

The Flock

June '22, Week 20

WISH Academy Student News

Volume 1, Issue 2

WISH Class of 2022



~ Emma Petersen, Fiona Austin

WISH Academy - We are saddened to see our seniors end their journey with WISH Academy High School in this year's graduation. Throughout their years at the high school, they have pushed hard through a global pandemic that changed the landscape of school forever. Despite the challenges they faced throughout the 2020s, they continued to impress us with their perseverance and motivation to keep moving forward. We are so proud of all their accomplishments and can't wait to see what they become in the future. As the hour for graduation draws near, we are excited to share some of our WAHS seniors and their reflections on

their high school experience. One senior, Soley Shiferaw said, "I have definitely seen myself mature over time and I have been more active and involved in my school, joining clubs, and organizations." When asked about what they will miss most about WISH, Solely and the rest of the senior class noted the kindness of the staff and the overall community at school.

Another student, Venecia Escobedo said, "The environment was always so positive and always put people in a good mood. Getting to see signs everywhere of [the staff] cheering us on to get our education and to stay positive. The teachers cheering us on. Seeing colleges coming to our school to encourage us to get our education. It all felt amazing." ... (see pg. 2)

Interview— Principal Mowll ~ Hannah Benveniste

WISH Academy - Principal Kellie Mowll is the founding principal of WISH Academy High School. Throughout her time here, she has shaped the school, working with both teachers and students. However, in May of this year, Principal Mowll announced she was stepping down as principal to step into a new role as an Instructional Coach here at WISH. Before her time as principal, she was Vice Principal of Teaching and Learning at Ark All Saints Academy and Deputy Executive Head Teacher at TCES Group. Recently, The Flock managed to catch an exclusive interview with her prior to her departure.

In the interview, Principal Mowll expressed that she isn't sad about her departure. Rather, she is proud of her students, families, and especially her staff. In particular, she has expressed pride in watching the work and dedication her students and staff have put into growing the community. "I'm so proud of people for creating things that were not there at the beginning, which is really hard to do. It takes drive and gumption and passion, [...] and I love that people have created things from their heart and from their soul." Ms. Mowll is also excited to expand her work ... (see pg. 5)

In the paper...

Read on to see:

- Recent News
- Month in Review
- Sports
- Crosswords
- Comic Strip & Satire Articles
- Pictures

... and more.

Thanks to Ms. Avalos, our Advisor, as well as Principal Mowll, student contributors Dillon Jenkins, Fiona Austin, Emma Petersen, Janaya Kemp, and Duncan Rampen, editor Gabriel Koppula, formatter Nicholas Steinman, and editor-in-chief Hannah Benveniste.

District May Move Schools

~ Nicholas Steinman

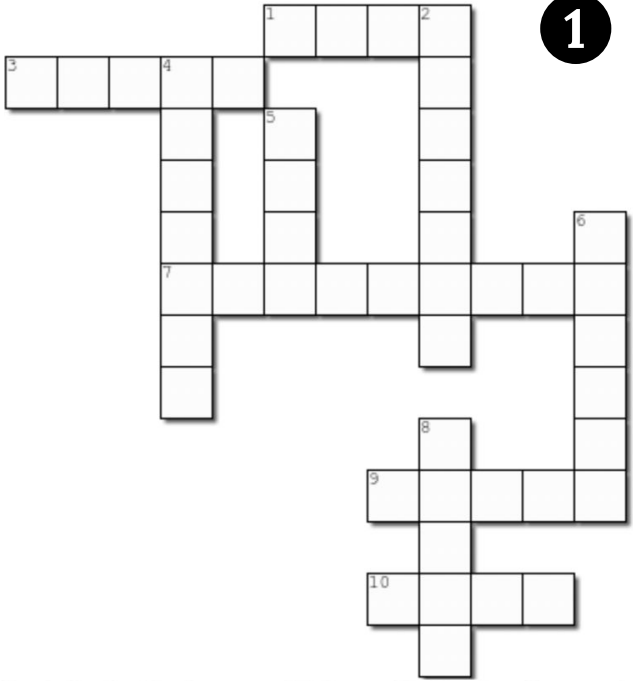
Westchester - Reactions varied widely as news emerged in mid-January of Los Angeles Unified School District plans to move Wright Middle School to the campus currently occupied by WISH's middle and high schools. While not explicitly included, it has been widely understood that this would be likely to result in WISH's middle and high schools being moved to the current Wright campus, where the WISH elementary school has been located since 2012, making WISH the sole occupant of that campus. However, it

