



Washington's Techxpert Pilots School through Pandemic

By Suvid Bordia and Connor Qiao

Ever since The Washington School opened its doors in 2017, technology has played a key role in all aspects of the school's curriculum. Mrs. Danielle Haggerty has been the guiding force keeping the school armed with the latest technology advances, and helping students and staff to technologically thrive. With innovative programs like the annual Code Day, PTO presentations and classroom visits, Haggerty has helped raise the level of comfort and competence for every member of The Washington School community. When Mr. Mercurio hired Haggerty to leave the Wyoming School and come to Washington School to head up the technology department, no one could have predicted the crucial role she would play as the pandemic changed the face of education across the globe. Haggerty herself had no idea how central she would become to the district's delivery of instruction. She just wanted to combine her love of teaching with her passion for technology.



Haggerty pictured in Washington School's Media Den which she created and presided over in pre-pandemic times. She is eager for all students to return to school and enjoy the Media Den.

In 2015 Wyoming's technology teacher, Mrs. Cathy Catalon decided to retire, opening the door for Haggerty, then a fifth grade classroom teacher, to realize one of her many goals: to become a tech teacher to coach eager students. Haggerty explained her move from the fifth grade classroom to tech guru: "I taught 5th grade for a few years at Wyoming and I loved using the latest technology with my students. The most rewarding moments for me as a teacher involved engaging students in their own learning and fostering independence.



Haggerty hard at work in her home office.

Technology allowed me to do both."

Now, Haggerty is one of the most valuable teachers at The Washington School and in the district. Providing technology guidance to teachers, students and administrators, Haggerty is the power behind the success of remote and hybrid instruction. She gives students all the best ways to solve problems with computers, interface issues, and more. Haggerty wants students to know she is proud of how hard they are working this year: "You are all doing a fantastic job. I know this year is shaping up to be incredibly different - but I'm happy that you are experiencing this virtual learning model while at Washington. Washington is a special place: all of our teachers are patient and take risks with learning new technology. You are all in good hands. The whole community at Washington is working towards making your 5th-grade experience the best it can be!"

Haggerty wears many hats. She described her three key roles: "In my job, I have three main branches. I act as the first line of defense with technical issues before forwarding them to the IT Department. I also help create lessons and write curriculum for the district. In addition, I assist teachers with planning assessments and lessons. Then there is a shift, and I speak at conventions while also attending professional development to stay updated on all the latest educational technology." Clearly, Haggerty participates in all facets of student learning. She also helps out with special programs such as the Math Olympiad.

A big part of Washington School's curriculum is teaching about Internet safety, and Haggerty helps students and teachers to implement online safety. She helps with these lesson plans too. After Haggerty's complicated, difficult and exhausting work, Washington's tech teacher definitely needs to relax.

Outside of work, Haggerty loves playing sports and being active. She grew up with three older brothers, so she finds herself to be competitive. Apart from sports, she also loves playing board games and solving puzzles. Haggerty's husband is a big Harry Potter fan, and they just purchased the Harry Potter edition of Clue which she reports is a lot of fun.

Family is important to Haggerty. She said, "Oh, and I can't forget to talk about my adorable nieces and nephews - I have six! Being an aunt is probably the favorite role I play in my life."

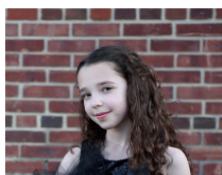


Haggerty standing proudly in the center of her multigenerational family.

Haggerty is a great educator who has had a unique journey. She influences every facet of The Washington School community. Students and staff alike are lucky to have her at the helm as she navigates the school through the pandemic, and prepares students to meet the challenges ahead. Her message to students: "When things feel like they are too hard, remember to take a deep breath and know that these circumstances are only temporary. Keep your heads up, and know in your heart that we all want you to succeed!"

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People All Around the World**Celebrate the New Year**

By Celina Chen

Last year on December 31, people all over the world made New Year's resolutions and celebrated a new start. China, South America, Korea, Russia, Japan, India, and of course America, all celebrated with their own customs and traditions.

Everyone is familiar with America's New Year's Eve traditions. Americans celebrate on December 31 and January 1. In Manhattan a large crowd gathers in Times Square every year to watch a crystal ball being lowered down a minute before midnight. In 2020, due to Covid-19, only a hundred people were able to go to Times Square.

Another big celebration most people know about is Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival. The Chinese use the Lunar Calendar which is why Chinese New Year is not on January first. Every year is associated with one out of twelve animals in the Chinese Zodiac. This year is the year of the Ox. The holiday season can even last up to sixteen days. Some traditions are dragon dancing, giving children money in red envelopes, and lighting firecrackers. All of these traditions started way back about 3,500 years ago.



Chinese New Year is celebrated with sweet oranges and red envelopes full of money for the children.

New Year's Day in India (Diwali) is a day also known as the Festival of Lights. It's a five day celebration with good food, fireworks, colored sand called rangoli, and special candles. "A popular sweet is laddoo, and everyone wears Kurtas," said student Naman Mehta. On these days, there is the celebration of good over evil. *Continued on Page 4.*

Back-to-School, Hybrid Style

By Jessica Sherman, Anika Bhavaraju, Rebecca Green

Families have gotten used to prefer hybrid school because we hybrid schooling. Though some have real-life interaction with our students choose to be all virtual, teachers and friends..” Hybrid many families enjoy hybrid schooling keeps students busy learning. Sitting apart from friends throughout the entire school day.

is hard but better than only seeing them on a screen. Even though Hybrid learning is just like regular many students have not been in the school: students bring their building or have switched back to notebooks, textbooks, pencils, all of virtual, hybrid learning is still a the other supplies. In 2020-2021, very productive way to work there are protocols to follow during during a pandemic. hybrid learning. During hybrid

Hybrid learning is a trial and learning at Washington School, error program. Whoever wants to rooms are full of masked children go to school stays at school for who are six feet apart. Students half a day, and whoever doesn't have to wear a mask, social want to be in school stays at home distance, and sneeze or cough inside and learns from there. This plan their mask. Hybrid learning is like satisfies many families, teachers school before the pandemic but with and students. a twist.

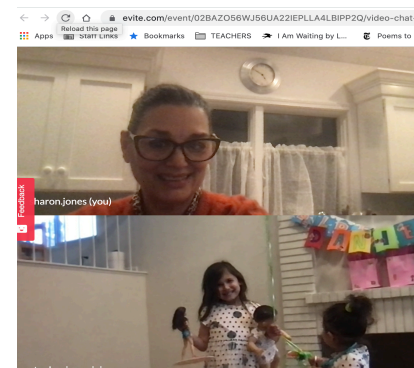
Many people prefer hybrid over The model before the new year virtual learning. Washington Wolf, had both a morning and afternoon Krisha Shankarnarayan said, “I group. *Continued on Page 3.*

Striking the Right Balance with Technology

By Ananya Mandrekar and Meera Saha Choudhury

In early 2020, students needed the same school supplies that previous students had been using for decades. But on March 13, 2020, the experience changed completely. Schools went virtual, swapping out old fashioned pencils and notebooks for chromebooks and Google Docs.

Technology can positively impact the daily lives of many. Anyone can search up information about specific topics in a matter of seconds using the Internet which was not accessible before online technology was widespread. Social media allows people to connect with others all around the world, making online friends. There are



Technology allowed teacher, Mrs. Jones to attend her grand-daughter's 2 year birthday party in California. also many apps which track health and exercise and help people stay happy and healthy. Washington School's technology facilitator, Mrs. Haggerty said, "There is no need to over-use technology and in the same breath, there is no need to remove it completely."

