



Black Lives Matter in Millburn

By Ava Malisci

On June 7, 2020 protestors for the Black Lives Matter movement marched from the Millburn High school to Taylor Park to stop police brutality and racial injustice. The rally lasted about three hours, and about 1,000 people participated. "I was witnessing history!" said Washington School student Sophia Van Roon.

One of the many catalysts for this rally and those happening around the country was the death of George Floyd, an African American man who was suffocated to death at the hands of the police force in Minneapolis. The officer responsible for his death was Derek Chauvin who knelt on Floyd for almost nine minutes while Floyd said he could not breathe. Some tried to help Floyd, but he suffocated to death.



A moving reunion for Millburn Middle School librarian, Amy Ipp, and some of her students carrying poignant protest signs at Taylor Park.

"There is an urgency that dictates that finding a solution cannot wait."

-Millburn Board of Education Member, Oyin Owolabi

Congressman Tom Malinowski, and Alex Zaltsman, the head of the Board of Education. Zaltsman talked about "cultural awareness." Washington School parent and member of the Millburn Board of Education, Oyin Owolabi also spoke at the rally. She spoke because "I felt inspired by the need to find a solution to the problem at hand. I felt that there is an urgency that dictates that finding a solution cannot wait." Washington School's nurse, Mrs. O'Gorman also attended the rally. "I feel very strongly about social justice and wanted to show up for what I believe in," O'Gorman said. Curriculum supervisor Holly Foley also marched in solidarity with everyone: "I attended the rally on Sunday because I believe that Millburn's Black community deserves support and solidarity to make changes that are necessary to provide equality to all. I was inspired by the incredible turnout and the powerful speeches. It gave me so much hope and joy."

The rally was completely peaceful, and a few roads were closed off for the protestors. People of all ages and all races were at the rally to protest against the seeds of racism still interwoven into our current society. "It's truly amazing," Jade Wicker said. "Even a year ago, I never would have thought something like this would take place in Millburn, but seeing this happen today gives me hope that there's going to be real change not only in Millburn, but in New Jersey and in this country as a whole." Wicker is an African American Millburn High School senior who has experienced racism and wants it to stop.

O'Gorman was impressed with "how strong and articulate and brave the MHS seniors were when they spoke with such passion and honesty about their personal experiences of racism." O'Gorman also commented on "how difficult life can be for black people, on a daily

basis. Things that I, as a white person take for granted are denied to people of color. So many are not treated equally or given the same opportunities, respect, or shown the same kindness. That black mothers fear for their children's lives every time their child leaves the house. Heartbreaking."

This event shows people are banding together to create a different future for others, and hopefully a better future for everyone. Owolabi was optimistic: "I believe people get it, and I also feel people spoke with one voice and that the time for change



Curriculum Supervisor, Holly Foley donned mask to support social justice.

is now." She also advised Washington School students to "believe in something bigger than yourself. Be an agent for change. Be the change that you desire, and be a part of the solution." O'Gorman's message to Washington School students is to "always have the courage to speak up against injustice. To be compassionate and kind to everyone. To recognize that we are far more alike than we are different." Foley is also optimistic about Millburn School District's response to the

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Washington School music teacher, Cynthia Longley Richards attended the rally and shared this picture of protestors gathering at MHS.

The rally in Taylor Park was about how to stop the problems we have now. Many people attended the rally to show support for social justice and to show that in Millburn, black lives matter. Many officials were there to speak at the rally too, such as

Farewell to Four Founding Faculty Members

Black Lives Matter

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movement. "There are tons of initiatives in place to make Millburn Townships schools more inclusive."

Protests like this provide different points of views, and the opportunity to learn something new and create a community for people to come together.



Pictured third from left, Foley poses with her Crossover posse of Middle School and Washington School teachers on their rounds to observe different classes in action.

Mrs. Foley Leaves Spring Street for Oak Street

By Sophia Hou and Eliana Barker

Curriculum Supervisor, Holly Foley has been a driving force in helping Washington School's students adjust to fifth grade and transition smoothly to the Middle School. But soon she will oversee an entire school of multi-grade students when she takes the helm in September as principal of the Oak Street K - 5 Elementary School in

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A Legend Leaves Millburn

By Mischa Williams-Owolabi

Guitars, Air Hockey, fun and games. All of these words probably remind you of a special teacher. One who makes learning fun, plays guitar, has his very own air hockey table, and allows his students to have fun and games while learning! You probably know Mr. Weisberger as the cool teacher down the hall, or you might have him as a teacher right now! No matter how much you know him, he is no doubt one of the BEST teachers a student could have.

If you are in his class, you probably remember having to bring a grapefruit to school on the first day, or making the "Worst Student of the Week Posters" and hanging them in the hall. And on the first day of school, his class had to pick from the Sorting Shoe to find out where they would sit. Mr. Weisberger is energetic, happy and great to be around, and he definitely brings light to Washington School.

Mr. Weisberger has been at Washington School since it opened in 2017, and has been teaching in Millburn for a whopping 19 years!



When asked what his favorite part of his teaching journey was, he answered, "My favorite part of my teaching journey has been the students. Nothing else even comes close. Every time a student discovered that they could really do something they never thought they could, every time a student learned to not be oversensitive, to have a sense of humor, to take responsibility, to become independent, to think about others, and every smile...it made me happy." Weisberger's journey was long, but it was worth it. He taught students, and had the ability to do what he loved.

His retirement was a big decision. Weisberger said, "At

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Speech, Kids, and Rock and Roll: Mrs. Ferrara Retires

By Mischa Williams-Owolabi

Students and teachers alike are all going to miss our wonderful speech therapist, Mrs. Ferrara who is retiring at the end of the school year. Mrs. Policarpio echoed the sentiment of so many teachers who will miss her companionship, wit and outgoing personality: "I worked next door to Jackie on the ground floor at Wyoming and she was and is always a 'good talk.' She can talk about anything and remembers everything. We will miss her!" Fifth grader, Isaac Schwartz said Mrs. Ferrara was really nice to work with this year, and he especially enjoyed playing Uno with her while working on his sounds.

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A Beloved Teacher Begins a New Chapter

By Lily Boidman

Mr. Weisburger isn't the only teacher retiring from Pack V. Mrs. Di Minni, who has been at Washington School since the very beginning, is leaving the world of education. She has been teaching for 34 years, 19 ½ of which were in the Millburn district.

Mrs. Nord spoke for so many teachers who have gotten to know Mrs. Di Minni and her warmth and wit in their three years at Washington School: "Although I have only known Mrs. Di Minni for three years, we became fast friends. Not only is she an amazing teacher, but she is also a funny, caring, and warm person. I know we will be friends for life, but I will certainly miss her at Washington School!"

Mrs. Di Minni first taught as a pre-school teacher, in Woodland Park. Following that, she taught fifth and sixth grades in Paterson. Finally, she arrived in Millburn and became a second, third, and fifth-grade teacher at South Mountain School.

So many teachers will miss Mrs. Di Minni. Mrs. Jones said, "I'm so happy to have gotten to know



Mrs. Di Minni during our years at Washington School. We have a lot in common - we both have two beautiful granddaughters - almost the same ages! I will miss seeing her every morning as we wait outside for Washington School's doors to open at 7:00."

