



Paradigm Pivot: Washington Wolves Go the Distance

Together the Washington School Community transitions to Long Distance Learning, embracing a new way of life in the pandemic.

By Eliana Barker

Classrooms are deserted. Hallways are pitch black. No honking of cars on the highways or clogging downtown Millburn. Where is everyone? Are they hiding? No. A virus called coronavirus, or COVID - 19 has emptied our streets, our neighborhoods and our school. It all started with an animal carrying a virus, sold in the Chinese markets which infected a human. That human then spread it on to another person, and so on. Citizens had no idea they were infected until they had trouble breathing. This insidious virus has spread worldwide with a global impact on us all. But how is our Washington School community coping with the current global pandemic?



The once bustling Millburn streets are now empty.

While teachers and students alike initially had trouble adjusting to the closure of school, many are making the adjustment. Fifth-grader Alex Tan passes the time by playing in her backyard. "It's very different than actual school. I don't get to see my teachers as much, but it's fine," she says. "I enjoy jumping on my trampoline and drawing." Alex Barker, a high schooler, passes his free time by playing video games with his friends online.

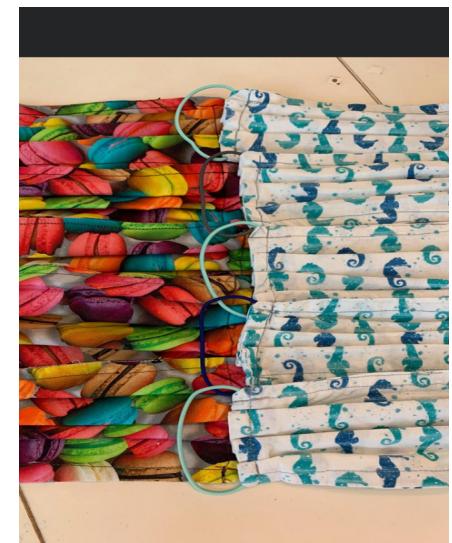


Principal Mercurio navigates long distance learning while surrounded by loved ones for moral support and extra hugs.

"It's very dangerous, this coronavirus, and we have seen nothing like this before," he said. Our parents have been adjusting to the new daily routine, balancing work from home, and kids' homeschooling.

Our principal, Mr. Mercurio is keeping the long distance learning ship afloat: "Virtual learning can never replace the teaching that happens when we are at school," Mercurio said. "But we all are learning to adjust to our virtual learning world." Our technology expert, Mrs. Haggerty has been so proud of students' and teachers' efforts embracing technology in our new long distance learning paradigm: "Washington School teachers and students did a wonderful job picking up new technology while maintaining the strong foundation they built in school. Although I definitely miss seeing everyone in the building every day, it's great to hear how well the technology integration is going during distance learning." According to Mrs. Murphy, "Teaching is going very well, but I find it much more difficult. In school, feedback can come easily and be immediate. Online feedback is time-intensive and necessary at the same time. I am never done."

This time in the world is also very sad. Many people are sick and cannot be visited in the hospital, and tragically many have died. Their family members cannot even mourn their death. Every day, there is news of more deaths and infections. It seems as if there is no good news.... but.... there are some glimmers of hope. A lot of people are donating to various charities, helping food drives, and offering food and supplies to those in need to help those in need cope with shortages. Mrs. Chibaro said, "I have spent an hour per day, cutting old sheets into masks for our hospitals for our front line workers." Haggerty also has a family issue. "With this whole situation and the fact that my husband is a doctor working in the ICU, I have not been able to see them."



Face masks from Mrs. Chibaro's sheets donated to local hospitals.

Everyone is trying to social distance and wash their hands frequently when touching different surfaces. People have stopped handshakes and hugs. Many kids are missing seeing their friends and hanging out with them because of the restrictions of crowds and practicing social distancing. *Continued on Page 2.*

Mrs. Mrs. VanDzura Returns to Washington



Mrs. Van Dzura pictured with family and newest addition.

By Aditi Banerjee

Mrs. VanDzura is back to teach a class of students she has never met before. She took a break from the end of last May to the beginning of March to deliver and take care of new born baby girl, Rhea Capri VanDzura. When VanDzura returned she had exactly three days with her new class. They focused on cleaning up and having a new fresh start. VanDzura lives in Glen Ridge around 25 minutes away with her husband Matt, son Caden Cruz, who is 4 years older than Rhea, and the baby Rhea Capri. Rhea was born on July 2nd and VanDzura calls her, "My little firework!"

When asked why she picked the name Rhea Capri, VanDzura replied that her father's side of the family was Greek and Rhea is a Greek name. When asked if she had another name for the baby VanDzura replied that they had fallen in love with the name Rhea and that the name was always the winner. As for the middle name Capri, VanDzura explained that they named Rhea's middle name with a "c" because she wanted to honor her mom. Additionally Caden Cruz is also named with a "c."

VanDzura was inspired to become a teacher because she says that she comes from a family of educators. Both her parents were teachers as well as her grandfather, and her uncle and aunt owned a pre-school. VanDzura jokes that teaching is in her blood. However her greatest inspiration came from her mom. VanDzura herself is an expert mom and an expert teacher. For her students and all the students of Washington School, VanDzura has the following message: "I am so incredibly proud of Washington School students. You have all faced many challenges over the past few weeks, yet you continue to rise to the top. Your grit and resilience are astounding!"

Pandemic Paradigm Pivot

Continued from Page 1.

Teachers are also similarly impacted because they can't see their students in person every day. "I miss my students terribly, but I am so grateful for all our available technology so at least we can be in touch and communicate. I actually enjoy making instructional videos for my students - something I've never done before!" Mrs. Jones said. Teachers are passing their time in a number of ways outside of teaching. Mrs. Monaco has been playing board games with her children at night: "We started family game night and have been really enjoying our time and laughing the nights away. It has been a great distraction," she said. Mrs. Jones has been keeping busy by cooking every day. "I'm really enjoying cooking, and Mrs. Chibaro has the best recipes!! I also like taking long walks with the dog, James," says Jones.



Mrs. Jones's sweet potato fries courtesy of Mrs. Chibaro's recipe file.

