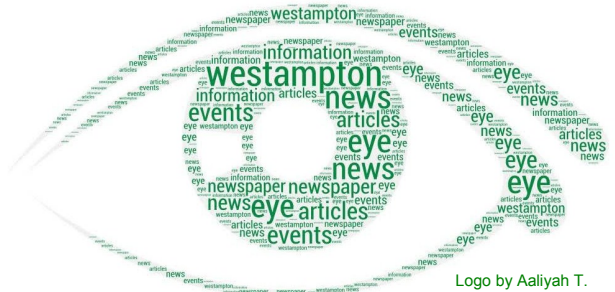


The Westampton Eye

Aaliyah T., Editor in Chief • Hailie Anne W., Design Editor
Editorial Staff: Alexis C., Assata A.



WMS Star Student

Sixth Grader Leia G. went above and beyond for the WMS Canned Food Drive. When Leia heard of the food drive, she went to all of her family members to collect donations. Her hard work provided 300 cans of food to help people in need. Great job, Leia!

Students of the Month: November

By Ian M.

8th GRADE

- Nya S.
- Sam C.

7th GRADE

- Tiana R.
- Austin R.

6th GRADE

- Ayana H.
- Jay R.

5th GRADE

- Abby O.
- Jerrod B.

Musician

- Theo R.

GC Winner

- Jerimaya P.

WMS Presidential Election

Clinton wins at WMS and US Popular Vote; Trump wins Election

By Hailie Anne W.

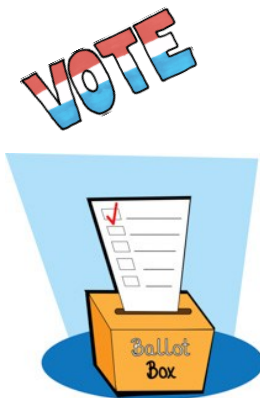
Did the election for our 45th President go how you thought it would? Did the person you voted for here at our school election win? At the WMS election, ran by Aaliyah T., Aleksandra K., Saniya S., Mrs. Donnelly, Mrs. Bender, Mr. Scheffold (Mr. Bill) and Mrs. Comegno on the 7th of November, 2016, presidential nominee Hillary Clinton was our school's winner. However, at the national polls on November 8, Donald Trump earned the most electoral votes.

In our country, the president is not elected by the people's popular vote. The Electoral College's votes decide who wins, not the popular vote. According to archives.gov,

the Electoral College is not a place; "it is a compromise between the election of the president by vote of the Congress." This means it is for the most part a winner-takes-all approach where all of a state's electoral votes are awarded to one candidate. States have differing numbers electoral votes based on population, with each state having a minimum of 3 votes. Some though, like California, have more than 50 electoral votes.

As of Nov. 25, a CNN poll showed Clinton's popular vote was 64,156,255 while Trump's was 62,238,425. Even though Hillary Clinton had over 2 million more votes from the voting public than him. Donald Trump is the president-elect due to electoral votes.

The president elect will be sworn in on Inauguration Day, January 20, 2017. Donald Trump is



now picking his Cabinet Members. The Cabinet Members include Vice President Mike Pence and 15 members of the executive department.

In conclusion, we can expect in the next four years to experience many new changes in America!

A Salute to Our Veterans

By Zaya M. and Krysten W.

Every year WMS holds a very fun Veteran's Day concert. The Symphonic Band, Chorus, and Jazz Band performed in the concert. The Symphonic Band played *God Bless The U.S.A.*, and the Chorus sang *My America* and *Armed Forces Salute*. Lastly, the Jazz Band played *All That Jazz*. All the band and chorus students worked very hard on their music. All the veterans in the audience were honored and proud of our students.

Ms. Beekman and Dr. DiSalvio prepared the students since mid-September. Afterwards, the students and veterans ate a nice breakfast, including donuts, bagels, coffee, biscuits, orange juice, and apple juice. The students hard work paid off, leaving the veterans and parents with smiling faces when they left.

WMS was happy to see veterans of all ages and genders taking the time to see our performers. Some students even read homemade cards to the



veterans. It was fun for the students but it was heart-warming for all the veterans who have served our country.



New Jersey Strong Man, Motivational Speaker

By Tatiana M. and Sophie L.

On December 5, Eric Moss, NJ Strong Man, gave Westampton Middle School a great show and a life time message. People used to tease him in middle school, but then when he got to high school, he built his muscles and grew stronger. As he grew up, he wanted to become a strong man. He eventually found a coach and trained almost everyday. Moss learned to bend steel on his knee, his nose, and his thigh! In addition, he also said that the people who doubted him were very surprised and did not understand how he went from being shy and weak to being a well known strong man.

