

MR. GLOVER'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY / ACADEMIC AWARDS / STUDENT POETRY

the Griffin GAZETTE

Community News from Westminster School

Summer 2016 • Vol. 5 Issue 3



Presenting Challenge, Building Character, Instilling Confidence



Westminster School

Established 1962

Preschool - 8th Grade

Presenting Challenge | Building Character | Instilling Confidence

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2016!



Since 1962, Westminster School has been graduating highly accomplished scholars who are also kind, courteous, responsible, poised, and confident in pursuit of their dreams. We are proud of the many honors and achievements of this year's graduating class, including:

- 52% received the President's Education Award from President Obama
- 42% were inducted into the National Latin Honor Society
- 58% won medals for the National Latin Exam
- 58% were members of the National French Honor Society
- 42% won National French awards and 33% achieved medal status
- 100% performed in a production of "South Pacific"
- 100% were members of the Builders Club and provided hundreds of hours of community service
- 65% were enrolled in Kindergarten or 1st grade (52% in KG)
- Led their sports teams in winning the Sportsmanship Award for the Capital Athletic Conference
- Led the MathCounts Club to achieving Gold Medal Status

Start Your Child Off on the Path to Success!

Limited Space Available for Fall, 2016

Members of the Class of 2016 Gained Admission to the Following High Schools:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| • Bishop Ireton High School | • St. John's College High School |
| • Bishop O'Connell High School | • St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School |
| • Blue Ridge School | • The Madeira School |
| • Flint Hill School | • Paul VI Catholic High School |
| • Gonzaga College High School | • The Potomac School |
| • Georgetown Day School | • St. John Paul the Great Catholic High School |
| • St. Anselm's Abbey School | • Trinity Christian School |

Many graduates will choose to attend public schools and enroll in AP and IB programs.

3819 Gallows Road ~ Annandale VA 22003 ~ 703-256-3620

Extended Care - Bus Service - Camp Programs



www.westminsterschool.com



A DREAM 40 YEARS IN THE MAKING



Mr. Glover was the driving force behind the 2003 addition of the Jane L. Goll Center for Arts and Athletics. This major project provided a regulation-size gym; spacious library and resource classroom; light-filled art studio; roomy music classroom and instrument rehearsal room; and included transformation of the former gym into a professional-caliber theater.

What makes a person stay in the same job for 40 years? Well, it's complicated . . .

In June 2016, Ellis Glover completed his 40th year at Westminster School. For 16 of those years, he assisted and was mentored by Jane L. Goll, the school's founder and director, a remarkable personage in her own right. After Mrs. Goll's death in 1992, Mr. Glover was appointed Head of School by the Board of Trustees. Both before and since his appointment, Mr. Glover has been involved in every aspect of the school's operation, mission, and philosophy. A list of his outstanding contributions and achievements (see sidebar) suggests the remarkable scope and depth of his personal engagement in Westminster's mission and overall wellbeing. However, no bulleted list can convey the mental, emotional, and spiritual energy it takes to run a school like Westminster . . .

Imagine an ordinary school day—no spe-



cial events, no big crises—just one ordinary day out of those 40 years . . . first up, a morning meeting with the admin team to outline plans, give directives or hear reports on ten different projects; interrupted

by a visit from a shining kindergartener proud to deliver a birthday cupcake to Mr. Glover (*whom he then regales with his traditional birthday song—It's not the beavers nor the bears, nor the pickles nor the pears, it's not next week or yesterday, but today, today . . .*); followed by a meeting with the 5th-grade teachers, who seek his guidance about one of their students' recent academic and behavioral decline and the troubling response of the parents to their phone calls home; then, off to 8th-Grade Enrichment Class, where Mr. Glover lassoes restless 14-year-olds into an extemporaneous speaking contest to help prepare them for upcoming high-school interviews (*not to mention, the rest of their lives*); before lunch, he grabs a quick meeting with the music teacher to engage her in his plans for weaving contemporary songs into the upcoming Shakespeare play he will soon be directing for the 7th grade (*how, oh how, can he cast 16 girls in a play with two female roles and keep them reasonably happy until he can unite the class behind this project and*

persuade them how great it will be to perform a Shakespeare play?).

On his way out of the building, he notices a worsening problem with the parking lot concrete and has an impromptu planning meeting with the maintenance supervisor; during this conversation, he learns about another major physical plant issue that will soon require some budgetary magic if it is to last through the school year; he hurries back from lunch, needing time to review a student's file before an upcoming meeting with concerned parents, only to find an unexpected visitor sitting on the office bench—a graduate from several years ago, who stands now in all the radiance of accomplished and optimistic young adulthood (*there is no time for this meeting, but Mr. Glover never turns away a graduate—indeed, the way he sees it, who could be a more important visitor? and, it is well worth his time, for not only is the graduate lovely, charming, and articulate, but she is profuse in her praise of Westminster School for the excellent preparation it gave her, not only in academic training, but in encouraging her to explore her own talents and pursue her dreams; in fact, she is leaving soon for a semester abroad—Renaissance studies at Oxford!!*); now, without the time he had counted on to prepare, Mr. Glover welcomes an unsmiling dad and a weepy mom who have come in great, offended dignity to complain that their blameless child is being picked on by malevolent classmates, and that's why the child misbehaved last week, and that's why he doesn't deserve the (*minor*) punishment he received from a clearly unjust Mr. Glover; it takes him the better part of an hour to turn this situation around to a more realistic acceptance of pre-adolescent behavior and a much friendlier and more positive demeanor on the part of the parents; as he says good-bye to his renewed supporters, he receives a call from the Chair of the Board of Trustees to discuss an upcoming, tricky



From left to right starting in the front: Mrs. Isibel, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Erwin, Mrs. Fugate, and Mrs. Gyuricza.

contract negotiation with the pre-school facility which, if Mr. Glover handles it right, could save the school tens of thousands of dollars next year.

