



Washington School Student Scores Winning Essay

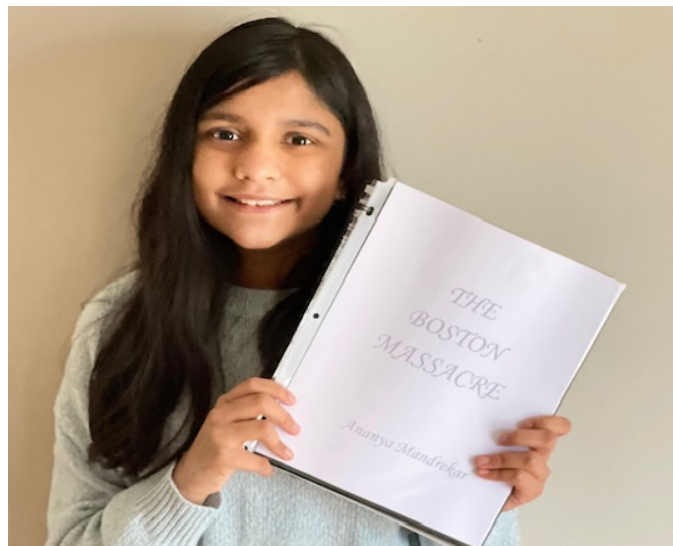
By Zachary Abrahams and Naman Mehta

Ananya Mandrekar may be living in 2021, but she can tell you what life was like in 1770 - the year of the Boston Massacre. That's because Mandrekar researched that period for an essay she wrote for the Daughters of the American Revolution. Mandrekar recently learned that she had won the state competition for her essay.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting historic preservation, education for children, and patriotism. This means that they want children to learn about events that happened long ago. The DAR is divided into chapters in every state. New Jersey has 46 chapters, and Mandrekar is in the Morristown Chapter.

Mandrekar entered an essay contest with the task of imagining she was living in Boston in 1770, and after witnessing the events of March 5 (the Boston Massacre), writing a personal account of her family's discussion about the massacre, and what role her family played in organizing the colonists against the British king and Parliament. Interestingly, the contestants needed to think about a real event, while at the same time write a fictional account. After spending many long weeks on the essay, Mandrekar was finally finished.

A little while after her submission, Mandrekar discovered she had won at the chapter level, and was moving on to the New Jersey state level. Mandrekar said she felt "really excited." A month later, she received an email from the Vice Chairperson of New Jersey State DAR saying that she had won first place in the entire state. Mandrekar said she was "simply ecstatic!" Normally the New Jersey State DAR holds an awards ceremony where she would have read her essay, but this year it is a virtual event where they will be playing a video



Mandrekar pictured with winning essay.

recording of her reading her essay. Mandrekar's essay is currently in contention at the Eastern Division Level which is comprised of 7 states.

Mandrekar's family, friends, and Washington School classmates and teachers are all very happy that she entered the contest. She is clearly very proud of her achievements in winning two rounds of the competition. Washington School principal, Mr. Mercurio was thrilled to learn of Mandrekar's success, and commented, "The DAR is an important organization, keeping our country's history alive and meaningful for our students. I'm especially proud that Ananya took the initiative to enter the contest. Her teachers and I applaud her."

The Eastern Division's contest results will come out soon. Students, teachers, friends and family eagerly await the final results.

Mrs. Koch Finds Harmony in Asynchrony

By Connor Qiao, Naman Mehta, and Logan Saperstein

Enthusiastic, eloquent and efficient. That's Ms. Koch, the music teacher at Washington School. Every week, whether remote or asynchronous, she is prepared and delighted to interact with the 5th graders and teach them all about the art of music. Koch really started to love music when she was in 5th Grade. She has loved music ever since. After school, Koch took private piano and voice lessons all the way through high school. As Koch progressed through her music lessons, she began to realize that she really enjoyed playing music, and wanted to do it for a living. She enjoys teaching the fifth graders at Washington School, and also loves teaching the younger students at

Glenwood and Hartshorn.

In her free time, Koch loves to exercise. Last year, she was planning on running in the New York City Marathon which was unfortunately cancelled due to Covid-19. "I also love cooking," said Koch. "My favorite thing to do when I get home is watch Food Network, try out new recipes, and learn new techniques." She also loves to travel, especially to warm beaches where she can relax and have fun.

When Koch was asked about her favorite cuisine, she instantly answered Mexican. She said that she loves all the different flavors and foods including tacos, nachos, empanadas, and enchiladas. "I also love any kind of mac'n'cheese. It can be filled with bacon or vegetables or just plain old mac'n'cheese."



Koch works hard to make her music lessons engaging and fun.

Koch loves doing projects and activities with the students. Jamie DeRosa from Mrs. Cassels' class said, "One activity she does in the beginning of her lesson is a song. This week she has been doing the song, 'Alabama Gal' with body percussion and dancing paired with it." DeRosa added, "I think that Ms. Koch's lessons are helpful. She puts a lot of effort into preparing lessons for us and the virtual music lessons are very detailed and easy to understand." In each lesson, Koch starts with a song that is related to the music class's theme for the week. Next, she talks about last week's asynchronous lesson, usually what percentage of students in the classes participated in the asynchronous lesson. Koch usually shares her screen for a slideshow. One of the pages features the rules of what is expected from the students during music class: Cameras on, raise your hand before you speak, Continued on Page 2.



Washington School's Newest Teacher Makes Learning Fun

By Akiv Shah, Mehr Kothari, and Jason Jun

A good teacher is kind, helpful, organized, and makes learning fun. That is Ms. Gottfried. Gottfried has been teaching for 6 years, and this is her first year at Washington Elementary School. Previously, she taught 4th grade at Vanderveer School in Summerville. Her favorite subject to teach is English Language Arts (ELA). She is currently teaching in pack V with Mrs. Van Dzura and Ms. Briber. In rotation, she teaches Science. Gottfried says, "Teaching at Washington has been a dream come true. All the students and staff have been very supportive."

Gottfried is organized and likes asking her students for feedback. Jai Bahal, a student in her class said, "Ms. Gottfried makes learning fun!" She is constantly adding games and other fun activities to keep her students motivated to learn more. Gottfried said, "As a teacher I want to show that learning is challenging, but it can also be really fun and rewarding, and it's extremely important to ask questions."

When asked how Covid-19 has affected her teaching, she thinks it has been challenging, but she added that we're all in this together. She wanted to be a teacher to inspire others. She wanted to help others like her first grade teacher who made a large impact on her life. She loves being a teacher because of all the relationships she forms with her students and because

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Millburn Film Fest

Celebrates Tenth Anniversary

By Karen Foster

The Millburn Film Fest is an event held by the Millburn Education Foundation. The Ed Foundation which began in 1993 is a non-profit organization "dedicated to enhancing Millburn public schools by giving equipment, technology, programs, and staff development that cannot otherwise be funded" (MEF site). One of the biggest events they sponsor is the Millburn Film Fest, a celebration of student filmmaking for students and children in the district.

