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Washington Wolves Triumph in a Year of Challenges

Continued from Page 1.

Ribbon Drawing competition. Mehr Kothari came in first, Saumya Katariya came in second, and Yoganidhi Bhargava came in third. Each winner received some Red Ribbon day swag. Another art competition was the Green Team Logo competition. Radoicic from Ms. Murphy's class won the competition. Neel Jain's art is in piano where he won the Golden Keys Piano competition. There were 504 pianists, and Jain will be playing in Carnegie Hall as his prize. Fifth grade pianist, Dev Malhotro just won the Little Mozart Competition playing Shubert's Waltz in B Flat Major.

Lastly there was the STEM Fest with different category winners. In math Bordia and Xie tied for first place along with some other students from different grades. In the environment team challenge Sophia Li, Celina Chen, and Fiona Hu took first place.

All students rose to the challenges of 2020 - 2021, even those not featured in this article. Apologies for any omissions. Mr. Mecurio said "I am extremely proud of the hard work and effort displayed by all of our students this school year." Washington School students have proven that no matter how difficult the situation, even a global pandemic, nothing will ever stop a Washington Wolf.

Señora Canizales is Washington School's Superstar Spanish Teacher



Señora Canizales never misses an opportunity to make learning Spanish engaging and fun.

By Naman Mehta, Connor Qiao and Sarah Jia

Sweet, supportive, and smart! That's Señora Canizales, the Spanish teacher at Washington School. Canizales is always ready for a fresh new wave of students to spread the knowledge of Spanish.

Before moving to the United States, Canizales lived in Colombia. She fused her Spanish language skills with her love of teaching, resulting in her teaching Spanish for 20 years. "I knew I wanted to share these skills with others, and I wanted to be able to do it in a fun way. Since I was little, I knew I wanted to be a teacher, so I combined my two passions and became a Spanish teacher!" said Canizales.

When Canizales doesn't teach Spanish, she loves to dance, no matter what kind of music she is dancing to. She also loves cooking and gardening. Canizales especially enjoys traveling because she gets to explore new cultures and places. Finally, her other favorite hobby is to sing. Fun is the #1 priority when it comes to singing, and she doesn't care about having the best voice. In addition, Canizales's favorite foods include rice, chicken marsala, and many other dishes.

Canizales clearly enjoys teaching Washington School's students. "I absolutely love meeting with all my students, and embrace the energy that they bring to our meetings. I admire how resilient they are, and how they have been so amazing in adapting to different schedules and being a part of our lessons. This year's students have been absolutely amazing in our meets!" said Canizales. She is blown away by the students' accomplishments.

Canizales always greets students with a smile and makes sure the lessons are fun. Whether it's learning about weather or counting from 1-30, she always has a visual presentation to help students retain the information. Canizales has also assigned entertaining projects for the students. The most recent project was based on weather expressions, and students had to give a weather forecast in Spanish. During Mexican/Spanish holidays,

Canizales tells the classes about the traditions and culture. Sometimes she shows videos explaining the origins of the holiday.

Student Erica Couttenye said, "I think Mrs. Canizales's lessons are helpful for me. I may speak Spanish at home, but I don't typically write in Spanish. Mrs. Canizales does not only teach kids to speak Spanish, but she also teaches them to write certain words in Spanish."

Canizales has truly impressed all of the students with her knack of making lessons entertaining. For students who want to become language teachers when they grow up, Canizales said, "Teaching is absolutely amazing. Organization and being prepared are two of the most important elements in teaching. Teaching is a very rewarding career since it allows us to see our students grow throughout the year." Washington School students are so lucky to experience a full year of Canizales as their dynamic Spanish teacher.



Annual Read-A-Thon Scores Big with Students and Teachers



By Celina Chen and Logan Saperstein

Beginning on March 10th, there was an intense competition to crown the champions of the Read-A-Thon at Washington School. Each student began reading and recording their minutes onto a reading log.

This annual fundraising event ended up raising over \$14,000 for the Washington School.

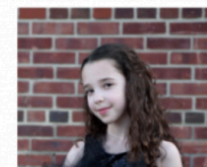
There were three top winners for time read, and also a winning pack. Also, the PTO generously conducted a raffle for all the students who submitted their Read-A-Thon log. The three lucky raffle champions are Ayden Dai from Mrs.

Turteltaub's class, Jack Maron from Ms. Cunningham's class, and David Salzman from Mrs. Jones's class, each winning an Amazon Kindle. The following classes raised over \$1,000 and received a basket of books from Book House in Millburn: Mrs. Briber, Mrs. Cassels,

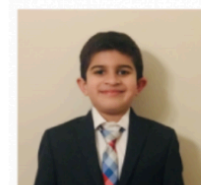
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Washington School Post Staff

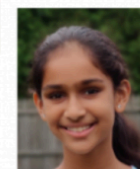
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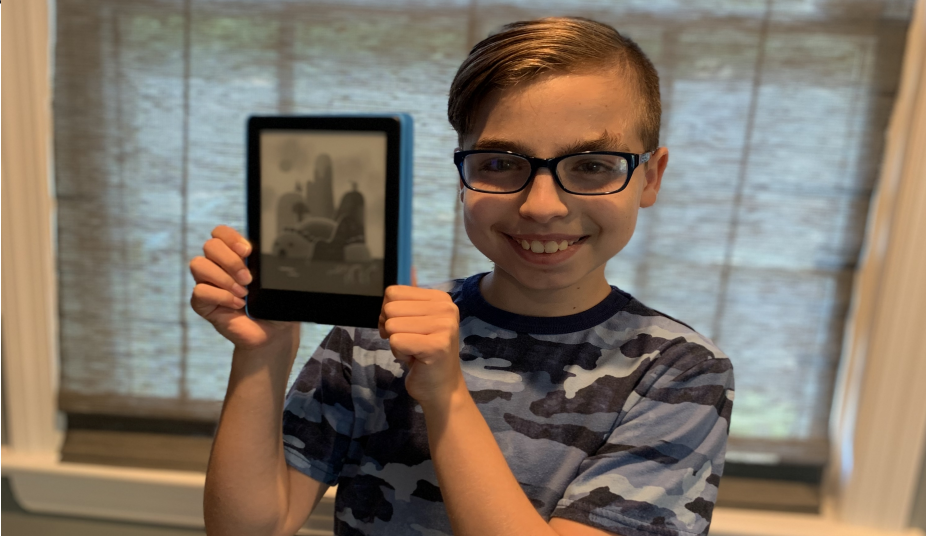
Literary Editor:
Mehr Kothari



Reporters:

All the dedicated members of the Newspaper Club.

Faculty Advisors: Ms. K. Briber and Mrs. Jones
Publisher: Mr. Mercurio and the School PTO



Fifth grader David Salzman proudly displays the brand new Kindle he won from the Read-A-Thon raffle. His teacher, Mrs. Jones said, "I am so proud David has taken full advantage of all the learning opportunities this year; including the Read-A-Thon."

Annual Read-A-Thon Scores Big with Students and Teachers

Continued from Page 2.