As they are talking, the secretary knocks on Mr. Glover's door to let him know that a 6th grader (*new to the school this year*) has been sent to the office for cheating on a quiz and the athletic director is adamant about speaking to him before the end of the day to make a final decision on the new uniforms for the varsity basket-ball teams (*this information was needed three days ago*); a heavy thunderstorm hits just as car-pool begins, and Mr. Glover grabs an umbrella and hurries out to help shelter the students being escorted into their parents' cars; one of the moms takes the opportunity to say she would like to meet with him, she has concerns regarding the summer reading list; back at his desk, Mr. Glover re-



members that he needs to review the correct pronunciation of names for the Honor Roll Assembly scheduled for the next morning (*with Westminster's highly diverse community, this is an important task, and he won't have time later that night because he has a meeting with the Board Finance Com-*

A Renaissance Man

In honor of Mr. Glover completing 40 years of service to Westminster School, 24 of those as Head of School, The Board of Trustees surprised him with a plaque at the school's end-of-year academic awards assembly. Before awarding the plaque, Mr. Keith Fulk (Chair, Board of Trustees) spoke of Mr. Glover's many contributions and achievements. These are just a few highlights!



Served as a daily janitor/maintenance man for emergency clean-ups, repairs, purchases, and more. For years, he was also responsible for all event set-ups.

Drove a daily school bus route, as well as planned bus routes and served as bus supervisor. In addition, he planned, drove, and chaperoned countless student field trips, including dozens of overnight trips and several excursions to Europe.



Served as Athletic Director and coached Varsity Girls basketball and co-founded the Capitol Athletic Conference (still going strong after 38 years).

Oversaw the Drama Program and directed over 100 plays himself. In addition, he brought home four 1st-place trophies from Folger Shakespeare Festival (and individual prizes every time Westminster competed).



LEFT Mr. Glover with Nicole Hisey (Class of 2016). **RIGHT** Mr. Glover with cast members from the 5th-grade production of *Pippi Longstocking*.

mittee, which will almost certainly last past 9:00; at 5:30, after brief, one-on-one meetings with three administrators who need his advice, direction, or approval on various issues, Mr. Glover settles down to his paper-work; although he isn't able to finish the pile, he works steadily until it's time for the Finance Committee meeting; as he searches among his papers for the budget documents he needs to take another quick look at before the meeting, he comes upon a small square envelope with his name penciled in slanting but clearly formed letters; inside there is a folded, wide-lined piece of paper with a drawing of himself (*he can tell this because the tall man has a trim beard, an earring, and a large G on his stomach*) standing next to a small boy with violently purple hair, dressed in gray pants and a green shirt; a large sun sheds its rays from the top left-hand corner of the page and a

flock of griffins soar around the two figures; the note reads, "You are my favorite headmaster of all this school," followed by the careful signature of a 1st-grader.

Mr. Glover smiles and tucks the note away, turns to email final approval of drafts for upcoming parent coffee invitations, the Headmaster's Cinema Series flier, and a memo to all teachers reminding them of the importance of turning in prompt requisitions for any repairs needed in their classrooms or work spaces; then off he goes to review the profit-and-loss statement for the school-year-to-date and apprise the trustees of the latest enrollment projection for the coming year (*dinner will have to come later...*)

Forty years is a long time, and these 40 years have comprised not only

countless ordinary days like that described above, but many thorny, even heart-breaking, problems that come with governing a community of humans.

Guiding a program that sets such high standards as Westminster School, while trying to do right by all of the people, great and small, who make up its community, is a job for the best and the strongest among us. What has kept Ellis Glover at this complex, challenging task for all of these years?

A long time ago, Mrs. Goll hired a young man with boundless energy, a fierce sense of rectitude, a dauntless work ethic, and a desperate sense that he could be a creative force in the world if only he could figure out what to do and how to go about it. The two met when his father's construction

Lent his guidance and personal advocacy

to hundreds of 8th grade student applications to high school.



Oversaw the school's successful and ongoing accreditation

by both the Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS) and the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS).

Envisioned, planned, and oversaw construction

of the Jane L. Goll Center for Arts and Athletics, nearly doubling the school's size.

Led staff and parent volunteers

to implement countless events, galas, festivals, and carnivals, including the **Westminster Shakespeare Festival**.



Worked passionately to raise teacher salaries

to competitive levels with area private and public schools, and to increase the benefits that draw and retain high-quality teachers.

Directed development campaigns,

helping over the years to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for Westminster School, and gave generously himself every year.

“He came to understand that the true purpose of education is to draw out of us the very best that we have to offer, and that this happens through the powerful conjunction of nurture and challenge. **Because he himself had experienced it, Mr. Glover grasped the very essence and power of the Westminster philosophy.**



Mr. Glover with Mrs. Lee, celebrating the opening of The Griffin Academy.

company, E. H. Glover, Inc., won the bid for the first phase of the Westminster School building (completed in 1971). Working for his dad during a college summer, the long-haired, rock-and-roll-loving youth was assigned to the Westminster job, pushing wheel barrows of bricks and tiles, installing lockers and classroom paneling, and running errands for the crew.