Lauri Palomaki who co chairs of the Film Fest with Lea Cruz said, "This year because it's the tenth year anniversary, we went back to our old students who have won the film fest in the past, and we asked them to be judges, and almost everyone said yes because they love the Film Fest so much, so we're excited." The Film Fest was created in 2011 by Ed Foundation members Lynn Farscht and Alyssa Russo. They saw a music video made by high school students, and were so impressed by the students' work that they made an event so that kids could show everyone their creativity and skills using technology. The first Film Fest took place in 2012, and ever since then, it has become a popular event with features, animated films, and documentaries. When asked



for her advice to Filmmakers, Palomaki said, "I know some people are always scared to do it, but you have to try. If you don't try, you'll never know if it was good enough. You might discover some hidden talent that you have, whether it's acting or filming or story telling. There are so many different components to Film Fest."

This year Washington students are allowed to participate in Film Fest for the first time. Palomaki said, "This is the first year that Washington students can participate, and with all the work that children do on their cameras with their phones and the videos that they put together, I just think that it's great if they start to think of a story and a video and start thinking about their own story and putting that story into video."

All films and entries were submitted by March 17, 2021. Stay tuned!

Mrs. Koch Finds Harmony in Asynchrony

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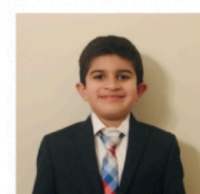
and no other devices or distractions allowed. Koch always presents a new song, pairing it with a game. Afterwards, Koch posts an asynchronous lesson with numerous engaging activities for students. Recently, Koch showed a video on Zitkala-Sa, a musician fighting for women's rights by playing beautiful music on her violin. Amazing cook, world traveler, and music teacher, Koch has advice for students: "Don't give up on music. It is so much of what speaks to you, and it's all about expressing yourself so don't be shy."

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Akiv Shah



Literary Editor:
Mehr Kothari



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**Star Wars Trivia
Millburn Public Library
Zoom Event
May 4, 7 PM**

More info: <https://millburnlibrary.libcal.com/event/7544322>



Washington School's Newest Teacher Makes Learning Fun

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each student is unique.

A talented graphic designer, Gottfried creates PowerPoint slideshows to share with students and teachers. Her fun, positive attitude energizes everyone.

Gottfried had planned to get married in August of 2020, but the wedding was postponed because of the pandemic. She and her fiancé will tie the knot in August of 2021. She enjoys going to the beach and likes the color black. Her favorite cuisine is Italian. Gottfried says that there is nothing better than pizza. A graduate of TCNJ (College of New Jersey), Gottfried grew up in South Brunswick, NJ with a sister, Chelsea. Her favorite pastimes are making DIY crafts and trying new recipes at home. Gottfried also enjoys going to the beach. In the summer Gottfried is a camp counselor at Lakeview Summer Camp. Gottfried makes a difference in the lives of each and every one of her students.. She cares about all her students equally and makes learning enjoyable and fun. Bahal said, “Ms. Gottfried is enthusiastic, intelligent, fun, kind and creative.”

BUILDER Builds Tomorrow's Leaders



Washington School's techxpert, Dani Haggerty conceived of and created the BUILDER course.

By Chloe She and Rhea Tyagi

Students: children who are thirsty for knowledge which can only be quenched by engaging learning experiences.

Teachers: the bedrock of an educated society who help raise tomorrow's leaders.

Leaders: the prodigies who help strengthen society because of the work of their past teachers.

BUILDER: the class that helps students blossom into leaders.

BUILDER lessons nurture children, and help them bloom into strong and responsible innovators and trailblazers.

Daily life and school life have become challenging in 2020-2021: masks have replaced smiles, chromebooks have

replaced notebooks, and elbow bumps have replaced handshakes. But Washington School's BUILDER course has endured.

BUILDER is one of the three rotation subjects every student experiences at Washington School. By the end of fifth grade, each student will have spent a trimester in Science, Social Studies and BUILDER. An acronym for Brainstorm Understand Invent Learn Design Engineer and Research, the course's three main units are Digital Citizenship, Coding and Design Challenges. The head of technology, Mrs. Haggerty helped create and design the

BUILDER course and curriculum. “I sat down with a few teachers and we thought: What were the ideas BUILDER should include? I was kind of the person who pieced together BUILDER.”

The Coding Unit included in BUILDER helps students prepare for the future. Analytical marketer, Rahul Tyagi said, “Computer programming helps solve business technical problems in an automated way which leads to a quicker response to changing the market.” He added, “There is going to be a rise in digital occupations in the future, and they will need coding!”



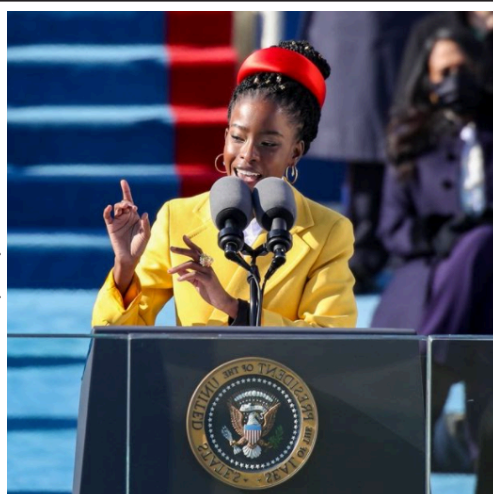
Cospaces engages students' creativity.

The course uses engaging and unforgettable games to help teach life skills. Students learn to use CoSpaces, a website which teaches students how to create their own virtual world. CoSpaces promotes student responsibility and creativity. Imagine being able to play in a game where students are the rulers of the world, and whatever students want will happen with a click of a button! Fifth grade BUILDER teacher, Mrs. Monaco *Continued on Page 4.*

Poet Laureate Takes Center Stage at Presidential Inauguration

By Vivienne Qiao and Arabella Crofton

On Wednesday, January 20, Joe Biden became the 46th president of the United States. He was one of only four presidents who had a poet speak at his Inauguration. Poet laureate Amanda Gorman read “The Hill We Climb” for the Inauguration. She wrote the poem to call for unity, and to emphasize the opportunities the future holds. The pandemic has made many people's lives more challenging, and has shined a spotlight on the marginalized communities who to live in that creation I see from continue to fight for equality and justice. Gorman spoke to look up to. But then I also get to



Poet laureate, Amanda Gorman: “For there is always light if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it.”

former first lady Michelle Obama about how the Black experience informs her art: “What's been exciting for me is I get to absorb and other African-American artists that I

create art and participate in that historical record. We see it in fashion, we see it in the visual arts. We're seeing it in dance, we're seeing it in music. In all the forms of expression of human life, we see the Black experience inform that artistry. I can't imagine anything more exciting than that.” She says that African Americans can be beautiful and creative visually in different ways-with music, dance, or fashion. Gorman wants to spread the message not to judge others, and that we can all work together to make our country a better place. Gorman wants others to realize that appearances can be misleading and that people shouldn't be so quick to judge others.