Mrs. Gottfried, Mrs. Monaco, Washington School. With six Mrs. Murphy, and Mrs. Policarpio. The pack that read and logged the most minutes was Pack L, Mrs. Chibaro and Mr. DelVecchio's classes. Each student from these classes received a gift certificate to La Strada. Raffle winner, David Salzman said, "I was super excited when my name was called on the broadcast. When I started the Read-A-Thon, I set a goal of being in the top three people, and I accomplished that." He read lots of nonfiction books such as History, a Smithsonian Book, The Fantastic Body by Dr. Howard Bennet, The Travel Book, and The Elements Book. Salzman recommended all of the books and said he really enjoyed them. He was really proud of his achievement and thought that the PTO did a wonderful job with the Read-A-Thon.

The event was an engaging challenge for the students of

Washington School. With six classes raising over \$1,000 and students reading every single day, Mr. Mercurio was proud of the success of the project: "We are indebted to our active and generous PTO for organizing this annual event that keeps our students reading and connected to each other." Despite the many challenges of this unique school year, this annual fundraiser was a major hit with students and teachers alike.



The Washington School Post thanks local bookstore, The Book House of 281 Essex Street who supported the school's Read-A-Thon by offering gift baskets of books to winning classes.

Ananya Mandrekar Spells Her Way to the Nationals

By Gabrielle Saperstein

This year has been like no other. Many large competitions, including athletic and academic, have been cancelled, but not the National Spelling Bee. A student from our very own Washington School has made it to that level. Ananya Mandrekar of Ms. Cassels class has won three consecutive Spelling Bees, and is making her way to nationals. Back in January of 2021, Mandrekar soared to the top of the class spelling bee. Then she moved on to the annual school spelling bee, dominating that one too. Mandrekar then made her way to the Essex County Spelling Bee, representing Washington School. On March 31, Mandrekar got the news that she had won the Essex County spelling bee, and is on her way to the nationals. Currently, Mandrekar is studying away for the Scripps



Mandrekar proudly displays her Scripps certificate. National Spelling Bee which will take place in June and July of 2021.

Mandrekar hasn't always been a great speller though. "For a while, I was okay at spelling, but nothing too special. In the 3rd and 4th grade, I won the Hartshorn School Spelling Bee and my love for words just grew from there," Mandrekar said when asked if she

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Celebrating Mother's Day During the Pandemic

By Samara Tichauer and Celina Chen

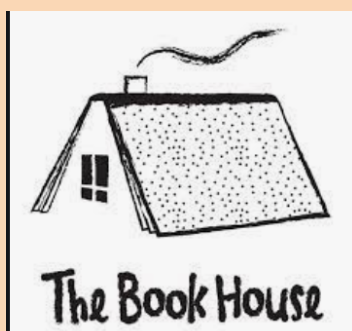
The flowers are out and presents are on the table. It's Mother's Day, every mom's favorite holiday with kisses, hugs and thoughtful cards. But Mother's Day can be a little rough, especially this year in a pandemic. When Washington School student Emily Ward was asked what her favorite thing to do on this holiday is, she said, "I love to bake on Mother's Day. There are these pretty heart shaped cookies that I love to make with my mom." She also said, "I have always liked the tradition of serving breakfast in bed for my mom. It would make your mom very happy to serve her the special treat. Mother's Day for me is



a day devoted to my mom and appreciating all the work she puts into her daily activities."

Everyone knows that the best presents are made from the heart. There are so many ideas for homemade gifts such as a jewelry box, a keychain made from strings and beads, or a mask chain. Since going out to eat wasn't an option

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**Stock up on summer reading
before you leave for camp
or vacation at The Book House
on Essex Street.
Support our local businesses.**

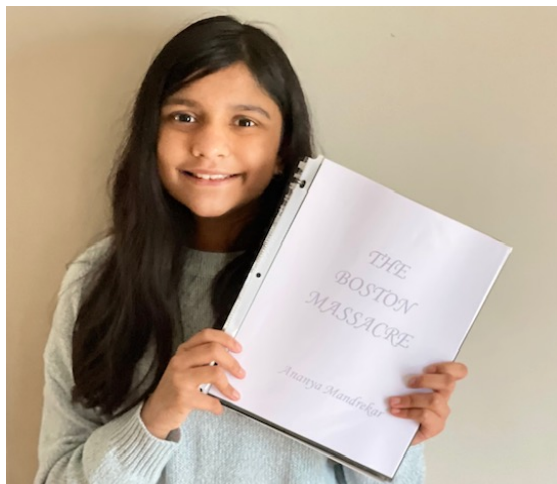


Ananya Mandrekar Spells her Way to the Nationals

Continued from Page 3.



had always been good at spelling. Other than spelling, Mandrekar is interested in creating art, writing stories, playing the piano, and reading. It may not seem like it, but some of these activities are the trick up her sleeve. “I love to read, and every new word that I come across really intrigues me. I mainly take words from materials that I read and note them down,” said Mandrekar when explaining her favorite strategies and methods for spelling. Mandrekar is bursting with happiness and is “thrilled and excited to have the opportunity to participate in The Scripps National Spelling Bee.” She says that the previous spellers motivate her to do her best. This year has been different from other years, and the Scripps National Spelling Bee reflects that. “Normally, the Scripps National Spelling Bee would be held in Washington D.C. over the course of one week with the finals on ESPN Primetime. This year, all rounds of competition will be held virtually in June. The top 10-12 finalists will be flown into Orlando, Florida to compete in person and will be telecast on ESPN Primetime,” Mandrekar said. Overall, Mandrekar is excited to meet her fellow contestants and learn new words along the way. Anytime you see her in the hall, make sure to congratulate Mandrekar, for her inspiring work. Washington School wishes her the best of luck in her all spelling endeavours.



No stranger to competition, Mandrekar is pictured above with her award-winning essay on the American Revolution. Mandrekar took state honors in the annual DAR essay competition (see cover story in the third issue of *The Washington School Post*).

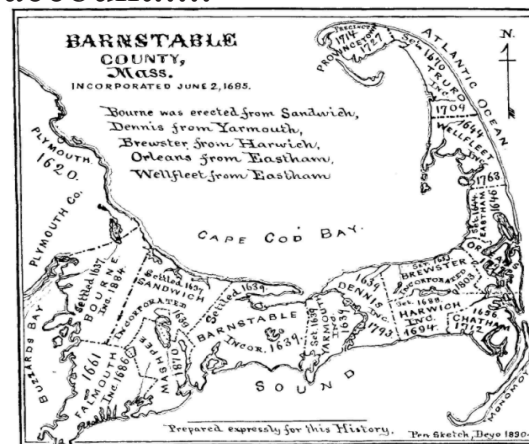
A Different Kind of Camp: Cape Cod

A first person account.....

By Karen Foster

Many kids in town go to camp for the summer. Some kids go to a sports camp, or hiking camps in Maine or Connecticut. I do not go to camp, and none of my family goes to camp. Instead, my family and I go to Cape Cod every summer.