Here is some additional information about him, as documented on his website. During his free time, he spends time with his clients and trains with them. He has a cat named Batman he plays with to see who is the better superhero. So far Batman has been winning! He likes to annoy his wife for fun. He laughs at things out of nowhere, too.

His message was as powerful as his strength: it's okay to be you, and you can become extraordinary. For more information about Mr. Moss, visit <http://strongmanericmoss.com/>



Photo Credit: MeetingMags.com

A History of Winter Holiday Celebrations

By Alexis C. and Aaliyah T.



Hannukah

Hannukah, or the Festival of Lights, is a Jewish holiday that lasts eight days. The holiday starts in the Jewish month of Kislev. Since the Jewish calendar is lunar based, it changes slightly every year, but it usually falls in November or December. The holiday started when the Greeks started to force Jews to go against their religion. Eventually, a few Jews retaliated and got their temple back from the Greeks. In order to purify it from the religious acts of the Greeks (which directly contradicted their own), they needed to burn a menorah's candles for eight days. However, they were left with only enough burning oil for one day. They lit the candles anyway, and it stayed lit for the needed eight days. Because of this, it is customary for Jewish people to light special menorahs called *hanuykkiyahs* for the eight days of Hanukkah.



Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is an African American holiday celebrated from December 26 through January 1. The main focuses of the holiday are the seven principles of Kwanzaa: *Umoja* (unity), *Kujichagulia* (self-determination), *Ujima* (collective work and responsibility), *Ujamaa* (cooperative economics), *Nia* (purpose), *Kuumba* (creativity), and *Imani* (faith). Each evening, families come together to light one of the seven candles in the *kinara* (a candle holder used during Kwanzaa) and discuss the day's principle. Towards the end of the holiday, the community gathers together for a feast.



Christmas

Christmas can be celebrated as a pagan or religious holiday. The pagan holiday is focused around Santa Claus, a jolly round man who bring presents to those who are good. Children write a wish list for Santa of all the gifts they want. It is a great time for children and children at heart. The Christian religious holiday is focused around the birth of Jesus Christ. To celebrate, many families put up a tree decorated with ornaments, as well as exchange gifts. It takes place on December 25 every year.



Holiday Traditions: Sweden and Mexico

By Hailie Anne W.

Do you celebrate any unique holidays with your family? Many families have certain cultural holidays they celebrate and traditions they honor. Some Scandinavian families celebrate St. Lucia Day. On St Lucia Day, typically the oldest daughter in the family will wear a white gown with a

red sash and an evergreen crown with candles on her head. She serves her family Lucia bread (or cinnamon buns). Boys can also dress up as Stjärngossar, or star boys. This is held on the Winter Solstice, December 13, which is the shortest day of the year.

In Mexico, Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe is

celebrated with a large feast and a big Fiesta. This is celebrated on December 12. This Catholic holiday is held in honor of Mary, the Virgin of Guadalupe. Children are dressed in traditional costumes and are blessed in churches, and thousands of people come to church to pray.

Many families have different cultures. Maybe

you could find out what your family's culture is and find a holiday you could celebrate with your family!



WMS Holiday Family Traditions

By Tony T.

Do you have a family tradition for Christmas? I do!

Every Christmas my family puts out a nativity scene, which is the birth of Jesus. Also, we usually make Christmas cookies. On Christmas Day, we always sit on top of the

stairs before we go down and our parents always videotape us. I sometimes make a list to Santa saying if I was good or bad, too.

We also go to my Grandma's every year for Christmas. This is a tradition for my friend, Nicholas M., too. Every year, Nicholas goes to his grandparent's house and he celebrates a Polish holiday called Wigilia. It celebrated on Christmas

Eve and they have a Polish feast with lots of delicious Polish food. What holidays do you celebrate?



Popular Gifts on WMS Wish Lists

By Zaya M. and Jada G.

What would you like for the holidays this year? We asked students what they would like and here are the results!

In 5th place... **Designer Fashion**

In 4th place... **Eagles Tickets**

In 3rd place... **New Gaming Systems**

In 2nd place **Money**

And the #1 requested gifts are... **iPhones and Laptops!**

Thanks to everyone who voted! Hope you get your #1 gift this year.



Staff Spotlight: Q & A with Mrs. Carty



Article by Hailie Anne W.
Interview by Noor E.

"I loved school when I was young so I've never wanted to leave," Mrs. Carty, 8th grade Language Arts teacher said when asked of her inspiration to teach. An inspiration she is, with 27 years of teaching at Westampton Schools.