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KINDNESS

**Three Things in Human Life Are Important.
The First IS TO BE Kind. The Second IS TO BE
Kind. And the Third IS TO BE Kind.**

-Author, Henry James



KINDNESS

Athletes Adjust to COVID 19

By Zachary Abrahams and Jordan Altman



Washington School's Alek Salzman playing a game of squash with his twin, David.

What was once “Sweat dripped down her back. She was positive she was going to win today” became “Sweat dripped down her back. She hoped no one tested positive today.” Hail Marys became wobbly throws made from a team’s fourth-string quarterback. Even chess decided to move online. As the pandemic continues, sports and activities must adapt. Some sports seasons have been delayed, while others have been canceled completely. Despite Covid related changes, some sports are still thriving. Some students' sports have been adjusting to the pandemic. Although Covid precautions can be very difficult, current Washington School student James Gordon believes there is a benefit to wearing a mask. He said, “Wearing masks while playing soccer feels unusual and annoying. It’s harder to take big gulps of air with a mask on. But the mask does keep your face warm in the cold winter months.”

But mask-wearing can also pose difficulties for student athletes. Madison Wu, a student of Mrs. Jones, said, “My swim team has been enforcing mask-wearing and requires team members to wear masks coming in and out of the building we use for practice. I don’t have any problem with separation in lanes, but the mask-wearing is a little tough since we swim for about 45 minutes each practice, then since we have to put on a mask it’s a little hard to breathe, especially when I and the other members have just tired ourselves out by swimming for 45 minutes.”

Washington student twins, Alek and David Salzman, talked about how their squash program is adapting to Covid. “I feel safe with the extra precautions because I know that I won't get sick or infected. But I also feel angry because of these extra precautions. I can't go to tournaments!” David said. “It is hard to catch your breath wearing a mask because it blows in your face,” Alek explained. “Washing your hands constantly also makes them dry and irritated from trying to avoid catching Covid.

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Making the Transition to Middle School

By Chloe She

The idea of only one year in a school, then moving to a new school may seem daunting for some, and for others, MMS seems exciting. Jessica Sherman, a student in Washington School, said she isn’t at all excited. She’s worried about all the stress middle school will give her.

Millburn Middle school is something fifth graders in Washington School think about a lot. Seventh grader Tara Shivakumar said “When I went from Washington to MMS, I felt like I was entering a whole new chapter in my life.” Students might be worried about where to go, or what the teachers might be like when they first go into Millburn Middle School. Students get support from teachers and friends. The faculty tries to make the schedules easier for the students. They try to put classes close together so students can easily go from class to class. Jose Landauro, a student in MMS said, “They make the schedules so it isn’t stressful in between classes.”

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Back-to-School Hybrid Style

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Washington School reopened its doors on January 25, 2021.

Now all students learn together, both remote and in-school students. Reading, Writing, Math and Rotation all take place in the morning, with the afternoon reserved for specials and independent work.

Students pause for a mid-morning snack break, getting some fresh air outside as they enjoy their snacks and socialize a bit. Remote students get to stretch and enjoy an at home snack as well.

Hybrid learning may have changed students’ daily routines, but making adjustments is great preparation for meeting all the challenges that lie ahead.

Get to Know Washington School's Key Leader:

Mrs. Emmanouilidis

By Logan Saperstein

Mrs. Emmanouilidis is the Instructional Supervisor at Washington School. She has been a big part of Washington School’s success since it was founded.

She played a major role in the creation of Washington School. She helped the school principal, Mr. Mercurio, recruit teachers, and was involved in every phase of the school’s development -- from selecting and purchasing the school’s unique furniture to helping design the school’s Media Den. A big part of Emmanouilidis’s job is putting together all of the classes at Washington School and making sure students from every elementary school are in the correct class. She creates the hybrid schedule and makes sure remote and hybrid learning continue to go smoothly. Also, Emmanouilidis helps all the Washington School teachers get their supplies and books for their students. Classroom teacher Ms. Briber said, “Mrs. Emmanouilidis is a great leader and helps organize the curriculum for the teachers.” Emmanouilidis also helps construct the math curriculum for Millburn’s kindergarten through fifth grade students.



Emmanouilidis makes sure all the fifth grade classrooms are balanced, and ensures both students and teachers have all their books and supplies. She works in school and at home to get the job done.

Washington School teacher Mrs. Jones said, “One reason why Mrs. Emmanouilidis is such an effective Instructional Supervisor is because she used to be a classroom teacher. She is aware of challenges that teachers and students face.” Emmanouilidis has so many roles at school, and is energized to take on even more. Of all her roles, she enjoys working directly with students. She said, “My favorite part about Washington School is welcoming and helping all the new students into the school. Continued on Page 4.

Celebrating the New Year

Continued from Page 2.



The Japanese enjoy sweet rice cakes, mochi for their New Year's celebration.

Next up is the Korean New Year. It marks the first day of the Korean Lunar Calendar. The exact date will change every year. A few New Year traditions are playing folk games, performing ancestral rites, and visiting family. "On Korean New Year's I love eating this rice cake soup. It's made from healthy ingredients, and is believed to bring you good luck for the year," said Washington School student Adeline Yoon.

Oshogatsu, Japan's New Year is on January 1, and is celebrated for three days. This is a time to reflect on the past year, cook, eat, and play games with family. A fun fact about the Japanese New Year is that people eat mochi as a tradition.

The Jewish New Year is Rosh Hashanah when people celebrate for one or two days marking God's creation of the world. Jewish people eat apples dipped in honey and Challah bread, two traditional foods. "Eating apples and honey is a prayer to God for a "sweet" New Year." said 5th grader Jordyn Gulliford. "On New Year's, people who celebrate Rosh Hashanah greet each other with the phrase 'L'shanah tovah' which means for a good year."



Honey-dipped apples are traditional New Year's fare for Rosh Hashanah.

In Russia, there are actually two New Years. There is the "old" Russian New Year on January 14 when people celebrate with families, and the January 1 New Year. Russians usually attend concerts and firework displays.

No matter where people are around the world, each country has its own traditions and customs for celebrating the New Year. Washington School is proud to boast students of many cultures celebrating and sharing their family traditions.

Making the Transition to Middle School

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Unlike Washington, Millburn Middle School has a study hall. Study hall is a time when students can do their homework and study. When students have orchestra, band, or chorus, during study hall, they will go to their class. Going to Millburn Middle School is a great opportunity to make new friends. Each class is usually with different people so students can meet new people and maybe become great friends with them. "I've made new friends and became better friends with the friends I already had," said Jake Parker, another student in MMS. Millburn Middle School can be a great opportunity to meet new faces. Washington School prepares students for Middle School but the real one is very interesting. Even though some students may not be excited to go to MMS, going there can be a great experience.

Washington School's Key Leader

Continued from Page 3

Now that we are virtually schooling, she enjoys learning more about technology to help out teachers and students. Of course she prefers having everyone in school because she loves seeing all the students in school and meeting them in person. She enjoys seeing the teachers too.

Mrs. Emmanouilidis is Greek. She enjoys eating Greek dishes such as pastito, a pasta dish similar to lasagna but with cream sauce. Emmanouilidis and her husband, John have two children: a four and a half year old daughter, Teddi and a twenty month old son Anthony. Emmanouilidis loves celebrating holidays like Christmas and Easter with her family. Throughout the pandemic she has relied on her husband to help with the kids so she can work on school. Her husband has done well and has helped Mrs. Emmanouilidis with everything.

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Striking the Right Balance with Technology

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Haggerty believes people should live a balanced life between using technology and avoiding overuse. Technology has many benefits and plays an important role in global communication.