Cape Cod is a geographic cape. A cape is “a high point of land that narrowly extends into a body of water” (worldatlas.com). Many people mistake Cape Cod for Cape May in New Jersey, but it is not Cape May. It is very different. Cape Cod is located in Massachusetts, and is mostly known for its vacation areas and beaches. A very popular part of Cape Cod is Provincetown. Cape Cod is the shape of an arm and Provincetown is at the very tip of the arm. Provincetown is known for artists and writers. When John F. Kennedy became president, Cape Cod became internationally famous because the whole Kennedy family has summer homes in Hyannisport, Massachusetts. During Kennedy’s presidency, there were many



photos of the family on Cape Cod sailing and golfing.

We go to Cape Cod during the summers because my mom grew up in the town of Barnstable. We have a boat we take out in Barnstable Harbor. When we go on our boat, we go to a place called Sandy Neck. Sandy Neck is a beach across the harbor that has houses with no electricity, and most of the bathrooms are in small houses behind the main houses. The Sandy Neck Colony (what the people who own the houses call it) used to be a girls camp in

Continued on Page 6.

Celebrating Mother's Day During the Pandemic

Continued from Page 3.

on Mother's Day, 2021, there were a lot of home activities to show moms how special they are. Planting a garden can be a great Mother’s Day tradition. For dinner, baking a homemade pizza would be a nice surprise for everyone in your family, including Mom. Mother’s Day is all about Mom. So when planning for next year’s Mother’s Day, make sure your mom is happy. How could she not be when she’s surrounded by her own garden and keychains and so much more! Remember, Mother’s Day may also bring tears from your mother so grab some tissues and bring out the flowers. Celebrate your mom in style!



Millburn Free Public Library Continues to Make a Difference

By Ananya Mandrekar

The Millburn Free Public Library has braved the global Covid-19 pandemic which brought the world to a standstill last spring. Serving the community since 1938, the public library hosts a vast collection of books, magazines, audio books, DVD’s, CD’s, provides access to electronic resources for its patrons and offers a variety of programs, some of which are sponsored by The Friends of the Millburn Library. Not even a pandemic could stop the Millburn Library from their mission to connect its patrons.

When the pandemic imposed lockdowns and capacity limits, the library staff responded by virtualizing its operations, increasing e-resources, issuing virtual library cards, developing online programs, and staying connected with its patrons. Michael Banick, Director of the Millburn Free Public Library said, “Migrating to virtual programs was a new undertaking for the library, so some of the earliest challenges were adjusting to the virtual format and becoming conversant with

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Wolf Pack Recs: A Collection of What to View and Read in Your Spare Time...

A Heartfelt Examination of Poetry: *Love That Dog*

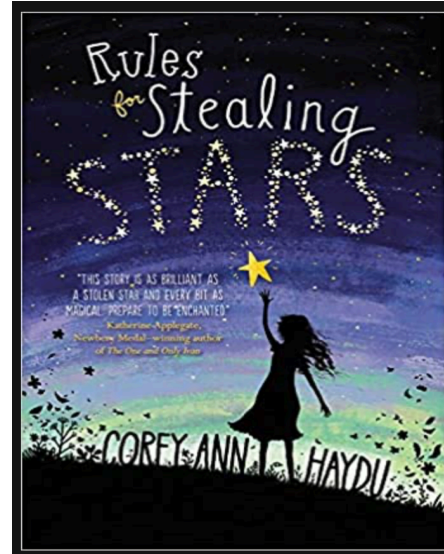


By Vivienne Qiao and Arabella Crofton

Are you looking for the next great book to read that can change your writing life and the magic of poetry? *Love That Dog* by Sharon Creech is about self-expression. It shows that a poem isn't just a poem, there's more behind what it may seem to be. *Love That Dog* is the humorous, endearing story of a second-grade boy who explores a hidden

love for poetry. This book shows how one boy, Jack, finds his voice with the help of a teacher, a pencil, some yellow paper, and of course, a dog. Jack hates poetry. He believes that only girls write it and every time he tries to write, his brain feels empty. But his teacher, Miss Stretchberry, won't stop giving her class poetry assignments—and Jack can't evade them. He realizes that after all, the more he writes, the more he learns that he does have something to say. This heartfelt book is proof that poetry can be many things to many different people. Poems can be long or short, funny or sad, well-thought-out, and well-planned or just dropped onto a sheet of paper from a young poet's brain. But most substantially, the book

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Book Review:

Rules for Stealing Stars

By Krisana Manglani

Imagine a girl with a sick mom, and a dad who's always working. They move into their mom's old house, and every night, the girl and her sisters find her mom looking in

the closets. Searching for something. Muttering to herself. But then, Priscilla (the protagonist, also known as Silly) finds out why her Mom does this. Because the closets have a secret. A secret Silly's sisters have known for a while....*Rules for Stealing Stars* by Corey Ann Haydu is a mesmerizing fantasy story that hooks readers with the first chapter. Priscilla and her sisters seem to have drifted apart. They are not as close as they used to be, and twins Astrid and Eleanor share not only a room, but secrets. Priscilla's sister Marla soon begins to act like she knows their secrets too. Silly decides that she should also know what her sisters are hiding, and decides to do something about it. *Continued on Page 6.*

Movie Review: "The Hunger Games"

By Jordan Altman

"The Hunger Games" is a great movie with an engaging story, characters, and history. Beginning with a heartwarming scene, big sister Katniss Everdeen tells her little sister Primrose (Prim) that she will be okay. She won't get picked, she won't have to enter the seventy-fourth annual Hunger Games.

After that scene, the movie cuts straight to the moment of truth, straight to the "reaping." The reaping is where the capital chooses who will be entered into the Hunger Games. Effie Trinket, who picks the names, calls out, "As always, ladies first." Effie does her annual triple swirl in the bowl of names, and... "Primrose Everdeen!" Prim then is taken from the crowd by some Peacekeepers. (The police of the Hunger Games). Katniss doesn't like that one bit. She fights her way through the crowd until some Peacekeepers stop her. Katniss then does something beautiful. She volunteers to go in her sister's place. Peeta Melark is then chosen for the boys.

Katniss and Peeta then meet Haymitch, a winner from the 50th annual games. Haymitch gives the duo the best advice they will get in a long time. "If you want to stay alive, you have to make people like you." Then they meet their personal stylist for the pregame interviews. Cinna is a big help in the games through the form of lighting Katniss on fire! (She survives).

The tributes take their test of skill with the gamemakers, and Katniss, in a very disturbing way, gets a 11/12 score on her skill test. She shoots an arrow at a dead boar, straight at his mouth at the apple in his mouth. The games then begin.

The games are made of pure action, sorrow, and constant death. They continue with tributes dying, alliances forming, and extra tricks up the gamemaker's sleeve, flaring fireballs in a giant section of the forest, and many more tragedies.

What happens next? Does Peeta die? Does Katniss survive? Who wins the annual Hunger Games? Find out by watching "The Hunger Games."