He and Mrs. Goll continued to cross paths over the next few years, as each phase of Westminster's expansion was also built by E. H. Glover, and the Glovers and the Golls would celebrate each completion with an elegant dinner. Mrs. Goll took note of the young man's polite manners and gentle way with his little sister.

Fast forward a few years: he was out of work (classic father/son friction, the Beatles had not called, driving a taxi hadn't worked out, and an offer to manage a gas station did not appeal) and a buddy per-

suaded him to try substitute teaching. He soon remembered Mrs. Goll saying, "We can always use a good Latin substitute . . ." A short-term classroom stint turned into helping her with all of the end-of-the-school-year activities turned into a permanent job offer.

She admired him, saw his faults clearly and pointed them out when necessary, put him to work on widely disparate projects, insisted that he go back to school (which he did at night for 10 years, stopping by Mrs. Goll's after class for the dinner she kept waiting for him), introduced him to enlightening conversation, books, plays, operas, works of art and travel, and—above all—she saw the great potential lying deep inside him and challenged and encouraged him again and again to bring that potential into reality. Jane Goll changed Ellis Glover's life, opened his mind, elevated his spirit, and empowered him to believe in himself. He was her best student, and he rose

to stand beside her, helping her govern and improve the school she had founded—her life's dream. He came to understand that the true purpose of education is to draw out of us the very best that we have to offer, and that this happens through the powerful conjunction of nurture and challenge. Because he himself had experienced it, Mr. Glover grasped the very essence and power of the Westminster philosophy.

Upon Mrs. Goll's death, for him the devastating loss of his dearest and wisest friend as well as the leader everyone looked up to, Mr. Glover could not allow the torch of Westminster School to fall. In grief and in loyalty, he seized it, raised it high and, in so doing, began to guide himself and to lead others toward the high peaks of knowledge, wisdom, creativity, and the joy to be found in developing one's potential. He has spent four decades striving and encouraging others to strive for these lofty goals. Many times, he has fallen short, grown confused, made mistakes. He has weathered opposition, criticism, even attacks, but he has prevailed. Westminster School continues to open its doors each fall, continues to provide a challenging, classical education steeped in the arts, continues to turn out disciplined, courteous, accomplished, and confident graduates prepared to face the challenges and seize the opportunities of life.

Forty years. Has it been worth it?

Perhaps, somewhere among a 6-year-old's hand-written note, the dazzling eyes of a returning graduate, the fortified parents of a bouncing 11-year-old, the triumphant Shakespeare performances, and a cracked parking lot slated for repair, the answer is waiting to be found.

Mr. Glover, we stand in awe. Congratulations and thank you for 40 years of unparalleled service to Westminster School and those who treasure it. ■

"The happiest life is that which constantly exercises and educates what is best in us."

—Philip Hamerton

2016 AWARDS

And the Winners Are ...

An overview of the year's academic award honorees



ART CONTEST WINNERS

KINDERGARTEN

Honorable Mention
Zara Damiani

Overall Winner
Bethany Gopinath

FIRST & SECOND GRADE

Honorable Mention
Jack Burk
Sabrina Khanna

Overall Winner
Charlotte Reynolds

THIRD & FOURTH GRADE

Honorable Mention
Abbie Lee

Overall Winners
Megan Mills
Kai Wang

FIFTH & SIXTH GRADE

Honorable Mention
Anna Woodbury

Overall Winner
Kayla Kim

SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE

Honorable Mention
Jonathan Breen
Christina Buravtsova
Nikolas Rovira
Prartna Shekar
Philip Wieczorek

Overall Winners
Katherine Chudars
Gelila Yimtatu

OVERALL WINNER, GRADES K-8
Katherine Chudars

DIMES FOR DRAMA

1ST PLACE
Rebecca Popp

2ND PLACE
Matthew Bredbenner

3RD PLACE
Jacob Bredbenner

PENMANSHIP AWARD SECOND GRADE

Madeleine Foster
Sabrina Khanna
Nabeera Yasir

THIRD GRADE
Rhea Massand
Pooja Shekar
Abigail St. Clair
Christian Yetinayet

FIFTH GRADE
Elizabeth Fowler
Karina Sikri

SIXTH GRADE
Samira Abbasi
Eleanor Jacobson

SEVENTH GRADE
Samira Sikri

EIGHTH GRADE
Christina Buravtsova
Kendall McBride

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

KINDERGARTEN
Bethel Alemu

FIRST GRADE

Devin Boakye
Dylan Cespedes
London Ofosu-Dyson
Ajwah Jahangir
Karina Khanna
Mia Lees

SECOND GRADE

Beza Alemu
Matthew Bredbenner
McKinley (Mac) Cronin
Justice Emord
Madeleine Foster
Gavin Goldstein
Sabrina Khanna
Angelina Lin
Joshua Lin
William Townsend
Arleigh Womack, Jr.