A motivating educator, Mrs. Carty earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from The College of New Jersey. Throughout her 27 year teaching tenure. Mrs. Carty has worked with all grades but enjoys teaching 8th

grade the most.

In her free time, she enjoys skiing, taking long walks with her husband, traveling and reading (which may come as no surprise for a Language Arts teacher!).

An engaging teacher, Mrs. Carty is a favorite among many 8th grader students. She is honored to receive the Staff Spotlight and has this expectation for her current and future students "I expect students to be thinking about our class after the school day is over."

We took a moment to ask Ms. Soult, librarian, about when she was a student of Mrs.

Carty's at WMS. Ms. Soult was one of Mrs. Carty's students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade and attributes her becoming a teacher to Mrs. Carty's creative lessons. "She always found ways to challenge me. When we were diagramming sentences, she found a high school text for me to use. When we studied Shakespeare, she had us perform the plays with costumes and sets. I always will remember her classes."

With provoking discussions and a down-to-earth persona, we are sure her current and future students will remember her lessons for life.

Congratulations, Mrs. Carty!

WMS Wall of Fame

By Darrien G.

The WMS Wall of Fame has been around for a while. People from the past generations of the school are on it, even from 20 years ago.

With great fame comes great responsibility, or great strength. There are five obstacles that you have to complete and there are three different levels of it: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. In my opinion, the first one, which is

the green jungle gym, is very easy. From there on they gradually get harder.

The next obstacle is the peg board. That one really tests your strength. With small holes to put the pegs, you must have extreme body control to hold your body upwards. After this is the wall ladder. That one is easy... well, at least Bronze and Silver are easier to achieve. Gold on the wall

ladder is hard, though, because now you're not only climbing the rock wall, you have to do a chin-up on each part. That totals seven chin-ups! Next there is another peg board which is more of the same procedure. If you can do the first peg board, you should be able to do the second one. After that is the one and only Rock Wall. The Rock Wall is very hard and requires more mental strength than physical strength. Although the Rock Wall is the most difficult of obstacles, it can still be accomplished.

The people on the WMS Wall of Fame definitely have earned their spot, and with some training, you can too!

Sports Poll—NHL Team Pride

By: AJ G., Darrien G., and Ian M.

The *Westampton Eye* surveyed students on what their favorite NHL team. The votes were pretty close. The Philadelphia

Flyers won the vote with 92 votes from WMS students. The New Jersey Devils were second with 89 votes. Check out our poll results on the chart to the right.

Logo	Team	Result	Logo	Team	Result
	Philadelphia Flyers	92		Florida Panthers	27
	New Jersey Devils	89		Nashville Predators	23
	Boston Bruins	67		New York Islanders	22
	Los Angeles Kings	64		Pittsburgh Penguins	19
	New York Rangers	59		Tampa Bay Lightning	16
	Anaheim Ducks	34		Washington Capitals	12
	Carolina Hurricanes	32		Dallas Stars	9
	Columbus Blue Jackets	27		San Jose Sharks	7

Need Advice?

Fill out an Advice form in the library for a chance to have your question published!

Advice

By Sophie L.

Question: A friend bought me a holiday gift and I don't have one for them. What should I do?

Some advice is to give the a small thing from the heart and give them a hug or a nice thank you, or you can make a friendship bracelet. It will be from the heart and I bet your friend will be very thankful. You can always make a gift afterward.

Question: What should I do if my best friend and I no longer have any classes together?

Friends don't always have classes together however, you can always have meet during lunch. It an opportunity to meet new friends, too. Also, not everyone is in the popular crowd so sometimes we go to new classes to try and gain friends.

**Editor's note: Mrs. Malecki is consulted for our advice column and is a wonderful resource for WMS students.*

Quirky Holidays: National Pastry Day

By Krysten W.

Are you tired of just sitting around all day? Well why don't you bake some pastries on December 9th National Pastry Day! Creativity is always the key so make a pastry that's creative! Try getting a boring recipe and turn it into a creative pastry using ingredients you love. Here is one I would try:

Macaroon Recipe:

- 1 3/4 cups confectioners' sugar.
- 1 cup almond flour.
- 3 large egg whites, at room temperature.
- 1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar.

- Pinch of salt.
- 1/4 cup superfine sugar.
- 2 to 3 drops gel food coloring
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla, almond or mint extract.

Now that may look boring, but it is a delicious recipe. Change it to something creative, like using bright food dye or experiment with extracts of fun flavors. That's what National Pastry Day is all about!



Media Review: X-Men Apocalypse

By Alex M.

