



Principal's Message :

May 2023

The 2022-2023 school year is nearing its end. Reflecting upon this year, the students at Washington Park School have experienced many successes in and outside of the classroom. Every closing of a year also means there are many new beginnings to look forward to, especially for our eighth grade students.

They are preparing to conclude their time here at Washington Park School with many "lasts," their Eighth Grade Dance, their final Student Appreciation Day, and soon their preparation for their moment of academic achievement: Graduation. I wish them the best of luck as they move onward.

Now is also the time for all students at Washington Park School to begin thinking about the necessary skills and work ethics necessary to make their next school year even more meaningful and purposeful than the last. I encourage all students to end the school year with a positive outlook in anticipation of their next grade level journey. It's never too early to start thinking about the future.

Good luck to our Eighth Grade Students, and everyone have a safe and enjoyable summer!

THERE'S MORE BEYOND THE REEF

By: Krishna Thaker



Washington Park School's annual musical was performed from April 26th – April 28th. On the first date, the cast of Moana welcomed the senior citizens of Totowa for an afternoon performance. The last two nights were packed with excited students, teachers, and parents. Moana, a Disney classic, debuted in 2016 as a movie and has had a major impact on Disney since. It was then transformed into a family friendly play with memorable songs enjoyed by many people, regardless of age. It is about an adventurous teen who sails out on a scary mission to save her people. Moana, the daughter of the chief of a Polynesian tribe, has a strong love for the ocean, even though she is told several times that it is dangerous. She is chosen by the sea to reunite with Te Fiti (a goddess) and meets the demigod Maui who helps her on her journey. They sail across the open ocean on a voyage encountering many monsters and fighting Te Kā and a giant crab. Moana found what she loved most and saved her people. It was a funny but inspirational movie for young children.

The main eighth grade cast members were Daniabelle Astacio starring as Maui, Natalie Santiago starring as Moana, and Leila Veira starring as a chief ancestor. Even though they were all eighth grade students who had schoolwork outside of the play, they all gave it their all at daily practices and the performances. The teachers, staff, and students credit the whole cast for giving their time presenting such a wonderful show. Although they all faced challenges like learning songs and lines, the cast did love learning the choreography and seeing how happy the audience was after the show.

Every year the play brings students closer together to show immense talent. This has been a tradition for many years and will continue to be one. We would again like to thank the cast for putting in hard work along with Mr. Latka and Mr. Carl for directing, and the students who are a part of TBN, STARS, and stage crew. The show would not have been possible without the efforts of the students and teachers. After seeing the success of these nights, we cannot wait for another remarkable play next year!





The Park Press

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WASHINGTON PARK HONOR STUDENTS MARKING PERIOD 3

GRADE 4

A Honors

Julia Bladek
 Dominic Borgese
 Amelia Breban
 Erva Cevik
 Lilianna D'Amico
 Ella Deleon
 Ilay Dinler
 Giselle Esa
 Ava Flores
 Robert Grambone
 Adriana Grullon
 Olivia Henry
 Alexander Jimenez
 Eliana Lopez
 Ian Moore
 Jane Mulroony
 Emilia Nestorovski
 Juliet Ortiz
 Jake Percan
 Abigail Perez
 Jake Pijuan
 Mehnaz Rahman
 Matthew Santillan
 Mason Schultz
 David Sidoroski
 Kylee Valverde

B Honors

Nazish Ahmed
 Liam Avila
 Aydin Azhar
 Maite Barraza
 Derin Baruteu

Maryann Bitar
 Stephen Borace
 Analiz Coste Tavaréz
 Iltay Dinler
 Amy Domingues
 Angel Estrella
 Leo Gourley
 Cole Guess
 Christian Huliev
 AJ Infantolino
 Anthony Izzo
 Donovan McGovern
 Sophia Melendez
 Gabriella Molina
 Dariel Morel
 Devlynn Nordt
 Adriana Pietraccini
 Mason Pommells
 Sareen Qattous
 Ibn Ramirez
 Samuel Rivera
 Jaylani Rodriguez
 Domenica Romaniello
 Noah Salazar
 Kayla Schiavo
 Emerson Sochaski
 Ahmed Tekin
 Raina Toska
 Elvin Trujillo
 Adam Urban
 Valentino Zape