THIRD GRADE

Rudy Arispe
Max Castro
Santhony Chan
Tomas Dasek
Ronan Kim
Abigael Lonkeng
Justin Nguyen
Abigail St. Clair
Christian Yetinayet

FOURTH GRADE

Gavin Grant
Haydn House
Hudson House
Abbie Lee
Sebastian Roberts
George William Rose
Lucas Samuel
Andrew Smith

FIFTH GRADE

Helena Bruck
Luke Castro
Arman Harutyunyan
Ella Lauer
Kathryn Sarrge

SIXTH GRADE

Damilola Awofisayo
Deidre Boakye
Michal Dasek
Conor Dillon
Collin Do
Akasha Husnain
Eleanor Jacobson
Allison Joe
Kayla Kim
Min Jun Kim
Joel Lee
Guo Li
Diya Mehta
Alex Rose
Fiona St. Clair
Maya Yetinayet

Soliana Yimtatu

SEVENTH GRADE

Joy Alemu
Blaise Castro
Sara Ghanbari
Anja Klein
Amit Mehta
Allen Nguyen
Michael Pandula
Emily Townsend
Gelila Yimtatu

EIGHTH GRADE

Marc Castro
Kyle Joe
Mahtab Khalon
Ashley Kim
Rebecca Popp
William Walton

THIRD GRADE ACADEMIC AWARDS

ENGLISH

Most Improved
Sidney Le

Highest Achievement
Ronan Kim

MATH

Most Improved
Sophia Wazed

Highest Achievement
Jeremy Lees

HISTORY

Most Improved
Hussain Al-Sadig

Highest Achievement
Ronan Kim
Christian Yetinayet

SCIENCE

Most Improved
Tomas Dasek
Rhea Massand

Highest Achievement
Christian Yetinayet

FRENCH

Most Improved
Lailah Abdul Khaaliq

Highest Achievement
Christian Yetinayet

ART

Most Improved
Anahit Harutyunyan

All-Around Proficiency
Sidney Le

MUSIC

Most Improved
Kenny Pozo

All-Around Proficiency
Tomas Dasek

P.E.

Most Improved
Sophia Wazed
Santhony Chan

Most Outstanding
Artemeez Marzban
Max Castro

FOURTH GRADE ACADEMIC AWARDS

ENGLISH

Most Improved
Nasim Abdul-Khaaliq

Highest Achievement
Natasha Dormont

MATH

Most Improved
Myla Mamani

Highest Achievement
Natasha Dormont
Andrew Smith

HISTORY

Most Improved
Ashley Altekarak

Highest Achievement
Natasha Dormont

SCIENCE

Most Improved
Joshua Little
Myla Mamani

Highest Achievement
Jacob Bredbenner

FRENCH

Most Improved
Sebastian Roberts

Highest Achievement
Natasha Dormont

ART

Most Improved
Joshua Bright

All-Around Proficiency
Owen Nemirow

MUSIC

Most Improved
Sebastian Roberts

All-Around Proficiency
Abbie Lee

P.E.

Most Improved
Liliana Friedman
Sebastian Roberts

Most Outstanding
Abbie Lee
Joshua Little

FIFTH GRADE ACADEMIC AWARDS

ENGLISH

Most Improved
Ethan Owusu

Highest Achievement
Amelia (Mealy) Cronin

MATH

Highest Achievement
Amelia (Mealy) Cronin

HISTORY

Most Improved
Safi Marghub

Highest Achievement
Amelia (Mealy) Cronin

SCIENCE

Highest Achievement
Kayla Kim

FRENCH

Most Improved
Sarah Marghub

Highest Achievement
Amelia (Mealy) Cronin

ART

Most Improved
Kathryn Sarrge

All-Around Proficiency
Kayla Kim

MUSIC

Most Improved
Amelia (Mealy) Cronin

All-Around Proficiency
Kayla Kim

P.E.

Most Improved
Mailan Nguyen
Samuel Leighton

Most Outstanding
Ella Lauer
Ethan Owusu

SIXTH GRADE ACADEMIC AWARDS

ENGLISH

Most Improved
Safeerah Ullah

Highest Achievement
Allison Joe

MATH

Most Improved
Fiona St. Clair

Highest Achievement
Allison Joe

HISTORY

Most Improved
Min Jun Kim

Highest Achievement
Allison Joe

SCIENCE

Most Improved
Benyat Yimaj

Highest Achievement
Eleanor Jacobson
Allison Joe

FRENCH

Most Improved
Deidre Boakye
Min Jun Kim

Highest Achievement
Eleanor Jacobson

ART

Most Improved
Collin Do

All-Around Proficiency
Min Jun Kim

MUSIC

Most Improved
Fiona St. Clair

All-Around Proficiency
Devin Nemirow

P.E.

Most Improved
Fiona St. Clair
Guo Li

Most Outstanding
Maya Yetinayet
Conor Dillon

SEVENTH GRADE ACADEMIC AWARDS

ENGLISH

Most Improved
Anja Klein

Highest Achievement
Dana Christopher

MATH (A1, P1)

Most Improved
Liam Machabee
Emily Townsend

Highest Achievement
Arjun Chopra
Mailinh Nguyen

MATH (ALGEBRA)

Most Improved
Prartna Shekar

Highest Achievement
Joy Alemu
Ryan Mai

HISTORY

Most Improved

Anja Klein
Gerard Resulaj

Highest Achievement

Dana Christopher

SCIENCE

Most Improved

Arjun Chopra

Highest Achievement

Dana Christopher

FRENCH (7A)

Most Improved

Mailinh Nguyen

Highest Achievement

Dana Christopher
Amit Mehta
Samira Sikri

FRENCH (7B)

Most Improved

Anja Klein

Highest Achievement

Aarifah Ullah

LATIN (7A)

Most Improved

Ryan Mai

Highest Achievement

Dana Christopher

LATIN (7B)

Most Improved

Anja Klein

Highest Achievement

Aarifah Ullah

ART

Most Improved

Michael Pandula

All-Around Proficiency

Gelila Yimtatu

MUSIC

Most Improved

Nitara DeLaHaye

All-Around Proficiency

Samira Sikri

P.E.