Mrs. Murphy also likes walking her dog and planning new lessons for distance learning. "On the weekends I do enjoy going for some runs or starting a puzzle. Mrs. Haggerty is keeping her family together as much as possible: "I'm in charge of scheduling virtual meets with my family so all sixteen of us can see each other!" said Haggerty. Mr. Mercurio and his family have played games, but also go for walks, and ride bikes to stay active. "Yard Work also helps!" added Mercurio.

When thinking about what we've learned, everyone values family time now more than ever. Monaco said, "I have realized how important family time is, and that my relationships with my colleagues are really important to the success of our students. We spend a lot of time talking with each other



Mrs. Monaco enjoys family Game Night pictured with son, Christopher

on the phone and in Google Meets, just like with our students." In a similar way, Mercurio stated, "We value our family time together and are very connected. We are looking to use this time to learn, laugh, share stories, and work on some home projects together." Tech guru Haggerty waxed philosophical: "When reflecting on this whole situation, I've learned the power of slowing down. Basically, don't sweat the small stuff, spend time with the people you love and just try to do better each day!" Murphy added, "My students have told me they have found in distance learning that they like learning and working at their own pace." Chibaro added, "I think I learned to have more patience and basically to be grateful for all of my blessings."

We are all waiting for us to get back to our daily schedule and to see our relatives. Monaco is eager to get back to spending time on the beach with her family on the weekends. "I am counting down the days until I can hug my parents and my nieces and nephews," says Haggerty. Mercurio's family looks forward to playing sports and watching the Yankees. "I look forward to visiting family and friends again. I think we are looking forward to the time when we can go to the store without a mask." Chibaro also misses hugging her family and sharing dinners. "I enjoy and miss going to plays, theatres, concerts, and physically standing closer to people."

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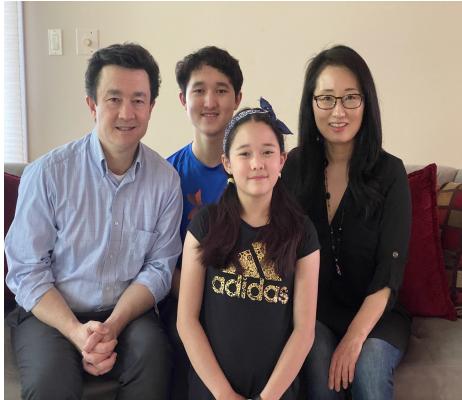


Broadway's stages are empty for the foreseeable future.

Pandemic Paradigm

Pivot *Continued from Page 2.*

"I think we had all taken for granted our freedom, and are realizing now just how precious our time in our classrooms really is for teachers and students," Monaco summarized. As a student, I feel the same way. I think students are thinking that they just want to see their friends in person and just get back to their normal schedule. I also think that we want to go outside and not see people social distancing or wearing masks. The corona virus has impacted all of us in many ways. We are working through using new technology to overcome the distancing, and we are passing time by playing games, going outside, cooking more at home, and helping each other. And we've learned what's most important -- family and friends.



Reporter Eliana Barker pictured with her family.



A strawberry-pineapple smoothie gives a super nutritious energy boost when completing long-distance learning lessons.

Quarantine Cuisine



By Juliana DiTore and Vivian Palomo

The kitchen is all set up. The spoons are on the table next to the colorful measuring cups. With the bag of flour on the counter, and the jars of raspberry and strawberry jam, it is time to bake. Get your oven mitts out, because here are some awesome quarantine recipes and treats to try! From smoothies to cookies and cakes, these foods will surely keep you occupied, not just because of the cooking, but because of the eating too!

Baking is becoming more and more popular as the days stretch and a routine begins to take shape. It is a fun hobby, and an entertaining way to keep you busy. Here are some fun baking treats. With 2/4 of dark chocolate, 3/4 of hot water, 1 tsp of vanilla extract, the ingredients are perfect for the start of a fun, delicious chocolate ganache cake (serves 12). With its moist chocolate inside, and a creamy delightful frosting on the outside, taste buds will party non stop. The cake is nice and simple, and having a slice with a cup of milk at the end of the day, would be the perfect setting for total relaxation. Snuggle up with a blanket, and pick a favorite movie to enjoy a slice of a chocolate ganache cake!

Don't wake up in the morning just to pull back up the covers, and go back to sleep. Instead, wake up excited, and grab a fun, sweet gooey muffin, with an energy

boosting smoothie as a beverage. Bite into the muffin and taste the cupcake batter, with a hint of fruity sensation. Go bananas, and take out the blender, because it's time to grab some fruits. Strawberries, Pineapples, and maybe some yogurt! It's a fruit party! Start the morning out fresh with a sip of an energy boosting smoothie and a yummy blueberry muffin to fill your tummy. It's basically both fruit in a cup and a cupcake treat!

Have you ever wondered what your fingerprint looks like? Well stop wondering. Take out the dough and stick your finger in it. Have you ever had a Hallongrotta? Thumbprint cookies, or Hallongrotta, are a popular recipe all around the world. With a nice plain cookie outside, and a hole in the middle filled with optional flavors of jam, these cookies are a dream come true! With so many different flavors and varieties of jam, thumbprint cookie flavors just keep getting better and better. And, the recipe is so easy. So take that jam out of the fridge and clean up your thumb because it's time to stick through some dough.



Scroll through social media and you will definitely find the famous whipped coffee recipe. But what if your mind just thinks of coffee to be that one drink parents always have, or the most bitter thing you have ever had? Don't hesitate to make it because you don't like coffee. Try out whipped hot chocolate. It's as fun to make as to drink. Get ready to be taking some pictures for the Instagram-able beverage. With the whipped hot chocolate on top, it's like a unicorn dream.



BLUEBERRY MUFFINS

1 1/2 cups white whole wheat flour 3/4 cup old-fashioned rolled oats 1/2 cup lightly packed light brown sugar

1 tablespoon baking powder

1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

1 cup nonfat milk — plus 2 tablespoons

1/4 cup unsalted butter — melted and cooled

2 large eggs 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract 1 cup blueberries

Mix ingredients and pour into greased muffin tins.