Mrs. Di Minni stated that after her retirement, she will spend time with her family, especially her granddaughters. She also would like to travel with friends and family. She revealed that she might even finish the children's book she started several years ago. In addition, she hopes to create her own

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Foley converses with Sylvie Benjamin and Prisha Bhavani on a Crossover Day classroom visit to Mrs. Jones's class.

Shi/Washington School Post

Oak Street Bound

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Basking Ridge, NJ. Although Foley has only worked in Millburn for three years, she leaves a lasting legacy of “connectivity” and a legion of teachers and students who have been inspired by her optimism and grace, and her wealth of curriculum resources and know-how always at the ready.

Foley was born in West Germany, during a time when Germany was split into West Germany and East Germany. Afterward, she moved to New Jersey, living in 7 different counties within New Jersey. She has a son, Travis, who is 25, a daughter named Mia, who is 24, and two stepdaughters, Elizabeth who is 33, and Haydee who is 30. She also has two grandchildren, 7-year-old Josephine and 3-year-old Jack. She has worked both at Washington School and Millburn Middle School as a curriculum supervisor for Grades 5-8. She was inspired to work in Millburn because, at the time, the district was building a special new school: Washington School. One of her hobbies includes reading, as she is a big reader. When

asked what three adjectives she would use to describe herself, she said, “*Energetic* because I have a lot of energy, *positive* because I want things to be good, and *caring* because I want everyone to be safe and have everything they need to have.”

One of Foley’s big district innovations is Crossover Day. Foley explained, “We pick three Washington School teachers and three Middle School teachers and we get everyone substitutes. We walk through the classrooms and stay for about 5 minutes in each. We are noticing what all the students are doing, what kinds of assignments they have. We talk about what students can know and do.” She believes that for Washington School, the benefits include being able to help all the teachers understand the expectations, how they can help get the students get ready for middle school, and ways to extend learning. Crossover Day was scheduled monthly to give all teachers at Washington School the opportunity to learn about the Middle School.

A typical day doing her job might include visiting classrooms to help the teachers think about the different strategies and resources

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Farewell to Mrs. Ferrara

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Mrs. Ferrara has been a speech therapist in Millburn for 17 years! Ferrara decided to be a speech therapist because she wanted to help people. When asked why she came to the Washington School, Ferrara said, “I was excited to try something new.”

Everyone who knows Mrs. Ferrara knows how much she loves rock and roll and the Rolling Stones. “Just like her dedication to the Rolling Stones, Mrs. Ferrara’s dedication to her Millburn family over the years is just as evident. She has continued to help not just her students but her colleagues too. She is an amazing friend, teacher, and listener.” said Mrs. Monaco. Mrs. Briber also commented on Mrs. Ferrara’s embracing warmth: “Mrs. Ferrara always has a smile and a cheerful thing to say. She loves to bake and participated in our Cookie Swap.” Mrs. Jones will also miss having Mrs. Ferrara to talk to and exchange books: “We have the same taste in music and literature. My day always brightened when I spent time with Mrs. Ferrara!”

When asked about her retirement plans, Ferrara will definitely make time to rest, relax and “smell the roses.” “The first thing I’m going to do is hide my alarm clock!

A Beloved Teacher Begins a New Chapter

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tutoring business as well as substitute teach from time to time since she is not ready to completely leave the world of education just yet.

“I absolutely love teaching at Washington School,” began Di Minni. “I love teaching fifth grade, and the students are amazing! Mr. Mercurio and Mrs. Emmanouilidis are wonderful to work for, and set the tone for the entire school. Everyone here is like a family - kind, friendly, and very helpful. We all work very hard, but we have fun doing it.”

When asked if she would stay in the neighborhood, Mrs. Di Minni explained that she would, because her family lives nearby and so do all her Millburn friends! Mrs. August echoed the feelings of so many teachers at Washington School: “Mrs. Di Minni is an incredible teacher who is always helpful to her colleagues! She shares everything she works on and helps as a friend too. We are going to miss her tremendously!”

Mrs. Di Minni has had so many amazing times throughout the years teaching that she cannot choose a favorite. But one thing that she loves to observe is the look on a student’s face when they finally understand a topic that they have



Mrs. Ferrara pictured with her daughter, Christine.

I’m looking forward to some serious sleeping!” Ferrara added, “I also love to read, garden, and play Mah Jongg. I have recently started an antiques business, so I’m anxious to continue in that area as well.”

Ferrara really made an impact on all her students. “I’d like to think that I’ve helped them develop confidence in their ability to communicate with others.” Ferrara has helped The Washington School wolves howl a little louder and brighter, and everyone will miss her.

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A Legend Leaves Millburn

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Weisberger pictured with his very first class in Copenhagen.

some point I will be moving to Copenhagen, Denmark. I might want to teach there, like I did at when I lived in Denmark. I also plan to write."

Some might wonder why Weisberger chose to teach at Washington. "I felt like it was the best option available. I was not, and I'm still not, a fan of a one grade level school. On the other hand I really like teaching 5th grade. The kids are great. They know lots of things. They can be taught much more than they ever imagined, and they still like school and their teachers. It's the best grade! And that's why I came." With a great attitude like that, no wonder he's such a great teacher at Washington! Doug Weisberger is a great person, and lots of teachers and students will miss him here in Washington.

Mrs. Jones said, "From the moment I heard Mr. Weisberger speak at the first Washington School faculty meeting, I wondered, 'who is this outspoken teacher?' I'm so happy to have been his colleague and friend for the past 3 years." Jones also continued, "He's such a passionate, energetic and beloved teacher. The students of Millburn are losing an amazing teacher, but I know all his students, every one of them, are carrying his voice with them as they make their way into the world." Curriculum supervisor, Mrs. Holly Foley commented on Weisberger's unique talent of reaching his students and making a true difference in their lives: "Few teachers have impacted so many students so deeply. Mr. Weisberger values caring, critical and creative thinking, and challenging the status quo. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all!"

Both students and teachers are fans of Mr. Weisberger. Tech expert Mrs. Haggerty commented, "Doug is more than a person, he's a presence. And his presence is one that makes everyone around him better. To say he will be missed is an understatement!" Former student of Weisberger, 7th grader, Michael Williams-Owolabi, said, "He was very efficient in teaching. He made learning fun and that made it memorable." Weisberger said there are still lots he wants to do with his life. "I want to get to know my grand-daughter."

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Farewell to Mrs. Foley

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they are using when teaching. During the quarantine as the district's curriculum supervisor, she has been talking to many teachers about distance learning and everything that is going on. She loves how all the teachers at both schools work together as a team and care about all of their students.

In her three years in Millburn, Foley has made a big impact on teachers, students, and everyone's lives. Mrs. Jones said, "From the moment I met Mrs. Foley, I knew she was an extraordinary educator. Every visit she has paid to my classroom has resulted in elevating either my teaching and/or my content. She is a wealth of information and as generous as she is knowledgeable. Millburn will miss Mrs. Foley, but I hope we will stay in touch as friends." Likewise, Mrs. Briber added, "I have worked with Mrs. Foley and she is a lovely, helpful and kind person. She always has great ideas and suggestions to contribute." Mr. Weisberger who is also leaving the halls of Washington School said Foley is "one of the most influential and positive people I've had the privilege to work with."