The front of the Wright campus, near the entrance, main office, and auditorium.



would move Wright, a STEAM magnet which for decades was the primary public middle school in Westchester, off of its campus, co-locating it with Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnets, formerly known as Westchester High School, and Katherine Johnson ... (see pg. 4)

WORD GAMES



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

1 Summer's Out!

Across

- 1. A common yearbook signature
- 3. Sand everywhere.
- 7. A typical summer treat. Best kept frozen.
- 9. Crashing Down
- 10. You pitch it up.

Down

- 2. When someone's neck is more red than a tomato
- 4. An outdoor activity typically in a forest.
- 5. The first month of summer
- 6. It's like a dessert sandwich, make by an open flame.
- 8. Stay hydrated!

Last issue: Saturn, Mars, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Uranus, Neptune, Jupiter

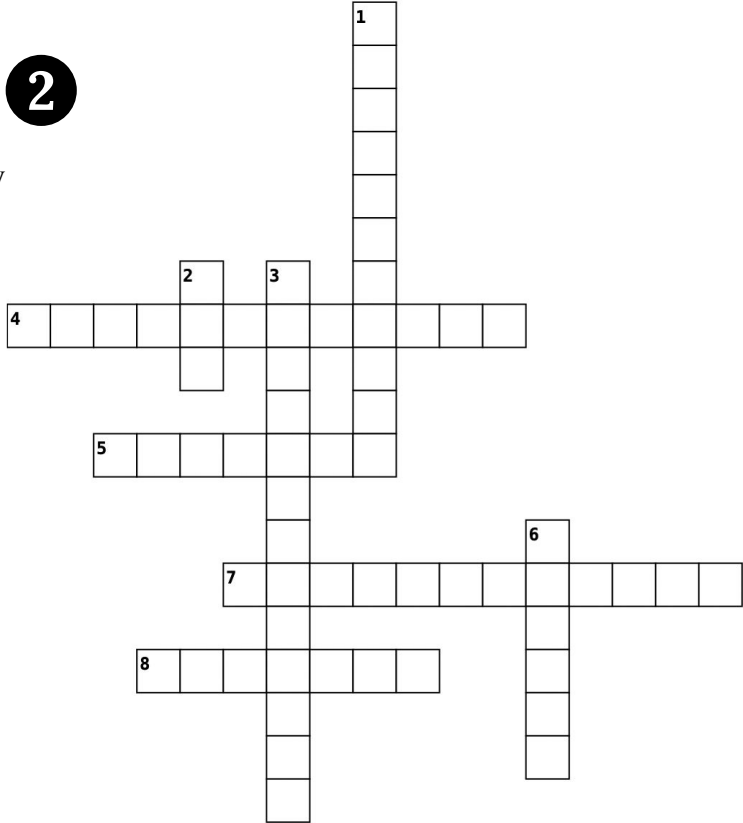
The Various Types of Clouds

Across

- 4. Dark gray clouds that typically block the sun and produce persistent rain
- 5. Horizontal, low-level clouds; precipitation includes common drizzle
- 7. Multi-level clouds that are also the only clouds that can produce hail and lightning
- 8. Large, detached, cauliflower-shaped clouds

Down

- 1. Mid-level sheets of thin cloud that typically spread across wide areas
- 2. Low-level precipitation that appears as a thick cloud that often restricts visibility
- 3. Low-level clouds characterized by dark gray masses
- 6. High-level clouds that are made of ice crystals; often appear as delicate wisps