Bake at 400 degrees for 20 - 25 minutes. Let cool -- enjoy!

THUMBPRINT COOKIES

1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour

1/2 teaspoon baking powder

1/2 teaspoon fine salt

3/4 cup unsalted butter (1 1/2 sticks), softened 2/3 cup sugar, plus more for rolling

1 large egg 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

1/3 cup raspberry, cherry or strawberry jam.

Mix dough into balls, then place on greased cookies sheet in

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Quarantine Cuisine

Continued from Page 3.

CHOCOLATE GANACHE CAKE

For cake:

1 1/2 cups all purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 pinch salt
1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup butter, softened
2 tablespoons butter, softened
3/4 cup white sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 large eggs

For the Spiced Ganache:

1 cup heavy cream
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
8 ounces chopped dark chocolate
3/4 teaspoon chili powder
1 pinch salt

Step 1: preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease two 8 - inch cake pans & dust with cocoa powder or spray with Pam. Step 2: Sift flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt for cake together in a bowl. Step 3: Dissolve cocoa and brown sugar in the boiling water.

Step 4: Beat butter and sugar together in a separate bowl until creamy. Add vanilla extract. Add half of the flour mixture and mix; add 1 egg and mix. Add remaining flour mixture and combine. Mix in remaining egg. Pour in cocoa mixture gradually and mix well until combined. Divide batter evenly between the prepared pans.

Step 5: Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into the center of each cake comes out clean, 18 to 20 minutes. Let cakes cool completely for 1 hour.

Step 6: Meanwhile, bring cream to a boil in a saucepan and add vanilla extract. Place dark chocolate in a bowl and pour hot cream on top. Stir until chocolate is melted and a smooth mixture forms. Add cinnamon, chili powder, and salt; mix. Let chill for 30 minutes.

Step 7: Spread some ganache on top of the cooled cakes and layer them. Spread remaining ganache over the whole cake and smooth out with spatula & chill.

Enjoy!! Don't forget to snap a picture of all your pandemic perfect baking delights!

Mrs. Nord, Super Teacher

By Sophia Hou

Who has a Doberman and an Irish Setter? Know a teacher whose last name means "north" in French? Mrs. Nord, of course! Mrs. Nord, a teacher at Washington School, lives in Long Valley, New Jersey with her husband, Mr. Nord, her three children, Ethan, Gillian and Joslyn, and her two dogs. Mrs. Nord was born in Brooklyn and grew up on Staten Island, New York. Then she moved to Bergen County when she was ten years old and in fifth grade, like the students at Washington School. She has taught for 22 years, starting in West Orange, then at Deerfield Elementary for 15 years and finally at Washington School.

So far, Mrs. Nord has found that the best thing about teaching is spending time with her students everyday, laughing and learning. She also added, "Being at home without them has been the hardest thing for me. I miss them very much!" Mrs. Nord has taught many grade levels, and she was a special education teacher. She taught kindergarten for eight years, first grade for seven years, and currently is in her third year of teaching fifth grade which she thinks is by far the best grade to teach. When asked what her favorite subject is to teach she said, "That's a hard question. Each subject has its own highlights. Although I do love math, I found that teaching reading has been my favorite because I just love the stories we read and the discussions we have." Currently, not only is she a Pack E homeroom teacher and a BUILDER teacher for rotation, but she also runs Washington



Mrs. Nord fresh from an after-dinner hike in Long Valley. School's Spelling Bee, is a lunch aide, is a co-leader of the Environmental Club with Mrs. August and teaches Trep\$.

In her home in Long Valley, Mrs. Nord finds hiking one of her favorite interests. She loves looking for new waterfalls and animals. When asked what her favorite color is, Mrs. Nord answered, "Cobalt blue because it reminds me of this beautiful ocean I saw once while on vacation in the Caribbean. It was just so gorgeous." Her favorite ice cream flavor is Cherry Garcia (a mix of vanilla, chocolate and cherry) and her favorite animal is the giraffe because she loves their uniqueness and grace. She stated, "I love sports! I love college basketball the best, go Seton Hall Pirates! And then I love the Pittsburgh Steelers and NY Rangers." One of her favorite authors for children is Katherine Applegate because she loves Applegate's style of writing and how she brings her characters to life. An interesting fact about Mrs. Nord is that she attended Manhattan School of Music Preparatory Division during high school to study piano. To answer the question of where would you live if you could live anywhere you wanted to, Nord responded, "I'd say definitely by a beach somewhere. As long as I have the sand and the sun, I am a happy person," Her students, homeroom and rotation, all love being with her as she makes everything fun.

Everyday in Mrs. Nord's class is a fun adventure waiting for her students. She definitely is one of Washington School's super teachers!





Favorite Reads during Quarantine:

The Series Of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket / Daniel Handler

The Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowling

Braced by Alyson Gerber

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Auggie and Me by R.J. Palacio

Warriors Series by Erin Hunter

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen

The 11:11 Wish by Kim Tomsic

The Land Of Stories by Chris Colfer

Tyrannosaurus Wrecks by Stuart Gibbs

of the Town: a Collection of Reviews.

Washington School Students Continue to Read Daily

By Aditi Banerjee

Normally people read many books. Since we are quarantined, people are reading more and more books. To the left is a list of books students are reading. Mischa Williams-Owolab from Mr. Weisburger's class has read the book *Braced*, and she says that she enjoyed the book. "It shows how you should be true to yourself and how to deal with difficult problems," Mischa said. Ryan Mcallum from Mrs. Briber's class said he enjoyed the book *Tyrannosaurus Wrecks*, because it is a really thrilling mystery and there is always an element of adventure. Anvi Anand also from Mrs. Schaefer's class says she recommends the book *Smile* by Raina Telgemeir. Anand likes the book *Smile* because it talks about an experience of a girl and the problems she faces because of her teeth and smile. Some really frequently read books are *The Series Of Unfortunate Events* and the *Harry Potter* series.

Book Review: *Refugee*

By Aditi Banerjee

Three different stories, three different settings, three different protagonists, one goal for all of them: to survive. Isabel, Josef, and Mahmoud are living lives in difficult times. Times where people are suffering, dying, and they now have a frightening tale to tell if they survive. Will they survive and reach their goals to escape their original homelands and be free forever?

