well as a short flight to the Vineyard.

Overall, Martha's Vineyard is a great place to go, but there are other vacation spots. Fifth grader Shane Posner goes to Camp Winadu. "After I go to my grandparents lake house, and we go fishing, tubing and jet skiing."

Thank you for reading *The Washington School Post* this year, and good luck at the Middle School.

### Hair by Claire

Continued from Page 10.

a regular braid, and I watched Youtube videos on more complicated braids. My mom taught me how to do a rench braid," Axlerod explained. Her business evolved naturally as friends began asking her to style their hair for special events. Through word of mouth, and then Instagram and her website, Axlerod's Hair by Claire has grown into a bonafide enterprise. "I'm so impressed with Claire's organization, creativity and work ethic," her teacher Mrs. Jones said. "She has not only created a profitable business, she has maintained her high academic standards all year long. Claire exhibits true leadership qualities. She's an inspiration!"

### Washington School Students Rock the NJSLA, Formerly Known as PARCC

By Hetvi Patel

Washington School students were well prepared for the five days of NJSLA testing. Students were tested for 90 minutes with small breaks in between. Before test week, students practiced a bit in their classrooms, and learned what they would need: most importantly, a well-charged Chromebook and working ear buds. "Not rushing, and checking work carefully are two keys to having a student's score reflect his or her true ability," explained Mrs. Jones. In addition to Math and Language Arts, Washington Wolves were also tested in Science. "I feel certain our students performed well on all the tests," Mrs. Schaefer said confidently. *The Washington School Post* agrees: Washington School students rocked all the tests!

### Fourth Grade Orientation

Continued from Page 10.

Fifth grade tour guide Hetvi Patel said, "The kids asked so many questions, but I was pleased to answer them. Most questions were about the Media Den. One of the questions that I was happy to answer was, if I liked the Washington school, which of course, I do!"

Andrew Shan added, "I tried to escort them as the kids escorted me last year. The kids were good listeners, and I feel they are ready to come to Washington School."

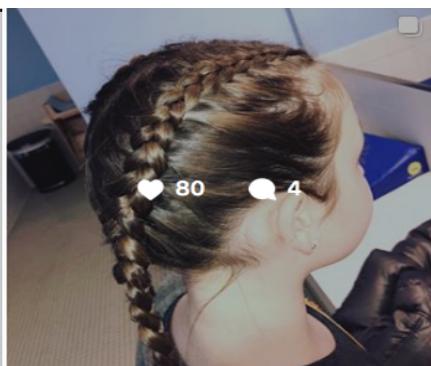
"The kids on my tour were really happy to be at our school, and it was especially fun showing the kids around our classrooms. They were most excited about seeing the Spanish room and the Media Den," Abby Borofsky said. Lastly, Sofia Ramos said, "Touring the kids around was very exciting and interesting, they laughed, had fun, and most importantly, got to know our school. I think it was beneficial having the fourth graders come to see Washington school for the first time." Out with the old, in with the new. Good luck, incoming fifth graders!

### Off to Summer Camp

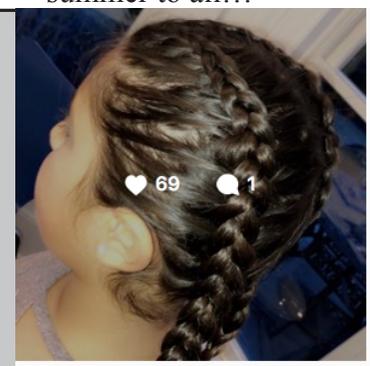
By Ella Culligan

Most students are looking forward to summer. After all, it's full of fun. Many children occupy themselves with a camp during summer, whether it's a day camp or a sleepaway camp. All camps are different, and are a fun way to spend time during summer. Chinqueka is an all girls sleepaway camp, located in Connecticut. Anyone from ages 6-16 can spend up to eight weeks there. Many girls who attend for their first time come back next year for more - and it's not a surprise why. At Chinqueka, campers enjoy a range of fun activities during the day, and an evening activity after dinner which

involves the entire camp. Throughout the day there are a variety of fun activities, cabin clean-up, free time, lunch, rest hour, electives, more free time, dinner, and the evening activity of the day. Finally, a fun day at Chinqueka ends. Most girls end up enjoying Chinqueka, which can make summer feel even more fun. Another sleepaway camp nearby, called Awosting, is a boys camp very similar to Chinqueka. They are two very good options for those who want something fun to do during the summer months. *The Washington School Post* wishes a super summer to all!!!



**Hair by Claire**  
**@hair.by.claire.10**  
**On Instagram**



"Oh, You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby....."