Because of Covid-19, many activities have become virtual. Extracurricular activities such as sports, arts, and clubs have switched to online agendas. Many people now order their groceries online, and online shopping has become more and more widespread. Using online services has been especially useful for high risk citizens. Restaurants all over the world have switched to outdoor dining and takeout. Schools have also switched to virtual schedules as every morning, students all over the world log onto their online classes. Many companies now allow their employees to work remotely from home. People around the world can attend virtual doctor's appointments while not leaving their homes. People have been affected in both a positive and negative way. Resources are now easily accessible, but such online resources also increase screen time. Excessive screen time can be harmful to users' eyes. Computer vision syndrome occurs when there is too much screen time.

Teacher Mrs. Jones reported, "I was having trouble with my eyes. But blue light reflecting glasses and eye drops really helped."

Techxpert Haggerty urges students to exercise caution and restraint, but by no means to give up on technology use.



Another disadvantage could be the effect on attention spans. The habit of watching movies before going to sleep is common, but doing so can harm a user's ability to fall asleep naturally. Washington student, Sarah Mayfield said, "A week without technology for me personally would be horrible because I have to do school, and respond to choir emails." Students are using technology to such an extent that they may have difficulty stopping. Technology users should take regular stretch and screen breaks to have a well balanced day.

There is a delicate balance between overuse and healthy usage. Like most tools, technology does have opportunities and obstacles, but no one should be discouraged. Users all over the world have been able to connect and enjoy time together, even while far apart. Technology has created jobs, friendships, and most of all, fun!

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

The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell

By Gabrielle Saperstein

Imagine falling into a storybook you loved reading as a child, and meeting all of your favorite characters. This happens to a set of twelve year old twins in *The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell*, the first book in its series by Chris Colfer. Alex and Conner, the main characters, are described in such a unique way that they come alive for the reader. By offering descriptive details and relatable characters, Colfer brings the reader right along with Alex and Conner's journey. Twelve year old Alex is a knowledgeable girl. She reads lots of books, and is filled with curiosity. Conner, her twin brother, likes to hang out with friends. The twins are polar opposites, and it shows throughout the story when they need to

Continued on page 5.



Movie Review: "Black Beauty"

By Daisy Bredlau

Most books are better than the movies based on them. Some movies are able to capture the heart of the book; these are always great movies. The book *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell was originally published in 1877. Since then there have been eight movies based on the book. Disney has created the most recent version. While the latest movie version does not follow the actual plot of the book, it faithfully keeps the heart of the book in mind.

Set in Victorian England, Sewell hoped to show how horses were mistreated. The new movie is set in present day U.S, and attempts to

portray how horses are treated badly now. One problem it shows is how wild horses are being rounded up and sold cheaply out west. Another issue it highlights is how fancy stables can care less about the health and welfare of the horses, and only want to win and look good. Finally the new movie shows how horses can be neglected in city stables. Obviously the issues horses faced in Victorian times are different from those they face now; so while the movie makers changed plot points, they remained true to Sewell's message. The sub title for the book is "an autobiography of a horse" and Sewell wrote it with the horse Black Beauty as the narrator to show the horse's point of view, and show that horses have emotions. The movie is also narrated by Black Beauty and so the viewer experiences everything from her perspective. One of the

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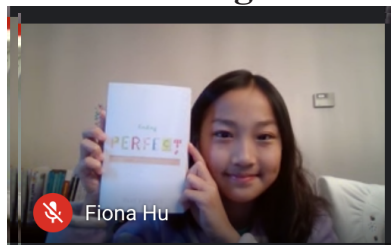
Award Winning Author Comes to Washington School

By Akiv Shah and Naman Mehta

This year Washington Wolves welcomed Elly Swartz, the author of four books. The School Library Connections has awarded her with the Author of the Month award. Swartz is the mom of two grown children and lives with her husband, three dogs, one cat, and one guinea pig. She grew up in Yardley, a small town in Pennsylvania, with her mom, dad, two older brothers, and two dogs. Swartz loves a good book, hiking, skiing, cooking, and dancing. She studied psychology at Boston University and got her JD (Juris Doctor) at Georgetown University School of Law. Some of her past jobs include law library assistant, legal author, litigator, legal researcher, writing professor, and college essay adviser. Swartz says the person who inspired her the most was her mom. Her mom made her believe that she could do anything.

Swartz hosted a main assembly with the AM and PM cohorts on December 14th. During the assembly Swartz had a giveaway and talked about bravery. Kiara Chopra and Fiona Hu introduced her during the assemblies.

After the assemblies, Swartz hosted



Student Fiona Hu holds up novel and introduces author.

three Writing Workshops with every class. The first workshop was about coming up with ideas, the second one was about developing characters, and the third one was about revising. Swartz said, "Teaching kids and writing for kids is hands-down the best job." Mrs. Sabato, an assistant teacher at Washington, said that her favorite part of the workshop was when Elly talked about her editing process also known as The Quirky Revision Process.

Swartz has written three books. Her first published book, *Finding Perfect*, took four attempts and fifteen years. The story is about twelve year old Molly, a girl with OCD who hatches a plan to get her mom back from working in Toronto. Her second book, *Smart Cookie*, is about an eleven year old, Frankie who tries to find a wife for her dad. Her most recent book, *Give And Take*, is about Maggie who learns how to let go. Her fourth book *Dear Student*, will be released in the fall of 2022.

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Book Review: How to Steal a Dog

By Evy Rakhlin

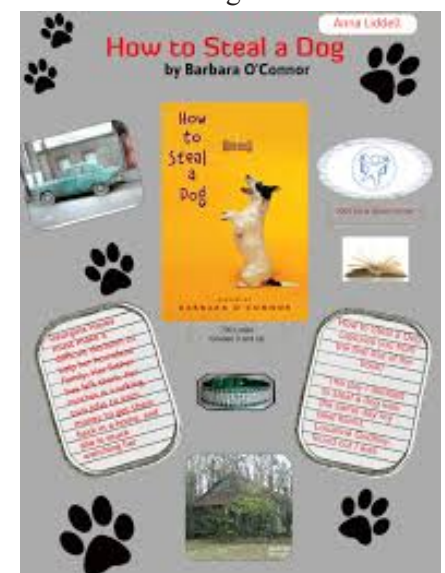


Anyone who loves reading realistic fiction will enjoy the interesting novel, *How to Steal A Dog* by Barbara O'Connor. The author is very descriptive and really shows what the main characters, Georgina and Toby are thinking. O'Connor makes the book interesting by creating many conflicts. When students read the book, they will be eager to keep reading to find out what happens next.

Protagonist Georgina lives with her mother and her brother in their car because their dad has left them. One day after school Georgina discovers a sign saying "Find lost dog: Reward \$50." The sign gives Georgina the idea to steal a dog for the reward money so she and her family can afford to live in an apartment or a house. As she faces many obstacles,

Georgina has to be very careful that no one else finds out about her plan.

Read the book to find out how the sign inspires Georgina to become a dog thief, and whether or not her plan succeeds. Readers will enjoy all the conflicts and adventures along the way, and will not be disappointed with O'Connor's ending.





Emmanouilidis with her family: husband John, daughter Teddi and baby Anthony.

Washington School's Key Leader

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During her free time Emmanouilidis loves to bake, cook, and design. As a student, she enjoyed writing. She enjoyed reading too. Her favorite book was *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen. Emmanouilidis loves animals and wants a dog when her kids get older.

Emmanouilidis is a beloved member of the Washington school community who keeps all the classes running smoothly. Taking care of students and teachers alike, she makes sure everyone has what they need to succeed. She is a key leader in the success of The Washington School.

Athletes Adjust to COVID 19

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"The benefits of playing sports outweigh the inconvenient Covid precautions," Alek continued.