When asked what she will miss, she said, "Everyone. All the teachers, and students. People are the best part." *The Washington School Post* wishes this vibrant educator well as she prepares to make magic at Oak Street Elementary School.

Mrs. Di Minni is pictured here in action helping a student. Her students fondly remember her hands on approach, her warmth and her patience in making sure all her students learn and understand.



been struggling with. "It's a look of relief and accomplishment for them, and it is priceless," she expressed.

"What I am proud of," Mrs. Di Minni said, "is when former students come back to visit me, telling me how they will always remember certain things I have taught them, or they'll tell me something I had said to them that has helped them throughout the years. It makes me feel great to know that I have really made a difference!" Mrs. Emmanouilidis expressed what all Mrs. Di Minni's colleagues and students are feeling: "Mrs. Di Minni is going to be very missed. Her positive attitude, sense of humor, and her willingness to always be a team player made her a very special teacher. Washington was very lucky to have her!"

We will all be sad to see Mrs. Di Minni leave the hallways of Washington School, but let us wish the best for her.

Loved by All: Mrs. August

By Sophia Hou

This teacher's favorite animal is the elephant. Can you guess who it is? If you guessed Mrs. August from Pack E at Washington School, you are right! Mrs. August lives with her husband and two children, Jude, a 5th grader, and Johanna, a 2nd grader in Scotch Plains. She also has an Australian Labradoodle, and hopes to one day visit an elephant preserve. In total, Mrs. August has taught for 21 years, first teaching in Newark and at Quitman Street School, and then at Tuscan Elementary School in Maplewood. She came to Millburn and taught at The Glenwood School, and now at Washington School, teaching grades one, four and five. Her hobbies and interests include sewing, running, listening to music and reading. *Refugee* by Alan Gratz is a recent favorite because she loves how the writer incorporates different struggles and brings them together, while inspiring the reader to go forth and make a difference in the world. Her favorite season is fall because of the leaves changing color, the perfect temperature, and the scent of fire in the air. When asked what her favorite color is, she said, "I love the rainbow! All colors mixed together just like life!" When asked whether she would prefer to live by a mountain, in a city, or by a beach, she said she

would prefer living by a mountain. An interesting fact about August is that she used to work for a band. If she could travel back in time, she would travel to the time of the Civil



Mrs. August and son, Jude, after running the global mile! War and work for the Underground Railroad, helping runaway slaves. If she could be any animal, Mrs. August responded, "An owl. They are precise and analytical animals that listen, and carefully react to small things." At home with her family because of quarantine, she feels it has been hard because nobody can see friends or family. For example, her brother and sister both graduated, but they could not celebrate. Currently, her family is trying out many virtual methods to help them celebrate.

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A Legend Leaves Millburn

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Weisberger bottom left pictured with his ice hockey team.

Weisberger continued, "I might want to work with people from other backgrounds." He said teaching in America "just isn't as fun as it used to be. I'm retiring from being a teacher in New Jersey, but I'm not really retiring at all. I'm just ready to do something else. You'll understand this the day you graduate high school, or college. You'll just be ready for the next step. In that way, we're very much alike," Weisberger said.

When asked what his message is for the students of Washington School, Weisberger said, "The world can be a little scary, but don't be afraid. Think about the world and others beyond just yourself. If you work to clean the planet and make sure that everyone has the rights that are important to you, then your life will be sweet and peaceful. And maybe you'll find love, and then you will be happy." You see, Weisberger's retirement isn't the end, it's really not. It's just a step, another step, just a part of life.



Always marching to the beat of his own drum, Weisberger is pictured here in an actual drum line!

Loved by All: Mrs. August

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In her classroom, August's students enjoy every day being with her. James Hou, a current student, commented, "Mrs. August is a cool teacher because she has a fun sense of humor, and always encourages everyone." She is a Social Studies rotation teacher as well as a homeroom teacher, a Trep\$ teacher, a co-leader of Washington School's Environmental Club and runs the Geography Bee at Washington School. Her favorite subject is Social Studies because her dad always sat down with her and told her stories about history, inspiring her to want to know more. She also explained that until college, her history teachers were always horrible and never enthusiastic, so her goal has always been to teach history as a story to not only help students learn, but also to feel a part of history. "I've never met a more enthusiastic Social Studies teacher," colleague, Mrs. Jones commented. "Mrs. August is such a generous colleague who is always willing to share her vast knowledge

and resources."

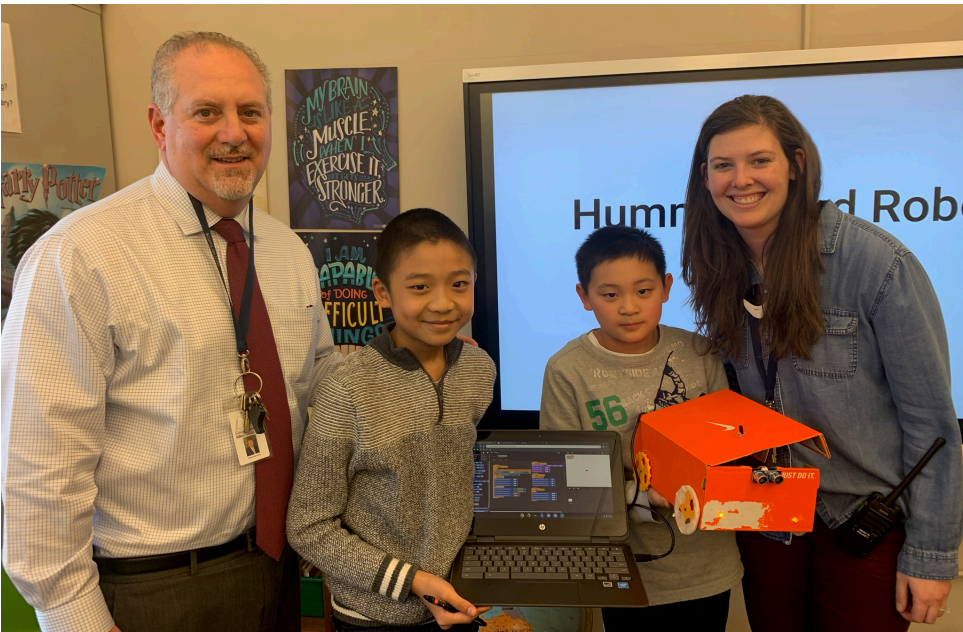
After being asked how teaching online is going, August responded, "I am so happy to see everyone's faces each and every day, and to have good conversations, so that part is going well. I do wish that I could see students more, and do more teaching, but it's not possible with the meetings, student assistance and prep work that I have to do. Plus my own kids needing my help! I wish there was more I could do, but it just doesn't seem possible!" Her favorite part of teaching is watching students grow and love what they do. Mrs. August truly is a wonderful teacher, loved by all her students and colleagues alike!

Mrs. August pictured 2nd from left with the Geography Bee winners, identified in error in our last issue as Spelling Bee winners. Apologies to all for the error!