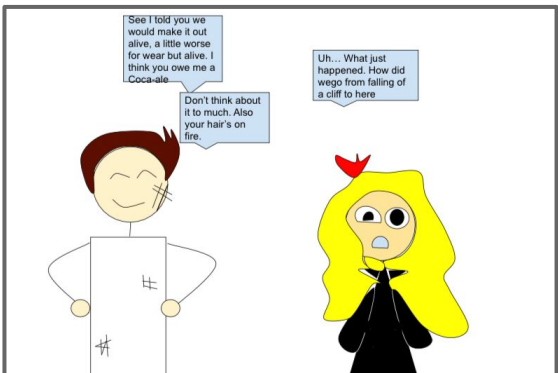
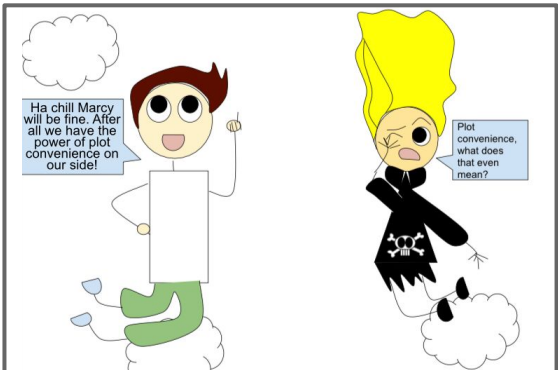
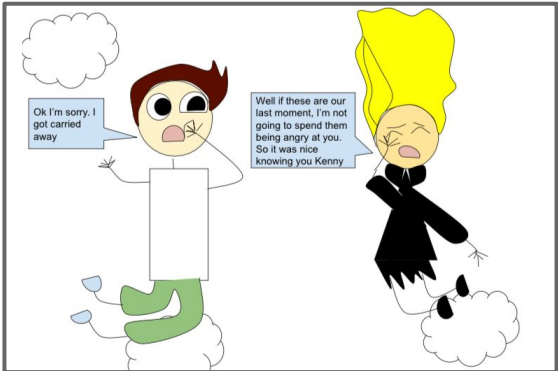
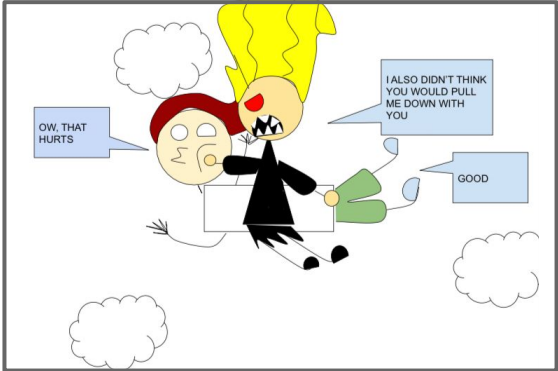
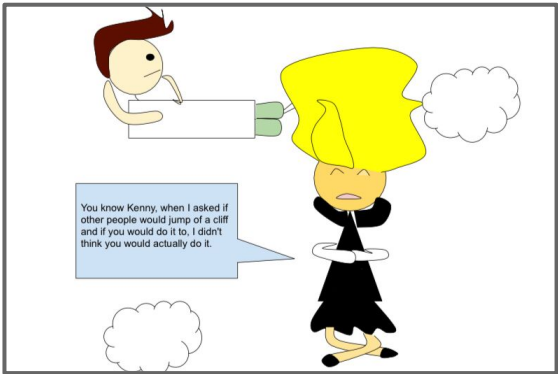
Last issue: Chameleon, Axolotl, Gazelle, Mollusk, Aardvark, Mongoose, Honey Badger, Gila Monster, Echidna, Meerkat, Pangolin, Treefrog

Games by Gabriel Koppula and Emma Petersen

Comic Strip

~ Janaya Kemp

"Plot Convenience"



Class of 2022

(from pg. 1) ... Many students of the graduating class also expressed their appreciation for the support of their friends and teachers. Principal Mowll expressed how proud she is of the entire senior class and their ability to continue to work hard even through unusual, difficult circumstances. We will miss all our seniors so much and we are all so excited to see the footprint they make in the world. We wish you all the best!



WISH Athletics Banquet



Another recent athletic event, the Girls vs. Boys Volleyball fundraiser

~ Emma Petersen

Playa Vista CenterPointe - In honor of the conclusion of the 21-22 WAHS Sports season, Athletic Director Coach Casey Wilson held a sports banquet to honor the amazing athletes this year. Over the course of many months, WAHS has trained strong teams for girls varsity and junior varsity volleyball, boys volleyball, cross country, soccer, baseball, beach

volleyball, track, girls basketball, and boys basketball. The banquet began with a short slideshow of pictures from important events within each team's season. Each athlete was an amazing addition to the team, but some truly stood out and brought the WISH spirit. The following athletes were honored as the Most Valuable Player from their team: Madison Martin, Cheyenne Colvin, Louis Grover-Khoury, Maureen Kamenwa, Marc Talley II, Marcus Young, Skyler Martin, Shelby Duckett, and Christian Silva. Congratulations to these, and all, of our amazing athletes on a successful year in sports!