Whether it's swimming, squash, or soccer, classmates have found enjoyable ways to play their sport during the pandemic. They realized there are positive ways to manage through Covid, and although they have had to make some sacrifices to play the sports they enjoy, the benefits exceeded all they gave up. With the necessary precautions, sports during the coronavirus can still be rewarding and fun.



Washington student, James Gordon continues to play soccer taking COVID precautions.



Swimmer Madisen Wu had to train at home at the beginning of the pandemic. Now, her team has resumed practice with strict COVID precautions to keep everyone safe.

Black Beauty

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things Black Beauty says is how she loves Jo, the girl who helps train her. The viewer of the movie makes a strong connection to Beauty as well as to the human characters. Again, this is part of Sewell's original intention.

This movie is not an accurate copy of the events in the book, however it does keep the same ideas and lessons. Anyone who loves animals, especially horses will connect and love this movie. Families can find this movie on Disney Plus. Students may even be inspired to help make a change, and Anna Sewell would be proud.



The Wishing Spell

Continued from Page 5.



solve problems. The one similarity is their love for their dad who sadly passes away when they are ten years old. When the twins receive the very fairy tale book their dad would read to them, his presence comes alive.

Read the book to discover what mysteries and journeys ensue as the twin siblings explore their beloved father's book of fairy tales. The book leads the reader on an expedition of suspense, while connecting with the lives of Alex and Conner and their family's heritage. Recommended for all readers, Colfer's writing makes everyone fall in love with this layered story and engaging characters.

Award Winning Author Visits Washington School

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Dear Student is about Autumn, a girl with social anxiety. Swartz said, "Kids have anxiety. Kids have OCD. Kids have mental health challenges. And the more we talk about them, the more we share their experiences on the page, the more we break down the stigmas and stereotypes associated with mental health. And the sooner every kid will feel like they belong." Ms. Gottfried, a Washington School fifth grade teacher said, "Elly's books are very relatable for everyone."

"Washington School is so lucky to have Swartz host an assembly and Workshops." Gottfried said "I learned so much from her, and I hope my students did too." Swartz's advice to students who love writing is "Dream big. Work hard. Embrace the journey. And when you dive into writing, be sure to write the story that matters to you. Because when you write from your heart, you connect in a way that is authentic. Real. Heartfelt. Powerful."



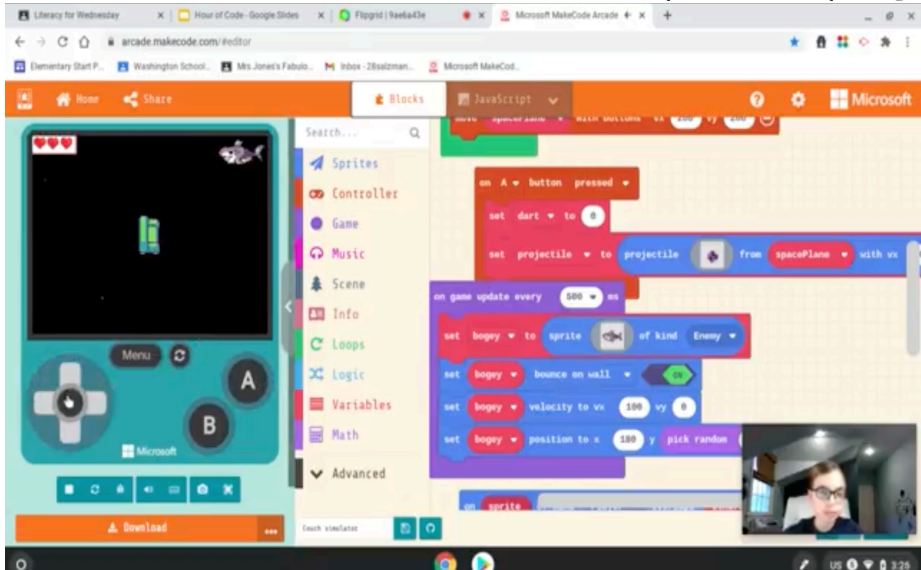
Washington School Celebrates the Hour of Code

By Evy Rakhlin

On December 9th, Washington School students observed the Hour of Code. The celebration offered students the opportunity to learn how to design and engineer coding. Students explored the many websites that teach step by step coding and programming. Washington students had different options, for example, they could explore Blocks, Python, JavaScript, and many more. They also had construction choices. They could design interesting figures, create an app, make a dance party, make a game, and so much more.

Code.org is a website that helps students learn how to program characters to perform many different operations.

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Technology expert, Mrs. Haggerty, asked fifth grader, David Salzman to present his Hour of Code project to The Washington School PTO. Haggerty was impressed with the level of ingenuity and coding acumen Salzman displayed in creating his unique game. Salzman is pictured in the bottom right corner.

Washington School Celebrates the Hour of Code

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For example, they could dance, shovel dirt, collect nectar, or find treasure, and many more interesting activities. Each lesson offered a new step to complete. After each lesson the students would complete a project. After projects there were optional challenges. At the end of the course, participants would have learned that coding is everywhere and that coding must be specific and exact. One popular website is Micro:bit that lets students become truly creative. For instance, students can create flashing hearts, dice, love meter, a guitar, and so much more. Each and every project is unique. Every project teaches the students how to code their projects step by step using specific instructions. Students reported that Micro:bit helped them learn that coding is important because every electronic is programmed or in other words coded to do its job. Mrs. Jones reported on the success of the Hour of Code: "My students really enjoyed participating in the Hour of Code program. They all love the activities Mrs. Haggerty set up

for them, and also enjoyed sharing their coding projects with each other. Kudos to Mrs. Haggerty for continuing to find super ways to teach and inspire students remotely." Fifth grader Gabrielle Saperstein also enjoyed participating in the schoolwide Hour of Code: "I really liked the Hour of Code because it made me feel connected to the other kids around the world involved in this program. Coding also made me feel like my hard work paid off when I finished the Dance Party on Code.org and watched the dance." Grateful to have participated in the program, fifth grader Ananya Mandrekar reported on its merits: "I think that the Hour of Code is an exciting opportunity which enhances student creativity and problem solving skills. I feel that we are very lucky to have such an amazing program which helps us get familiar with technology and coding!" With Mrs. Haggerty at the helm of the school's Technology Department (see front page article), the students of Washington School will continue to receive the latest cutting edge technology and coding training.

A Splash of Creativity

By Akiv Shah, Naman Mehta, and Samara Tichauer

Crafty, funny, sweet, kind. Yup! That's Mrs. Percarpio all right! Percarpio is Washington and Glenwood Elementary School's Art teacher. She has been teaching Art for almost two and half decades. The people who have kept Percarpio motivated are her parents and her favorite artist, Claude Monet. Percarpio has always liked art from a very young age. At first, she wanted to be a zoologist or a doctor, but then decided to follow the career path of an art teacher. Percarpio said, "I also like the fact that art is all around us, and you can link art to any subject such as Science, Social Studies and Math. Since I have many interests, Art is the perfect fit!" Percarpio lives with her daughter, her son, her husband, three cats, two Kaiser newts, and two lizards. Her favorite food is nachos. When Percarpio wants to travel, she loves to go to Cape Cod Bay, and she loves to spend time with her family. She loves going sleigh riding, hiking and gardening. When asked about her favorite student project, Percarpio



Percarpio's Art classes are the favorites of Washington School's in person and remote students. said she has a lots of favorite projects, but she likes the 3-D ones most. She loves working with fifth graders; they are capable and independent. Student Emily Ward said, "Mrs. Percarpio is really kind and helpful and never leaves a student behind."