GRADE 5

A Honors

Omar Asad

Rafael Balaguer
 Marina Barbieri
 Nathaniel Bladek
 Jayden Castillo
 Frank Conca
 Ellenise Dominguez
 Carmelina Grambone
 Valeria Granados
 Kenan Gulistan
 Ghazelle Huzien
 Ava Juliano
 Brianna Lezcano
 Zahra Lions
 Liam Marthone
 Luka Mladenovic
 Aliyah Morgan
 Brian Olivo
 Lyanna Puerta
 Ayrton Rodriguez
 Ryan Scheek
 Joseph Sicieiska
 Sofia Szydlowski
 Olivia Torres
 Patrick Verney

B Honors

Talia Albarim
 Ariel Alvarado Quiche
 Kasper Bajek
 Natalia Bajek
 Kayla Bruno
 James Cabezas
 Rianna Ceka
 Stefano Chavez
 Sarina Choe

Jake Conde
 Raelynn Corentin
 Caleigh Dalida
 Aaron Diaz
 Amaia Diaz
 Scarlett Fisher
 Kaylee Gallardo
 Waleska Gonzalez
 Michael Greco
 Andy Guilliani
 Mohammed Hammad
 Naomi Harris
 Kayla Lora
 Ryan Maxwell
 MaKenna Mazur
 Morgan Minieri
 Sophia Molina
 Hala Morad
 Lydiana Nunez
 Stephania Ochoa
 Kevin Puglise
 John Ralston
 Milania Rios
 Nicholas Ripp
 Gianni Rodriguez

GRADE 6

A Honors

Esther Hope Asare
 George Dipsey
 Jewel Heerema



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Ethan Joseph	Francesca Pelosi	Jessica Marujo	Saul Claudio	Aiden Doko
Luca Jurlina	Zuko Ristovski	Iraiz Morales	Isabella Coppola	Joshua Falconi
Sara Valentina Londono Duque	Yarilyn Santana	Frank Nicosia	Keshav Desai	Laisha Gallardo
Jaylen Lopez	Giavanna Torres	Alexander Owens	Jayden Gandhi	Joshua Giarrusso
Lindsay Moreno	Dylan Troca	Fabian Perez	Tanjim Kadir	Jaylanie Guzman
Carla Noriega	Georgina Tulumba	Hannah Reynoso	Manpreet Kaur	Paige Hasselberger
James Pasquariello	Emma Zhu	Daniela Romaniello	Shakir Khan	Sheyla Hernando
Jeremy Rodriguez		Anthony Romano	Chase Marshall	Adam Hinmawi
Jonah Santana	GRADE 7	Camila Sandoval	Shanaya Ortega	Francis Juliano
Sofie Stokes	A Honora	Mahir Sultan	Liliani Ramirez	Madison Massicot
Lindsey Tipiane	Majd Adham	Giulianna Torres	Krishna Thaker	Juliana McNerney
	Christian Algaba	Olivia Urban	Kush Thaker	Ava Molan
	Kamil Aly	Anthony Viola	Scott Trajkoski	Caylee Reynolds
Jahida Ali	Emily-Faith Asare	Ariana Zelaya	Marley-Metta West	Carl Ricca
Liyana Ali	Ashley Caggiano	Nicky Zheng	Magda Wojczak	Natalie Santiago
Carrie Alvarado	Azra Cevik	Aya Zreik	Jerry Zheng	Nicole Schaffer
Abigale Arias	Philip Cheff			Madelyn Scheck
Annabella Barkalow	Adyan Hossain	GRADE 8	B Honors	Laura Schultz
Valentina Bergamasco	Alexa Moro Terry		Chase Arrindell	Sarah Sefcik-Ma
Peter Bitar	Mehjabin Rahman	A Honors	Leah Clarke	Leila Viera
Dahlia Brens	Mark Zalenski	Obada Arnous	Amelia Del Gaudio	Elizabeth Yannarelli
Landon Britting		Latifa Baloush	Angelo Di Blasio	
Kailyn Carlo	B Honors			
Michael Castellitto	Rahidul Alam			
Sofia Colombo	Julian Angione			
Maggie Concepcion	Sophia Balbaki			
Zaiden Davila	Giovanna Burress			
Gianna Dechert	Ayesha Chowdhury			
Samuel Ferreira	Junnia Conde			
Amelia Furman	Lillian Corbo			
Alaina Giordano	Julian Esa			
Emma Henry	George Golcev			
Jennifer Itkin	Valeria Gomez-Puentes			
Andrew Kalokitis	Luca Grant			
Dorismar Lopez	Anthony Hall			
Andrew Massola	Brooke Jackson			
Michael O'Hare	Maya Lorusso			