**The Great Baby Challenge:** Can you pick out Principal Mercurio? Find Mrs. Haggerty before she became a technology guru? Can you match the *Washington School Post* reporters (Editor-in-chief Saul Zeitler, Managing Editor, Charlie Goldstein, Features Editor, Yash Sonchhatra, Literary Editor, Franna Hawksworth, reporters Renee Ding, Daniel Han, Talia Sarafian, Emma Marx, and Avantika Choudhury) with their baby pictures? Pick out newspaper faculty advisors, Mrs. Briber and Mrs. Jones? (See if you can also find Mrs. Jones's newest grand-baby -- hint: look for similar "peepers.") Can you spot Mrs.Emmanouilidis as a baby, and find her newest family addition, baby Anthony? Good luck!! If you give up -- the answers are sideways on the bottom of this page. But try first before looking at blurry answer key!!

**Baby Buzz Here and Abroad**

*By Yash Sonchhatra, Features Editor*

With Mrs. Emmanouilidis giving birth to a baby boy in April, and Mrs. Van Dzura on maternity leave, Washington School is abuzz with babies! And across the pond on May 6, Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Sussex gave birth to a son, Archie Harrison Mountbatten Windsor. Baby Archie was born at 5:26 AM British time in a London hospital. Baby Archie will hold dual citizenship as Meghan Markle is American. He will be the first royal to ever hold dual citizenship. Prince Harry said "Archie has given me a focus and a goal." Harry and Meghan's child will live a very different life from his cousins: Princess Charlotte, Prince Louis and Prince George. He is seventh in line to the throne. The birth of baby Archie will enhance the already amicable relationship with the United States and England.

**Kim Tomsic Speaks at Washington School**

*By Ella Culligan*

On May 17, all packs were treated to author, Kim Tomsic who presented two of her books: *The 11:11 Wish* and *Guitar Genius*. She described both books' main characters and shared a little about her own life.

*Guitar Genius* is about a boy who tries to improve his guitar in different ways, using parts of different household objects, and eventually invents the electric guitar.

In *The 11:11 Wish*, Megan moves from Colorado to Arizona. She makes a wish at 11:11 on a cat clock. Many Washington School students were curious about her wish. Remember, the answer is in Tomsic's book! Abigail Goldberg said, "I love how she left it in suspense. It really makes me want to read the book!" Students seemed to enjoy Kim Tomsic's presentations, and had a lot of questions. Put her books on your summer reading list to see how the plots turn out!



Baby A.



Baby B.



Baby C.



Baby D.



Baby E.



Baby F.



Baby G.



Baby H.



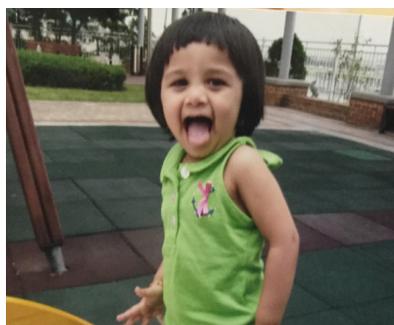
Baby I.



Baby J.



Baby K.



Baby L.



Baby M.



Baby N.



Baby O.



Baby P.

**Thank you!!**

We would like to thank Mr. Mercurio for his unwavering support of the newspaper. We'd also like to thank the Washington School PTO for their generous funding and support. And mucho thanks to Mrs Emmanouilidis and Mrs. Haggerty for always answering the call (or email) with answers to any and all questions, and to Mrs. Foley for always supplying last minute pictures and always giving positive feedback. To the editor-in-chief, Saul Zeitler, you have been a sublime editor, an excellent writer and a first rate leader. To our managing editor, Charlie Goldstein, there is no mountain you would not climb for the newspaper. Together, you two have been the heart and soul of *The Washington School Post*. And to all our wonderful writers and reporters, you have constantly amazed us with your talent and growth. It has been an enormous pleasure working with an awesome principal, a supportive PTO, and an outstanding group of students whom we will dearly miss. To all our reporters we say a humble thank you for allowing us to work with you all. Please keep reading and writing!!!! We wish you continued success as you continue your educational journey.

With appreciation and humble thanks, *Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Briber*

PS. Our sincerest apologies for any errors or omissions. We are sorry if we have left out any articles or pictures or made any blunders or typos. Remember, "to err is human, to forgive, divine."

- Baby Answer Key.
- Baby A: Daniel Han
  - Baby B: Mrs. Jones
  - Baby C: Saul Zeitler
  - Baby D: Franna Hawksworth
  - Baby E: Mrs. Emmanouilidis
  - Baby F: Mrs. Jones's grand-baby
  - Baby G: Mrs. Haggerty
  - Baby H: Mr. Mercurio
  - Baby I: Talia Sarafian
  - Baby J: Mrs. Emmanouilidis
  - Baby K: Mrs. Haggerty
  - Baby L: Avantika Choudhury
  - Baby M: Yash Sonchhatra
  - Baby N: Mrs. Briber
  - Baby O: Mrs. Jones
  - Baby P: Renee Ding