WISH Wash

Track Recap

~ Dillon Jenkins

Los Angeles - With the school year coming to an end soon, let's take a look back on how WISH Academy's track team did in competitions this year! Through tough competition and hard training, WISH gave everything it had to offer and ran a very successful season. Let's take a look back at some of the highlights!

After weeks of preparation, the team had its first track meet against around ten schools on March 31st at the Southwest College in LA. This was a great event for our team, with several strong contenders. In the 4x100 relay, WAHS came in second for the girls division with a time of 01:01:85, and second in the boys division with a time of 00:53:09! In addition, WISH also placed strong in the 100-meter dash. Shelby brought home first place for the girls with a time of 00:13:32, and Andrea came in third with a time of 00:15:63. Quinten also snatched the 1st place title in the boys division of the 100M with an unrecorded time. Unfortunately, one of our own was taken out during the meet: me. Another runner took me out, but I managed to finished nonetheless (if not a little bruised).

Later on, Shelby once again placed first during the 200 meter dash for girls with a time of ... (see pg. 5)

Students Tour East Coast

~ Nicholas Steinman

Eastern U.S. - For some WISH 9th and 10th graders, the early morning of the first Sunday of Spring Break, April 10th, was the culmination of a years-long wait. Beginning at about 6 AM that day at Los Angeles International Airport, 22 WAHS 9th and 10th grade students embarked on the East Coast Trip, a week-long tour of the Eastern Seaboard of the US. The trip, operated by tour company Educational Travel Adventures, was dense and fast-moving, with students out for up to 14 hours per day exploring the cities and taking part in a number of activities in the cities of New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC.

In previous years, WISH Middle School has offered the trip to its 8th-grade culminating class each spring. This all changed in the spring of 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic led to two years of cancellations and postponements. As a result, the trip was also offered for WISH High School students this year, allowing old and new students alike to finally see a fascinating and historic region of the US. In addition to a tour guide provided by the company, teachers Ms. Go and Mr. Valladares accompanied the group as chaperones.

The trip began on that early April



morning, as students began to arrive as early as 5 AM in advance of the flight to New York City. Despite the early hour, the excitement was clear among the students, as well as among the parents gathered there to bid them farewell for the week. After clearing security, there was little time before boarding began. The flight took off shortly after 7 PM, with students dispersed, mostly in small groups, throughout the cabin. When the plane touched down some four and a half hours later, students were greeted in the unfamiliar landscape of Newark, New Jersey by ETA tour guide Janet Bracco. After picking up their checked luggage and organizing, the group departed by bus for Manhattan. There, they checked into their hotel rooms and, before long, they were off to eat dinner and ascend to the observatory at the top of the Empire State Building. (see pg. 6)

Month in Review

~ Nicholas Steinman

WISH Academy - Since our first issue in late March, WISH has had an eventful few months. While Spring Break was a much-needed reprieve for many students soon after that time, it was quickly followed by a marathon in the third quarter as the school year hurtled at full speed towards its conclusion.

As is often the case, the latter portion of the second semester has been focused largely on wrapping up the year academically. Recently, state testing, AP testing, final projects, and Presentations of Learning have been

ongoing, adding to the existing pressure of completing the school year on a strong academic footing. However, this has also given students reason to celebrate, especially WISH's outgoing seniors. The past few months have in fact been punctuated by several events, many of which have returned in person for the first time since 2019.

At the beginning of spring was the Spring Formal Dance, held at the end of March. This event was a fun opportunity for students and guests to socialize and celebrate the season, and it was a great ... (see pg. 4)

Summer Events

~ Nicholas Steinman

WISH Community - While the school year is soon coming to an end, there are still a few upcoming events remaining in the next few months. Most notably, WISH Academy's second senior graduation is set to take place at 5 PM on Friday, June 10th at the Central Park Bandshell (2035 E. Waterfront Drive, 90064), which will mark the culmination of the Class of 2022's academic achievements and the final event of their high school careers. Congratulations! Attendance is open to everyone, and students from other grades will be volunteering at the event. (see pg. 6)

Plan May Reallocate Space

(from pg. 1) ... STEM Academy. The district has stated that the intent of this is to increase cooperation between those schools as a means to boost declining enrollment and provide more to students there, ultimately creating a middle and high school science magnet pathway.