X-Men: Apocalypse is a 2016 American superhero film based on the fictional X-Men characters that appear in Marvel Comics. It is the ninth installment in the X-Men film series and a sequel to X-Men: Days of Future Past. Directed by Bryan Singer, the film stars an ensemble cast, led by James McAvoy, Michael

Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence, Oscar Isaac, Nicholas Hoult, Rose Byrne, Tye Sheridan, Sophie Turner, Olivia Munn, and Lucas Till. In X-Men: Apocalypse, the ancient mutant En Sabah Nur awakens in 1983 and plans to wipe out modern civilization and take over the world, leading the X-Men to try to stop him and defeat his team of renegade mutants. This movie's rating on Rotten Tomatoes is a "rotten"48%

and I have to disagree with that rating. I personally do not feel you to have to watch the prequel X-Men Days of Future Past to follow the plot. This is a must-see, action-packed movie.



Media Review: Madden 17



By Nick M.

If you love football, this game is for you. I don't know about you, but I love Madden and the fans have been eagerly waiting for Madden 17. Some people like to buy to play and see the new and improved graphics. It's a franchise that has gotten people hooked into football and many other games by EA.

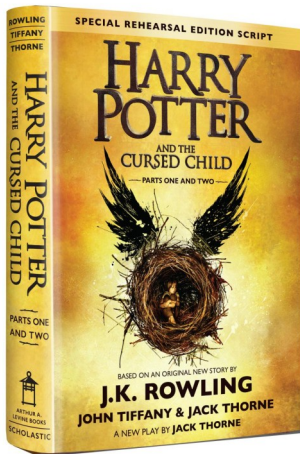
If you fans are curious on what platforms Madden is available, it's on Playstation 3 and 4, and Xbox 1 and 360. So if you have any one of those consoles, you're in luck. It came out on August 15, 2016. It is

made by EA and is rated E for everyone, so it can be enjoyed by people of all ages.

The game is easy to learn. To move, you just move around the joystick on the left. To choose a play, you select the play type and hit whatever button it says to press. Many more instructions are with the game in all.

If you like football or have been following the Madden series, this highly anticipated game is worth checking out.

Media Review: Harry Potter and the Cursed Child



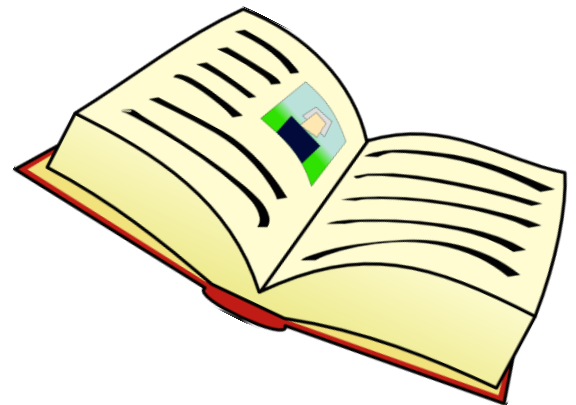
By Jada G.

Have you heard of a book called Harry Potter and the Cursed Child? Well, this book has some good reviews. If you read this book, you might have an opinion about it too. If not, you may want to read further and see if it is the book for you.

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child has a rating of 3.8/5 on Goodreads. It was released July 31, 2016. The book has a play and a special rehearsal script included. It's based on an original new

story by J.K Rowling, John Tiffany, and Jack Thorne and takes place nineteen years after the battle of Hogwarts.

Whether you are a fan of the Harry Potter series or not, you can enjoy this fantasy. Potterheads (people who really love the franchise) will especially enjoy knowing what happened to some of their favorite characters.



Mr. Pickles
By: Zaya M.

<p>This is Lulu. Lulu is a cat. She loves her owner, Hannah.</p>	<p>Lulu is brought into a cage!</p>	<p>Lulu realizes that Hannah has taken her to the Animal Shelter!</p>
		<p>Stay Tuned 4 Mr. Pickles #2!</p>
<p>Hannah takes a new kitten. Lulu is jealous!</p>	<p>Her name is Mr. Pickles. Lulu has to share EVERYTHING! she is DOOMED.</p>	

JINKSY in TIME TRAVEL TOGETHER PRESENTS

By Matthew R.

<p>It's early fall in cat city. JINKSY is bored.</p>	<p>"I want to travel to the future!" Jinksy meowed awfully.</p>	<p>he traveled through a time hole.</p>
<p>BOOM! Jinksy's time landed in the snowy future.</p>	<p>when he went inside his house, he saw future Jinksy!</p>	<p>Jinksy traveled back to the present. Jinksy installed a countdown Jinksy decided to wait for Christmas to get JINKSY! Kona screamed, "there's a yating hole in the kitchen!"</p>