The Environmental Club is collecting many things. For example, we collect used markers, coke caps, juice pouches, and SHOES!!!!!! We try and help the environment as much as we can. We collect most of these items to save the Earth and raise money for other activities in the school. These are just some of the things we could collect for the school but we have many more.

Our goal was to collect 2,500 pairs of shoes before the end of February. We not only reached our goal, but we collected over 3000 pairs of shoes!!!!!! The Environmental Club thanks all of the students, faculty, and staff for helping us achieve our goal.

By...

Jordan Mandaglio

Do you enjoy writing? Maybe you are great at taking photographs or perhaps you are the next great artist amongst us. The Newspaper Club needs your help! We would like to feature work from all our students. If you would like to submit any type of writing, art work, photographs, puzzles, etc...please see Mrs. Madalena. You can email her your work by emailing Kim.Madalena@staff.harrisonschools.org This is your newspaper and we want to print what you are most interested in.

Mrs. Madalena will be hanging a folder outside of her room for comments and/or submissions for the newspaper. We hope that you will all take part!
SPELLING BEE & GEOGRAPHY BEE

On January 12th, 2017, Washington Middle School held the national spelling bee. The judges of the contest were Mrs. Cristalli and Ms. Kraenzlin. The spelling bee is a contest that tests the student’s spelling skills. This year there was a little change to this, there was a vocabulary round as well. What this means is that the judge says a word and two options, the student picks one of the answers and says it. The winner of the spelling bee was Jasmine Loo. There were approximately 25 people in attendance at the contest. The winner will be moving on to the Hudson County Spelling Bee.

On January 19th, 2017, Washington Middle School held their annual Geography Bee. This competition tested the students’ geography skills. The judges of this competition were Mrs. Cristalli and Ms. Kraenzlin. This year the winner of the Geobee was 7th grader Jake Mulrenan. Second place was Riley Kelly, and in third place was Alex Acevedo. The Geobee was very challenging this year and the pressure proved that the contestants were definitely mentally strong. We’d like to thank the approximately 35 attendants of this year’s contest.

By Ashrit Yarva

SUPERBOWL FEVER

Super Bowl 51 came and went. The 11-5 Atlanta Falcons of the NFC were against the 14-2 New England Patriots of the AFC. Both teams came in with hot offenses, elite quarterbacks and crisp game plans. The game was played in Houston, Texas.

As soon as they won the coin toss, it was clear the Patriots would win. Tom Brady simply could not be stopped. James White rushed the ball in on the one-yard line after a clinical drive by Brady. He finished the game with 466 yards, two touchdowns and an interception. White had two rushing touchdowns and a receiving touchdown. But more importantly is, what was your favorite commercial?

By Jordan Mandaglio
On Friday 3rd, 2017, Washington Middle School hosted the annual Soup R Bowl. There were many fun things that the students participated in and the crowd enjoyed these a lot. The hosts of the Soup R Bowl were Mr. Comprenelli and Mr. Ruiz. The program started out different this year and there was a lot of humor that was involved in the Soup R Bowl. The hosts started out with a set of rules that were given out by our president, Donald Trump. One of the rules was that Mr. Huranga could not steal other students' lunches or snacks and this rule got a lot of laughs from the audience.

Then we jumped right in with the Rubik's Cube Championship. The winner of the seventh grade was Xamarys Liranzo. The seventh grader went up against the 8th grade winner last year, Tobey Chan. During a close call Xamarys won.

We also had a NFL trivia in which 5 students from each grade were chosen to compete against each other. The 6th graders won in a close call against the 7th graders. Then the 8th graders crushed the 6th graders. But the 8th graders stood no chance against the teachers who seemed to have known the questions before they even looked at it. The 8th graders were being crushed but due to getting a 7.5 point question right, they came back. The final score was 9-7.5. The award for all students was a Barber Buck.

We moved on to the football toss in which a student was picked from each class and they had to compete against each other by throwing a football into a cart. The winner and runner up received a Barber Buck and was also given a lot of fame as a football QB. After all that was settled three students, Samuel Diaz, Samuel Rodriguez, and Hansel Zemora were chosen to compete against Mr. Wroblewski in a push-up challenge. Hansel got a 17 while Samuel Diaz got a 30. Samuel Rodriguez had an impressive 40. Mr. Wroblewski said that he was surprised by how much the boys had done. In the end Mr. Wroblewski got an astonishing 76, but there was no surprise in that score. Sadly for Mr. Wroblewski, he lost to the three students by only one point. The three students also received a Barber Buck.