Hummingbird Robotics: A First Hand Account

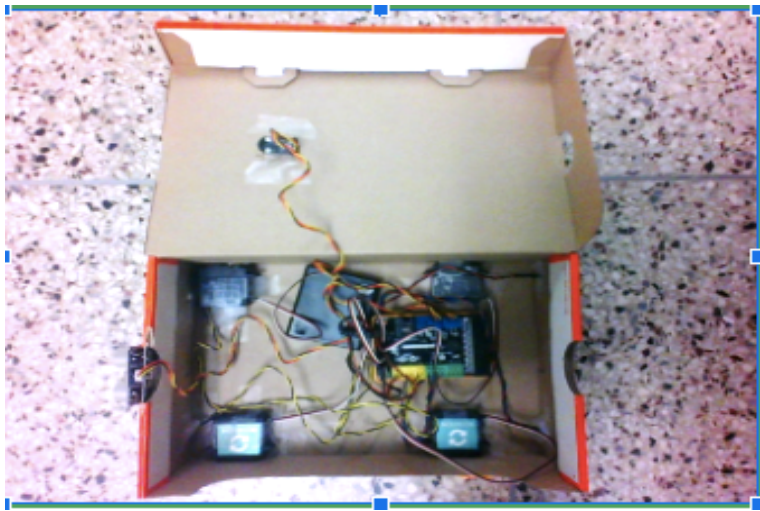
By Ryan Wang and Matthew Shi



Pictured with proud Mercurio and Haggerty are left to right reporters Ryan Wang and Matthew Shi. Robotics are used almost everywhere in our lives: from automatic vacuum cleaners to car assembly machines. But robots can be so inaccessible that most people would not know how to fix one if it broke. But with the Hummingbird Robotics Kit, robotics is simplified down to motors, sensors, and a main logic board. Because of the simplicity of block-based coding and plug and play components, we were immediately able to start tinkering with the kit.

We started this project in early January after completing the basics course with Mrs. Haggerty's guidance. It was called OAV (better known by our class as Bob). OAV stands for Obstacle Avoidance Vehicle and is able to automatically navigate with an ultrasonic(distance) sensor and four servo motors (shown in the the following picture).

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Hummingbird Robotics: A First Hand Account

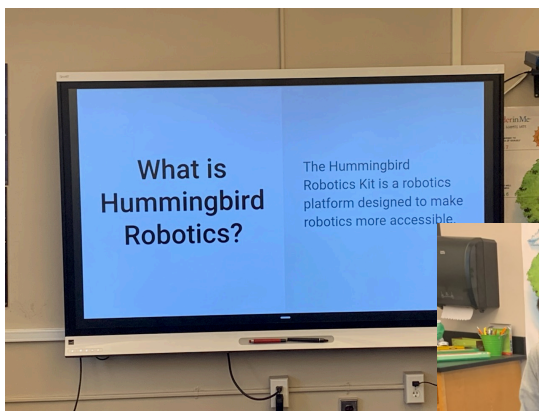
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The speed is controlled with a potentiometer, the little black knob on the top of the picture below. The ultrasonic sensor is the two “eyes” just below the potentiometer. The robot also has lights, two in the front, and two in the back, just like a real car (pictured below).

Our project was finished earlier than expected, so we decided to continue programming with a different language called MakeCode. Because this new language supported radio communications, we were able to remotely control OAV if needed. We also tinkered with the Python programming language, but because it was not fully compatible with the Chromebooks, we could not use it to its full potential. Still, the project was a complete success, and the Hummingbird Robotics Kit proved to be an amazing tool for learning robotics, engineering, and programming.



Bob's black knob on top controls his speed. He was a big hit with all of Wang and Shi's classmates.



Bob was the center of attention as the authors introduced him and demonstrated all his capabilities.

When the project was finally completed, the authors gave a classroom presentation to formally introduce Bob to their classmates.



Tech Tips from Matt and Ryan

By Matthew Shi and Ryan Wang

Students have been in school for nearly all of their life so it can be hard to imagine a long period of time where they are out of school other than summer vacation. But we are currently living in quarantine, armed with only a handful of devices at our disposal. Assignments are now on Google Classroom, work is now on Google Docs, Google Slides, or Kami, and lessons are now on Google Meet. Although the school year is coming to a close, here are a few tips to help students through the ins and outs of video conference lessons we may also need come September.

Part 1: Extensions

There are multiple extensions available that add to the user experience of Google Meet. Compared with other programs, Google Meet is a bit lacking. There are no reactions, no defaults, and no extra features built in. The Nod and Grid View extensions are recommended by the district, and are the answer to some of the missing features. Students can find a guide on how to install them here: [Google Meet Extension Directions \(Grid & Nod\) Staff & Students Kindergarten & Up](#). Nod is a useful tool that provides reaction support, so students and teachers can share their thoughts without having to speak. Another extension, Google Meet Enhancement Suite, has push-to-talk, which enables the user to hold a hotkey to temporarily unmute. It also has features such as auto-join, quick leave, auto captions, and auto mute.

Part 2: Troubleshooting

Technology plays a huge role in people's lives. We can chat, take photos, write stories, and much more, with just a laptop or even a phone! Sometimes though, technology does not work the way we want it to. Here are some common troubleshooting tips for Google Meet:

*If you cannot hear or see anything, make sure you are signed into your Millburn account and reload the page.

*If you can't join the Meet, wait a few minutes and try again.

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Quarantine Blues? Beat the Boredom!

By Anvi Anand and Shriya Iyer

Click, click, click. That's the sound of a person, bored, clicking away on their computer. Here are some tips to break away from your computer screen and beat the quarantine blues.

First of all, there are indoor activities to try out. Baking, cooking, or in other words making edibles can be fun. Some easy desserts are cake, ice cream, popsicles, cupcakes, and last but not least, brownies. Maintaining good health is important during this pandemic, so before eating dessert, make sure to eat a healthy meal.

Cooking isn't the only way to stop boredom. There are other indoor activities, such as art. Painting, drawing, coloring, origami, sewing, knitting, tie-dye, and clay models are all fun. Playing an instrument is exciting but challenging to do too. Or maybe some reading which can be calming.

Everyone can't always meet their friends and family now because of COVID - 19, so call friends and family. If not, don't give up hope just yet. There are options of playing board games or creating a board game. Some fun games are Monopoly, Tic Tac Toe, Snakes and Ladders, Uno, Bingo, Jeopardy, and Truth or Dare.

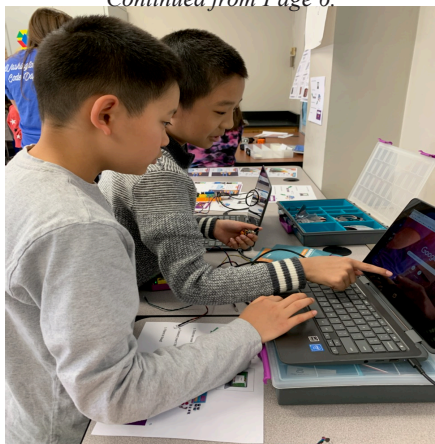
For outdoor activities, students are playing soccer in their backyards, or basketball in their driveways. Some students can swim in their backyard pools or choreograph dances or enjoy outside yoga. If students decide to play with friends, everyone should remember to practice social distancing. *Continued on Page 7.*



Reporter Anvi Anand keeps busy by baking yummy treats.