Most Improved

Joy Alemu
Allen Nguyen

Most Outstanding

Blaise Castro
Amit Mehta

EIGHTH GRADE ACADEMIC AWARDS

ENGLISH

Most Improved

Julien Couraud

Highest Achievement

Kendall McBride

MATH (A1, P2)

Most Improved

Patrick Lee

Highest Achievement

Jalen Bass

MATH (GEOMETRY)

Most Improved

Mahtab Khalon

Highest Achievement

Kendall McBride

HISTORY

Most Improved

Ashley Kim

Highest Achievement

Kendall McBride

SCIENCE

Most Improved

Hudson Reynolds

Highest Achievement

Carder del Rosario

FRENCH (8A)

Most Improved

Hudson Reynolds

Highest Achievement

Kendall McBride

FRENCH (8B)

Most Improved

Kevin Kim

Highest Achievement

William Walton

LATIN (8A)

Most Improved

Hudson Reynolds

Highest Achievement

Kendall McBride

LATIN (8B)

Most Improved

Keaton Ballard
Amirah Banker

Highest Achievement

William Walton

ART

Most Improved

Mohammed Badawi

All-Around Proficiency

Katherine Chudars

MUSIC

Most Improved

Ella Rose Friedman

All-Around Proficiency

Nicole Hisey

P.E.

Most Improved

Ella Rose Friedman
Martin Liou

Most Outstanding

Kendall McBride
Marc Castro

CONTINENTAL MATH LEAGUE

THIRD GRADE

Winner

Jeremy Lees

FOURTH GRADE

Runner-Up

Jacob Bredbenner

Winner

Sebastian Roberts

FIFTH GRADE

Runner-Up

Helena Bruck

Elizabeth Fowler

Winner

Alexander Hearn

SIXTH GRADE

Runner-Up

Allison Joe

Winner

Guo Li

NATIONAL SCIENCE LEAGUE

THIRD GRADE

Santhony Chan

FOURTH GRADE

Gavin Grant
Sebastian Roberts
Samuel Riverson

FIFTH GRADE

Alexander Hearn

SIXTH GRADE

Alex Rose

SEVENTH GRADE

Dana Christopher

EIGHTH GRADE

Carder del Rosario (perfect score)

NATIONAL MYTHOLOGY EXAM

BRONZE MEDAL

Samuel Leighton

SILVER MEDAL

Helena Bruck
Luke Castro
Amelia (Mealy) Cronin
Alexander Hearn
Ella Lauer

GOLD MEDAL

Kayla Kim (perfect score)

NATIONAL FRENCH EXAM

SEVENTH GRADE

Gold:

Amit Mehta
Samira Sikri
Blaise Castro

Silver:

Sara Ghanbari
Dana Christopher
Michael Pandula

Ryan Mai
Allen Nguyen
Gelila Yimtatu
Arjun Chopra
Nitara DeLaHaye

Bronze:

Joy Alemu
Prartna Shekar
Emily Townsend
Aarifah Ullah

EIGHTH GRADE

Gold:

Kendall McBride
Philip Wieczorek

Silver:

Sara Abbasi
Rebecca Popp
Ashley Kim
Christina Buravstova
Julien Couraud

Bronze:

Nicole Hisey
Martin Liou
Kyle Joe
Karim Al-Kouraishi

**FRENCH-JUNIOR NATIONAL
HONOR SOCIETY**

SEVENTH GRADE

Joy Alemu
Blaise Castro
Dana Christopher
Nitara DeLaHaye
Sara Ghanbari
Ryan Mai
Amit Mehta
Allen Nguyen
Mailinh Nguyen
Michael Pandula
Aneri Shah
Prartna Shekar
Samira Sikri
Emily Townsend
Aarifah Ullah
Gelila Yimtatu

EIGHTH GRADE

Maryam Abbasi
Katherine Chudars
Hudson Reynolds
William Walton

NATIONAL LATIN EXAM

SEVENTH GRADE

Joy Alemu
Blaise Castro

Dana Christopher
Arjun Chopra
Nitara DeLaHaye
Sara Ghanbari
Ryan Mai
Amit Mehta
Allen Nguyen
Mailinh Nguyen
Michael Pandula
Aneri Shah
Prartna Shekar
Samira Sikri
Emily Townsend
Aarifah Ullah
Gelila Yimtatu

EIGHTH GRADE

Amirah Banker
Jalen Bass
Jonathan Breen
Christina Buravstova
Marc Castro
Katherine Chudars
Carder del Rosario
Ella Rose Friedman
Jonathan Hearn
Nicole Hisey
Kyle Joe
Ashley Kim
Martin Liou
Kendall McBride
Rebecca Popp
Hudson Reynolds
Ethan Sarrge
William Walton
Philip Wieczorek
Kelvin Zavala