Percarpio has been Washington School's Art teacher from the day the school was founded. She spreads her knowledge and passion about art to all those around her. Her advice to young artists: "The more you practice, the better you get."

From Squadroom to Classroom

By Shradha Vatsa

Mr. Edward de la Fuente began teaching at the Washington School in September. This may be his first year as a teacher, but he has spent over twenty one years mentoring young people. Before becoming a fifth grade teacher, he was a police detective right here in Millburn in charge of the whole DARE program in all the elementary schools. When the hybrid-virtual model started, de la Fuente was eager to meet his students in person. Now twenty students come to school, and he is also hoping that those who are virtual will come to school soon as well. De la Funete is always looking forward to seeing his students. Committed to their growth and education, he treats all his students equally. Fifth grader Allen Wu



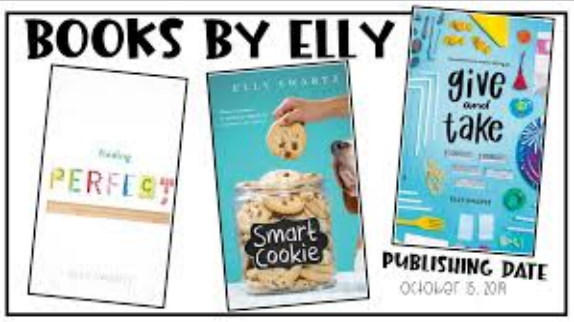
As chief detective, de la Fuente coordinated and ran the entire DARE program for twenty-one years. said, "He doesn't give up on students; he doesn't stop trying."

When asked which he prefers, teaching remotely or in person, de la Fuente responded, "Well, I much prefer teaching in person. It's more personal. It's easier to keep the students focused. . . teaching

Continued on Page 11.



Elly Swartz: Author in residence





Broadcast Club Paves the Way to Creativity and Confidence

By Mehr Kothari

The classroom was bustling with excitement. Every pair of eyes was on the smartboard eager to see what was in store for the school's first broadcast of its in-house production, The Washington Show! The Washington Show is a weekly broadcast created by the Broadcast Club where students share information on a broad range of topics. A fun, extracurricular activity, the show gives students a chance to shine. Ms. Haggerty is the manager of the Broadcast Club and has plenty of interesting topics for the anchors to broadcast. These include This Day in History, Joke of the Day, Sports and Weather just to name a few. There is also a topic called World News. Students use the news platform, Newsela to find stories to report in the broadcast.



Anchor Connor Qiao with Breaking News.

Many students enjoy getting creative and sharing broadcast videos. They all get to write their own scripts. Flipgrid also has many effects like background filters, frames, etc. that make broadcasts visually interesting, and students can choose the creative job of slide design. Being in the Broadcast Club can also be a good break from school work. The meetings are during lunchtime so students don't miss any classes. The Broadcast Club boosts the self confidence of students, and helps them overcome the fear of public



Anchor John Tan delivers the latest sports news on the broadcast.

speaking.

A number of students have had the opportunity to participate in the Broadcast Club so far, and all of them have enjoyed it. Student Olivia Yi, a participant in the club, has had an amazing experience. "I LOVE Broadcast." said Yi. "I love the magical and wonderful feeling of speaking in front of the camera. It helps boost my self-confidence and makes me more outgoing." Yi added, "I think every student should participate in the club. It is definitely something you will enjoy! It will also remove your fear of speaking in front of others!" Yi's response shows that Broadcast is a wonderful activity that every student should experience.



Anchor Erica Coutteny delivers the fun weekly mystery teacher feature that helps students get to know the staff.



Anchor Jamie DeRosa delivers the weather.

World Traveler, Yoga Expert, and Head Nurse:

Mrs. O'Gorman Keeps Students and Staff Healthy and Safe

By Mehr Kothari

out the right way to handle each situation.

In any other school year, a student with a stomach ache would walk into Mrs. O'Gorman's office, receive the necessary help, and then return to class. But this year, school nurse Mrs. Patricia O'Gorman's job has changed dramatically. When asked why she chose to become a school nurse, O'Gorman said that although nursing is a lot about helping the sick, she prefers taking care of the well. She enjoys teaching students about health and

wellness, and helping people stay healthy. Also a yoga instructor for Millburn School District has played an important role in the community since the start of the pandemic. One of the believes yoga keeps students fit and major contributors to the hybrid plan, healthy both physically and emotionally.

O'Gorman, the lead nurse in the Millburn School District has played an important role in the community since the start of the pandemic. One of the believes yoga keeps students fit and major contributors to the hybrid plan, healthy both physically and emotionally. O'Gorman helped created and implement the pandemic protocols to keep students and staff safe. A few examples of some of these protocols were young, she could work the include where to place the desks, and what kind of masks students should wear. O'Gorman has been working since the summer to figure out the ins and outs of these protocols to make

A part of The Washington School schools safe for students. An important part of her job includes contact tracing should someone come down with the virus. She must figure

Continued on Page 11.

Book Clubs Inspire Debate, Laughter and Fun

By Samara Tichauer and Suvid Bordia

Book clubs are a great way for students around the world to openly express their ideas to a group of people, freely. Many studies have shown reading in groups is better for young people to openly express their opinions to others, while productively debating what they think about a certain topic. Students in book clubs will learn how to express their thoughts while reading with their fellow classmates and having a great time.

During Covid-19, how book clubs have been running is different. Books are either online or zero-contact pickup. Students use the G Suite Platform with Google Slides and Google Classroom. They answer questions, write responses, and state the climax/ resolution and more with online websites and apps.

Some books students read in Washington School book clubs are *Maniac Magee*, *Wringer*, *The Giver*, and *Esperanza Rising*. These are classic, thought-provoking books and are great to improve students' reading comprehension. Chloe She, a student in Mrs. Monaco's class said, "I think



Hatchet and Maniac Magee are two book club favorites. book clubs are really fun. There can be a lot of fun debates, and being in a book club can help me think more deeply about the book by knowing what others are thinking."

Student Lily Dranoff has a lot of nice words to say about book clubs. When asked how book clubs have been working in the hybrid model she says, "In person there are AM and PM cohorts, so it is more organized." Students agree with Lily on that one. She goes on to say that students can learn to develop confidence and teamwork. Her advice to book club members? "Don't talk over each other and respect what they're saying."

The reading curriculum inspires students' love of reading. Book clubs keep that love shining brightly in the students at Washington School.

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

A Wonderful Winter

By Olivia Yi
Crystal white snow falling down
Covering the whole entire town
Gazing out the window it's like a dream
I look over at the water it starts to steam
School is over, time to play
Layer up! It's cold today
1 shirt, 2 shirt, 3 shirt, 4
Messy clothes fly out the door
There's so much snow let's build a snowman
No that's boring, lets spy on that van
What to do, shh there's a ferret
Don't get distracted we need a carrot!
Let's have some fun c'mon
Snowball fight?
Oh yes, it's on!
I'm getting cold c'mon let's race!
I'll be first to the fireplace!
Back already? Hot cocoa girls?
Just grab a spoon and give it a whirl
I'm hopping in to take a hot shower.
On the TV it says some people just lost power
Even though there is no sun
I love the winter, the snow, the fun
Unwrapping gifts and there's so much love
Seeing family is better than the above
What a wonderful winter

When the Night Crept In

By Hannah Wang
Slowly, carefully, the night crept in
The sky got darker and darker
As the night smothered the world into darkness
After the daytime left
When the night crept in,
The stars blinked as they shined in the night
When the night crept in
The trees made dark shadows in the moonlight
When the night crept in



The lights in the buildings blinked off one by one
And the cold sneaked in as the warmth of the sunlight was thrown out
I do not know whether or not the moon will shine so bright tomorrow
Nor do I know if I will be able to see such a calm night again
But what I do know is that nighttime is here
There's no denying that
I could feel it in the air

Tigers

By Tara Radoicic

Through the trees
The terror treads,
The terrifying tiger tiptoes
Twisting and turning its tail,
The proud predator pries
And prowls the path of prey.