Growing up with a speech impediment, Gorman used to have trouble pronouncing her “r” sounds. She explained: “I could not say certain sounds, like “r”, so I would be saying things like poetwee or dolla.” *Continued on Page 4.*



Interviewed by Michelle Obama for TIME Magazine, Gorman said, “You really have to crown yourself with the belief that what I'm about and what I'm here for is way beyond this moment. I am not the lightning that strikes once. I am the hurricane that comes every single year...”

Newest Township Council Members Give Back to the Community



Newly elected Sanjeev Vinayak and Maggee Miggins spoke at length with reporter Mehr Kothari.

By Mehr Kothari

Our newest town council members, Sanjeev Vinayak and Maggee Miggins reflect Millburn's vibrant diversity. Battling the pandemic and their busy schedules, Sanjeev Vinayak and Maggee Miggins took time off to talk to reporter Mehr Kothari about their upcoming plans for the town. Both entered public service because they strongly feel it is a civic duty to get involved in their community and work for its betterment. They feel since the town has offered so much to them, it is their responsibility to give back. When asked about their favorite part of living in Millburn/Short Hills, Vinayak mentioned three features: a school system that is one of the best in the state, a train station that allows commuters to travel to their work, and above all a great and diverse community. Miggins agreed with Vinayak, and added that she loves the neighborhood vibe, and enjoys taking local walks. Both council members are parents who echo that Millburn has a great school system with fully dedicated teachers, students and parents. Vinayak also serves as the liaison between the Township Committee and the school board, and he believes improving communication between the town and the residents is crucial. While discussing the new apartments and potential increase in the school system's student population, both agree that the increase will not

present a challenge to the school system. They are also open to the idea of adding more facilities to the existing parks and grounds in the town.

Washington School students will be happy to learn that Vinayak and Miggins support a downtown summer fair or carnival, and are willing to help the student association organize and set up the event. Miggins suggested that since the Main Street is closed from April to November, the students could pick a day to organize and set up the fair. Besides work and Township Committee, Miggins and Vinayak have other hobbies. Miggins enjoys solving crossword puzzles, reading and spending time with her family. Vinayak enjoys basketball, volleyball and working for the town. As a final thought to the Washington students, Vinayak complimented the students for excelling in various fields and doing so much more than his generation did when they were in school. His words of advice for the students: "School is school. Take it easy."



Both Vinayak and Miggins ran as one team during the globally challenging pandemic. For Vinayak, a major challenge was reaching out to the 20,000 residents of Millburn/Short Hills. Miggins also had a tough time hearing everyone's thoughts and concerns since the candidates could not meet as many residents as they wanted to in person.

Washington School Celebrates

Women's History Month

By Logan Bergam

"Women's History Month" conjures up the bravery and strength of all women. This month-long celebration in March is dedicated to learning about women's current and past accomplishments and contributions.

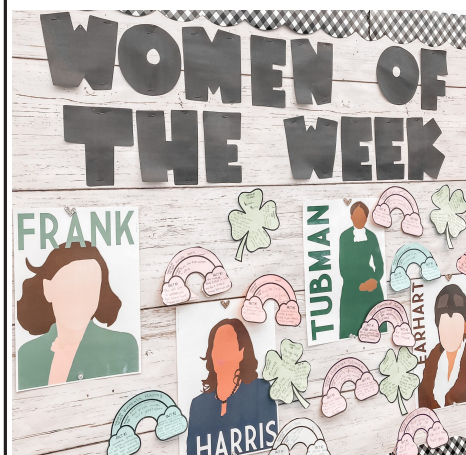
The International Women's History Alliance designates a yearly theme for Women's History Month. The 2021 theme is a continuation of 2020's: "Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to

Be Silenced." This theme recognizes the battle for women's suffrage, which was won with the passage of the 19th amendment in 1920.

Former high school Social Studies and English teacher, Molly Murphy MacGregor was the co-founder of Women's History Month. MacGregor worked hard to inspire the US Congress to pass a joint resolution recognizing women's history month back in 1987. Even before the Congress passed the resolution, a global celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women took place for the first time on March 8, 1911. Many countries around the world celebrate the holiday with demonstrations, educational initiatives and customs such as presenting women with gifts and flowers.

Most Washington School teachers

Continued on Page 5.



Ms. Gottfried's interactive bulletin board displayed information on key women each week in March.

BUILDER Builds Tomorrow's Leaders

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confirms how important creativity is: "A lot of what BUILDER is about is your own individual creativity." Also, another key skill students will take forward in their life is teamwork. CoSpaces require teamwork when playing in multiplayer games. Students also use Breakout EDU which helps them with independent critical thinking. The breakout EDUs help students become more independent and more patient.



The BUILDER course is not just teaching students to be builders. They are learning to be leaders: independent, creative and collaborative leaders ready to meet head-on all the challenges of the future.

Poet Laureate

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Gorman turned her speech weakness into a strength, inspiring her as a writer: "I had to find a form in which I could communicate other than through my mouth... when I was brave enough to try to take those words from the page onto the stage, I brought with me this understanding of the complexity of sound, pronunciation, and emphasis."

Also born with an auditory processing disorder (APD), Gorman has chosen to use her own personal challenges to encourage other kids following in her footsteps.

Gorman has influenced people worldwide, young and old, to speak up and embrace their challenges and dreams. Her message is to not only make a change, but to be that change that will ripple around the world, so people will be inspired to do the same.

Women's History Month

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paired the month-long celebration of women's accomplishments with reading instruction and activities. Ms. Gottfried set up an interactive bulletin board (see page 4). Each week students researched 3 "women of the week," and created rainbows and shamrocks with facts about the women. Gottfried hung the posters of the women and the facts in the hallway so other students could learn about them too. Mrs. Schaefer's class also spent every day in March reading about a different famous woman. Mrs. Policarpio's class reflected on Women's History Month by reading about the many women who paved the way for all women. The class used a collection of slides Mrs. Haggerty shared, and closed each lesson with a class discussion. Their current class read-aloud, *Front Desk* sheds light on racial and gender stereotypes and struggles. Mrs. Monaco's class also enjoyed slide presentations, and Mrs. Turtleaub's class took advantage of the many articles in ReadWorks about women's history and female contributions to society.

Washington School Families Focus on Food



By Celina Chen, Gabrielle Saperstein, and Talia Brookhim

These days, the Washington School students and staff are spending more time at home. Among the many pandemic hobbies, a large number of students and staff love baking. Many families are finding themselves at home in the kitchen, cooking and baking together.

When students and teachers were asked, why do you enjoy baking/cooking, their responses varied. "I love baking and cooking because I've been doing it with my family for so long. We

always make a homemade dessert on Saturday night and it's so fun to bake!" said 5th grader Krisana Manglani. "I get to make whatever I want, and have lots of creative freedom," said another Washington School student, Anya Debur.