Tech Tips

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Reporters and tech experts Shi and Wang sharpen their tech skills on Code Day, 2019.

Part 2: Troubleshooting (continued)

*If people cannot hear or see you, make sure you have the camera and microphone permissions turned on for Google Meet.

*If you are still having trouble, check out this article: Troubleshoot issues with Google Meet - Google Meet Help.

Hopefully these tips and tricks make life just a little bit easier when it comes to Google Meet lessons whether or not we are back within school walls come September!

Beat the Boredom!

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Outdoor games like Tag, Hide & Seek, Capture the flag, Sharks & Minnows, The Night in the Museum, Hopscotch, Obstacle courses, and more that you may know. Some other ways to spend time outdoors include, Hiking/Walk, Explore a new place (Near your house, Use social distancing), Gardening, Workouts, Play in sprinklers (Only if you're allowed to), Animal-watching/Skywatching, Climb a tree (Make sure you're safe) or sing a song! When asked what she does when she's bored, fifth grader, Eva Devroy replied, "I like to bake and paint with my sister. I also play outside and go biking with my family. I go on walks and runs and also watch T.V. It gets boring sometimes, but I'm able to find something to do!" Student Katherine Morales said, "I play board games, ride my bike, watch Netflix, and spend time with my family." These two students sometimes get bored, but end up finding something to do. Hopefully everyone will have a rewarding, safe and healthy summer.

Fifth Grader Wins Literary Accolades!



Washington School fifth grader, Evelyn Selan was one of only five fifth grade finalists in the second annual New Jersey Literacy Association competition. Selan, a student in Mrs. Nord's class was notified of her honor during the quarantine. The New Jersey Literacy Association explained that this year's pool of applicants included especially talented writers. "We were so impressed by the writing produced by NJ students this year," wrote a board member to Mrs. Nord on announcing the honor. Selan's personal narrative will be published in an e-document on The New Jersey Literacy Association web site, the 2020 NJLA Writing Contest publication (see Selan's award winning narrative in "The Write Stuff"). Mr. Mercurio was especially proud of Selan and this unique honor. "It's important that our writers are given avenues for their expression, and recognition for their excellence. That this recognition comes now during the period of distance learning is an extra cause for celebration," commented Mercurio. The entire staff of *The Washington School Post* applauds Selan's accomplishment!



Selan pictured back on first day of school in September, 2019, unaware of the challenges and honors the year would have in store for her and her fellow classmates.

Quarantine Cuisine: Part 2

By Juliana DiTore and Vivian Palomo

The bed is made, rooms are clean, and all the chores are done. And it's only 12:15! You aren't the first person to feel that way. Maybe quarantine was fine for some people at first, but once time has passed, people have started to run out of things to do. Unless you like to sit around all day with nothing to do, get ready to read Quarantine Cuisine 2! In this article, there are some fun and trendy recipes. When the sun is up, get ready to spoon yourself a bowl of small but delicious fluffy pancakes.



In the afternoon, break through the surface of some amazing crispy homemade mac'n'cheese. And for dessert, refresh your throat with flavorful sorbet. Get your notebooks out so you can start writing out these outstanding recipes. Are you tired of the taste of the boxes of cereal in your cupboard? Scroll on any social media platform, and you will probably find pancake cereal. It is just as easy as making regular pancakes but more fun and it looks cute too!



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Mrs. Percarpio Stokes Students' Creativity

By Sophia Hou

Can anyone imagine having a teacher who has performed in three different movies, including Disney's "Enchanted"? No? Well, it is possible! Mrs. Percarpio, Washington School's art teacher, is the answer. She lives in a lakefront home in Stanhope, NJ with her husband and two children, Scott, age 12, and Ariana age 10.

Mrs. Percarpio grew up in Clifton where she said the best parts of growing up there were the woods behind her house and a small stream nearby. As a child, she and her older brother would go fishing in the stream. She dug for old antique bottles and arrowheads in the woods and searched for snakes and salamanders. In Stanhope, Mrs. Percarpio has decided that she does not want to live anywhere other than where she is living now. According to her, it is wonderful because there is an abundance of wildlife she can see from her window, including bald eagles, blue herons, swans and minks. Summer is her favorite season because she can swim, kayak, sit in the sun, read and



enjoy her garden. Although she does not have a favorite author because she likes many types of books, she is reading *Famous Short Ghost Stories*. When asked what her hobbies and interests include, Mrs. Percarpio responded, "I like to garden, kayak, create art, antiques, and read. I think your hobbies and interests pick you, not the other way around!" She prefers mid-tone colors such as aqua, orchid and periwinkle.

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The Middle School Connection: The Final Chapter

By Lola Hall, Editor-in-chief

The halls of Washington School were empty, and they wouldn't be filled with smiling students until next school year. What about this year's students? What about their graduation? Many students are probably wondering what Mr. Mercurio and the staff have planned for the graduation. According to Mr. Mercurio, "Washington School will be sharing a staff video and closing message." Students or staff may have other ideas for a graduation, when asked what they would do for graduation, Naomi Allen, a student at Washington School replied that she would want to wait until we would be able to come close to everyone and have a fun graduation outside with ice cream and parade balloons. Melina Weinstien, also a student at Washington School said that she would want to pull up in her car and say goodbye to all the teachers and staff.

Middle School has also been preparing for the coming school year as well. According to Mr. Pisa, the guidance counselor at Millburn Middle School, they "have an orientation planned for June 19th that will include all of the parts of the usual orientations we have had in the past." Pisa thinks that students will be prepared, as does Mercurio.

Weinstein also believes that a lot of people in the Washington School will be prepared, and she feels comfortable knowing that Mercurio and Pisa think students will be prepared too.

Mrs. Emmanouilidis has also been working with Pisa. She says that they have shared important information about each student and their learning needs. Mrs. Loew also goes and checks on many students when they are in middle school, and encourages students to say hello!

Washington would never be the same without the teachers. This year students may not be able to see their teachers before they leave, and have their last goodbyes. Mrs. Chibaro from Washington School said that she thinks she has taught solid study skills, and has prepared her students for Middle School, and wants to teach more, but trusts the students to monitor how important their education is to them. Students will miss Washington School, and all the teachers, Mr. Mercurio, Mrs. Loew, Mrs. Emmanouilidis, Mrs. Chibaro and everyone else who is part of the Washington School staff. On the other hand though, students can look forward to meeting Mr. Connolly, Mr. Pisa and everyone else at the Millburn Middle School.

Mrs. Percarpio Stokes Students' Creativity

Continued from Page 7.

A dedicated teacher, she has taught art for 23 years, including fashion at Berkeley Business College, kindergarten through sixth grade in Bergen County and some college art classes at Sussex County College. Mrs. Percarpio was first inspired to become an art teacher when one of her college professors noticed that she had a talent for art and encouraged her to take classes and consider teaching art. Impressionist art is Mrs. Percarpio's favorite type of art because it is soothing and pretty. Her favorite artist is Claude Monet because his waterlilies and gardens are beautiful. In fact, if she could step into any piece of art, she would choose Monet's "Artist's Garden at Giverny," her favorite painting. As a person who prefers items that are more tactile, she loves sculpting. Lately, she has been doing needle felting, creating cats and other animals, by making shapes from wool fiber with the use of a special

needle. She meets with one pack each week for the specials' Google Meets and says that her students are what she misses most about teaching in person. In her Google classroom, she assigns projects every Wednesday, all of them enjoyable and creative, such as puppets, crazy glasses and even home-made pillows. When asked what his favorite art project has been so far, student Liam Murphy said, "My favorite art project was the mandalas we made because I like how we made our initials in the artwork."