"Your Lie in April" Inspires Viewers

By Chloe She

"Maybe there's only a dark road ahead, but you still have to believe and keep going. Believe that the stars will light your path, even a little bit," said Kaori, a protagonist in the anime, "Your Lie In April," YLIA. One of the most heartwarming and heartbreaking animes out there, it's a short, one season anime with twenty-two episodes with each episode about twenty-two minutes long.

Found on Netflix with English subtitles, YLIA is about Kousei, a young pianist who is famous in the music world. While growing up, Kousei is under tremendous pressure from his mother to be an extremely accomplished pianist. Her demand for perfection has come at the expense of his childhood with constant practicing. At eleven, his mother dies. Trying to recover from his abusive mother, Kousei stops playing piano. However, when Kaori, a bright violinist, comes into his life, his world is so much more colorful. He continues to play piano with Kaori on violin. When a tragic event happens, Kousei's world is turned



upside down. Eventually, Kousei learns to let go, yet to hold onto his past. The series teaches people of all ages to be yourself and to take risks. Also it teaches viewers to show kindness and help others, especially when they are at one of their lowest points in life. Kousei is kind and forgiving, as well as brave, and he tries his best to keep on going. At first glance, the anime might be mistaken for a sweet love story. However, YLIA goes much deeper. Anyone who loves music, sports, or an inspiring story, will love "Your Lie In April."

With some laughter mixed in with heartwarming scenes, "Your Lie In April" is the perfect anime for those who are seeking some inspiration.



Left, reporter Karen Foster walks the dunes of Sandy Neck Beach with her dad. Sandy Neck Beach also boasts beautiful sunsets seen in the picture to the right. Cape Cod has long been a refuge for writers and artists. During the pandemic, many summer regulars arrived earlier and stayed later.

A Different Kind of Camp: Cape Cod

Continued from Page 4.

the 1920s. In the late 1920s Constance Lovell started Sandy Neck Camp to give children a chance to spend the summer at the shore. It has a rocky beach with sandy dunes. At one point the camp had 155 campers and it remained a camp until 1957. Sandy Neck Camp had swimming, tennis, archery, horseback riding, sailing and more, according to Margaret Hill, one of the great granddaughters of the original founding families.

So, even though I don't go to camp, I spend the summers going to a place a lot like a camp. I sail, swim, and play tennis with my friends near the beach.



Fifth grade teacher and newspaper faculty advisor Mrs. Jones at her favorite Cape Cod ice cream parlor, Four Seas with Francesca, her granddaughter.

Pictured below, Sandy Neck Beach, a popular beach for residents and tourists alike, and home to Sandy Neck Camp, a Cape Cod camp that finally closed its doors in 1957. But the beach remains ...

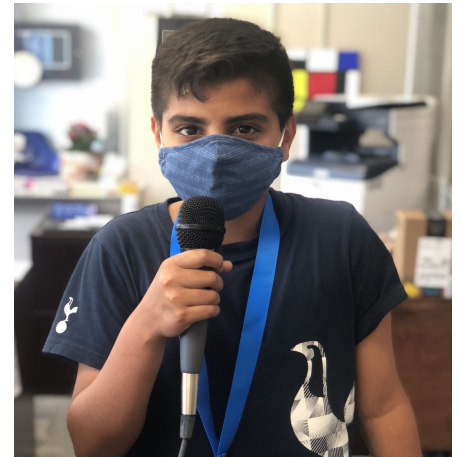


A Student Becomes Principal for a Day

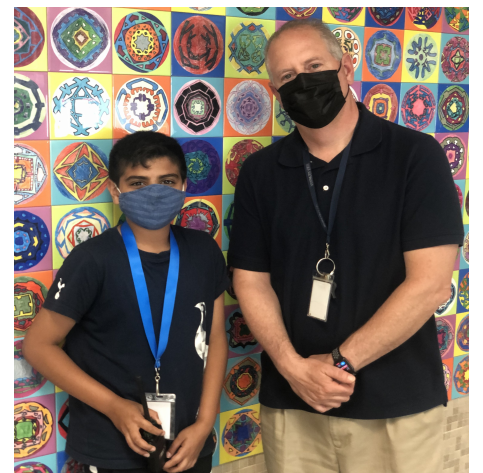
By Akiv Shah

Imagine getting to do all the things that a principal would get to do in one day, and getting the title of "principal." That dream turned into a reality for student Jai Bahal in Ms. Gottfried's class from Washington Elementary School.

Bahal started his day doing the morning announcements. Next he and the current principal, Mr. Mecurio made sure the snack areas were clean. Then they raised the flag and completed a check in on all the classes. Lastly, he made the dismissal announcements. Bahal said, "It was very fun, but a lot of work at the same time. Bahal had won the Principal of the day at the RocktoberFest. Student Jason Jun from Bahal's class said, "He did a very good job as principal of the day."



Bahal did a great job delivering the morning announcements. Pictured below with Principal Mecurio.



Book Reviews Continued from Page 6.

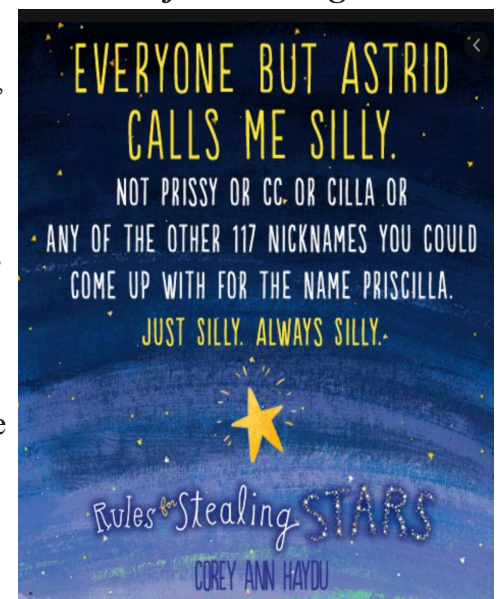
A Heartfelt Examination of Poetry: *Love That Dog*

shows just how powerful poetry is, making people feel valued, and helping writers understand their own emotions in a way that can make difference in their own lives, and in the lives of their readers.

One of Jack's favorite poem is Walter Dean Myers's "Love that Boy" about a dad delighted to have his son in his life. The poem deeply inspires Jack, and changes how he views poetry, helping him with his real-life struggles. "Love That Boy" helps Jack not only to find a style of poetry he finds appealing, but also gives him an understanding that a poem can be about anything on the poet's mind.

Love that Dog presents a likeable hero kids will find relatable, and a deeply moving story about the love between a boy and his dog. Creech gives readers the extra bonus of showing that powerful things can happen when writers have the courage to share all their stories -- even the sad ones.

Rules for Stealing Stars



Katherine Applegate, who wrote various books, including Newbery Medal winning *The One and Only Ivan*, says, "This story is as brilliant as a stolen star and every bit as magical. Prepare to be enchanted." Many people really enjoyed this book, and it is definitely a required read. Furthermore, ALA Booklist comments that this book is, "a lyrical story of love and loss." *Rules for Stealing Stars* is a heartfelt, beautifully written book many students will love.

The Millburn Free Public Library Continues to Make a Difference

the platforms to make sure the programs were a success, where attendees felt interconnected and involved.”