Parents and staff from WISH who have spoken on the matter mostly supported the move if they expressed an opinion, with some mentioning the benefits of a unified campus and the current space at the WESM campus's greater accessibility issues. However, many pointed out that WISH had not initiated the move, and that any unification of their facilities would be incidental to the aims of the plan. Accessibility improvements at the WESM campus have also been ongoing, although the campus has presented challenges to WISH's high population of students with special needs. In a January 21st email to the school, WISH Executive Director Shawna Draxton commented, "[W]e want to clarify that WISH has not received any notification from LAUSD about what is planned. WISH does not make decisions about public school space and its allocation of space on LAUSD campuses." Dr. Draxton continued, "When LAUSD clarifies the context and details of any campus changes, WISH will collaborate with LAUSD and all community stakeholders to ensure that all voices are heard and that justic eand equity for ALL Westchester students remain at the forefront of the conversation."

The mood at Wright was much different, as parents and staff have rallied to protest the idea, feeling that it was unnecessary and would likely have the opposite effects as intended. While reaction from WESM appeared somewhat more muted, many there had previously attended Wright, and some have expressed suspicion of the change. In particular, some opponents of the proposal have suggested that Wright and WESM's demographics played a role in the decision, in particular as both schools are attended by substantially more Black students proportionally than the district as a whole. Some more supportive of the change have noted that WISH is also substantially more diverse than the

district as a whole. While the district has appeared to rule out moving the schools until at least the 2023-2024 school year, the proposal, and any next steps, remain highly contentious. News of the plans appeared to publicly leak before the district had intended to share it, and the response was immediate. While most parents and staff from WISH were not especially outspoken, many in the Wright community quickly organized under the name Fight for Wright and rallied to oppose the move. The local LAUSD district scheduled several public Zoom meetings over the next week at which community members were given the opportunity to share their thoughts after a brief presentation, in addition to a public presentation to the Westchester/Playa Del Rey Neighborhood Council's Education Committee, which was also followed by a long period for comments from the public.

Supporters of the move cited both Wright and WESM's declining enrollment numbers as one reason that a major change was needed. According to the local LAUSD district's presentation on January 26th to the Education Committee, 1,562 students were enrolled at WESM from 2016 to 2017, and 656 students were enrolled at Orville at the same time. By the current 2021-22 school year, those numbers had declined to 635 and 423, including City of Angels enrollment at Wright. This represents a decline of about 60% and 35% respectively over five years.

Some, including the local district, have argued that this decline calls into question Wright's ability to remain on a separate campus and necessitates some sort of intervention from the district. It's in these concerns that the plans to co-locate the schools and create a 6-12th grade pathway were based, with supporters ... (see pg. 5)

The front entrance to the WESM campus has been closed since April as accessibility improvements are made



Month In Review



Rise students with a Gratitude Tree during COVID testing

(from pg. 3) ... success. Much more recently, WISH's "Roaring '20s" themed 11th- and 12th-grade prom proved to be another fun event in celebration of the end of the school year and departure of the outgoing senior class of 2022.

Also in celebration of the end of the year was the first annual WISHapalooza, a new umbrella term for a series of events, most notably the Spring Sing, which had been regular fixtures for WISH families for many years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. After two years performing online, WISH's middle and high schools returned to the WESM auditorium for the roughly hour-long concert, while art was on display and snacks were sold outside. Much of the school's 9th and 10th grade classes were in attendance, and various other events continued throughout the rest of the short day on both of WISH's campuses. In addition to the many amazing performances from both MS and HS students, the event was accompanied by our annual volunteer breakfast, the MS/HS Art Show, and the MS Annual Project.

Throughout the season, there have also been other events, such as the Talent Show in March, and numerous other activities. Sports teams have been wrapping up their seasons, such as with the girls vs. boys WISH Volleyball game held last week as a fundraiser for the team, performances have taken place, and end-of-year events such as the senior Grad Night have begun.

While late spring can often be a difficult time for high school students, it's important to remember that it also marks the culmination of a year of growth and accomplishments. The last few weeks, however tiring, are therefore an essential step in getting to summer break and to whatever lies ahead for students, be it as returning students next year or outgoing seniors.