Eyes so bright
Like diamonds in the night,
Fierce and ferocious feline
Magnificent and divine,
Wild carnivore beast
Fearful flesh for a feast.

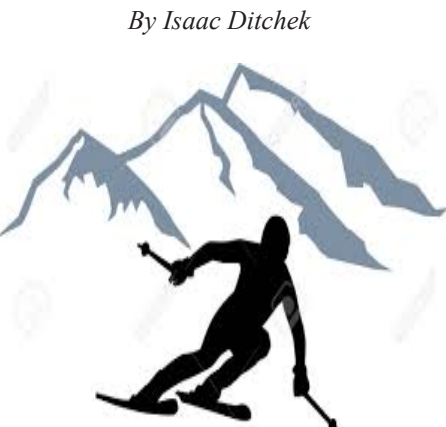
Fixating feral eyes
Death arrives with surprise,
Ripping, tearing, lips smacking
Never sparing,
Satisfied soul soars
Rumbling a royal roar.

Mushroom on the Radiator

By Lilian Schwartz
On the radiator underneath a window in our dining room, my family's cat Mushroom is usually curled up, the sun turning his black fur brown and reflecting off his white throat, chest, hind paws, and the tips of his front paws. He stares contentedly out of the window into the backyard beyond, his vibrant green eyes peaceful slits, purring when we pet him and rolling over so we can rub our hands on his fluffy black-and-white belly.
When Mushroom spots prey in the backyard, he is too enticed by the squirrel or bird to keep calmly sunning himself, and sits up, his black ears pricked. He gives little mrrows, his tail twitching uncontrollably, and sometimes he even bats his paws against the closed window. When he gets really agitated, his tail begins sharply flicking against the radiator, making me wince with its repetition.
But when Mushroom is on the radiator and he sees another cat outside in our backyard, he completely changes, turning into the clawing feline my family and I only see when my parents wrestle him in the cat carrier for a checkup at the vet. He crouches on the radiator, the hair along his back raising, and his black tail bushing out. He hisses, and then starts howling what my sister and I have grown to imitate: MRRRROWWW! MEOWWWW!
"Mushroom!" I exclaim. "Calm down, boy!" I try to soothe him, petting his fur and stroking his fluffed-out tail. The horror I feel at his transformation shows in my voice. On days when the window pane is pulled up and only the netted screen is between the inside of our house and our backyard, I am always afraid that Mushroom will try to rake his claws through the window screen and leap out of the house, ready to fight the other cat.
When Mushroom sees a cat outside, when he changes into his yowling self, what is happening? Is my cat territorial? Is he jealous of the cat outside, for we only take him out of the house when he sees the vet? Or is this simply what he does? I will never know.



My Heart Soars



By Isaac Ditchek

The glistening snowflakes
The slow fall
The white sheeted ground
Speaks to me

The colossal mountains
The towering ski lifts
The gigantic pines
Speak to me

The winding trails
The peaceful skiers
The greens, blues and blacks
Speak to me

The slow ride down
The picturesque view
The white coated town
Speaks to me
And my heart soars

Editor's Note: Isaac's poem has been selected for publication in the National Fall 2020 Creative Communications Anthology.

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

Sandwich

By Sahana Kulasekaran
A slice of bread
A piece of lettuce or two
Some mayonnaise
Tomatoes too
A few onions and olives
3 pickles on top
Maybe some beans
I just can't stop
Artichokes and carrots
Squash and beets
Soon I will have a lot to eat
A dash of lemon
A pinch of pepper
And a little bit of cucumber
I'm almost done
But I've had fun
Some cabbage and potatoes
Pumpkins and drumsticks
And finally at the top
Where everything ends
Another slice of bread
And that's when I know
That it is time
To munch and crunch my yummy lunch



More on the Elly Swartz Assembly



By Vivienne Qiao

On December 14, 2020, author of *Finding Perfect*, *Smart Cookie*, and *Give and Take*, Elly Swartz came to Washington School for an author visit, to talk to students about reading, writing and life. Swartz said, “All three books have the same message: take risks and be brave.”

One life-message she talked about is to be brave. She encouraged students to try their best, encouraging them to be confident about what they want to accomplish in life, no matter what it is. Swartz said, “Don’t let others stop you from pursuing your dreams.” It is important for students to learn to overcome the obstacles and challenges they may face. Swartz talked about writing with emotion, perspectives, and confidence.

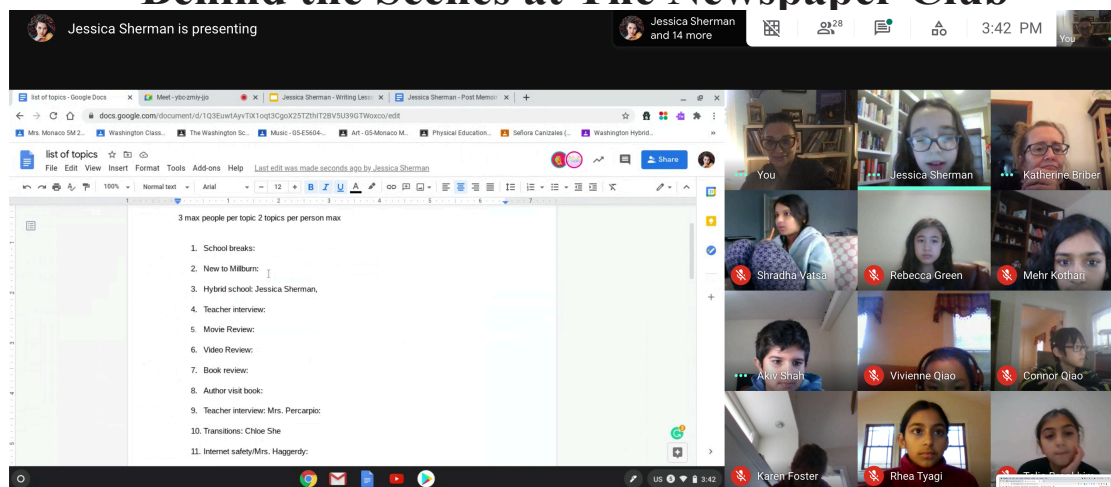
Student Richa Kurup talked about Swartz’s message to the school: “She wanted to tell us to be brave, and the impossible is possible if you believe it is. Just because trouble gets in the way, never give up and be brave. For example, Thomas Edison invented the lightbulb, and before, people had to use candles for light, and he probably had people who discouraged him. If he had listened to those people, we wouldn’t have electricity!”

Teacher Mrs. Patricia Murphy was asked why she chose Swartz for the author-in-residence: “I chose Elly Swartz as our author-in-residence because I thought she would be a great fit for our school. Two years ago, I had invited Elly Swartz into my classroom for an author visit with just my class, and we had such an incredible visit that I wanted to invite her to Washington for all the students to connect with her. Elly Swartz is extremely positive, energetic, and her passion for connecting with readers is so vibrant. Her values of kindness, empathy, and being true to yourself match our Washington Leader-in-Me philosophy. In her own writing, Elly Swartz portrays the intertwined emotional lives of kids with sensitivity and precision. She tackles tough issues, important messages, all with relatable characters.”

Overall, students reported that the assembly with Swartz was a positive experience. She taught students to be brave in times that may seem impossible because those obstacles are only blocks to overcome in order to reach their goals.