On re-opening, the librarians worked hard to keep the library a safe place for its patrons. “We wanted to make sure people felt safe and confident in using the library,” said Banick. The library kept up with the situation by offering virtual classes, continuing with reading challenges and offering take home art kits. The Friends of the Millburn Library set up the Little Free Library at Taylor Park, Short Hills station and at Gero Park. “Both Friends of the Millburn Library and the Library worked hard to figure out how to engage people who were used to face-to-face contact within the library building. Many of our



ideas came from the fact that we knew people craved connection.” said Dorothy Kelly, Millburn Free Public Library Trustee and President of the Friends of the Millburn Library. The library offered 607 programs in 2020 which is more than in any year on record.

The Washington School has a Media Den instead of a library.

Students have access to e-resources, but depend on the Millburn Library for books. “The Millburn Library plays an important role for Washington students.... The students have to rely on the Millburn Library for a larger selection of books to read,” said Maria Brylin, a Washington School student.

Libraries play an important role in providing information and services

to children, teens and adults for educational and informational purposes. “The Millburn Library provides students with invaluable resources, more than any school can provide merely due to the volume of books and materials they have,” said Max Gerstel, student from Washington School. “Books, I believe, take you on an adventure to a different world which was much required during the pandemic to keep everyone engaged, and the Millburn Library did a great job by making books available easily and in a safe way,” added Gerstel. The Millburn Free Public Library continues to make a difference in residents' daily lives by bringing the community together, providing invaluable resources and restoring normalcy.

Washington School Celebrates Poetry Month

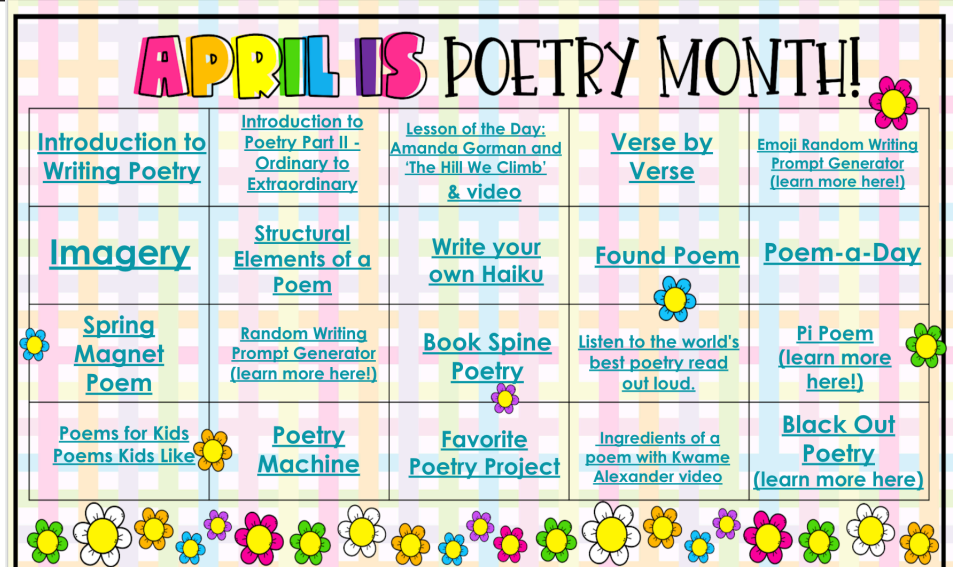
By Krisana Manglani and Jessica Sherman

A large number of Washington students love writing poetry. It's a celebrated form of writing, and is often submitted to the *Washington School Post's* very own "Write Stuff" column. For example, in our third issue, which came out on April 29, 2021, there were various amazing poems. For example, Julia Ketkar wrote an amazing poem about Susan B. Anthony, Suhaas Penubarthi wrote a spectacular poem entitled *Passionate Light*, not to mention other amazing poems by Naman Mehta, Alisha Gupta, Allen Wu, and Samara Tichauer. To see their poems, look at the virtual copy of the third issue of the newspaper, or pick up a copy from school. April was Poetry Month, and every year, Washington students enjoy fun activities to celebrate.

Many students in Washington have taken advantage of having plenty of free time to enjoy poetry. They've also used the

resources they've been given by teachers. 5th grader Alisha Gupta, in Mrs. Chibaro's class, who had a poem published in the Write Stuff column, said, “April Poetry month brings us together through the art of writing and creativity. My poem, ‘Sounds of Nature’ hopes to bring us together in tough times. It tells us to stay calm.” Many students, like Gupta, enjoy writing poems and sharing them in honor of April Poetry Month.

In April students were excited to have a chance to write countless poems using helpful resources from teachers. Ms. Gottfried put together an outstanding array of poetry resources and lessons to share with all the Washington teachers. Mrs. Jones said, “My class studied a variety of poets and wrote their own original poetry. Also, each student chose a specific poet to study, and shared a comprehensive presentation with the class on April 30. Students researched the lives of their poets, memorized one of their poems, and wrote an original poem inspired by



Ms. Gottfried created an amazing collection of poetry resources for all the Washington School students and teachers to enjoy this year and in years to come.

their poet's style. I was so proud of their presentations." Washington students and teachers without a doubt enjoyed April Poetry Month. Furthermore, Washington graduate, Priyana Manglani, a sixth grader in Millburn Middle School, said, “Poetry is one of my favorite forms of writing because there are many different types of poetry to express yourself.”

In 1996, April Poetry Month was established by the Academy of American Poets, and has been celebrated ever since. During National Poetry Month, billions of people globally write countless

forms of poetry: haiku, limericks, blank verse, sonnets, couplets, quatrains, and much more. Poetry is a very special way to express feelings and tell stories, and although April has passed, people continue reading and writing poetry. Poetry helps people come together. During Covid-19, there have been many challenges to overcome, and poetry has been a helpful way to express feelings during a troubling time. National Poetry Month provides a way for people to discover poetry and the impact it can have on their lives.



From left to right, Stem group challenge winners Celina Chen, Fiona Hu and Sophia Li hold onto their prize, a check for \$150.

Washington Students Enjoy STEM Fest

By Shradha Vatsa and Meera Saha Choudhry

The STEM Fest was an event hosted by the Millburn Education Foundation in March including four activities, Chess, Math, Coding, and Environmental. These engaging activities helped students stretch their minds and be productive while still having fun.

All students from grades K-12 were allowed to participate in the chess challenge, run by David Lazarus. In the chess competition, there were two levels: open and novice. Washington student Naman Mehta said, "It was a great experience playing chess against players of all different ages from the town. We had over 150 great players which is why the tournament ended with very close scores." There were six rounds and the first place winner of the novice level was Sam Wang (2nd grade) in 1st place. The open level first place winner was Henry Pu (grade 10).

In the math competition, students from K through 5th

grade had 30 minutes to complete eight math problems. Washington students Suvid Bordia and Timothy Xie tied for first place. Students loved the challenge: "You had to think critically...It was challenging, but at the same time fun," said student Saanvi Akkina.