People of all ages love baking. The love of baking is an intergenerational activity bringing families together. Fifth grader Evy Rakhlin said, "My sister and I bake a variety of foods once or twice a week for my family." Other families have been baking for each other. Debur said, "I love to make desserts. My

favorite dessert to make would probably be brownies, but recently I have been making cakes for the birthdays in my family."

In a survey between Ms. Irving's, Mrs. Schaefer's, and Ms. Briber's classes, 12 out of the 60 students were baking during their free time. Having extra time during the ongoing pandemic has been an advantage to students and teachers who love to create culinary masterpieces.

Manglani said, "I started baking and cooking a lot more during the pandemic." Some students and teachers have also just begun baking due to being confined at their house. Mrs. Jones, a fifth grade teacher at Washington School said, "Since the pandemic, I've been doing a lot of cooking at home -- especially since we're not going out to restaurants anymore."

While this hobby may be a new interest for some students, others have been spending time in the kitchen for a long time. "My mom and grandma taught me when I was about six. I used to

Continued on Page 7.



By Meera Saha Choudhury

Black History Month (BHM) is a celebration in the United States during the month of February. Selected to coincide with both President Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick Douglass's birthday month, Black History Month honors the accomplishments of African Americans all over the United States. The idea began with noted Harvard educated historian Carter G. Woodson who established what is now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) in 1915. The ASALH initially created a week long celebration in 1926 to recognize the history and contributions of African Americans all over the United States, but due to growing awareness of Black identity, the celebration evolved into Black History Month. President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976. He encouraged all

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Middle School Language Teacher Visits Washington School Packs

By Krisana Manglani

Hola! Bonjour! This year is coming to an end soon. In about 4 months, it will be summer. This fall, Washington students will be moving on to middle school! For middle school, it is required to pick a World Language to study for the next three years. Students have two options: to study Spanish, the language all Washington students are studying this year with Señora Canizales, or to take French, a beautiful language!

During the week of January 4-8, 2021, the students of Washington had an assembly with Millburn Middle School's sixth grade French teacher, Madame Rebecca Nelson.



She gave all the packs an explanation of how the middle school World Languages will work. In middle school, languages are an everyday period, not just a special class. Sixth grader, Priyana Manglani, who is taking French with Madame Nelson, said, "The methods Madame Nelson uses to teach us students about the French language are extremely effective and productive. She

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



The Perfect Movie

By Theodore Reibaud

Wondering what movie to watch next movie night? Try

“Farmageddon”. “Farmageddon” is a claymation movie directed by Richard Phelan and Will Becher.

The genre of this movie is a comedy, science fiction, adventure. “Farmageddon” is about Shaun the sheep, and an alien named Lu-La. Shaun doesn’t talk, and the humans around him grumble like parents in a Peanuts cartoon. Shaun and his pals are what makes this movie goofy. After some wacky misbehavior that reveals how deeply bored Shaun and his pals are, they spend most of their days torturing Bitzer the dog on the farm. Bitzer is forced to put up an increasing number of signs showing what the sheep are not allowed to do which sets a funny tone early.

Shortly after this funny opening, a spaceship lands over a business in town called “H.G. Wheels.” Out from the spaceship comes a little alien named Lu-La. Lu-La gets lost and ends up in the farm Shaun’s farm. Right away Shaun and Lu-La became good friends having a great time. But that good time will not last long for special agents are after

way not to get caught? Will their friendship last?

When asked how he would rate “Farmageddon,” fifth grader Alexi Reibaud said “I would rate it a 9/10 because of the plot. This movie is about Shaun making a new friend in Lu-La.” Since Reibaud has a guinea pig, he can relate to Shaun meeting Lu-La for the first time and not knowing what she is. This is truly the perfect movie for the whole family to enjoy.

Out of My Mind is Out of This World

By Krisana Manglani

Out of My Mind by Sharon M. Draper is a touching novel about a bright girl named Melody who is amazingly smart and has a photographic memory. However, no one knows it. Melody has cerebral palsy so she is unable to talk and walk. She has always wanted to be able to talk and express her feelings. Misjudged by her peers, doctors, and teachers, the book chronicles Melody’s journey as she finds a way to communicate with the world around her. *Out of My Mind* is a heartwarming novel. Melody is brave, determined, and doesn’t give up. Despite her disabilities, she proves that she is more than just what she looks like. Many people enjoyed this book. Fifth grade teacher Ms. Sharon Jones said that *Out of My Mind* is “a fabulous book - I could not put it down.” Fifth grader, Alisha Gupta, says, “Melody has the mind of an angel. She fights through her challenges and is strong. She puts an imprint in our hearts.” The book shows how one girl can overcome unspeakable obstacles and change the world around her.

Give and Take:

A Story to Remember

By Samara Tichauer

“I know I’m not supposed to get attached,” said Elly Swartz’s protagonist in her bestselling novel, *Give and Take*. The book teaches how sometimes love means letting go. The novel is so well written. Swartz’s way of inviting readers into her story is absolutely flawless. She begins with one word sentences to show her character’s thoughts and feelings. The story starts off with a strong beginning that gets even stronger as the book progresses.



Give and Take author Elly Swartz visited Washington School this year as guest author.

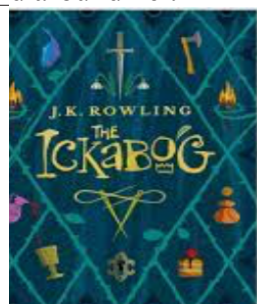
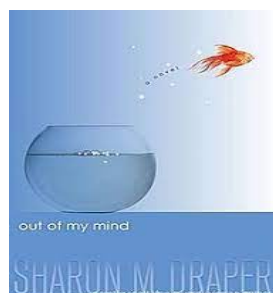
Fifth grader Krisana Manglani praises the book: “It’s incredible. At some points in the story I felt like I was Maggie.” The secondary characters, Sam and Ava, Maggie’s closest friends, experience changes when they’re around Maggie. When Ava is around Maggie’s dad, (the coach of her trapshooting team) she’s a little more outgoing. While when she’s around Maggie, her softer side shows. Although readers may feel nervous for Maggie, the book is a fun read. Maggie’s brother Charlie is such a funny, sweet character whose personality shines throughout the story. Swartz writes from Maggie’s perspective, but some readers may wish to see some of the other characters share their thoughts. But overall this book is a 10/10 because it tells a tale no one will forget.

Disney's "Soul" Teaches Us to Live Life to its Fullest

By Jordyn Rielle Gulliford

On Christmas 2020, a brand new animated Pixar movie made its way to Disney Plus. The movie, *Soul*, is about living to the fullest. *Soul* stars Jamie Foxx as Joe Gardner, a middle school band teacher who has always had a big dream of becoming a famous jazz pianist. His opportunity finally comes when a former student gives him the chance to audition for the world famous jax player Dorothea Williams (played by Angela Bassett). Although he lands the gig of his dreams, he suffers a near death experience, and ends up comatose in the hospital. This

tragedy leads Joe to “The Great Beyond” -- but since Joe realizes he is not ready to walk into “the white light,” he runs in the opposite direction, ending up in “The Great Before” - the place where children go before being born. While there, Joe becomes a mentor to soul #22 (Tina Fey) who must find her spark before being allowed to be born. A host of notable figures have previously tried to help her including Mother Teresa and Abraham Lincoln. Will Joe succeed in helping #22? Will he return to Earth in his own body? Tune into Disney Plus to watch *Soul* to see if Joe learns to live his life to the fullest.