Mrs. Percarpio is a fantastic art teacher who makes every art project innovative and fun. She inspires each and every student to tap into their inner creativity. And don't forget, teachers can be in movies too!



Quarantine Cuisine: Part 2

Continued from Page 7.

Choose any toppings you usually put on your fun morning pancakes. Fruit, syrup, butter. Boxed cereal is so last year! Take those fruit loops, throw them in the trash, and start making delicious pancake cereal!

Yellow. The sun is yellow. Daffodils bloom with the nice shade of yellow. Yellow is a great color that just seems to brighten some gloomy days. So, on a dark sad day, make a delicious creamy yellow mac' n' cheese with a crispy orange top. This recipe is pretty easy, and when you are done, you will want to have it for lunch, dinner, and maybe even breakfast. Take a spoon and break the crispy top, and dive deep down into the creamy noodles. Grab a fork, and start eating!

The taste of cold fruity sorbet after a hot day feels good, right? Check out one of the best, super refreshing sorbets ever. This sorbet doesn't take long to make, but it is super yummy.

Pancake Cereal

INGREDIENTS

Any type of pancake mix
Maple syrup, fruit and butter (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

Take your wet pancake mix and pour it into an icing dispenser. Then, squirt onto the hot pan into tiny circles all around the pan, and let fry. When one side looks nice and ready, start to shake the pan, until both sides are ready.

Recipes continued on Page 9.



**The Washington School Post
congratulates all our
fifth grade graduates!!!**





of the Town: A Collection of Reviews from the staff on *The Washington School Post*.

Movie Review: Onward

By Aditi Banerjee

“Onward” is an animated movie full of adventure. Two teenage brothers, Ian and Barley, go on a magical adventure to bring their dead dad back to life for a day. Their quest is full of magic, and along they find out what the world was like many years ago. They experience many twists and turns, but keep on going no matter what happens to come in their path. “Onward” was directed by Dan Scanlon, who directed “Monsters University”. Onward was released

on March 6th 2020. The talented actor Tom Holland, who has starred in many movies such as “Spider Man Homecoming,” “Spider Man Far From Home,” and many more, is the voice of Ian, and actor Chris Pratt, who has acted in “Endgame”, “Guardians Of The Galaxy” and many more, is the voice of Barley. 88% of the people who reviewed “Onward” on “Rotten Tomatoes” rated it as “fresh.”



Favorite Movies During the Quarantine

By Aditi Banerjee



When students don't have school, they are watching many movies with their families or alone. Now that we are quarantined, people are watching more and more movies. Here is a list of some movies people have been watching:

Harry Potter series

“Hunger Games”

“Onward”

“Maleficent Mistress of Evil”

“Lord of The Rings”

“Matilda”

Marvel movies

"Trolls"

“Anne of Green Gables”

“Trolls World Tour”

Eliana Barker from Mrs. Turteltaub's class said she likes the Harry Potter series because

it has magic, it's funny, a lot of people watch it, and they are books and movies. Ryan McCallum from Mrs. Briber's class says he likes the movie “Captain American: The Winter Soldier” because it was very funny. Mrs. Jones showed the 2017 Oscar nominated movie “Hidden Figures” to her class, and many students enjoyed learning about the space race, and how racial inequality did not stop a group of women determined to share their mathematical expertise with NASA. Some frequently watched movies are the “Harry Potter” series, “Onward”, “Marvel” movies, and “Hunger Games.”



Quarantine Recipes

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Comforting Mac and Cheese:

Ingredients

16 oz elbow macaroni, cooked (or other tubular pasta)

1 tbsp extra virgin olive oil

6 tbsp unsalted butter

1/3 cup all purpose flour

3 cups whole milk

1 cup heavy whipping cream

4 cups sharp cheddar cheese shredded

2 cups Gruyere cheese shredded

salt and pepper to taste

1 1/2 cups panko crumbs

4 tbsp butter melted

1/2 cup Parmesan cheese shredded

1/4 tsp smoked paprika (or regular paprika)

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 350F. Lightly grease a large 3 qt or 4 qt baking dish and set aside. Combine shredded cheeses in a large bowl and set aside.

Cook the pasta one minute shy of al dente according to the package instructions. Remove from heat, drain, and place in a large bowl.

Drizzle pasta with olive oil and stir to coat pasta. Set aside to cool while preparing cheese sauce.

Melt butter in a deep saucepan, dutch oven, or stock pot.

Whisk in flour over medium heat and continue whisking for about 1 minute until bubbly and golden.

Gradually whisk in the milk and heavy cream until nice and smooth. Continue whisking until you see bubbles on the surface and then continue cooking and whisking for another 2 minutes. Whisk in salt and pepper.

Add two cups of shredded cheese and whisk until smooth. Add another two cups of shredded cheese continue

Continued on Page 11.

A Long Walk to Water

By Aaron Yu

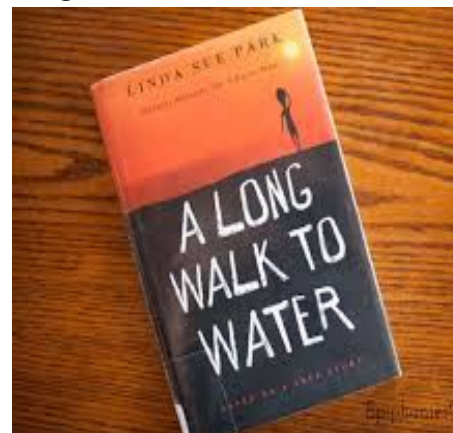
A child walks along an endless trail without food or water and just hopes. He is just one of the thousands of children walking from the war in South Sudan. This story also dives deeply into another child's life, Nya. As Nya walks back and forth to gather water for her family, Salva leads a legion of boy refugees to safety. They have no resources of any kind, except their number.

The war and starvation are killing thousands on their walk. And this is real, although most people deny that. No one should. On their walk, they face many hardships, including dehydration, disease, and armies. In this book, Salva walks from his village in South Sudan, all the way



to Ethiopia, then relocates to Kenya. Finally, in Kenya, Salva finds some luck. He is one of the people who will be transported to the United States. He later finds out that he will go to a family in Rochester, New York. This action-filled book will bring you through many countries and will show you how Salva experiences the impossible. This book is about the loss: of family, of culture, of roots, and it is also about the power of the human spirit to prevail no matter how challenging the circumstances.

It is about the power of redemption and giving back. The power of prevailing no matter the odds. It is a true leadership story.



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



Happy or Sad

By Evelyn Selan

My stomach flopped around like a fish out of water. The snow splattered my goggles, blurring my vision. My toes were so cold I could no longer feel them. I took a deep breath in, then exhaled. I clicked on my skis and waited. Soon, a burly man spoke into his walkie talkie.