The coding challenge students worked in teams or alone to create a game or simulation about environmental awareness. Student Krisha Shankarnaryan said, "I found the coding challenge very fun and engaging. I especially enjoyed the creative prompt."

The students doing the environmental challenge were also allowed to work in teams or solo to focus on the 2021 theme: household waste reduction. Washington School winners, Celina Chen, Fiona Hu, Sophia Li are pictured above.

The STEM Fest had something for everyone. Students had to think creatively and test their mental acumen. Washington students rate the STEM Fest a ten out of ten, and hope the fun activities return next year.

Washington School Pianist to Play at Carnegie Hall

By Akiv Shah

Neel Jain, an 11-year-old student at Washington School, scored a gold medal and crowned the winner in the 2021 Golden Key Piano Competition. This year there were over five hundred American and international student pianists.

As a first-place winner of the competition, Jain not only earned a Gold Medal, but also a diploma laureate. Jain also earned the honor of performing his winning piece, Burgsmüller's Arabesque op.100, at



Carnegie Hall in June.

Last year Jain earned second place in the Little Mozart competition organized by Crescendo. Playing piano since the age of six, Jain currently studies with Tamara Delon from Natalie's School Of Performing Arts.

Jain said, "I intend to use my formal education in piano to make a difference in the lives of kids with special needs and elderly people by giving live performances."



Washington School Celebrates Cinco de Mayo

By Theo Reibaud and Logan

Every year on May 5, Cinco de Mayo, a celebration of Mexican heritage, is celebrated. The day is celebrated with parades, parties, mariachi music, Mexican folk dancing and traditional foods such as tacos and mole poblano.

This year for Cinco de Mayo, Mrs Haggerty put together an engaging show for Washington students. Señora Plumacker, Millburn Middle School's Spanish teacher, made a special appearance on the broadcast. Plumacker is the Millburn Middle School Spanish teacher. It was a great way for students taking Spanish next year to get to know a little bit about Plumacker.

This year, Señora Canizales went all out for Cinco de Mayo. She gave classes 5 Fun Cinco de Mayo Facts, offered drawing tutorials on how to draw a Cinco de Mayo boy and Girl, as well as some Cinco de Mayo coloring sheets for students who like to relax and color. Every year, these teachers really make Cinco de Mayo special for everyone. Many people mistake Cinco de Mayo for Mexican Independence Day. Although the holiday actually commemorates a minor event in Mexican history, in the US, the holiday

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



The Write Stuff: A Collection of Original Stories and Poems from our Washington Wolves

Follower

by Josh Gerstel

It doesn't matter if I
Run, walk,
Or even mountain climb
This dark self of me
Won't stop following me
He never leaves me
Even when the sun goes down
Making him almost invisible
He still follows me
Through the night
Waiting for a time to eclipse me



From the Desk of the Literary Editor...

Dear Readers,

I'd like to start by thanking all the students of Washington School who submitted so many wonderful pieces for "The Write Stuff" column. The poems and stories submitted have been so memorable, and it was difficult to select which pieces would be published in the newspaper.

With school ending in just a few days, many of you will be going on vacation or off to summer camp. If writing is a favorite pastime, there are many ways to continue writing once school is over. Writing is a fun and easy way to stay happy, and a way to stay calm. Writing brings joy to many people. You might feel stuck or wondering what to write about outside of school so here are some ideas. Keep a journal to jot down your thoughts and feelings. Or as our editor-in-chief, Jessica Sherman suggested, exchange letters (or emails) with a pen-pal. Grandparents or long distance relatives would love to hear from you. Writing can keep us connected to friends and family and bring cheer into our lives. You can also write fiction stories to boost your creativity and stoke your imagination. Try one of these writing tips over the summer and keep the love of writing alive while having fun. Author Ken MacLeod said, "The secret to becoming a writer is to write, write and keep on writing." Have a great summer, and I'll see you in Middle School,

Mehr Kothari

Literary Editor

The Washington School Post



Nighttime

By Alisha Gupta

Sky is black,
stars are bright,
Shadows dance
In the night



Owls hunt
Mice run

Water is streaming,
As I lie dreaming

In the wondrous
Night sight,
The darkness tonight.
Where light is visible,
Not invisible.

The Last Thing I Ever Do

By Samara Tichauer

The truth hurts.
Sometimes you need to hear it.
If it's the last thing you do.
Speak the truth
Hear the truth
If it's the last thing you ever do.
I'd rather steal all the bases in a
game
Then get them stolen from me.
If it's the last thing I ever do.

Stage Fright

By Jordyn Rielle Gulliford

I walk on stage with my group
They are watching me already
I try to sing, my voice goes numb
They are watching
I try to dance, I fall to the ground
They are watching
I start to cry, they start to laugh
I run off the stage
They are not watching
I grab confidence
I walk on the stage
They are watching me
They are watching us

The Lone Biker

By Anika Bhavaraju

The lone biker
Stood there
Biking on midnight
His face closed off
And so his hair blended
With the night sky
Biking about
Fast as lightning
Graceful as a deer
Standing up
From his seat
Balancing like
He was born
At a circus
Why is he out?
I ask my mother
Why is he out so late at night?
Some things
My mother said
Are just meant
To be a mystery
I try to glimpse his face
Out from the car window
Then he turns
And bikes away
Forever towards the moon



A Thousand Deep Dark Secrets



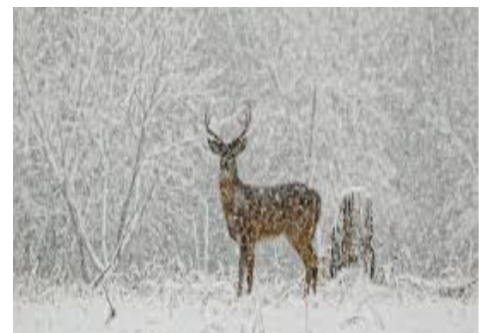
By Sanvi Chaini

There are a thousand deep, dark
secrets
Hiding in the gloomy night
That many people don't know about.
They die during day
And come to life during night
They take over the world
And make it their site.
One unfortunate day
Came the end to their way
Because of a flood that washed
them away
Into another world they find
Where there are many others of their
kind
That was the place in which they
decided
to stay
And that was where it was decided
they would start to obey

This is An Evening

By Isaac Ditchek

This is an evening to remember the
deer
Dashing along the untouched snow,
Watching the hills,
Packed with evergreens.
This is an evening
To remember the deer, that sleeps
With no fear
Using the soft snow as a blanket,
Feeling warm and cozy.
This is an evening
To remember the deer,
On the night filled with snow.



Students Use Geometry

In Novel Ways

By Logan Saperstein and Gabrielle Saperstein

Students in four Washington School classes participated in a Geometry math project called "Geometrocity." Students in each class were put into groups and asked to make a city filled with geometry terms and constructed with nets. All the buildings were of the group's choice, but everyone's buildings included geometric shapes. The on-going project was completed in two weeks time.