Check out
recommended
books and
films:



Black History Month

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people to observe Black History Month to honor all African Americans in the United States who contributed to the society.

There are many talented and accomplished African Americans who are recognized in Black History Month. Washington School student London Peterson is especially partial to Nina Simone, an American singer, songwriter, musician, and arranger. "I really stand for Nina Simone," said Peterson. Simone was a civil rights activist who participated in protest marches and recorded civil rights anthems.

Washington School students celebrated the month with a variety of projects and activities.

Mrs. Turteltaub's class researched black writers. Ms. Irving and Ms. Briber's classes worked on projects that focused on a range of people from artists, scientists, writers, and activists. Mrs. Jones students collaborated in groups researching and presenting projects on a variety of famous figures in history.

Black History Month is a way of recognizing and celebrating the invaluable contributions of African Americans to society. So many African Americans have contributed to American history and culture, and during Black History Month, their contributions should be remembered. Making

sure all voices are heard, the United States of America can become a better place for all.

Focus on Food

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help roll out dough or use cookie cutters to make shapes, but now I help out a lot more!" Manglani said. Most students say that they find their recipes from websites online, but some students have family recipes that have been passed through generations. Teachers have been sharing their favorite family recipes with each other too. For example Jones says, "Mrs. Chibaro has a lot of great recipes she's shared for super yummy Italian dishes. Eggplant parmesan is my favorite!"

Overall, the hobby of baking brings the community together. From sharing favorite recipes, to cooking together, baking is the perfect hobby to take on!



Easy Homemade Brownie Recipe:

2 cups of White Sugar
2/3 cups of Unsweetened Cocoa Powder
1 cup of all Purpose Flour
2/4 teaspoon of Baking Soda
1 cup of Oil
4 Eggs
2 teaspoon of Vanilla Extract
1/2 cup of Chocolate Chips
Mix dry ingredients first, then add eggs, oil, vanilla and chips.

Use 8 inch square baking pan.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees and bake for 20-22 minutes in 350 degrees.

Let cool, cut, and enjoy!

Spotlight on Mrs. Phillip: Renaissance Strings Teacher

By Rebecca Green and Talia Brookhim

Which teacher rides a dirt bike and drinks a lot of coffee? The correct answer is Mrs. Phillip. Many students know Mrs. Phillip as the strings teacher, but do they really know her?

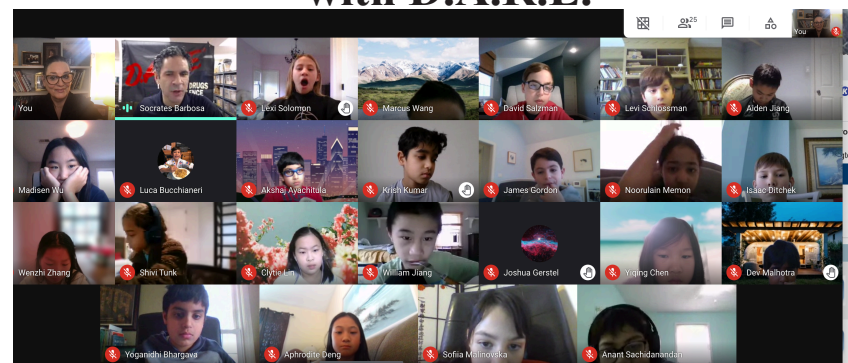
Mrs. Phillip teaches at Washington and Glenwood School. Growing up, Phillip lived with a large family. She started playing strings in third grade, and still fondly remembers her first strings teacher, Mrs. Davidowitz. Strings inspired her because music let her communicate with others. "I used music to express my emotions," said Phillip. Now Phillip plays six instruments; cello, violin, viola, bass, piano, and recorder. Her favorite instrument to play is viola. Phillip started teaching in Millburn 2019. Previously, she taught in West Caldwell, Manhattan and Brooklyn. "I think Mrs. Phillip is a great teacher. She always makes sure that all of us understand what we learn, so at the end of the day I understand everything." said Evy



Rakhlina, a student in her class. Mrs. Phillip said she loves to teach fifth graders because they're super fun and are always determined to learn more. Mrs. Phillip is kind and entertaining. "I think Mrs. Phillip is a great strings teacher, and is very funny. In class, we talk about adopt me, tiktok and other fun games. She is the best teacher ever," said Logan Bergam. Although she mainly teaches, Phillip has also composed songs of her own. Her favorite composer is Shostakovich. When Phillip is away from the screen, she plays soccer and rides dirt bikes with

Continued on Page 10.

Washington School Students Stay Safe with D.A.R.E.



Detective Barbosa (top second left) teaches a D.A.R.E. class to Mrs. Jones's class on Google Meet.

By Ananya Mandrekar, Anika Bhavaraju, and Jessica Sherman

Each year, Washington School students have the opportunity to meet with officers from the Millburn Police Department who teach the D.A.R.E. program. D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. The program gives students the skills they need to avoid involvement in substance abuse and violence. Officers join classes via Google Meet to educate students about drug abuse, resistance, and other experiences.

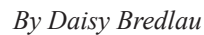
D.A.R.E teaches students about substance abuse and drugs. Although the topic may seem overwhelming, the officers break it down into bite sized chunks so as to not confuse anyone. Although the material and

terminology may be complicated, step by step, students feel like experts. The students have asked the officers interesting questions relating to drug abuse. such as what students should do if they notice any of their peers using drugs and can students unknowingly consume drugs. Even though drug abuse is a serious topic, students are learning about it in a fun way with their classmates.

The lessons are informative. Each class has a series of six lessons with the same teacher. Student Jamie Cofer has Officer Pete as her D.A.R.E. teacher. "I think D.A.R.E. is a great program because I get to learn about something I did not know about. It helps us stay safe!"

By Jordan Altman

The second half started with an interception. Then Brady threw a perfect pass to Jones who “had the ball too low for Jones to handle.” Another spiral and the Buccaneers were almost at the 50 yard line. Then came a quick pass and then 48 yards quickly turned to 45. Things were looking good for the Buccaneers at that point. Then something very astonishing happened. Evans, of the Buccaneers, managed to take the ball close to the touchdown zone. Tension grew when the Buccaneers got closer to the touchdown. But then, the Buccaneers lost possession after failing their attempts at the touchdown. The Chiefs then took a foul shot and made it in, but the points didn’t count because of a flag. Then it was the Buccaneers turn. Brady threw a perfect spiral to Gronkowski who grabbed the touchdown which was right in his reach. Then the Buccaneers hit their shot on the extra point changing the score to 3 to 14. Kansas City took a shot at an extra three points, and hit the target. Many grueling tackles and perfect passes later, the second quarter ended and the third and fourth quarters began. Two good quarters for both teams happened over the course of the next thirty minutes. The score ended a 35 to 9, 5 touchdowns to 3 field goals, the old quarterback against the young. With many cardboard faces cheering down from within, Tom Brady won his seventh Super Bowl ring. History books need to get ready to hold this amazing game bound in its pages for years to come. Super Bowl LV was the first Super Bowl to be held in a pandemic, with the oldest quarterback versus second youngest quarterback ever. Washington School fans will remember this exciting matchup for years to come.