By Sarah Sefcik-Ma



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DESIGN IS WHERE SCIENCE AND ART BREAK EVEN

By: Sheyla Hernando
Juliana McNerney
Krishna Thaker



On April 4th, the annual Washington Park School Science Fair and Art Show took place in the gymnasium. The eighth grade students prepared projects to combat climate change, a PowerPoint that had the basic facts about their projects, and an essay. Students worked on these assignments for months before it was displayed to parents and other students from all grade levels. The gym was filled with fifty-two projects that all provided three initiatives to make Totowa a more sustainable town.

While learning a lot about climate change, parents and students from both Washington Park and Memorial School were given the chance to walk over to the art section. An array of different art projects from all grade levels were shown. There were vibrant sombrero hats, Frida Kahlo projects to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month, and much more. There were more art pieces on the walls in the fourth and fifth grade hallways.

The entire day was a success. Several teachers judged the science projects. In first place there was a three-way tie. Krishna Thaker and Jerry Zheng, who both worked independently, and Saul Claudio and Carl Ricca



who worked as partners. In second place was Jayden Gandhi and Chase Marshall, who worked together. In third place was Laura Shultz, who worked by herself, and Liliani Ramirez and Sarah Sefcik-Ma, who worked together. Overall, it was an exciting learning experience.



A WHOLE NEW WORLD

By Shanaya Ortega
Madison Barrett
Madelyn Scheck

The eighth grade students of the Class of 2023 were given a chance to experience Aladdin on Broadway in the New Amsterdam Theater, New York City. The PTO was thoughtful enough to provide each student with a ticket for the mezzanine section. For some



students, it was their first time experiencing a Broadway musical.

A beloved street rat with a kind heart, Aladdin, was granted three wishes by a fast-talking Genie in a lamp. He then uses those wishes to become a prince to woo princess Jasmine, who was played by Sonya Balsara, and thwart the sultan's evil Grand Vizier. He found true love and earned the admiration of his kingdom. He learned that one's true worth is all that comes from the inside, which is a lesson for all of us. Michael Maliakel played the role of Aladdin and Michael James Scott played the Genie.

The eighth grade students of Washington Park loved the show. Most of them thought the magic carpet flying around the stage was the coolest part. Everybody thought the costumes were beautiful and well customized. The voices of the singers were amazing. The teachers also had a wonderful time. Ms. Peranio said, "It was great. I loved it!"





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A STEP BACK IN TIME

By: **Tanjim Kadir**
Granger Choe
Derek Guess



For the first time in four years, the eighth grade students at Washington Park School went on a journey to the capital of the United States, Washington D.C., and were able to take in the wondrous sights of the capital. The trip lasted two days. The first day consisted of a five hour bus ride where students enjoyed casual conversation, stared out the window to look at landmarks, and treated themselves to a magnificent lunch at the Pentagon Mall upon arrival. Then, they toured Washington D.C. and saw the attractions, such as the Arlington National Cemetery and Iwo Jima statue. The first night ended with dinner on a cruise ship where students danced the night away. The trip back to the hotel was quiet, as the students were exhausted from an entire day of traveling and dancing.