Refugee by Alan Gratz is about three different lives. Isabel is a Cuban girl who is trying to escape the riots and harassment in her country. Josef is a Jewish boy trying to escape the Nazis in Germany, and Mahmoud is a Syrian boy whose homeland is destroyed by violence. These three children live in different time periods, but all face similar problems. They need to escape to survive the horrors of their homeland and the perils of their journeys.

Refugee is full of adventures. The author puts the reader in each character's shoes. Gratz really shows the reader in full detail what is happening to either Isabel, Josef, or Mahmoud. The book also teaches the reader many true events that happen in each historical time period. For example in Isabel's story, Gratz shows the reader what is happening in Cuba and why are people trying to sail all by themselves to America, risking their lives. In real life when Isabel lived in 1994, there were many riots because ever after the fall of the Soviet Union, Cuba's citizens were starving, and people were becoming restless. Reading *Refugee* multiple times, the reader will never become bored. *Refugee* is an amazing adventurous book!

Alan Gratz is a talented author. He has written sixteen novels for young adults including *Prisoner B-3087*, *Allies*, and *Projekt 1065*. *Refugee* has won multiple awards, and has been a *New York Times* best seller for over a year. Alan Gratz is truly a great novelist.

Slice of Life Realistic Fiction Recommendation for Staff

Teachers looking for a well-written engaging story should check out Emma Straub's fourth offering, *All Adults Here*. The novel traces the intertwining lives of family members and neighbors in the small fictionalized upstate New York town of Clapham which is so artfully portrayed, it looms as a character itself. The opening scene has Astrid, the fifty-something mother of the three protagonists, Nicky, Porter and Elliot witnessing the death of a long-time town acquaintance who is struck accidentally and killed by a school bus. A wake up call for Astrid, read the book to spend some quality time with Straub's engaging characters and see how they make their way through the trials and triumphs of 21 century life as "delayed adolescents."

-Sharon Jones

Book Review: *Endling #1: The Last*

By Arthur Zyranov



Endling #1: The Last is the first book in the Endling series. Written by the beloved author Katherine Applegate, the story takes place in a world where theurgy (magic) exists, and there are lots more intelligent species. The animals are classified into three groups: governing species (of which there are six), mezzetti, and regular species, like birds and bears.

Byx, the main character, is a dairne. Dairnes look so much like dogs that they are sometimes mistaken for them and are one of the six governing species, but they are going extinct because of humans, ruled by the Murdano. Byx lives in what is possibly the last dairne colony in existence, because despite being a governing species, dairnes are hunted by humans for their soft fur. The colony is planning to move northwards to find another legendary colony. While Byx, alone, visits the sea, she saves a wobbyk (mezzetti) in a rowboat from crashing into a cliff while narrowly avoiding humans trying to shoot her down (Dairnes can glide a little and detect lies).

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Book Review Continued:

Endling #1: The Last

When Byx heads back to home, with Tobbie trailing along, she finds her home destroyed and her colony, including her family, killed. She nearly dies herself, but is rescued by somebody. Once Byx regains consciousness, she meets Khara. Khara is a girl masquerading as a boy in order to earn money and survive. Their relationship is fragile at first, mostly because Byx doesn't trust humans, but she slowly starts to trust Khara. The three of them journey to Ferrucci, a scholar, because Khara thinks that he is Byx's best chance of survival. Along the way, Byx witnesses her own eumony (funeral for a species). Even though the Murdano and everyone willingly bound to him claim they are innocent, it was they who wiped out dairnes, and, according to a felivet (another governing species) named Gambler, are planning to wipe out all of all of the other governing species. The Murdano does not tolerate being wrong, and will even kill just so that he will not be publicly embarrassed. This is a great danger to Byx.

And so begins a quest to find Ferrucci and then to find the legendary colony, along which the three friends get harassed, betrayed, captured, and more. It's risky, but there's no other choice. This book, although entirely fictional, represents a true aspect in our own world: What humans are doing to nature.

Goodreads gives the book four stars. I give it five!



Did you know that Mr. Mercurio has a new puppy? His puppy, Maggie, is best friends and siblings with Mrs. Khalap's dog, Ellie. These golden retrievers are always together.

When asked, "Why did you get a dog?" Khalap answered, "Because my kids really wanted one, and I wanted to get one before my son graduated high school." When asked the same question, Mercurio responded, "My children love animals and wanted a puppy." Mercurio and Khalap both have a Golden Retriever. Khalap decided to get one because they are her favorite breed, and they are very smart. Mercurio picked an English Golden Retriever because they are great with children and love being a part of the family.

These two sister puppies had playdates all the time before the quarantine. When Khalap's traveled with her family during spring break, Mercurio and his family took care of Ellie. When *The Washington School*

Puppy Partners

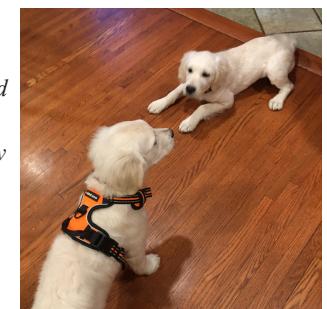
By Anvi Anand and Shriya Iyer

Ellie, Khalap's new pup gets acclimated to her new home.



Post asked, "How does your puppy feel about the quarantine?" Mercurio replied, "Maggie loves having everyone home all the time. No crate and she is never left alone!" Most of the time, Mercurio takes care of his dog, and his family members take turns. These two adorable puppies have a strong friendship that will outlast the quarantine.

Bestie sibs, Ellie and Maggie love to play and jostle. They will stay friend for life!



Washington School and the Bee

By Eliana Barker

"O-P-P-O-R-T-U-N-I-T-Y" spelled Ryan McCallum, a fifth grader who participated in the Washington school Spelling Bee. It took place back on Tuesday, January 7th, 2020. Students from every class in the school took part. Every student was given a paper test, and the top 25 scorers would compete in a verbal test. Overall, there were 3 tests. The first one was with 50+ people. The second one was with 24 people. The final contest was between 2 spellers. Everyone had to take a separate classroom spelling bee test to get into the next round.