Behind the Scenes at The Newspaper Club



Editor-in-chief Jessica Sherman runs the meeting, presenting list of possible article topics for the next issue

By Theodore Reibaud, Jason Jun, and Sarah Jia

The members of Washington School’s Newspaper Club typically meet every other Thursday to discuss the newspaper, but what happens during those meetings?

Newspaper Club members meet after school on Google Meet. Although the meetings do not always begin with the same events, they typically begin with a mini lesson from Mrs. Jones and Ms. Briber giving tips about writing. If reporters are beginning a new issue, then the editor-in-chief, Jessica Sherman and the managing editor, Akiv Shah offer a list of possible article topics. Students can decide on a topic and begin planning, either individually or with one or two other reporters.

From the middle to the end of each meeting, the faculty advisors, Jones and Briber, split the club’s members into breakout rooms with a student editor to help plan and edit each member’s article.

Editor-in-chief, Jessica Sherman said, “It is a great honor to be a member of the Newspaper Club. I love writing and I love creating stories. Being in the club really makes me happy. Both writing articles by yourself and writing with others is a great joy to me!” *Continued on Page 11.*

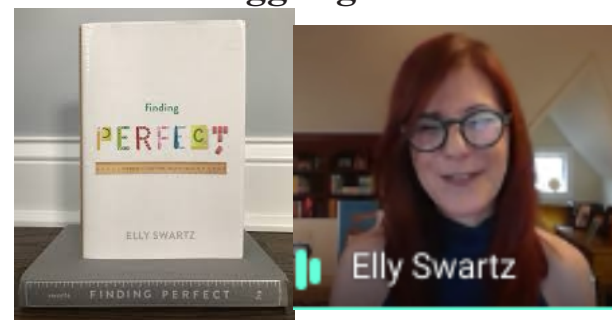
Elly Swartz Gives a Voice to Students Struggling to be Perfect

By Connor Qiao, Vivienne Qiao, and Arabella Crofton

Perfectly lined rainbow-colored pencils. No crooked letters. Aligned glass figurines. Molly, a twelve-year-old girl, struggles with OCD, (Obsessive-compulsive disorder) and due to the destructive effects of OCD, she wants just everything in her own way. Molly can’t control her disorder, which is a problem for her friendships, her family relationships, and more.

The book, *Finding Perfect* is about a twelve-year-old girl who has OCD, a mental disorder she can’t control. OCD makes her want to make everything perfect and just right for her. Her mom leaves for Toronto for a job, and promises Molly she’ll come back in one year, but Molly knows sometimes, promises are broken. She is left alone without her mom’s influence, trying to handle the burden of mending her younger brother’s “missing Mom” wounds.

Finding Perfect relates to people who have OCD. According to Elly, “I wrote this story because Molly came into my life and wouldn’t leave until I shared her story. I knew there were 500,000 kids with OCD and I wanted them to know they were not alone. This also allows anyone with OCD to have a voice.” Swartz researched many aspects of OCD and consulted with a prominent clinical psychologist, Dr. Kathleen Trainor who offers cognitive behavior therapy for clients with OCD.



Swartz on Google Meet with Washington School students. Her first novel, *Finding Perfect* took fifteen years to find its way into readers’ hands.

One theme of *Finding Perfect* is that no one is always perfect. Since Molly Nathans has Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, (OCD), she wants everything to be just right in her way. From making sure her friends are also perfect and not using odd numbers, Molly always wants to control her surroundings. She has not yet learned that people don’t always have to be perfect, because no one is ideal.

Swartz is a multi-talented author. *Finding Perfect* teaches everyone to accept themselves even if life doesn’t always work out the way one wants them to. Molly’s mom leaves for a job in Canada, and Molly faces problems, like the poetry slam contest, friendship, and of course, OCD. *Finding Perfect* is definitely recommended with a 5 star rating.



From Squadroom to Classroom

Continued from Page 7.

virtually is a challenge, ... When I teach through the computer, if students' cameras are off, I have no idea what they're doing, and it's preventing them from learning."

Not only is de la Fuente a committed teacher, but he's also a dedicated family man. He lives with his wife, Terry, his son, Nicholas, and his daughter, Danielle a recent graduate of Boston University. He has two white terriers, Stella and Finn. Their family sport is football, and they are all Giants fans.

Fifth grader Olivia Yi described her teacher's sense of humor and dedication: "One thing he has is lots of humor and so much love for the class." De la Fuente is not only a good teacher, but is good at juggling and making very funny jokes. One of his funniest jokes is "Raise your hand if you're not here!" Everyone laughs, then raises their hands. Also, he made and won a bet with his class that if he could solve a Rubik's Cube and juggle for five minutes, the remote students would keep their cameras on. The entire class was in shock as de la Fuente held their attention with his juggling talent. Students were also amazed at how fast he solved the Rubik's Cube. They were all very impressed. De la Fuente's students continue to be surprised by and delighted with their unique, dedicated teacher.

Feeding the Hungry During the Pandemic: A First Person Account



Food pantry volunteers at Holy Trinity Church in West Orange move outside during the pandemic to help feed the hungry.

By Karen Foster

According to WHO, 820 million people in the world do not have food, water, or a roof over their heads. Before the pandemic, soup kitchens in major cities provided meals for people who could not afford to put food on their tables.

A Community in Need:

My family volunteered with our church, and served food before COVID-19 at Holy Trinity in West Orange. But, because of social distancing restrictions during the pandemic,

there is now less inside seating for families and individuals in need. In April of 2020, grocery stores increased the price of food which made it even harder for people to feed their families. A lot of people lost their jobs too. Before COVID-19 every weekend at the Old Food Ministry at Holy Trinity in West Orange, we would serve meals to 150 families each week, but now, 500 families are being helped twice a week.

Christine's Kitchen to the Rescue:

A neighboring restaurant, Christine's Kitchen,

Continued on Page 12.

Washington School Boasts District's Head Nurse: Mrs. O'Gorman

Continued from Page 8.



O'Gorman pictured with Josephine Weaver, a member of the first Washington School fifth grade.

incorporates some tips to keep students active. She encourages students to look outside the window, reduce screen time, and exercise for a few minutes at a time.

O'Gorman is Irish and enjoys traveling. An international traveler, she moved from Ireland to London, then to Tokyo and then Singapore before finally settling in Millburn. She still has family in Ireland, and her daughter lives in Singapore.

Traveling is something she misses. O'Gorman has a great connection between her and currently misses. O'Gorman works with the rest of the staff, and enjoys performing many duties as head nurse working with them. She thinks that in the district, but the absolute favorite part of her job has always been taking care of the students in the town.

O'Gorman works with the gym teacher, Mr. Hogan, collaborating to bring O'Gorman's passion, yoga, into the gym classes. O'Gorman thinks yoga is a great way to manage stress, and Hogan is always happy to have her help out with gym classes. During these yoga sessions, O'Gorman always



A world class traveler, O'Gorman still maintains her charming Irish accent.

Newspaper Club

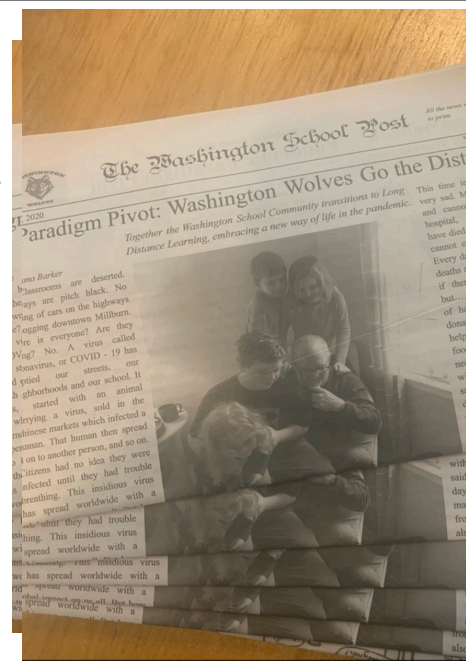
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The newspaper club's editors do not just help edit. They also write articles along with the rest of the members of the club. The current club's editors are Akiv Shah, Mehr Kothari, and Jessica Sherman.