There are three rounds of judging. In the first round 54 state and territory winners are chosen. They are selected by guest celebrity judges and the Google Doodle Team. This year the guest judges are Dav Pilkey, author and illustrator of the *Captain Underpants* series, Peter CottonTale, a Grammy winning artist, and Tabatha Rosproy, the US Teacher of the Year.



Continued from Page 5.

For example, fifth grader, Lilian Schwartz says, “I picked French this year. I'm really excited to learn French because I think it's a really interesting language and even though more of my friends are taking Spanish, I hope I'll still end up in French class with some of them. I think that one of the perks of middle school is that we have multiple languages to pick from.” The Washington students are eager to learn new languages next year in middle school!

By Jessica Sherman, Rebecca Green, and Jordyn Rielle Gulliford

However, not all performances are outside. Some performing arts schools are more cautious and offer virtual shows. An acting teacher from the Paper Mill Playhouse, Carrie Rubino, said, “The performances are very similar to a live show except the actors are online.” Many companies prefer virtual shows as they are much safer with no risk of Covid. These shows are also easier for students. Another benefit is no limit to performers. One student, Lillian Hark, has performed virtually. “My acting experience during Covid has been really different. Instead of being on stage, I’m on a screen. Instead of wearing makeup, I rehearse in my school clothes and over all, it’s not the same. It feels completely different to not have a real audience there, like I’m just performing for my family.” Even though performing virtually can leave actors without memorizing their lines, there are still issues with muting, unmuting, and wifi connection problems. Liz Kravitz, director of Performers Theater Workshop which has been virtual since March of 2020 misses having students in class, but sees a small silver lining:



Even though performing has been different and difficult, teachers and performers have dealt with the differences to hone their craft and mount beautiful productions.

The Right Stuff: A Collection of Original Writing from our Washington Wolves ...

Passionate Light

By Suhaas Penubarthi

a passionate light
in the shadow of night,
puts bright to the path
from within the scintillating heart
of the soul of one single living man
who laid his hand to a perished man.
the perished man robbed him
of his livelihood and ran.



What is Yellow?

By Naman Mehta

Yellow are the fireworks bursting in the sky,
Yellow is the colored powder blowing by!

Yellow are water blasters squirting water everywhere,
Yellow are the kurtas that all men and boys wear!

Yellow are the ladoos very sweet,
Yellow are all the yummy foods that you eat!

Yellow is the rangoli very bright,
Yellow are the sparklers shining like the sunlight!

Yellow is the color of the Holi holiday,
So don't forget to celebrate today!

Happy Holi!



Susan B. Anthony

By Julia Ketkar

Not long ago men said
There is nothing important in a woman's head
They said women's only purpose was to cook and clean
When women heard this they were shocked to see
There were many things they were prevented to do
Women couldn't work or own things too.

Susan B. Anthony changed that law
She led protests and the other women saw
They needed to fight
To get that right
They needed to be free to guarantee
A freedom for young girls
Like you and me.

Susan B. Anthony changed the world
She is an amazing person and I hope you know
She survived in terrible times
She decided to fight
When people said she was crazy
She didn't burn the light

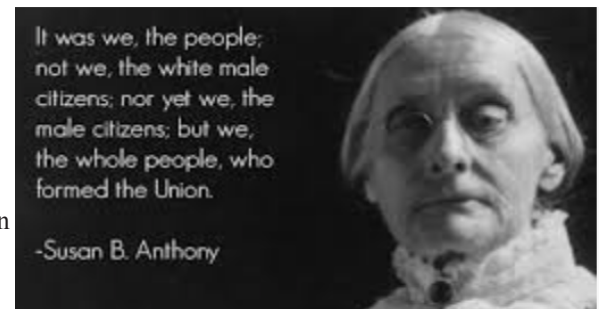
She decided to keep trying
And made women see men were lying
The men never saw how women changed
But Susan B. Anthony was a popular name
Men said they wanted her gone
But she'd stay for women's rights all along.

Talking to women, explaining what was fair
Teaching them to stand up, urging them to care
Full equality isn't here just yet
But the work Susan B did we will never forget.

Sounds of Nature

By Alisha Gupta

Down goes the rain,
sliding on the window,
Plip, Plop, Plip, Plop
Hear the rain, all alone,
Drip, Drop, Drip, Drop
Little mouse running up the tree,
Squeak, Squeak, Squeak
Hear the birds calling plea,
Cheep, Cheep, Cheep.
Through the wind, in my hair,
Swish, Swish
Here the whispers, kind and fair.
You can roam,
But you're always home.
Nature has its sounds,
One by one
That whisper in my ear,
You're almost done.
Step by step,
Bit by Bit
I pull myself up
Like a light being lit.
The grass blows,
And follows the wind
And can see
Who it should be
Nature can be beautiful,
And is always a sight to see
And a sound to hear,
For you and me.

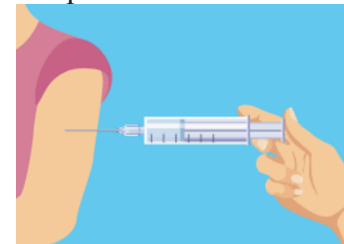


The Virus

By Allen Wu



The coronavirus has affected this year
In a way that everyone does fear
As cases started to rise
The governor ordered shelter in place
Schools and businesses closed down
We felt miserable and had a frown
Long waited vaccines are here
Bringing a much needed holiday cheer
Hoping the end is just about here
If we play our part
We can put a stop
Just 6 feet apart



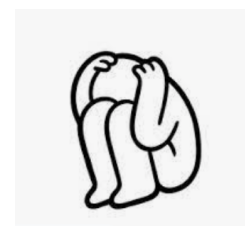
Panic

By Samara Tichauer

The feelings creep in
My mind says breathe
As I show
My panic

Time goes on and on
But somehow I feel stuck in the moment
Listing the pros and cons
Wondering how I got here
Why am I doing this?
Why do I take risks?

Because panic is a powerful thing
That isn't worth even a diamond ring.