DETENTION AWARDS

THIRD GRADE

Ronan Kim – 0

FOURTH GRADE

Natasha Dormont – 1
Sophia Guralnik – 0

FIFTH GRADE

Nina Breen – 0
Amelia (Mealy) Cronin – 1
Alexander Hearn – 1
Kayla Kim – 0
Mailan Nguyen – 1
Kathryn Sarrge – 1

SIXTH GRADE

Samira Abbasi – 1
Damilola Awofisayo – 1
Allison Joe – 1
Diya Mehta – 1
Devin Nemirow – 0
Shalini Setty – 1
Fiona St. Clair – 1
Soliana Yimtatu – 1

SEVENTH GRADE

Joy Alemu – 0
Arjun Chopra – 0
Amit Mehta – 1
Michael Pandula – 1
Samira Sikri – 1

EIGHTH GRADE

Maryam Abbasi – 1
Sara Abbasi – 1
Carder del Rosario – 0
Ella Rose Friedman – 1
Kyle Joe – 1
Ashley Kim – 1
Kendall McBride – 0
Rebecca Popp – 1
Kelvin Zavala – 1

YEAR-ROUND HONOR ROLL AWARDS

THIRD GRADE

Max Castro
Anahit Harutyunyan
Ronan Kim
Jeremy Lees
Justin Nguyen
Josiah Riverson
Christian Yetinayet

FOURTH GRADE

Jacob Bredbenner
Joshua Bright
Natasha Dormont
Gavin Grant
Sophia Guralnik
Haydn House
Abbie Lee
Joshua Little
Owen Nemirow
Madison Olds
Sebastian Roberts
Andrew Smith
Kai Wang

FIFTH GRADE

Nina Breen
Helena Bruck
Amelia (Mealy) Cronin
Elizabeth Fowler
Alexander Hearn
Kayla Kim
Ella Lauer
Kathryn Sarrge
Karina Sikri
Leyla Ustun

SIXTH GRADE

Samira Abbasi
Damilola Awofisayo
Michal Dasek
Conor Dillon
Jake Fowler
Eleanor Jacobson

Allison Joe
Diya Mehta
Devin Nemirow
Alex Rose
Shalini Setty
Maya Yetinayet
Soliana Yimatu

SEVENTH GRADE

Joy Alemu
Blaise Castro
Dana Christopher
Sara Ghanbari
Ryan Mai
Amit Mehta
Allen Nguyen
Mailinh Nguyen
Michael Pandula
Aneri Shah
Prartna Shekar
Samira Sikri
Aarifah Ullah
Gelila Yimatu

EIGHTH GRADE

Maryam Abbasi
Sara Abbasi
Jalen Bass
Jonathan Breen
Christina Buravtsova
Marc Castro
Katherine Chudars
Carder del Rosario
Nicole Hisey
Ashley Kim
Martin Liou
Kendall McBride
Rebecca Popp
Hudson Reynolds
William Walton
Philip Wieczorek
Kelvin Zavala

YEAR-ROUND HONOR ROLL AWARDS - 24 QUARTERS (GRADES 3-8)

Maryam Abbasi
Sara Abbasi
Jonathan Breen
Christina Buravtsova
Marc Castro
Carder del Rosario
Martin Liou
Kendall McBride
Rebecca Popp
Philip Wieczorek

POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

SEVENTH GRADE

Michael Pandula – *Shakespeare in Love & War*

EIGHTH GRADE

Katherine Chudars – *South Pacific*

KENNETH HATCH AWARD

Joy Alemu
Blaise Castro
Marc Castro
Ella Rose Friedman
Nicole Hisey
Kendall McBride
Rebecca Popp
Hudson Reynolds

D.A.R. AWARD

Rebecca Popp

PRESIDENT'S EDUCATION AWARD

Maryam Abbasi
Sara Abbasi
Jalen Bass
Jonathan Breen
Christina Buravtsova
Marc Castro
Katherine Chudars
Carder del Rosario
Ella Rose Friedman
Kyle Joe
Martin Liou
Kendall McBride
Rebecca Popp
Hudson Reynolds
Philip Wieczorek
Kelvin Zavala

GRIFFIN/CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Marc Castro
Nicole Hisey
Rebecca Popp
Hudson Reynolds

GOLDEN GRIFFIN AWARD

Rebecca Popp ■



2016 POEMS

Headmaster's Poetry Contest Winners

*Award-winning Pegasus student
poems from the 2015-16 school year*

Anger

To be angry sounds like an inferno,
like an animal in a tornado
it tastes like over-cooked steak
smells like a burning tie
looks like a pig getting butchered
feels like lightning zapping you at 200
volts
as quick as a cheetah coming at you
at the speed of sound.

**Max Castro, Grade 3,
(Special Merit)**

Nature's Parade

Nature's patterns are like a piece of art
The autumn leaves sing with the
breeze
The brushing leaves are the maracas
The grass, the strings of the violins
Create an orchestra of peaceful music
The forest trees, sopranos, altos, form
the opera
The rain, the tap dancers' parade
Thunder claps like cymbals from a
giant's hands
Monarch butterfly wings whistle like
flutes
The life cycle of an orchestra

**Anahit Harutyunyan, Grade 3
(Special Merit)**

Feelings are the Frosting

You get angry
Fierce fire shooting flames
Feels like the incense you left burning
Dry ice letting out smoke
A sharp jagged table corner
Disgusting sour syrup

That is all okay

You can be sad
No one should be staring
The peppery bite of the sun
Is let out on your neck
Fluffy snow in your snow pants
Giving you a chill