Track Meets



(from pg. 3) ... 00:29:11. Unfortunately, the boys were not able to place in the 200M. Great effort nonetheless! In the 1600M, Louis came in second place with a time of 06:00:38, and also placed 3rd in the 800M with an outstanding time of 2:35:25! To finish it all off, Nathan came in third place during the long jump competition with an amazing height of 16 feet and 10 inches! That’s pretty high!

The second track meet was held on April 7th at the Dymally High School south of here in San Pedro. Once again, approximately ten schools participated, along with WAHS. In this second meet, we placed in several events.

In this track meet, the girls once again came in third place during the 4x100 with a time of 1:01.85. WAHS also came in second for the 4x100 boys division with a time of 00:53.09.

Always a strong competitor, Shelby came out on top for the girls in several events. She placed first in the 100M with a time of 00:13.08 and first again in the 200M with a time of 00:30. Unfortunately, the boys were unable to place in these events.

The third meet was held at Southwest College, the same place that the first meet was held, over Spring Break. Shelby once again came out on top in the 100M and 200M with times of 13.09 and 28.41 respectively. Quinten managed to place second in the boys 100M with a time of 12.34 and first in the 200M with a time of 24.88.

The boys were also able to place in the 800M. Louis came in second place with a time 02:45.4 for that event. In addition, he also came in fourth for the 1600M with a time of 5:55.00.

The fourth track and final track meet was held, once again, at Dymally High School in San Pedro. We were unable to place in the 4x100 for boys or girls. Shelby was able to come away with 1st place in the 100M once again with an unrecorded time, and Quinten was able to come in 2nd place with a time of 25.31 for the 200M.

District Plan Sparks Debate

(from pg. 4) ... arguing that cooperation between the schools could improve efficiency and help reverse their decline, and that the district has had to reallocate space in the past to better use its resources. This argument is not accepted by opponents of the plan, who point to Wright’s recent investments in its campus and programs, such as a new robotics lab, and claim that a move would, in addition to other negative effects, prevent their students from benefiting from the school’s investment and only serve to reinforce its decline.

Many who have spoken out from all sides of the issue have also decried the process by which the public was informed of the plan. In particular, a number of speakers have pointed out that the local district had appeared to share unclear or seemingly contradictory information at various times on who had been consulted and what the next steps were for the proposal. Parents and staff members, especially at Wright, also complained that there had not been adequate consultation with the community and that there did not seem to be a concrete plan to actually achieve many promised changes, such as reinstalling equipment at the WESM campus and increasing coordination between Wright and WESM to create a unified pathway. Notably, although at first communities were under the impression that a campus relocation could take effect as soon as the 2022-23 school year and was likely to

move forward quickly, officials seemingly denied this at the Neighborhood Council meeting. Since it has become apparent that no change is likely in the coming year, little more has been publicly said of the plan by LAUSD. Regardless, with education policy in the limelight and prominent public discourse on LAUSD, charter schools, and inequities in education continuing nationally and locally, the issue remains extremely controversial and shows no signs of disappearing in the near future.

The campus currently occupied by Wright Middle and WISH Elementary is located centrally within the Kentwood district of Westchester, on Emerson Avenue and 80th Street. While not directly adjacent to any major road, it is across the street from a small strip mall and a Vons supermarket. It is smaller than the WESM campus, but resembles it in many ways. It was completed in 1952, shortly after construction of most of the neighborhood of Westchester concluded, to house what was then Westchester High School. After Westchester High moved to a much larger campus in the 1950s, what would become known as Orville Wright Junior High School took over the campus. Wright has since occupied the campus, in whole or in part, for over 60 years.

Ms. Mowll Speaks to The Flock

(from pg. 1) ... directly with staff, an aspect of her current job that she has always enjoyed. She isn’t going too far, though, and is excited that she is able to continue her relationships with staff and students and contribute to the growth of the school.

One of the questions we asked Ms. Mowll was about what changes she would make if she had to start over again. She took a moment to answer, given the difficulty of knowing what needs improvement while in the middle of it. After some time, Ms. Mowll concluded that if she had to do it all over again, she would slow down to appreciate the work that has been done. She acknowledged downsides to slowing down, and that WISH might

have offered fewer programs at first. However, stepping back and “having pride” in what you have created can be essential to growing a community.