Ryan McCallum said, "It was really fun just to compete with other kids and spell words. It was entertaining. In the beginning it was relatively easy. It wasn't so easy, but it was challenging." According to Ryan, he was the second place winner. Everyone wanted to get into the spelling bee and compete against others. On the day of the spelling bee, the gym room was packed with excitement. Mrs. Nord gave everyone their spelling papers, and then they were off. The room fell silent with complete concentration. The students and audience



Pictured with proud Principal Mercurio, teachers Cunningham and August, winners Raghav Sampath, Oron Wang and Ryan Wang.

could hear a pin drop.

The next day, everyone was excited to hear the results of the school's spelling bee. Finally, the morning announcements came on. The principal congratulated the spelling bee winners: first place, Raghav Sampath, second place, Oron Wang and third place, Ryan Wang. The Washington School Post congratulates the winners and all who participated.

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

The Embers

By Lily Boidman. Literary Editor and Ava Bernstein

Continued from last issue.

"Seriously? I'll come over to your place later." Dylan said.

"I'll get the nature ember," I told Dylan.

"No. It's better to get all of them together. It's safer. But... you are right. We should start with nature. It will be easiest." We both agreed and got ready after the call. He came in 38 minutes! A new record.

We put together two backpacks full of supplies for the long journey. We darted for the door when mom asked where I was going.

"I'm going to help Hawaii rebuild everything!" I told her hurriedly. She looked confused, but I promised her I would stay safe. After all, my brother Brian died in the war. My dad ran away from us right before I was born. My mom had no one except me. Then I bolted out the door. Ready for adventure.

Backpacks packed and ready for the adventure of a lifetime.



Genre: Pathetic Fallacy -- I Am Nature

By Mischa Owolabi

I am nature. I am the sun that shines down from above, the rain that cascades from the clouds, the grass that grows from the rich soil. I am the trees and plants that shoot out into the stars, rushing waves from deep blue lakes, ponds, and streams. I am the fierce animals that roam the earth. I am part of the earth. I am nature. I've been around longer than anyone else. So I know. The world is changing. And let me tell you, I am worried. I'm worried for the future. Animal species are going

extinct, oceans are getting more and more polluted. Plants and trees are dying. Everything is falling apart. But who is to blame?

People. They're supposed to be the smart ones, they claim they know everything, but when it comes to me, they brush me off to the side, as if I don't matter at all. I have emotions, feelings, and a voice that should be heard.

I want to be like a toy a kid doesn't want to give up. I want to be loved and cherished by all. I want to be remembered, because I am nature, the home of everyone.

Slowly life is changing. I'm different, people are different. I used to be strong, I thought I could do anything. I was loved, I was proud. I was unstoppable. I was the nature that I wanted to be. But not anymore. I feel so useless, things are falling apart, and I'm the only one who cares. I am nature. I am the animals, the streams, the lakes, the oceans, the sun, the plants, and the trees all in one. I am all life, I am nature. But, I am the people too. Yes, they are a part of me. They're the only ones to fix this mess. The world may be falling apart, and so it's up to the people to step up for what's right, and save themselves.

My Heart Soars

By Ava Bernstein

The lightness of the day
The silence of the dark
Scary, yet calming in perfect
Harmony

Ominous glowing light,
brightening
On and off.
Beaming sun,
Shimmering
Glistening
The light
Gleaming towards
Us

Night and Day
Light and Dark
When it is balanced
All is right



Yosemite in April

By Ryan Wang

The granite peaks
glazed with
the fire of dusk
The flora
woven into the meadow
The glowing moon
watching over
the rugged landscape
Speak to me
The Milky Way
that falls into
a bed of stars
The rainbow
spread across the sky
smeared like oil drops after
rain has claimed the canyon
The rushing falls
that break the silence
in a crescendo
of water and mist

Speak to me
The valleys
The meadows
The falls
The wildlife
The mountains
They all speak to me
And my heart soars.

Publisher's note: both "My Heart Soars" and "Yosemite in April" have been accepted for publication in the next issue of Creative Communications Poetry Anthology.

Continued from February Issue:

A "Celebrity" Thanksgiving

By Lola Hall, Editor-in-Chief



"N..o" spluttered my grandma. "Well... I was going to a show with my girl, Beyonce" the man went very quiet when he said Beyonce. He continued. " I was so hungry so I fled the show at the part when Romeo and Juliet were kissing because who wants to see that?" he said in a tone that implied, "everyone should know that." "I was going through the streets and found your house... it smelled peculiar!"

"Get out!" shouted my grandma.

"Oh... okay, but could I bring my plate of turkey?"

"No!" said my mum. "Clunk clink clunk clink." He left the rusty house with food running down his chin. "Thank you very much for the lovely dinner!" He shouted. And the door slammed shut again. "We are boarding up the house right now!" shouted my dad. "That isn't normal, is it?" asked my old grandpa. We couldn't answer him because we were already heading out the door with metal boards that we used during a hurricane season. We nailed and banged all night long, and finally came back in the house and fell asleep right in our pumpkin pie.



Soaring to the Next Level: Skylands Regionals

By Sophia Hou

In this international creative problem solving tournament, no idea is a bad idea. Every idea can grow into a larger one, a better and more unique one.

Odyssey of the Mind has five long-term problems, Vehicle, Technical, Classics, Structure and Performance. Within the five long-term problems, there are three divisions. Division I is for grades 3-5, Division II is for grades 6-8 and finally, Division III is for grades 9-12. Students in Washington School are in fifth grade, so they are in Division II. In addition to the long-term problem, participants are required to do a spontaneous challenge. In a spontaneous challenge, only five of the seven team members participate. There are three possible categories

Continued on Page 9.

Bullies to Buddies



By Lila Watzky

Bullies to Buddies was a tremendous assembly that was brought to Washington School. The assembly showed that making an argument is wrong when it comes to talking to a bully. Rather, tell the bully how you feel, perhaps even agree with the bully, use humor, and maybe you can actually become friends. Bullies to Buddies has a toolbox online as well that is available for people to check out. The assembly showed there can be positive side to bullying,

and how people can be less negative and be more positive. Befriending someone helps the positivity grow, so everyone can come together instead of being torn apart. It's important to understand at Washington School that people shouldn't bully. Instead they should befriend others. What causes someone to become a bully can be events from his or her background, information that the bully does not want to share. Students at Washington School can befriend each other, and help each other out when they need help or advice.