The final event was the jello eating contest in which Mr. Ruiz competed against a student at eating jello fastest. The winner was Mr. Ruiz but the student who competed against him did get a Barber Buck.

The Soup R Bowl was a very fun time for all the students and teachers alike. A big thanks must go to Ms. Lopes and Ms. Mayra who set up the whole Soup R Bowl as they have been doing for years at Washington Middle School.

By ASHRIT YARVA

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Are You As Popular As An 8th Grader?

Voting is out 8th graders! Who did you guys vote for? Check out this year’s yearbook popularity poll displayed in our main hallway. We had to count each vote. Mrs. PK runs Yearbook and she said that counting the votes always takes forever and is a lot of work. There are a lot of votes and we have to count each one!

I can’t wait until June because the yearbook will be out and I can’t wait for you all to see it. We are working really hard on it and I think it’s going great! The yearbook is always $26. They are given out around the last week of school. Make sure you buy one early! There’s only a certain number of yearbooks we get, so if you want to see yourself in the pictures buy it early!

By JENNIFER RUEDA
Do you have trouble studying? Or you forget everything you study the day of the test? Well here I have 5 tips to help you study.

1. Drink water. Having a glass of water available while studying will help fuel your concentration during studying. Staying hydrated can also benefit your memory as well.

2. Have a good spot to study. You don't want to be next to the TV or a computer. It will distract you and won't let you study right. So find somewhere nice and quiet where no one will disturb you.

3. Don't stress yourself. If your test is the next morning and you are just studying the night before you will stress yourself. Try two or three days before. You shouldn't stress yourself because if you do it will be more pressure on you.

5. One simple tip is use flash cards! Write the answer on one side and explain what it means. Study that for a couple of minutes and see if you get better knowing them. It should be getting easier the more you do it. Drinking water like in tip one will also help.

6. Last tip! Read it out loud. At home of course don't want to disturb other people at the library. It helps you remember what you are reading when you say it out loud.

Those are my five tips. I guarantee these will work try them!

JENNIFER RUEDA

I had the chance to talk to some students about the Inauguration occurring Friday the 20th on President-elect Donald Trump. I asked them questions like "What do you hope Donald Trump will do for this country?" And hearing some of the student's answers really impacted me of how much the students really care about the future of this country.

"To get us out of the financial crisis occurring right now in our country because it doesn't look good." ~Concerning the possibility of an economic depression as told by 8th grader Julia Esteves.

Others were hoping that Donald Trump would unify the country during the next 4 years of his term. Ever since Donald Trump announced his campaign on June 16, 2015 there have been many questions regarding Donald Trump being qualified to run a country. Debates, video scandals, and controversial statements had made the country become more divided than ever.

"I believe that Donald Trump would try his best but he would affect the people in the U.S. and the world...and that he fixes many political problems that we have right now." ~7th grader Vishal Srinivasan

And lastly many people wish that Donald Trump would respect the citizens of the U.S. and the world. Be more respectful about people's political views, gender, religion, race, and culture.

"To be more respectful and open about other people's culture." ~Hennessy Salgado

Overall, it's proven that the 2016 presidential election impacted people all around the world, especially us kids. And it can be an extraordinary thing but also an awful experience rolled up in one. All we have to do is keep our heads up and hope for the best.

By Milka Bolanos
Debate is a club that allows students to express their thoughts on a specific topic. It is currently being run by Mrs. Cristalli and Ms. Kraenzlin. We are allowed to think of a topic in order for us to debate on.

The current topic that we have decided, and now are debating on is “Should voting be compulsory?” We are to study and look into information of debates, voting, and law, which will expand our knowledge. Although, if you do not like this topic, there are others later on that you will be sure to like.

This club allows you to fully immerse yourself in a topic that will matter in life. An example of this would be the topic we are currently debating on, compulsory voting would infuriate many individuals and cause the U.S. to plummet. Although, some may argue the case of this, stating that it will support the U.S. and all elections, leading the U.S. to a state of prosperity. In the end, your choices will matter, whether you choose to defend the original states right, or go against it. By Anthony Xu

WMS PATRIOT BAND

So far as of 2017, the WMS Patriot band is still currently working on our four pieces that will be presented on the day of our concert. Two of those pieces will be used for our competition coming up on May 12, 2017. Although with our small time and with PARCC testing coming up, the band is willing to put in more work to get things ready. Brass and woodwind ensembles are already getting ready and working on our new pieces.

The Jazz band is also ready to deliver a new traditional Jazz piece for our 2017 spring concert. Many of the band students are willing to put in more effort in order to make this concert better than our winter one. You will get to see so many talented young individuals, some band members are learning second, even their third instruments already. The music program is thankful to be able to show off the musical talent of our time and would like to say thank you for your support.