"Next up Evelyn Selan," he said. I looked down the course. My heart beat like a hummingbird's wings. Soon a judge boomed my name, echoing through the speakers, "Whenever you're ready," the man huffed.

"Okay," I said with a nervous sigh.

"3...2...1..." beeeep!

The top of the course was covered in a blanket of ice like a glacier in the Arctic. I tried not to skid. I blocked everything out and focused on the course. The first jump came up. I did a spread and landed with a thump, not stopping the slightest bit. I moved swiftly through the next section of the course and picked up my pace. After clearing the second jump, I absorbed the last few moguls and skidded to a stop at the finish line.

Afterward, I felt relieved to be done competing for the day and waited with excitement and anticipation for my brother Justin's run.

He began well, and his first jump was good. About halfway through, Justin picked up speed and started going wildly fast and when the second jump came up, he didn't slow down. His skis scraped the jump like a sharp knife against a cutting board. In the air, Justin was really high and then he hit the ground, hard. His skis and poles were strewn about the course. He lay still in a crumpled heap. "Dad! He's hurt!" I yelled. My dad ran up into the course, leaving me outside the gate, quivering with fear and uncertainty. I watched as the ski patrol came with a sled and loaded Justin onto it. I waited in the base lodge with friends, and my dad went with Justin in an ambulance to the hospital. After they left, I waited for the awards ceremony to begin. I was sad and hoped Justin was okay.

Soon a resounding voice began announcing winners for my age group. For third place a name other than mine was called. I felt stingy, knowing that I wasn't likely to get a medal. My thoughts were soon interrupted. "In second place, Evelyn Selan!" My eyes must have tripled in size. I stepped forward, and the

Continued on Page 11.

This is a Morning

By Matthew Shi

This is a morning
to watch the sun rise
over the horizon
making its way toward the sky.
This is a morning
to watch the sunrise
on the east
marking the time for us.



Publisher's Note: Matt Shi's poem was accepted for publication in the next issue of Creative Communications National Poetry Anthology.

The Embers

Continued from May issue...

By Lily Boidman, Literary Editor, and Ava Bernstein

We started to go get the nature ember. We ran to the tree we always used to inspect. It was so suspicious. We tapped on the spot of dark wood, and moss covering a small button and a fantasy land appeared. Nature land! Although we didn't see the town or castle yet, we were surrounded by animals, trees, and the flowers that surrounded a path. The trees had cotton candy-like leaves, and the flowers seemed to comfort you. This looked nothing like the dark forest we had just left. I looked behind me and saw the tree had disappeared. I pointed out a clue to Dylan. When at a crossroad, there was a tree that had a poster pinned on it, that said: "This way to the nature ember ----->"

I stared at the sign. I took a step towards the dirt path on the right.

"The sign seems too easy," Dylan pointed out. Dylan is probably the smartest twelve-year-old I know. His bright blue eyes seemed misty and cold. I knew he was right.

"So... do we go the other way?," I asked. Dylan looked worried.

"One of the paths seems dangerous and the other one... is the right way. I-I will go this way, the way the sign doesn't say to go," I nodded. I went the way the sign did say.

After ten minutes of peaceful walking, I knew this was the safe path. But...Dylan!

Indoor Skydiving

By Isabella Senna Yi

"This is it, your surprise is going to iFLY!" Dad exclaimed. "iFLY?" I wondered. "It's an indoor skydiving place," my dad said as if reading my mind. My sister Olivia and I walked in, confused as well as excited. "Isn't sky diving when you jump off a plane?" I asked nervously. "Yep!" my dad answered enthusiastically. My stomach dropped. "Jump off a plane? Indoors?" I thought to myself.

My dad paid for a lesson while sweat started forming. I looked over to Olivia who looked just as nervous and confused as I was. I tried to push down my worried feelings and be optimistic, but it was impossible. "Follow me!" a woman said as we followed her to a room. The room had lots of helmets, gloves, and suits. I turned around to see a huge glass cylinder with someone floating inside it. Suddenly, I understood. I wasn't going to jump off a plane! I was going to float inside a glass cylinder with lots of air.

My worried feelings vanished and now I couldn't wait. We walked into a room where another family was waiting. Our instructor walked in and showed us a video on how to skydive. After our group finished the video we walked to the glass cylinder. My insides were jumping with excitement and my heart was thumping as fast as lightning. The instructor showed us how to put on our suit and helmet. Once we were all situated,



our group walked into the glass cylinder. We had to take turns so I sat on the bench waiting for my turn. It felt like everything was going in slow motion. "When will it be my turn?" I asked myself for the hundredth time.

Finally, I was at the front of the line. The instructor helped me into the air-filled cylinder. I bent my arms and stretched my legs just like the video showed me. My straight, serious, and focused face turned into a smile as I saw my dad videoing me. The instructor signaled me that my time was up, so I pulled myself out. Dad and Olivia grinned when I gave them a thumbs up.

After our group left the cylinder, we all took off our suits and helmets. Soon, it was time to say goodbye. Olivia and I thanked our instructor and followed our dad to the car. When we got into the car, we talked all about skydiving and how much fun we had for the entire ride.

Quarantine Cuisine



Continued from Page 9.

whisking until creamy and smooth. Sauce should be nice and thick.

Stir in the cooled pasta until combined and pasta is fully coated with the cheese sauce.

Pour half of the mac and cheese into the prepared baking dish. Top with remaining 2 cups of shredded cheese and then the remaining mac and cheese.

In a small bowl, combine panko crumbs, Parmesan cheese, melted butter and paprika. Sprinkle over the top and bake until bubbly and golden brown, about 30 minutes. Serve immediately.

Refreshing Sorbet

INGREDIENTS

Any fruit you want blended $\frac{3}{4}$ cup

1 cup water

1 cup sugar

INSTRUCTIONS

Place sugar and water in a small saucepan; bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, 2 minutes. Cool completely. Stir in blended fruit, or juice. Fill the cylinder of the ice cream maker no more than two-thirds full; freeze according to the manufacturer's directions. Transfer sorbet to a freezer container, allowing headspace for expansion. Freeze until firm, about 4 hours.



The Sapphire Warriors and the Parent Map

By Lily Boidman, Literary Editor, and Eva Merchant

As I tiptoed over to the window, I shivered and looked down on the cold wet days. New York City. February is always difficult, I guess. The stormy sky, the snowy clouds that were dropping little snowflakes on the littered sidewalks, blocked the silver moon. This all made me gloomy because I am stuck here, while other eleven-year-olds are free. I live in an orphanage and not a good one. I have been living in “Ginnaro’s Orphanage” since I was at least two. Alex is my name. I wonder if anyone will take me away from this frightful place. Suddenly, I heard it. A door swung open. Then I saw Brady Ginnaro. Brynn Ginnaro is the owner of the orphanage. Brady is her son. I sighed as I knew I was busted... for staying up late!

“What do we have here?” Brady snarled. I shrugged.

“Getta bed,” Brady said forcefully, “or else,” he added.

“Or else what?” I confronted him, immediately realizing my mistake.

Brady advanced closer and said harshly,

“Or else this.”

Happy or Sad

Continued from Page 10

heavy silver medal was slung over my neck. I stepped onto the podium, smiled, and held my medal. The feeling sent a warm tingling sensation through me.