The Middle School Connection

By Lola Hall, Editor-in-Chief

Coronavirus is changing everything, even kids' education. Many school activities and programs were planned for Washington School, like Trep\$, the Chorus Concert, and even our Middle School Orientation! Many students are probably worried about Middle School because they are wondering whether or not there will be an orientation in June.

The Washington School Post interviewed Mr. Mercurio, asking him questions about the orientation which usually takes place in June. Mercurio said he is unsure how Middle School will plan for the new year, but thinks that students will still be prepared. Since this is a new situation for everybody, teachers have also been starting to think about virtual options for many endeavors and situations.

In addition to staff thinking up new ideas for this new situation, students have also thought of ways to still have the orientation in a different way. One student Zainab Tehami thought that the schools could organize a 3D orientation. Another student, Naomi Allen, suggested a video recording of the school to watch at home. If we can't go back to school until September, a virtual orientation is a good option, and Mercurio is open to the idea too!



Broadcast Blues

By Audrey Hong

"3, 2, 1, GO!" The live broadcast hit every screen in every classroom. All students and teachers froze and aimed to look at the Smartboard. Did students and teachers recognize classmates who were in this live broadcast? 9:00 am was the usual time for the Washington School Broadcast to begin. Those were the good old days when students lined the hallways at 8:30 waiting eagerly to enter classrooms, and unpacked and copied homework before the morning Broadcast would begin. Today, the Washington Broadcast is one of the school rituals we all miss. But *The Washington School Post* can still give you a glimpse into what goes into putting together this awesome school activity.

Ms. Haggerty, the executive producer of every Broadcast show enjoys working with the students of every crew. "The concept of a live Broadcast originated at Wyoming School and South Mountain School with Mrs. Catalon and Mrs. Sandler. When Mrs. Catalon retired, I was fortunate to learn from her and continue the Broadcast at Wyoming. When I came to the Washington School, I knew I'd bring the Broadcast opportunity with me. It is incredibly rewarding to work with enthusiastic students who participate and produce their lines to deliver live news to their peers. I'm grateful I learned how to work this program, thanks to Mrs. Catalon. Over the years, the Broadcast continues to change with fresh perspectives, new features, and open collaboration. It is truly one of the best parts of my job!" said Haggerty. "Broadcast was a fun experience to talk in front of a green screen," said Aditi Banerjee. "I was in Broadcast and I thought it was really fun. It was a great experience. I thought it was fun because you could be creative with what you say, and it feels as if you are actually getting filmed." said Ayaana Vinayak.

In the broadcast, students would get filmed live. Each person has his or her own particular job. Some examples of the jobs are birthdays, anchors, and slide designers. The jobs would rotate every week. Each crew would do a live broadcast two times a week. *Continued on Page 9.*

Soaring to the Next Level: Skylands*Regionals Continued from Page 8.*

for the challenge: Verbal, Verbal Hands-on and Hands-on. The Odyssey experience is not just about winning the competition, it is about the journey through Odyssey. Odyssey mascot, Omer the racoon, encourages teams to recycle, reuse, repurpose and find new, creative and unique ways to solve problems.

At Washington School, Odyssey workshops are taught by Coach Kim and Mrs. Cunningham on Mondays and Tuesdays during lunch and recess, depending on the team. At Washington School, 70 students participated in the Skyland Regional competition. In Washington School, there are two teams per problem and seven students in each team, along with two coaches who are parents of students on the team. The two teams from each problem were called Washington White and Washington Blue. On February 29, 2020, teams gathered in the gym of Branchburg Central Middle School to prepare to be called up for their long-term problem or spontaneous challenge. Long-term problems were held in a large area such as a cleared-out classroom or library. Spontaneous challenges were held in secret in a small classroom. At the end of the spontaneous challenge, judges made sure that the competitors knew not to tell anyone what the challenge was. Typically, a team would have the long-term problem in the morning and the spontaneous challenge in the afternoon or the other way around. At 5:00 pm, a DJ was called in and teams danced and had fun. Then, finally, the suspense of waiting for scores was over. Winning teams, first through third place, were announced with first and second place teams advancing to the state tournament. Unfortunately, the state tournament was cancelled due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Congratulations to all those who participated. As a replacement for the cancelled tournaments, Odyssey of the Mind is hosting a new family challenge called Virtual World Finals, open to anyone who wants to register. Odyssey of the Mind Skylands Regionals was an exciting experience for everyone.



Mrs. Haggerty is the brainchild behind Broadcast Club.

Broadcast Blues *Continued from Page 8.*

The Washington School Broadcast is a fun experience we all miss during the quarantine, but hopefully it will return when Washington School's doors open once more.

Health Column: A Look at COVID 19

By Matthew Shi, Photography Editor

COVID-19 originated in Wuhan, China, in the province of Hubei. The virus first appeared in December 2019. The “19” at the end of the name is referring to “2019”, which is when the outbreak started. The COVID part refers to the word “coronavirus”. Some might think the coronavirus means COVID-19, but coronavirus is a blanket term which also includes the common cold. New Jersey has more than 145,000 confirmed cases, and New York has more than 348,000 confirmed cases. In the United States, there are more than 1,446,000 confirmed cases.