Spotlight on Mrs. Phillip

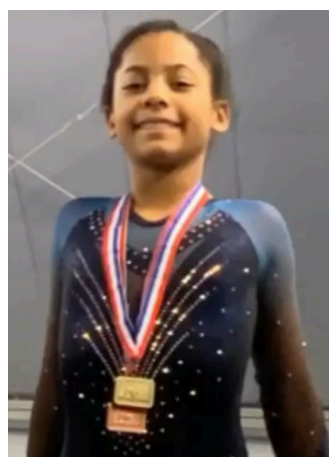
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her son, ten year old Major (pictured above), or helps twelve year old daughter, Brooklyn with her gymnastics skills (pictured below). Coffee is something Phillip can't live without.. During her strings classes, she likes to take a nice long sip of her hot coffee to keep her energized in class. Phillip does it all: she's an extraordinary teacher, mom, and composer.



Phillip also takes care of seven-year-old Lady who rounds out the family circle.



More Good Versus Evil from J. K. Rowling

By Rebecca Green

J. K. Rowling's newly published *The Ickabog* is a fantasy tale about a mysterious mythical creature. A newly crowned king of the country Cornucopia, famous for its food, goes on a journey to find the mysterious creature known as the Ickabog. Soon after, strange things start happening in the land of Cornucopia. Monster attacks, giant footprints in the mud - all evidence of the supposed 'mythical' creature. Two children refuse to believe the rumors though, Daisy Dovetail and Bert Beamish.

An interesting aspect of the story is its unique illustrations. Actual children, readers of the novel rather than professional illustrators drew and submitted each illustration. These drawings provide a variety of perspectives on the characters, and readers get to experience the story in a way unique to *The Ickabog*. Also, 'Ickabog' is wordplay on the word 'Ichabod', meaning 'no glory' or 'the glory is gone'. The book is well written. For example: "Bert's face flooded with color. 'Wh-what?'" This shows that Bert, one of the main characters, is nervous or worried. *Continued on Page 12.*

How to Stay and Keep Safe during the Pandemic

By Josh Gerstel

Even though there is now a vaccine, it's important to keep safe from the coronavirus.

Wear Your Mask: Masks can be pretty uncomfortable, and it can be tempting to just rip it off and breathe in the cold air, but it is important to always wear a mask. There are different kinds of masks and some people might prefer one kind over another. The most effective mask against the virus is an N95 mask. KN95 masks are similar but not quite as protective. Even simple cloth or surgical masks help protect you against coronavirus though. There are also face shields. Face shields are not as protective as masks but still work better than nothing. It is better to use a face shield with a mask instead of to replace one.

Maintain Social Distance: There are ways to protect yourself from coronavirus other than masks. Another way to keep safe in this time is social distancing. It is even more important than wearing a mask according to some important doctors. Doctors advise keeping about six feet away from people or more because at a safe distance the virus cannot reach other people.

Keep Up the Hand-Washing: Using hand sanitizer and washing hands also can help protect against the virus. Hand sanitizer, or washing your hands with soap and water, kills the virus. It is helpful to carry hand sanitizer so that hands can be disinfected sick.

Editor's Note: Josh Gerstel's dad is an ER doctor who has been on the front line in the fight against COVID-19.

even if washing hands is not possible in a situation, for example, being in a grocery store.

Enjoy the Outdoors: Being inside can be extremely boring, and the good news is that it is safer to be outside than inside. Scientists do not understand exactly how droplets containing the virus travel, but they do know that people are less likely to get the virus when they are outside than when they are inside. Cold weather might not be as safe as warm weather though. Scientists think this is because the virus survives longer in less humid conditions (winter).

Encourage Loved Ones to Get Vaccinated: When you can, you need to get the vaccine. No one wants to get a shot, but you really don't want to get coronavirus! Right now there are two vaccines, and they are mRNA-based vaccines. This basically means that the vaccine protects you against coronavirus by telling your body how to fight the coronavirus, but these vaccines don't actually contain the coronavirus. The only downside is that you need two doses, or shots. Other vaccines, from Johnson & Johnson, Astrazeneca, and Sanofi, are coming soon. These vaccines protect you against coronavirus in a more traditional way and you need only one dose.

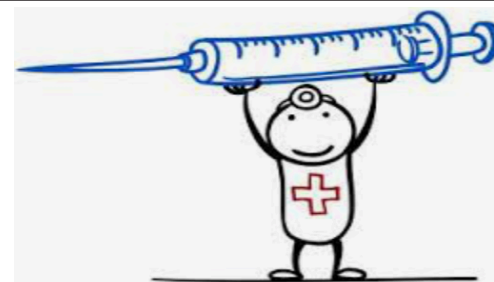
Living in a pandemic is scary, but people can take the necessary steps to avoid getting sick.

Staying Positive in the Pandemic

By Shradha Vatsa

Covid-19 is a deadly virus. Simple, everyday outings like buying groceries is not easy during the pandemic. People must wear masks and wait in long lines to remain socially distant. Many parks, restaurants and businesses have closed. People have lost their jobs, and everyone is required to social distance. Despite all the tragedies and hardships, there are some positive outcomes that have emerged from the lockdown.

Schools around the world were required to become virtual because classroom settings were far too risky for both the students and the teachers as the pandemic spread. Virtual education has created a host of technology improvements in many districts across the country. A variety of online platforms have sprouted to help learners flourish from the comfort and safety of their own homes.



Covid-19 sparked significant medical breakthroughs. Citizens are becoming vaccinated. Scientists have been researching the cure and vaccines for Covid; it took only a year for the scientists to discover treatment and prevention options.

Communities can still thrive during the pandemic. Students can meet friends and virtually through Zoom or a Google meet. They can also become more charity-minded. Families can donate food to the hungry and the homeless. Everyone can learn to be extra careful for the sake of others, promoting a feeling of community and responsibility.



Transitions: Washington School Students Continue to Succeed with Changing Schedules

By Chloe She

Ever since the COVID-19 pandemic hit, many people were forced to go into quarantine. School staff members had to figure out how students would be able to learn. As a result, virtual learning has taken place. Washington School students were able to pick up chrome books and other supplies for virtual learning. After beginning the 2020- 2021 year remotely, students were given the option in November to choose to participate in either hybrid or virtual learning.

Back in March, 2020, many people were confused. Everyone had to suddenly quarantine for what felt like was going to be a few weeks, but turned out to be months. "I felt confused. I didn't know what would happen next, and when school would go back to normal," said 7th grader Jonah Ledetsky. The district had to come up with a way for students to still learn without coming into school buildings. Before long,

they came up with virtual learning. Starting in September of 2020, students would work on their computers and learn virtually.

Schools had to figure out how asynchronous learning would look. At the beginning of the school year, virtual learning went on for the full 6 hours. In November, students had the opportunity to attend school with the hybrid schedule. The school day was then split into cohorts. The AM cohort and the PM cohort. The critical subjects, such as math, reading, and writing, would be taught in school. While the other periods, students would follow the asynchronous schedule with their specials also being virtual. When coming back from mid-winter vacation, there were no longer A and B cohorts. Instead, parents decided whether students would come to school or continue to learn remotely from home. The learning morning was extended at the beginning of the third trimester.

Students are now

Continued on Page 12.