By TOBEY CHAN
The Rubik’s Cube Competition, one of the most favored events in the Soup-er Bowl, took place on Friday, February 3rd. I interviewed Mrs. Taveres, the host of the Rubik’s Cube Competition. “Each of the kids practice at least part of the year for the competition,” Mrs. Taveres said in response to one of my questions. Kids from Gifted & Talented are not the only ones that can participate in this. “Anyone can participate,” Mrs. Taveres replied as well. When I asked her if the kids showed any improvement over the years, she responded with “Yes, I think the kids have shown improvement over the years with the competition. They have become faster and faster with solving the Rubik’s Cube.”

Also, I interviewed Toby Chan, last year’s winner of the Rubik’s Cube Competition. He has practiced at least 4 to 5 months to master his skills, and it was no easy task. “Whenever I need to kill some time, I can just practice on my Rubik’s Cube and get all the sides complete,” Toby responded to one of the questions. “I felt fine once I won last year.” Before the competition took place I asked him if he has any chance at beating this year’s winner of the competition, and he replied “I don’t think so. I haven’t practiced in a while, so I still need to take some time to practice my skills.” I guess Toby wanted to pass the puzzle crown to another person this year. The winner of the Rubik’s Cube competition was Xamarys Liranzo. Congratulations Xamarys!

By OLIVIA DUL

READ, WRITE, SPEAK AND LISTEN WELL.

WHAT WERE YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECTS IN SCHOOL? MRS. DOLAGHAN - GYM C-SCIENCE

ARE THERE ANY UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS FOR THIRD QUARTER? MRS. CARR - SPRING BREAK, PARCC TESTING, AND 8TH GRADE RING

CEREMONY.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR STUDENTS TO BE SUCCESSFUL? WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO TELL THE STUDENTS OF WMS?

MRS. DOLAGHAN - THE STUDENTS ROCK.

MRS. CARR - KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
By: Milka Bolanos

This afternoon I had the chance to interview Mrs. Dunphy, who as we all know is a 6th grade Language Arts teacher. And as we sat down to chat, I asked a question right away?

M: How long have you been teaching in WMS, most importantly how long have you been teaching in general?
D: I have been teaching at WMS for 33 years and I was at Holy Cross for 8 years before that.
M: Wow! That is a lot of years you have been teaching.

Okay next question: What school did you go to get your teaching degree?
D: Okay, I lived in Harrison my whole life. I went to Harrison High School. I then went to Jersey City State College to get my BS degree and when I went back to get my Masters it was Jersey City State University. So it was the same school, but with two different names.
M: That is very confusing but thank you.

As we got into it more, I started to ask more personal questions.

M: What inspired you to become a teacher, a Language Arts teacher?
D: I have always liked teaching, I have always wanted to be a teacher. There's nothing else I wanted to be but that particular career. And I just love books, all different types of books. And I think you need to read to understand any other subjects. Science, Social Studies, etc.

M: Yeah, I really love reading.

Other questions were just simple, no sweat questions to ask Mrs. Dunphy.

M: What kind of problems do you face with the students during the day?
D: No homework! No pencils! Not being on time! But overall, they are very great kids. Here at Washington School we have good kids.
M: Thank you!

M: Is it ever easy being a teacher?
D: It's never easy! And it doesn't get any easier, it's always the same. New difficulties each year

But I made sure that there would be a few difficult questions!

M: Over the years, what is one thing that has never changed about the students, teachers, etc?
D: Um...that is a very good question. The thing that remains the same is that the kids respect you if you respect them. And it's the same if it's in a Catholic School, Private, or Public school. You give them respect, they will respect you back.
M: I'm very impressed with your response and it's true.

M: If you could start over, would you choose another career?
D: Definitely not. I wouldn't be anything else in the world except for a teacher.

M: Finally, what advice would you give to the students who want to become teachers?
D: Don't go into it because you think it is an easy job. It's not an easy job. If you're a good teacher you go to the dances, games, etc. You are part of something bigger than yourself. You are part of a community.

M: Thank you so much for this Mrs. Dunphy.
D: No problem Milka!
SPRING SUDOKU

HOW MANY CAN YOU FIND?

HIDDEN PICTURES

Each space is occupied by a die whose color corresponds to one of eight directions (up, down, left, right, and the four diagonal directions that lie between these). Begin in the center space (the red box in this case) and each time you land on a die, move the number of spaces that is indicated by the die and in the direction that is indicated by its color. You should never jump off the board and you should land on every die, but only once.

The question is, which is the last die you land on?