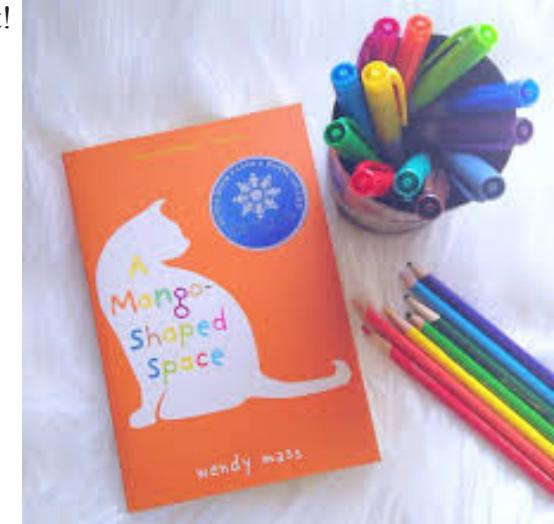
Italy continues to be on lock-down because of the coronavirus. No children can go to school, and no adults can go to work. In parts of Denmark some schools have reopened while continuing to practice social distancing and continued hand washing. While New Jersey and New York are all home on quarantine, here are some important steps we all need to take to stay healthy:

- *Wash your hands frequently, for 20 seconds.
- *Avoid touching your face.
- *Cover your coughs or sneezes completely.
- *Wear masks and gloves when outside.
- *Stay at home!
- *Seek medical care immediately if you have any symptoms of coronavirus.
- *Get your data about the outbreak from trusted sources like the WHO and CDC.
- *Eat right and get plenty of rest to stay healthy.

Book Review: *A Mango Shaped Space*

By Mischa Williams-Owolabi

A Mango Shaped Space by Wendy Mass follows the chaotic life of a 13 year old girl, Mia who learns to embrace her unique condition, synesthesia. Until third grade, Mia believes that everyone sees things the way she does with numbers, words and sounds all having color. She swears to never tell anyone about her colors, not even Jenna, her best friend. Soon, chaos ensues at school. After numerous doctor visits, she meets Jerry, and her world turns right side up again. He is a quiet and yet interesting young college student who talks to Mia about her condition. She finds out about synesthesia and is able to connect with other people just like her who also have her condition. She is able to understand them and they understand her. But after a tragic incident at home, Mia is feeling very down and even misses two special events that are very important to her. Read the end of this thrilling book to see what happens next!



Prevent the spread of COVID-19 in

7 STEPS

- 01 Wash your hands frequently
- 02 Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- 03 Cover your cough using the bend of your elbow or a tissue
- 04 Avoid crowded places and close contact with anyone that has fever or cough
- 05 Stay at home if you feel unwell
- 06 If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early — but call first
- 07 Get information from trusted sources



SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Working from Home: Going the Distance



Led by Mr. Mercurio, the leader of all the packs, the Washington School Community has embraced long distance learning with every ounce of creativity and technological savvy. From Google Meets to Kami Docs, Nearpods to Kahoots, Mr. Mercurio ensures Washington School students continue to learn and flourish academically.

Tech guru Mrs. Danielle Haggerty has kept all the online learning afloat and functioning, and Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Bonnie Loew has facilitated everything from one -on-one student counseling to organizing faculty happy hours.

Special ed teachers are working around the clock to modify and create meaningful learning experiences for their students while specialists are busy creating lessons and planning for live "meets." Our aides are meeting with students and helping classroom teachers in a variety of creative and generous ways. And classroom teachers' Google Classrooms are brimming and humming with lessons and assignments as teachers plan and create and continue to deliver the rigorous education that our Washington School students have now come to cherish. Our community remains ever strong. Washington Wolves will go the distance!

A Glimpse into the Home Offices of Washington School Staff and The Washington School Post Reporters



There would be no long distance learning without the guidance, trouble-shooting and support provided by our tech guru, Mrs. Danielle Haggerty. The Washington School Post salutes you!



Supervisor Mrs. Kerry Emmanouilidis does it all -- from home! From coordinating all the lessons of the curriculum to organizing and chairing all the learning committee meetings, this mother of two ensures all Washington School children are getting their daily dose of learning every day.



Get on Board for the Washington School Open Mic Night! Deadline to register, Friday, May 22!!



**Guidance Counselor
Bonnie Loew Keeps
Washington Wolves Howling
Loud and Strong!**



Newspaper faculty advisor, Mrs. Briber stays super organized and happy at home.



Faculty advisor Mrs. Jones fled her NYC apartment for her Cape Cod home just before the quarantine...



Our Covid-ly Correct Work Spaces



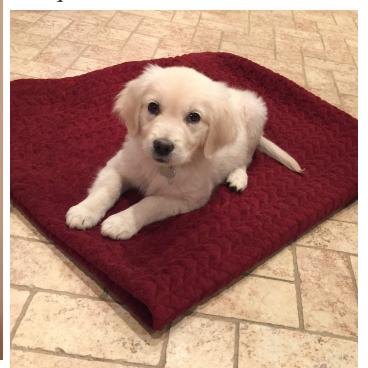
Editor-in-Chief Lola Hall in her home office. Below, Literary editor Lily Boidman stays inspired at home by her laptop.



Above, photography editor, Matthew Shi stays inspired by his laptop. Features editor, Aaron Yu gets plenty of light and inspiration in his home work station.



*Above, reporter Mischa Williams-Owolabi proof-reads her review of *A Mango Shaped Space*, found on page 9 of this issue. Look for her pathetic fallacy piece in *The Write Stuff*. Below, Ellie gets comfy in the quarantine.*