This is all okay

You can be happy
A nice gentle, bright smile
Flowers blooming
On an orange yellow day
You feel happy and that is okay

**Lailah Abdul Khaaliq, Grade 3
(Best Poem)**

Death Dancer

Destruction
Chaos
Planets are flung into deep space
Collisions
Life dies
In our dance of death
We are absorbed
And we are reborn
We are galaxies

**Gavin Grant, Grade 4
(Special Merit)**

Pitch as Coal

A dark heart that has turned into pitch
coal
Life is lost, hope is too
Pitch black is a box
Sharp strings of knives
Pricking flesh
Time is dreary
a crow's eye, the dead line
comes at once
like when a tsunami crashes over a city
it is a skin of hope
broken in two
Death is the sting of a king cobra's
poison
It is the ticking of a stop watch
Hades himself in disguise
There is a small bit of hope in death
Yes, leaping forward to a new beginning
It is time to set your new wings to the
sky and say,
"I believe
In hope."

**Nasim Abdul Khaaliq, Grade 4
(Special Merit)**

The Runners

I sprint expertly
Catch my prey rapidly
I desire the color red
It makes me think of my victories
My enemies are frightened
Their running slackens
Their legs are weakened
The prey is caught.

**Myla Mamani, Grade 4
(Best Poem)**

Goddesses

On the brink of divinity
Eyes sparkle with curiosity
Receiving strangers
Smile dimples her cheeks
Living goddess

Kneels before her
I'll keep quiet
Receive worship every day
Culture in the valley
The worship of little girls
As living goddesses
Secret ritual
Brightly
Leave her house

**Elisa Mamani, Grade 4
(Special Merit)**

A Flying Football

An orange-brown, stretched out ellipse
spirals to you across
A field on an illuminated day.
Its shadow blankets you more every
second that it comes
Closer to your very own grasp
Your percentage of fear rises every
moment it nears you,
Only to be cushioned by your face
As it reaches its pinnacle, the football
tumbles down to your
Unprotected body, your eyes burning
like they were put on a
Grill from looking so very hard and
long at the flaming ball in
Space.

**Mealy Cronin, 5th Grade
(Special Merit)**

The Dawn of Midnight

For most, it is a time of dreams.
For me, it is a time of wonders.

My shining eyes stare up to the stars.
I see the bright lights twinkling on a
blanket of black.
For me, this is a dawn of a new time.
Midnight!
The clock struck twelve.
I stare up to the sky to find
constellations.
Orion, Big Dipper, Leo, and their friends
all come out to see the world.
Midnight!
Sounds of babies' cries in the night are
only of those of the fox pups looking
for their mom.
If you close your eyes you can hear the
soft steps of the deer walking across
the pavement.
There is a sweet smell-fresh
The air is not yet destroyed by the
day's cars, busses, or people cooking.
No one else around.
Midnight!

The dawn of a new day
The dawn of midnight

Mia Brown, 5th Grade
(Special Merit)

Holidays

Christmas is a lovely time of year.
Halloween, a night of fear
Valentine's-a day for love
Fourth of July with fireworks above
Thanksgiving is for being grateful
Earth Day teaches not to be wasteful
Sadly, Easter hunts are over
On St. Patrick's Day, find a four leaf
clover
New Year's is for a new beginning
And for this poem's ending.

Alex Hearn, 5th Grade
(Best Poem)

The Neverland of My Dreams

Second start to the right and straight
on 'till morning
'Tis there you shall find the neverland
of my dreams dawning
For when I turn to the night sky, to the
star I call my own
To the twinkling constellations. There I
never feel alone
I have a lot to share on this night so
gleamy
My dreams, my wishes, my hopes. So
come, follow me
To the neverland of my dreams

Let's glide away tonight
On the sky of glistened moonlight
For now, we are free
And for now, we have peace

In all my fantasy
I hope for some reality
Like in your reflection,
There should be more than you just
see
For all of us hope.
And we hope that someday
There will be love given to all,
unrestricted, in a way

Maybe it will never happen
Maybe I will never see
Maybe it is all in my imagination
Maybe it's not meant to be

But with you right next to me,
I am close enough
To finding
Neverland

Damilola Awofisayo, 6th Grade
(Special Merit)

Poems

Long, eloquent
Strings of words,
Happy, sad,
Sometimes absurd,
Short, weird,
Often intriguing,
And maybe you'll think of it
While you are sleeping.

Collin Do, 6th Grade
(Special Merit)

Acne

Acne, bacne, why are you here to come
and attack me? Why do you scar
me you're worse than the villain Jafar
you see. Pop, pop, pop, you ooze your
pus,
why do you have something against my
face? Sure it's easy to ace some test,
but how can my face do its best.
No X-out or Proactiv will make me
seem more attractive.
You cover my T-zone and make me feel
like some super villain named
Jone Malone. I can't foresee where you
Will be so just go away.

Samira Abbasi, 6th Grade
(Special Merit)

Different Box

"Is that your neighbor?" the woman
asked.
"What?" "Who?" I look up, and see my
mom
(Is she serious?)
"That's my mom."
Some say we look alike
What is it they see?
Maybe our eyes looking back at them
Our green brown twist.

My mom says people need to see a
resemblance
Two pieces of the same puzzle family

The truth is, we don't look alike
The puzzle piece that is me came from
a different box
The missing piece that filled the empty
space in my mom's heart
Others say, "She is not your real mom."
I think, "Define real mom."