There are three stages to making these Geometry Cities. The first stage was permits; students had to prove their shape skills in order to start constructing their cities. The next stage was "Design and Build" where students chose and outlined



Annika Debur, Blake Plotkin, Meghan Haggerty & Anya Debur stand proudly by their project.

their buildings on special grid paper. The final stage was "Construction." Students built their cities out of nets of shapes they'd selected in the second stage. As students constructed the cities, colorful buildings became 3-D,

resembling a real city. Students created hospitals, banks, parks, colleges, jails, swimming pools, and beaches. LJ Tusso, a student from Ms. Briber's class said, "My favorite part of the Geometry city project was the construction of my project. I enjoyed it because I saw my hard work coming together into a beautiful project." Students named their cities with creative titles, making the overall project come together as a whole. When students were finished, they held a "Tourism Day". Students from all four classes displayed their projects around the bus loop. Students shared suggestions and positive feedback with each other. Overall, the students found the project creative and fun.



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marks the resistance of the indigenous people against Europeans. Mexico got into a financial crisis, and could not pay its debt back to Britain, France, and Spain. These countries sent naval ships to Mexico. Britain and Spain came to an agreement, but France did not. That started the Battle of Puebla where France had 6,000 men and Mexico only had 2,000. Later the US put pressure on France, and they eventually left. This is the history behind Cinco de Mayo. Americans enjoy celebrating Mexican culture and food on this popular holiday.

Spotlight on Mrs. Schaefer:

Pack W's Superstar

By Rebecca Green, Anika Bhavaraju, and Suvid Bordia

Washington School provides a rigorous and engaging learning environment for its students. And there is no teacher more rigorous and engaging than Pack W's Mrs. Denise Schaefer who has been teaching and inspiring students in Pack W since the school opened. Mrs. Denise Schaefer teaches one of the three classes in Pack W. She has been in the education system for over 20 years. Schaefer has taught in many schools, including Deerfield Elementary. She loves teaching and looks forward to coming to school each day.

Schaefer did not just get the idea to be a teacher out of nowhere. In fact, she has had a lot of inspiration. Mrs. Schaefer said, "I met so many amazing, talented teachers throughout my formal education and I wanted to be part of that talented professional group." She also wants to "work with and inspire children," she added. Schaefer loves to teach, but she also likes many other things. She said, "My hobbies include running, reading, gardening, and spending time with my family!" She also loves to bake and travel, especially to New York City. She



also wants to lounge at the beach. This summer she has a stack of books she will read, and she plans to prepare for the next school year.

Schaefer has been teaching for a long time, so she has sound advice for students: think "big picture" and always seek help when needed. Never give up and always believe in yourself. Schaefer also says achieving your educational goals is a step-by-step process, and there are ups and downs along the way.

Continued on Page 11.

The Town of Millburn Makes Positive Headlines

By Mehr Kothari

Millburn is the town all of the tournament, and won with a score of 18-7 on June 1. Carly Berstein finished with 8 goals and 3 assists for the Millers followed by Ally Lipkin who collected 6 goals and 2 assists for the 9-3 lead.

Bags to Benches: A town wide plastic recycling program is in full swing after being kicked off on October 15th. Residents of Millburn/Short Hills have been challenged to collect a total of 500 lbs. of plastic film, or about 40,500 plastic bags. If the goal is reached by September 15, a recycling company, Trex, will turn the recycled plastic into a bench for the town. Right now over 1000 pounds have been collected. The program is being organized by resident and Millburn high school student Julia Nieman in partnership with Trex.

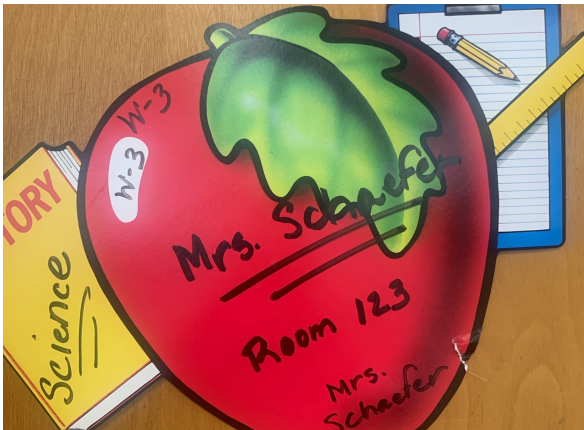
High School Spring Musical: Millburn High Schoolers will present the musical, Mama Mia! Their Spring Musical will take place on the front lawn of the MHS on June 11, 12, and 13.

Sports Victories: The Millburn girls lacrosse team played Cranford in the NJSIAA North Jersey, Group 3 state

As we wrap up this school year, a hearty congratulations from the *Washington School Post* to all the graduating fifth graders, and best wishes for the upcoming school year in Middle School.

Pack W's Superstar: Mrs. Schaefer

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For students who want to teach one day, Schaefer said, “Set your goal, see what you need to do to achieve that goal, and work hard. Enjoy the process.” When asked about the favorite part of her job, Mrs. Schaefer said, “Working with children is by far my favorite part of being a teacher. Every day is different and exciting. It’s truly a special experience to be able to work with children and be part of their learning journey.” And Mrs. Schaefer’s students are so happy she has been there to guide and teach them all year long. She is a teacher students long remember well past their fifth grade year.

The Write Stuff Continued from Page 9.

Meditations on Unruly Cyber Bullies

By Rhea Tyagi

The silent voice is never heard,
People need not a voice to be cured.
Tiny signs, guilty lines, because only a kind child cries.
Why does the thick sound of silence cover the room,
Filled with the doom of the hurtful assumed?
Why is Social Media what has become of our lives,
In a sleek red Ferrari the inevitable will soon arrive. An effect of our economy from the lack of truth,
But we keep our phones so it’s a tooth for tooth?
The tear from the spear thrown so near the place
Where people used to have not one fear
Makes some wonder: Is it worth all that the victim must endure?
The clueless, the nuisances, the “hilarious,”
Have made a larger mess from the victim’s stress
Than they will be able to fix.
The bully who never leaves,
Is never there to displease...
The age of the silent bully is here to succeed.
The clueless, the nuisances, the “hilarious,”
And the jealous have made a larger mess
from the victim’s stress than they will be able to fix. But parents, friends and family are there to help. They can help understand or solve a problem
Before feeling hurt leads to stress and silence.

School’s Almost Out: What Do Teachers Do Over Summer Vacation?

By Zachary Abrahams, Joshua Gerstel, and Jason Jun

The sun is shining. A child is sitting on a hammock. Another is swimming in the ocean. It’s summer vacation. At the end of June, Washington School ends. Some kids will go to camp. They will say goodbye to their teachers and friends they will not see until next year. Students all over the globe are about to relax, play, and have fun. But what do their teachers do over the break?