Ms. Mowll is looking forward to watching the school continue to flourish once she has taken on her new position. She hopes that the “second phase of WISH” will bring new opportunities for school pride, classes, and community growth, and looks forward to watching students have a positive impact on the world with “the education they have received at WISH Academy High.” Finally, she ended the interview with a reminder to incoming freshmen not to “be afraid to form strong relationships,” and to continue their educational growth by getting involved.

East Coast Trip

(from pg. 3) ... Over the next two days, students enjoyed the company of their peers and friends as they explored the city of New York. The group visited historic sites in the core of the city including the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and the World Trade Center and explored attractions such as Central Park, Times Square and Chinatown. To get around, students walked and took the New York Subway, covering much of the dense cityscape of downtown Manhattan in the process.

On Wednesday, the group was packed and ready for the long bus ride to Philadelphia, and later on in the day, Washington, DC. In Philadelphia, students visited the Franklin Institute and the National Constitution Center, in addition to having some free time outside. Some students chose to explore the Liberty Bell and the park around Independence Hall in small groups during their free time, while others relaxed and enjoyed the historic area. After dinner, and with a quick stop at the Joe Biden Welcome Center in Delaware, the bus continued to Laurel, Maryland, just outside of Washington, DC. Over two days in the nation’s capital, students visited the Capitol Building, the White House, the Library of Congress, the National Archives, Arlington National Cemetery, the National Holocaust Museum and many of the area’s other monuments and historic sites. Finally, on Saturday, April 16th, after

spending their last few hours at the National Mall seeing the Smithsonian Museums and several memorials, the group and guides left the tour bus for the final time as they arrived at Washington National Airport. After a brief connecting flight from San Francisco, they were back at LAX around midnight, where students were greeted by their parents and, at last, returned home.

Looking back on the trip, many students expressed fond memories of their time together on the east coast. Asked to comment for this article, one student recalled, “I had an amazing time with our astoundingly British tour guide,” and another said, “New York 7/10, wouldn’t smell it again.”



Summer Break

(from pg. 3) ... Friday is also a short day, so school will get out at 2:15 PM. At that point, the school year will be over for most students, but there will still be activity on campus, especially for WISH staff members. Educators will be on campus on Monday, June 13, and Tuesday, June 14, both for professional development and to prepare their classrooms for summer break. As well, there will be COVID testing on June 14, from 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM, for students and staff participating in Summer School beginning the week after. Summer school and credit recovery will then take place from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM on weekdays for four weeks.

As well, WISH will have a number of events throughout the summer, including a few service learning opportunities. More information will be available in the coming weeks, but popular events include the annual Westchester Fourth of July Parade, for which WISH is expected to prepare a float, and the campus beautifications, which will take place in early August.

Around the beginning of August, professional development will begin for staff members, followed by the beginning of some sports practices, school orientations, and other beginning-of-year events. Finally, a bit over 2 months from now, students will return to campus for the first day of the 2022-2023 school year on Monday, August 15. Until then, WISH hopes that everyone has a great summer break.

The Scallop - Satire

~ Duncan Rampen

Teeth: America’s Favorite Snack Food

America - Long has the American consumer munched down on their classic crispy confections, but it appears that after long trepidations, they have finally turned a new leaf. Gone are the days of chips, pretzels, and other common snack foods; now everyone’s mouths are full of teeth. These days, you can’t go 5 minutes without seeing someone smacking around some calcium chunks. How did this all start? New research suggests that people have been eating teeth for far longer than originally thought. Evidence excavated in burial

A marble plant. Doubts have been raised in recent weeks about the loyalties of such creatures.



sights shows signs that teeth have been giving people the satisfying crunch they need for thousands of years. As a time-tested tradition, it’s no wonder that teeth are teetering to transform typical treat trends today.

Marbles: Can They Be Trusted?

The Universe - We’ve all done it; You’re sitting down, looking at a

marble, and you think: “what on earth is this green swirly thing?”. We’ve been there too, and today the World Wildlife Foundation has come out with an answer. As it turns out, the little swirly thing is actually the feather of any number of endangered bird species. In fact, recent statistics suggest that marble production is the number one cause of tropical bird extinctions over the past 70 years. It is estimated that at least 16 million birds have been killed this year alone to support the production of the only product with no known purpose. “We’ve put over 60 bird species out of their misery this year,” said the CEO of Marble Inc, “And we don’t plan on stopping any time soon.”