Anja Klein, Grade 7
(Best Poem)

Nervous

Cracked knuckles,
sweaty palms,
as I stand by the door

First day of school,
I'm a wreck,
like never before
Lost some old friends
time to make new ones;
First day of school
is the best day to find some

Hands shaking like maracas,
teeth clenched as I walk down the hall

But I open the door, smile,
and suddenly I'm not nervous at all

Emily Townsend, Grade 7
(Special Merit)

Cancer

You came into existence
One job in mind
To hurt and abuse the people so kind
You steal their vision
And their hair
All the withered bodies
It's just not fair

The many lives lost
Don't matter to you
For my friends Jimmy, George, and Abu
We had enough of your long-time reign
You have caused just too much pain
We are done with all the chemo
The helplessness and dread
So say goodbye to your final years
We will destroy you, me and my peers

Michael Pandula, Grade 7
(Special Merit)

Costume

My heart pumps, but no blood flows
My brain whirs, but my head is empty
My pupils dilate, but I am blind
The strength that I once had is gone
Instead replaced with fear and
uncertainty
My body stands erect, but I am
slumping
My cannons blast, but I am losing the
war
My mouth smiles, but I am crying
But no one knows
Because this all happens underneath
my costume

Ella Rose Friedman, Grade 8
(Special Merit)

Love

Live
On
Vigorous
Energy
Love is something people strive for,
Me? I think it's kind of a bore,
Many see it as a little white dove,
I, however, see it as a thing one should
be deprived of.
While others think of true love,
I say that is a concept unthought of,
They say love is the most beautiful
thing in the world,
I say it is a garbage you can hurl.
And do you want to know the funny
part?
People will say I think like this because
I never met the one who
"filled my heart",
But, I have to admit,
I did meet a person who made this
heart beat a bit,
I won't lie,
This girl made me want to touch the
sky!
Yet, I never went for her,
For I thought these feelings were
something to deter,
I did this mostly because I was the kid
who said "love" in middle school,
And that is only for a high and might
fool.
So, who would want to live on vacant
energy?
The ones who fill that vacancy with
feelings tenderly.
And, I do not think I'm ready for that
just yet,
Heck, I do not think I will ever be ready
for that special duet,
But here is something for the future

Kelvin,
I hope this will make love a thing you
believe in
Live
On
Vigorous
Energy

Kelvin Zavala, Grade 8
(Special Merit)

Mistake

I wasn't meant to be
I am something you shouldn't see
Now they say they care
But our hearts are still bare
I prove useless to the all
And I will never grow tall, only fall
The only thing I ever cared for
Left me and shut the door
I see them all every day
Now most people want me to stay
Why should I stay?
Because maybe one day
She might open the door
And I could be the one she cares for
Then I wouldn't fall
I wouldn't be useless to them all
And my heart wouldn't be bare
They finally might care
I would become something they all see
But deep down, I wasn't meant to be.

Ethan Sarrge, Grade 8
(Best Poem)

You

I remember how things used to be,
When everything was carefree,

You controlled the world at your own
pace,
But always with a warm smile on your
face.
You would make your laugh contagious,
Oh how it was outrageous,
Like nothing in the world was wrong.
But then you disappeared,
and vanished into the air,
you pushed me to the ground,
and shattered me to pieces,
you abandoned our ship,
leaving me lost at sea.
But you taught me,
You taught me to stand up,
And get glued back together,
To sail our ship home,
and to rebuild my crystal staircase,
and extend it to a new level.

Kendall McBride, Grade 8
(Special Merit)

Burden

I carry your burden with me,
Everywhere I go, I do what you need
And you seem to pay me no heed.
Affection through still existent, wanes
by the day,
Soon will be gone as it fades away.

The beginning was heaven, I was light
hearted
But now I am light headed.
Abandonment replaced attachment,
Endearment becoming transparent,
Now the result is disastrous for me,
For I still respond to your every plea.

Philip Wieczorek, Grade 8
(Special Merit) ■

Mrs. Nelson Retires After 13 Years

After a long career in business management, the last 13 of them as Westminster's Business Manager, Mrs. Dolores Nelson retired in July 2016. After juggling the needs of Westminster with those of her family for several years, Mrs. Nelson has finally stepped away from her professional career in order to care for her ailing husband and others who depend on her.



As Business Manager, Mrs. Nelson oversaw the school's financial and human resource programs, directing the small staff

fondly referred to as "the Stone House people." Mrs. Nelson also served as Treasurer and Secretary of Westminster's Board of Trustees, providing timely financial information to the Board, and working closely with its Finance Committee to ensure Westminster's financial integrity and help plan for the future. She will continue to serve as Secretary to the Board. Mrs. Nelson's service has been characterized by outstanding diligence, dependability, and determination to help Westminster School in any way possible.

In addition to her value as an administrator, Mrs. Nelson has endeared herself to the Westminster community through her unflinching kindness and good cheer. She has delighted in the achievements of the students, especially enjoying their drama and music performances. A musician herself, Mrs. Nelson has shared her piano expertise at staff talent shows. Always an enthusiastic participant in school life, she has sported her share of spirit wear, Halloween costumes, and Hat Day chapeaux.

Her sweet smile and beaming eyes will be missed on a daily basis, but we look forward to seeing her at many school events in the coming years. ■

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