After the awards ceremony, I felt happy like waking up on Christmas and seeing all of your presents under the tree, but at the same time I felt sad for Justin who was in pain on a long bumpy ambulance trip to the hospital. The opposite feelings overwhelmed me, and I wasn’t sure whether to feel happy or sad.

Publisher's Note: Evelyn Selan's narrative earned her a finalist's spot for publication in the 2020 NJLA Writing Contest publication. She was one of the top 5 fifth grade writers in the state!



El Salto Imposible

By Ryan McCallum

El Salto Imposible. The name literally translates to “The Impossible Jump.” My parents were scared out of their minds, my friends thought I was crazy, and there was me. What was my motivation to do the world’s most extreme snowboard jump? Three months before that, world-famous snowboarder Shaun Shredder attempted El Salto Imposible. He almost made the jump but failed to stick the landing and broke one of his legs.

I wanted to do the jump, and I wanted to stick that landing. I was practicing like crazy, hitting the slopes every other day, working my butt off for that jump. I did rails and pipes and flat boxes and tabletops and way too many jumps. In fact, I practiced so much, my snowboarding instructor thought I was ready.

My instructor picked me up at 5:00 in the morning on a Saturday. The drive to the remote jump in the Poconos took at least 4 hours. When we arrived, we walked over to the starting point, checked our gear, strapped in, and we were off. We rode for about five minutes before the jump. My instructor skipped the jump and went ahead, and I started getting ready. My goggles were on, I was strapped in, and most importantly, I was ready to go.

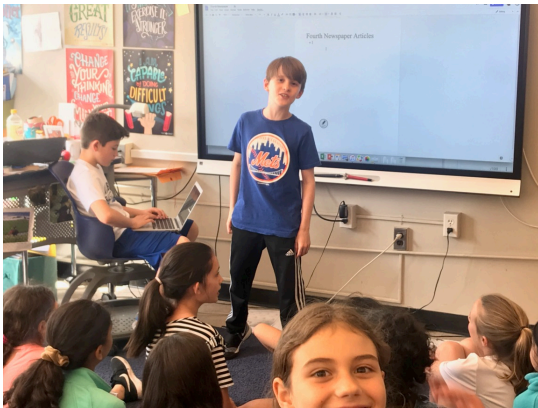
It was time. I got up, and I started going. I flew down as fast as I could go, got on the jump, and

then, I flew. I flew so high in the air, I probably set a new world record! The air time was magnificent, and then I started to come down. When I came down, everything went wrong. I came down so hard, it felt like I broke every bone in my legs. And that’s what brings me here.



Two days later I’m writing about my experience at El Salto Imposible in my hospital bed. It truly was an amazing experience, besides the fact that I broke both my ankles. Apparently, I was so high, both of my ankles broke on impact. I was rushed to the nearest hospital after I fell unconscious. My friends found it so cool that I actually attempted El Salto Imposible! In the end, I guess the jump really lives up to its name.

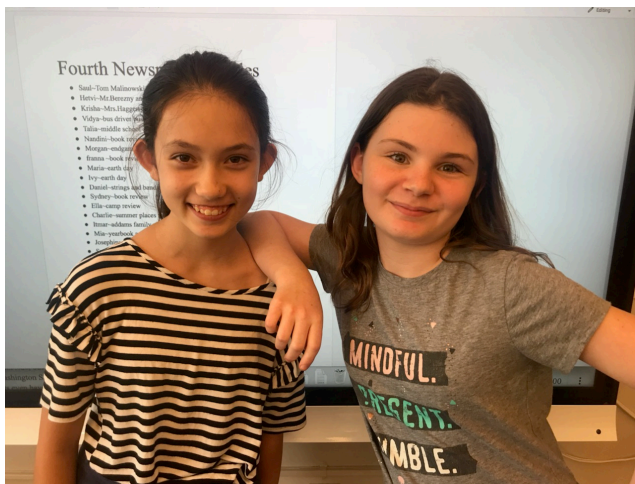
Former Editor-in-Chief of *The Washington School Post* Launches New Online Newspaper



Zeitler in 2019 running Washington School Post meeting.

Saul Zeitler, former leader of the Washington School's newspaper has just launched the first issue of *The Millburn News Wave*, an online newspaper written exclusively by Middle School students. Former literary editor of *The Washington School Post*, Morgan Tobin has also joined Zeitler's staff. Zeitler explained the scope of his new online endeavor:

"*The Millburn News Wave* is an online local newspaper that reports on stories within our community. This local newspaper will include a vast range of articles from home town stories to tutorial videos. It will also include entertainment reviews, recipes, music columns, comics, and photos." Inspired to uplift his fellow students during this difficult pandemic, Zeitler outlined his paper's mission: "Our goal at this newspaper is to help to make kids take their minds off of the quarantine this year and to instead read our articles, and have some fun!"



Former Washington School Post Literary Editors Franna Hawksworth (left) and Morgan Tobin have joined Zeitler's staff. Zeitler continued, "We hope that with our writing, this newspaper can entertain, explain, and provide you with our local and trending stories." Zeitler is proud of his first issue, and believes he and his staff can make a difference: "All of this was done by kids, and we are trying to spread the message that young people can make a difference just as adults can. We hope that all our readers enjoy and appreciate all of the hard work and effort that was put into writing and bringing this newspaper to life." The first issue can be found at

<https://www.millburnnews.com>

Postscript to "Black Lives Matter in Millburn"

Millburn music teacher Cynthia Longley Richards also attended the rally and gave *The Washington School Post* the following comments:

"I attended the rally with my family because it is important for me to teach my children to stand up to injustice when they see it. We cannot be silent! I was proud to march down Millburn Avenue, and our sign read: Black Lives Matter To Us! I honestly cried a few times during the rally because it is so upsetting to me that this is even still a conversation that needs to be had. Saying the names of the deceased was devastating."

Longley's message to Washington School's students is the message echoed in all the hallways and classrooms of the school since its opening in 2017:

"I hope that the Washington School students will always take a stance against injustice, and never be silent when lives are affected by injustice. Always be a leader, and always treat others with kindness first!"

-Cynthia Longley Richards

Faculty Advisors, Mrs. Briber and Mrs. Jones wish to thank all the passionate, hard-working and talented reporters who have made the newspaper a success this year. Working with such a dedicated group of writers has been a rewarding and enriching experience. We wish all our reporters and all the graduating fifth graders success in Middle School and beyond. Always remember:

**"Shoot for the moon.
Even if you miss,
You'll land among the stars."**

-Norman Vincent Peale

The Washington School Post Staff:

Editor-in-Chief: Lola Hall

Managing Editor: Ryan Wang

Features Editor: Aaron Yu

Photography Editor: Matthew Shi

Literary Editors: Lily Boidman, Juliana DiTore, Ava Malisci

Food Editors: Juliana DiTore and Vivian Palomo

Reporters: All the dedicated members of the newspaper club.

Faculty Advisors: Mrs. Briber and Mrs. Jones

Publisher: Mr. Mercurio and the Washington School PTO

Please forgive any errors or omissions.

Have a wonderful summer - and subscribe to the new Middle School online newspaper: www.millburnnews.com