On the day of the due date for the articles, the club's editors will help edit each article in breakout rooms. They will make sure each article follows the newspaper's style guide, which includes examples about what and what not to do. For instance, some rules for the articles is to refrain from including the word "you" unless it is written in a quote, and to avoid using weak vocabulary.

Literary Editor Mehr Kothari is in charge of the "Write Stuff" column of the newspaper. Kothari selects original pieces submitted by Washington School students to include in the newspaper. The chosen compositions will be added to the end of the newspaper under the "Write Stuff" column. Faculty advisor Jones commented, "I wish we had more space to publish all the original stories and poems we receive. But I'm so happy to see how many students are engaged in the creative writing process."

Once the articles are finished, Jones and Briber give a final edit to all the



articles and chosen works of literature for the "Write Stuff" column. All the articles are formatted into columns, then sent to the printer. Jones and Briber along with the three student editors proof-read the entire issue pdf from the printer. Managing Editor Shah checks the spelling of every name listed in the issue to make sure there are no typos or misspellings. After the final proof-reading is completed, the newspaper will soon be available for the entire school to read.

It takes a group effort to make each issue better, and more interesting, as members are always trying, hoping and "finding perfect."



The editors, reporters and faculty advisors would like to apologize for any errors or omissions. We tried our best.

Coming in the next issue of The Washington School Post: Reporter Josh Gerstel, son of a prominent ER physician reports on how to stay healthy and safe.

The Programming Pioneer



By Rhea Tyagi

Teachers: The inspirational motivators who guide students through their often complicated and puzzling learning paths with patience and persistence who can get students to the other side of the long road even when there is no light in the sky to guide them.

Programmers: The intelligent experts who click together pieces of the puzzle of code to create digital activity.

Pioneers: The leaders that persevere to start a journey through the dangerous and untame that they believe will change the world if they manage to harness the potential of this undiscovered, wild possibility.

Mr. Lester Greenberg: All of the above.

Back (then) to the Future. Middle School robotics teacher, Mr. Lester Greenberg first heard about computer science when he was sixteen, over sixty years ago. This caught the future programmer's attention because he saw the capacity of this tool. "It's the way to the future," Greenberg said. "Computer programming is the next step towards artificial intelligence. You can't have robotics without programming. Having robots without programming is like having a human without a brain."

Top-Notch-Teaching: Greenberg is "an impressively motivating teacher," according to several different seventh-graders. Despite the accolades, Greenberg has called himself "torturous" multiple times! Greenberg was originally a robotics teacher, but when remote learning began, he switched to teaching Python because chromebooks can't run robotics software. Washington School's coding lessons really helped current middle school students since they had already learned the basics of coding in fifth grade. Coding "helps them to think, to think logically," said Greenberg.

Sage Advice: Through the years, he has learned that there is no "I" in team. "Life is a shared experience and responsibility," Greenberg said. Teamwork has been an important part of his computer engineering and teaching career. Greenberg also feels passionately about making mistakes: "Make mistakes. Believe it or not, life is more than your report card. The only people who don't make mistakes are people who don't try anything new," said Greenberg. Greenberg's advice to students: "You have been conditioned not to fail, let go of that."

From the Editor's Desk...

During these challenging times, I think it is very important to be social. If you are not, you could get very sad and lonely as there are not many activities going on. Socializing can help you to become happier, more energized, and even more focused in school! You can still be social while being socially distanced.

During the pandemic, you will need to find unique ways to be together. You may have tried some of these, but here is a list in case you have run out of ideas (just remember to wear a mask if in person!). You could hang out in town or Taylor Park, just make sure when you eat you are sitting apart. You could play video games with your friends, as long as you talk with them through a headset or FaceTime. You could even watch a movie with your friends from separate houses, as long as you can communicate with them. There is an app called Teleparty on Netflix that allows you to communicate and watch the same movie with your friends. Also, amazon prime video has Watch Party.

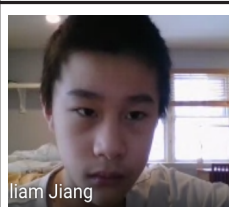
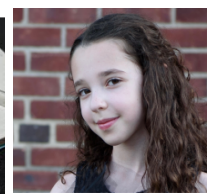
If you want to do something physical, you could do some sports in backyards. There have also been people who set up really cool activities in garages. For example, you could make arts and crafts, or even do a community service project (see article on "Feeding the Hungry"). You could even have a game night where you Zoom with some of your friends and play Kahoot or another similar game together!

Just remember, we've been working really hard to keep up our physical health, but we can't forget our mental health too!

Let's all stay connected,

Jessica Sherman
Editor-in-chief

The Washington School Post



William Jiang

Math Olympiads

By Krisana Manglani

William Jiang, one of Mrs. Jones's Math superstars has been a Math Olympiad member since third grade.

Math Olympiads is an incredible program designed to help students practice their math skills and reading comprehension. Students practice their reading comprehension by solving word problems. Math Olympiad tests have trick questions to try and inspire students to do their best. Math Olympiad quizzes and tests may be difficult, but they are a fun and creative way to push students past their limits. Math Olympiads is run by Mrs. Danielle Haggerty, Washington's technology teacher.

There are many groups of students in the Math Olympiads, and each group is supervised by a PICO, also known as the Person In Charge. During the Math Olympiads, the PICO first reads aloud the questions for the test. Then, the students have 30 minutes to complete the test. Since students in Math Olympiads are virtual, they use Google Forms to answer the questions. If students finish within the allotted time, they may submit their Google Form and quietly leave the meet. Math Olympiads is efficient and helps students raise their math grades. Alisha Gupta, a Math Olympiad member said, "Math Olympiads is a great experience for kids who have never been in a contest."

Math Olympiads is an easy and convenient way to push students out of their comfort zones and to create new ways to help students become better at math. Math Olympiad, Avika Dhir, said, "This is a great way to learn skills you have never known about." Students find Math Olympiads productive and enjoyable. Math Olympiads is an incredibly creative, productive and fun program available to all Washington students!

Feeding the Hungry: A First Person Account

Continued from Page 11.

donates extra sandwiches they donate to the food kitchen. Other neighboring churches are pitching in to help. Before the pandemic, lots of children went to school, and some were served free school lunch. When schools went virtual, the lunch vanished. Hungry school children have no access to any lunch at all.

How to Help:

Another organization is St. Johns Food Kitchen in Newark. Their website describes their mission as providing meals to the "downtrodden, the underemployed, the unemployed, the homeless and their families." St. Johns has been serving a hot meal every day since the pandemic began. They have been serving bag lunches which normally contain a sandwich, a snack, fruit and a dessert. What they need the most at St. Johns is canned vegetables like corn, string beans, and peas. They also need marinara sauce and parboiled rice.



Bag lunches help replace the free school lunches students aren't receiving during the pandemic's remote schooling.

Although volunteers must be 16 years old or older, parents can go online and participate. Both organizations will accept money. For more information, email MEND at info@mendnj.org or St. Johns Food Kitchen at info@njsoupkitchen.org or volunteer@njsoupkitchen.org.