Washington School Students Dominate The Math League

By Mehr Kothari

Washington School student, Suvid Bordia has become the New Jersey State Math League Champion! Back on January 23, 2021, Bordia and four of his fellow Washington School mathematicians, Tara Radoicic, Celina Chen, Vidhur Mahajan, and Rian Chadha made it to state finals in the regional qualifier. Bordia and Radoicic went on to secure first and second position overall in individual scores in fifth grade at the January state qualifier event.

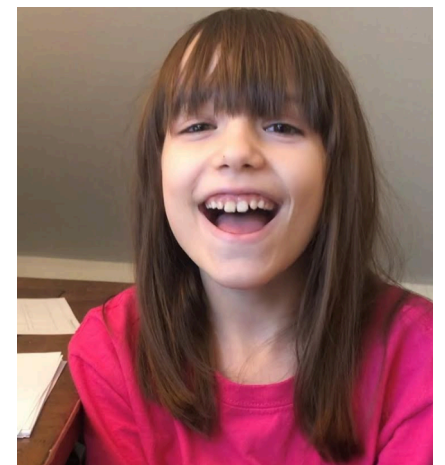
What is the least common multiple of 10 and 24 plus the greatest common factor of 10 and 24? Many might find this problem tricky and challenging. But Bordia and his Washington School Math League cohorts can probably solve the problem in a blink of an eye. Math League is a mathematical competition where students compete against each other in numerous individual and team rounds to win the title of the Math League champion. The questions posed in the contest are tricky and push students to their limits, inspiring them to do their best.

The Math League elementary level conducts several local contests, and state and regional level championships. The winners then participate at the National level championship. Contestants compete in a variety of rounds entitled Number Sense, Sprint, Target Round and Team Round, and finally a Countdown Round to find the region's winner. Number Sense is a 10 minute round where students tackle 80 "mental Math" questions.



Suvid Bordia is the new state League champ.

For each correct answer, a student earns 5 points, and for each incorrect answer the student loses 4 points. The Sprint Round is a 40 minute round of 30 multiple choice questions. 4 points are awarded for each correct answer and 1 point is lost for each incorrect answer. In the Target Round, students solve 4 pairs of questions. Students have 6 minutes to solve each pair.



Washington School contestant Tara Radoicic showed excitement on the day of her big win.

Calculators are permitted in this round. In the Team Round, a group of 1-4 students work together to solve 10 questions in 20 minutes. They earn 10 points for each correct answer, with no penalties for errors. The two highest scorers from each state compete head to head in a countdown round. The state

Continued on Page 12.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO ANANYA MANDREKAR,
OUR SPELLING BEE CHAMPION!
Read all about her victory in the next
issue of The Washington School Post.**



More Good Versus Evil from

J. K. Rowling: *The Ickabog*

Continued from Page 10.



Rowling invited children from all over the globe to illustrate her story. nervous or worried.

Readers who like the Harry Potter series will enjoy *The Ickabog* because it is filled with action and adventure. It also features young children as the main characters, and provides a gripping story where good fights evil.

Will the country of Cornucopia persevere? Do Bert and Daisy give in to the rumors? Is the Ickabog real, or is it all a hoax? Read this epic tale by J.K. Rowling to find out!

Transitions *Continued from Page 11.*

either in school or online for live instruction from 8:15 until 12:45 daily.

The pandemic has caused a lot of problems with everyday lives. One positive aspect though is some students now have time to do activities which they didn't have time to do before.

Although technology problems have become challenging with glitchy wifi and frozen screens, etc, these issues have helped students become more flexible and patient. Hybrid and remote learning has also taught students to become more resourceful and more adept at trial and error problem-solving and collaborative learning which will help students now, and in the future.



Please forgive any errors or omissions. We tried our best!

-The editors and reporters of *The Washington School Post*.

From the Editor's Desk...

In the spirit of cooperation and collaboration, Editor-in-Chief, Jessica Sherman would like to share her editorial spotlight with Managing Editor, Akiv Shah for this issue. She'll be back next issue!



Dear Readers,

It's very important to be inclusive. As we have learned in Black History Month and Women's History Month, appearances, gender, and background don't matter. What matters is who you are as a person and what you do.

People do not have to look the same or have the same abilities as you to be your friend. Students often say that girls and boys should not be friends. That is an example of being stereotypical. A stereotype is a fixed idea of what someone or something should be. For example boys should only like sports which simply is not true. Students need to know that we can make a difference.

Maybe it's just as simple as asking someone new if they want to hang out (socially distanced) or playing video games with them. It makes someone else happy to see that someone cares about them. You might not realize that a classmate is sad or lonely, but when you try to understand someone else's perspective, you will become more compassionate and inclusive.

Making the world a better place starts with each and every one of us. Let's all work together to make our last trimester as inclusive and friendly as possible. Writer Henry James wrote, "You will never regret being kind."

Enjoy spring,

Akiv Shah

Managing Editor

The Washington School Post

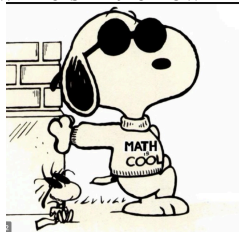
Washington School Students

Dominate the League

Continued from Page 11.

winners compete to find the regional winner. The regional winners make it to the National championship. Washington School principal, Mr. Peter Mercurio congratulated Bordia and all the Washington School contestants: "I couldn't be prouder of Suvid and Tara and all our Washington School participants. Celena and Vidhur and Rian and all the contestants have given their time and energy to such a worthwhile endeavor. The Math League promotes a healthy competition and camaraderie that we try to foster here as well at Washington School."

The Math League provides students with an enriching opportunity to participate in an academic activity, and recognizes students for their mathematical achievement. Available to all students, the Math League enables young mathematicians to hone their math skills. Students find Math League an efficient, and enjoyable way to push themselves out of their comfort zone. *The Washington School Post* congratulates our own reporter, Suvid Bordia on his state win, and all the Washington School participants who are also winners in their own right.



Annual Event

Helps the Hungry

By Zachary Abrahams, Suvid Bordia, and Akiv Shah

"The Kansas City Chiefs or the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who will win Washington School's fourth Souper Bowl?" was the big question on students' mind on Friday, February 5, 2021. As Mr. Mercurio slowly announced the score over the loudspeaker, students in their classrooms paused in anticipation, waiting for the results. "And the final score is Kansas City with 91 cans, and Tampa Bay... with 89! Have a great rest of your day, Washington School!" Later, the Millburn School District announced that overall, more cans were donated in support of the Buccaneers.

The "Souper Bowl" is a yearly event encouraging students to contribute soup cans and canned goods, placed on the side of their favorite Super Bown team. Usha Shah and Kara Lawler have organized the program in Millburn Schools for the past few years. Shah said, "The Souper Bowl is a win-win. Students can have a fun game to play by donating to the people in need." All K-8 grades in the district participate in the Souper Bowl. Rishaan Manglik a Washington student said, "Something I really like about the Souper Bowl is that when a big sporting event like the Super Bowl rolls around, we are able to turn it into something good to help the community." So remember next year to donate!