After having breakfast at the hotel the following day, they returned to their bus and went to the Korean War Memorial while also seeing the Washington Monument on the way. They walked the mall starting with the Lincoln Memorial followed by the Vietnam War Memorial, known for its controversial design by Maya Lin. Afterwards, they visited the Library of Congress, marveling at its ornate art. At the Museum of American History, the students ate lunch and observed the history and culture of our country. The remainder of the trip was spent at the Martin Luther King Memorial and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial.

The students had an unforgettable experience on their trip, one that they will cherish forever. Both days were filled with insurmountable amounts of fun, joy, and education. From the bus ride into Washington D.C., to the memorials of significant people and events in American history, and to the ride on the cruise ship, everybody can agree that this trip will not be one to forget.



CULTURE APPRECIATION

By: **Magda Wojczak**
Gianluca Poliblo

Washington Park celebrated diversity at Nations Night which was held on March 1, 2023. The fourth grade students performed in a concert that teaches everyone about his or her culture. Students wore paper posters on their necks with their nationalities written on them and dressed up in clothes representing their countries. The concert began with the singing of the national anthem followed by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Students recited the poem "We Are One World" and then sang a traditional Native-American song called, "Caneo Song." This was followed by a Cuban rhythm song that had both English and Spanish lyrics. Next, they sang two Hindi songs; one was about a salesman selling Indian Muslim materials and the other was "Tango." Later, a traditional Chinese New Year song called "Gong Xi Gong Xi" and "CC Sote," an African folk tune, was well received by the audience. Lastly, they sang "We Are America" by John Jacobson.

The audience was asked to donate money to support Smile Train, a children's charity determined to solve the problem of cleft lip and palate. The goal was to raise one thousand dollars so that children everywhere could get the perfect smile.

It was truly a wonderful evening enjoyed by all who attended.





MASQUERADE MADNESS

By: Zoey Alvarez
 Joshua Falconi
 Frankie Juliano

On February 23, 2023, the eighth grade students of Washington Park School gathered in their best attire to present the 20th annual Eighth Grade Fashion Show. This event took place at the Brownstone in Paterson, New Jersey. This year's theme was Masquerade. Carl Ricca and Frankie Juliano, treasurer and vice-president of the student council respectively, were Masters of Ceremony for the evening. The runway music was provided by Mr. Carl, who is the music teacher at WPS.

Before walking on the runway the night of Fashion Show, the students practiced for several days in the gym. While it was a tedious process to get to all locations to pause down to memory, the eighth grade students succeeded and performed beautifully on the runway.

The boys wore tuxedos from Robert's Tuxedos, who was glad to sponsor and give some free tuxedos to the boys to wear on the runway. The girls selected their own clothes, that were previously approved by the administration, to wear. The models were provided with masquerade masks at the Brownstone. The Brownstone provided the guests with food and drinks that were delicious and fulfilling throughout the night. The models took pictures at the banquet with friends and family as they celebrated their final year at Washington Park. This was a memorable night for all the students who participated, and there is still more to come for the Class of 2023.



THE LAST SERVE

By: Zoey Alvarez
 Joshua Falconi
 Francis Juliano



During their hardworking volleyball season, the sixth through eighth grade girls tried their absolute hardest to be the best team that they could be. They constantly worked on their communication and dedication to perform on the court better than before. Though it was a difficult season for the girls, they made many friendships and memories that will forever be with them. The girls played against three towns: East Hanover, Madison, and Mendham. The eighth grade students that were on the Titan team this year celebrated their last year with their teammates, and they could not be happier.

There were many fresh players this year on the boys' volleyball team, grades six through eight. Even though there was a lot to learn, they made sure to perfect their skills and do their best on the court. There were many things that could have been done better, but they ultimately won with their teamwork. The boys played multiple games against Mendham and East Hanover. The Totowa Titans put up an exceptionally good fight and showed that they had a place in their league.



ADVISOR—Ms. Doreen Peranio

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This newspaper staff represents students from period 8 writing class during academic rotation. It reflects the journalism and process-writing skills that were taught during this time period, ending with this actual newspaper publication. Thank you to all WPS staff members who cooperated with the newspaper staff by giving of their time and interviews. The staff very much enjoyed their introduction to the world of journalism.