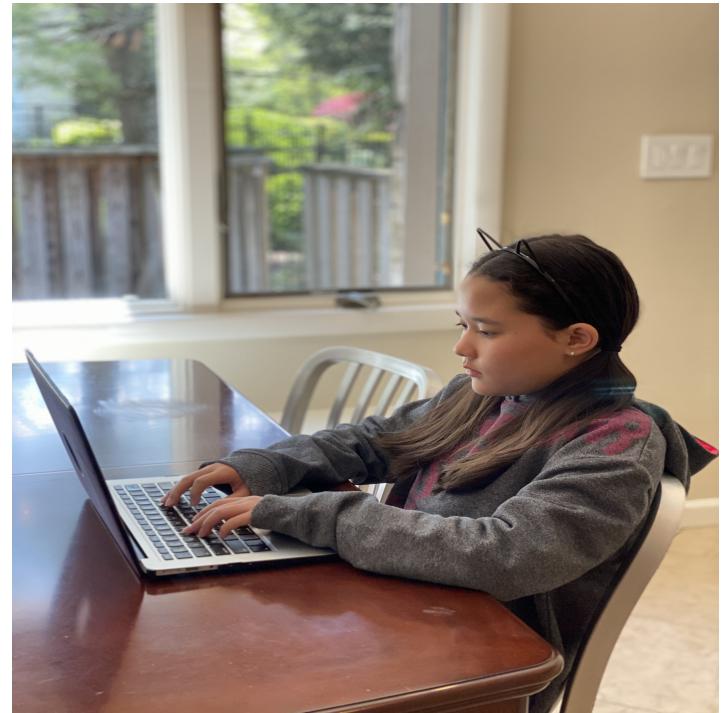
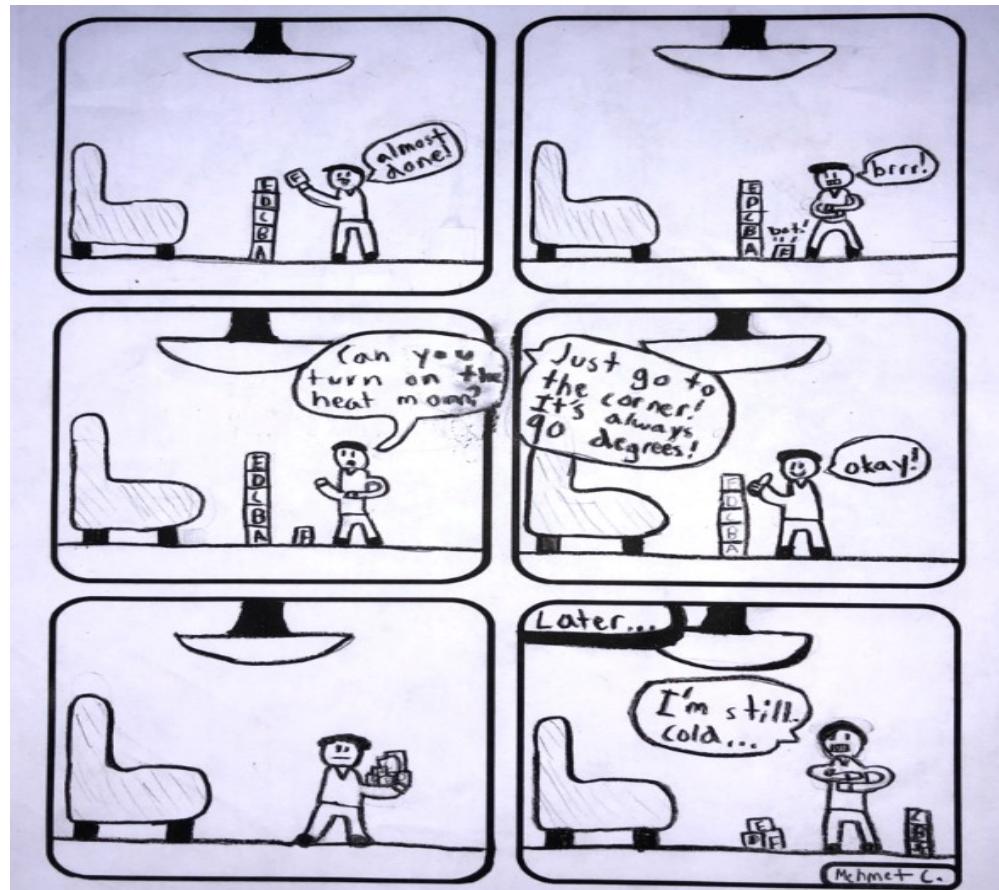


Our Covid-ly Correct Work Spaces Continued...



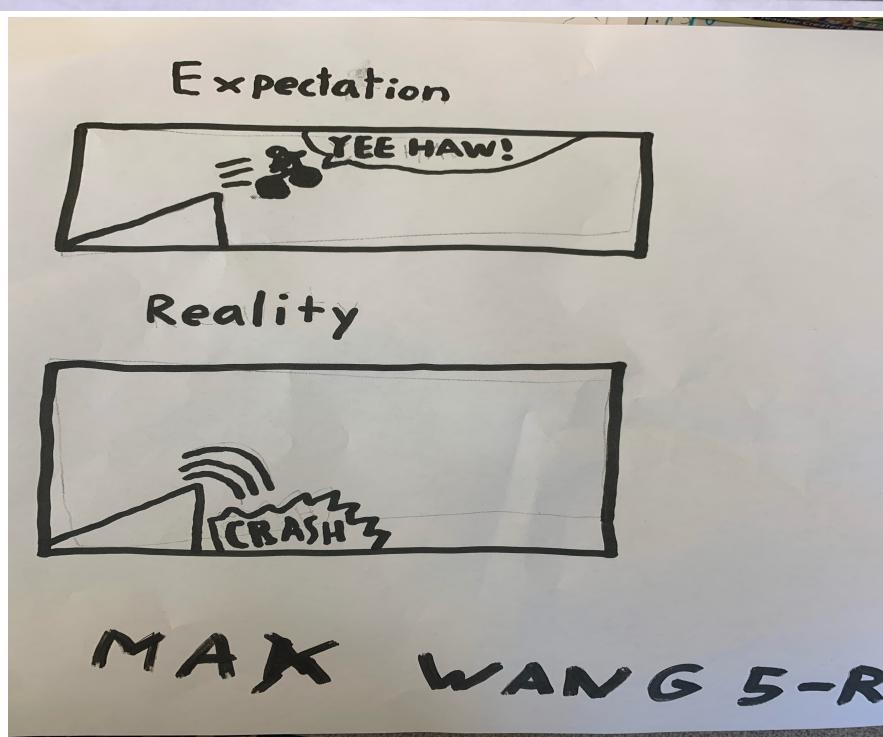
Reporters pictured from top left: Sophia Hou, Aditi Banerjee., Ryan Wang, bottom right, Eliana Barker.

The Last Laugh



The Washington School Post
Staff:

Editor-in-Chief: Lola Hall
Managing Editor: Ryan Wang
Features Editor: Aaron Yu
Photography Editor: Matt Shi
Literary Editors: Lily Boidman and Julianna DiTore
Reporters: All the dedicated members of the newspaper club.
Faculty Advisors: Mrs. Briber and Mrs. Jones
Publisher: Mr. Mercurio and the Washington School PTO



The staff sincerely apologizes for any omission or errors.