Many teachers like to travel. Fifth grade teacher Ms. Cassels said, “I’d like to study in an ashram in India because I’m interested in the contemplative life.” An ashram is like a monastery. Cassels likes to practice meditation so an ashram is a good fit for her. Teachers like to travel abroad and in the US. Ms. Briber said, “I’m going to go to my house in Maine with my family.” Mrs. Emmanouilidis will also vacation in Maine along with seventeen family members! She’ll need to rest and relax since she’ll also be supervising the summer program at Washington School. Mrs. Jones will head to her house on Cape Cod as soon as school is out. She said, “If it’s safe to fly, I’ll also go to

Mrs. Jones's grand-daughter, pictured right, loves the beach at Cape Cod in the summer time.



see my grandchildren in California.” Similarly, Miss Cassels’ favorite place to travel is “wherever [her] nieces are.” Mr. Mercurio, the principal, said he has planned “a trip to Disney World in August” with his family. Teachers like to go to different places, and they also like to see their relatives. Mrs. Loew will spend time with her family, including her canine family member! Loew wants to “go for runs, put [her] toes in the sand, and play fetch with [her] dog” over the summer in her beach house down the Jersey Shore. Mr. Mercurio and Mrs. Haggerty both want to finish home improvement projects over the summer. Mrs. Haggerty has her “fingers crossed” that they complete the improvements. Mrs. Schaefer will cart a stack of books to her condo by the beach in Florida to catch up on reading and create lessons for the upcoming school year. Not only is Mr. Miller the top of the line when it comes to trumpet teachers, but he has a really unique summer planned: he is expecting his first son! All summer he and his family will be getting ready for their baby's arrival.

Happy summer to all teachers and students!



The Write Stuff Continued from Page 9.

Hat

By Esther Chen



The hat
Is like a Shield
Protecting your head
From the snow

It can also be
A bed for your
pet hamster
Who snoozes peacefully inside

A hat
Can be
many things



Seashell

By Sofiia Malinovska

No wonder why
A seashell
Is named
A seashell
It sends
Waves
Right into your ear
Anywhere
And it doesn’t lose
Connection
Like a radio
It’s
A home of waves
And home of
Crabs,
Hermit crabs
A decoration
For the beach



For your home
For a museum
A Decoration,
A home,
A sender of
waves
No wonder why
A seashell
Is named
A seashell



End Notes: An Extraordinary Year Comes to a Close



Dedicated reporter Jordan Altman wanted the last page of the newspaper to be as special as the first page, so he collected comments from every class at Washington School to help tell the tale of the Academic Year 2020 - 2021.

From Our Students' Voices...

By Jordan Altman

"This year was an unprecedented and extraordinary journey. Like a road with an abundance of bumps and stormy weather, but we smoothed out the obstacles with heart-warming friendships, unbreakable bonds, and the most supportive teachers in the world. New tech learning, and all the while absorbing stimulating information for a phenomenal year!" said all of Mrs. Murphy's class. As this different year is almost completed, I wanted to survey my fellow Washington Wolves to find out what they thought were the good parts of this year. I collected one comment from every class to summarize the year that will definitely go down in history as one of the most unique. *"From virtual to hybrid, this school year has been crazy, unique,"* said Gabriella Volpicelli from Ms. Irving's class, *"but most of all FUN!!"* John Porter in Mrs. Schaefer's class said, *"This year was very surreal yet amazing. It was incredible how the whole school staff adapted to the adversity and pursued on to make the year extraordinary for the students."* Annika Debur, a student of Mrs. Briber said, *"This year was full of computers, masks, and face shields, but most of all it was filled with teamwork; nobody could get through this year alone!"*

Aphrodite Deng in Mrs. Jones's class had an inspiring comment to share. *"You can find inspiration in everything. That's what I did this year. If you can't, then you're not looking properly."* Thomas Marx in Mrs. Turteltaub's class was candid: *"This year has been very hard for me and I am sure that I am not the only one. With Covid everything has changed. Being able to hang out or go indoors with friends. This year has been very weird by itself in every way. When this year is over I will be very happy."*

Lulu Toleafoa, in Mrs. Gottfried's class said, *"This year has been a bumpy road with its twists and turns, but we managed to make it fun. We learned how to stick with each other. Fifth grade is a year we'll never forget."* Jack Lawler, in Mrs. Cunningham's class said, *"One thing that stood out about this year to me is how hard it was. But the amount of friends I have made, and all the new friends I will have going into middle school."*

Caden Millerman in Mrs. Policarpio's class said, *"This year has been very different and crazy, but it was very great that Washington School brought us back to school."* Nikhil Prasad in Ms. Cassels's class summed up the experience by writing, *"This was the year we couldn't touch, the year we couldn't hug, the year we had to stay six feet, the year of face shields, the year of masks, the year of covid learning."*

Gabby Robakidze said, *"This year was a different but exciting school year. I really enjoyed the year, and I will miss Washington School."* Arthur Lewis from Mr. de la Fuente's class said, *"It was a wild experience."*

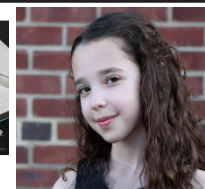
From the Editor's Desk...

Looking back on the year, I see many challenges. Not just normal life problems but mostly, school. This year, because of Covid-19, schools have had to adapt to new learning styles and ways to stay healthy during the pandemic. In the beginning of the school year, everyone was virtual and most people were still confused and scared of the pandemic. After that time, Washington School started allowing students into school with the AM/PM program. Then, we started going into school for 4 hours and then developed into 4 hours, 30 minutes, which is what is in motion currently. This year, we faced many changes but everyone got through. Knowing that 2020 and 2021 were and are very difficult years and that students and teachers pushed through makes me very proud of all of us. Also, this school year is almost over. Even though I'm sad to leave Washington School, I am excited to start a new life in Millburn Middle School! I know that Middle School will be a great challenge, but based on what everyone experienced this year, we will succeed! Finally, I would like to thank Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Briber for choosing me to be editor-in-chief. It was such an honor to be chosen. They are the reason I'm writing this. This year was tough but I'm really glad we got through it, together!

Here's to a great summer,

Jessica Sherman
Editor-in-chief

The Washington School Post



"This was the year we couldn't touch, the year we couldn't hug, the year we had to stay six feet, the year of face shields, the year of masks, the year of covid learning."

Rowan Freeman in Mrs. Roberts' class said, *"It was very stressful and difficult because I didn't know what was going to happen next. In the end, it was fun, and I had a great 5th grade year."* Maddie Karanek, in Mrs. Van Dzura's class said, *"This year was weird, but it was also neat. I got to see how the world worked throughout the year, and how much people cared about one another."*

Maria Brylin in Mrs. Monaco's class said, *"This year has been challenging for everyone but our teachers have found a way to help us learn. It might look different, but we are all appreciative to be able to get back in school."* Krisana Manglani in Mrs. Chibaro's class said, *"Although this school year was new, and virtual learning was different too, I am so glad that I am here. In Washington there is nothing to fear. The school year has been great fun, but sadly, soon it will be done."*

"This year has had its challenges, but through it all we found a way to persevere and create an unbreakable bond that will last forever," said Mrs. Del Vecchio's class. This year was hard, but we got through it. Because of all of Washington School's amazing teachers, and students, we made this year the best it could possibly be.

The editors, reporters and advisors apologize for any errors or omissions. We tried our best... We celebrate all our students, and wish everyone a wonderful summer and a happy and successful Middle School year.

