

BCCS Lower School News

Issue #4

June 2019

End of the Year Dance

By Shannon Durant and Erin Tracey

Everyone knows about the fun Halloween Dance that the BCCS lower school had in October but that was going to be the first and last dance of the year. Both sixth and fifth-grade students had a really great time but they also knew that there wasn't going to be another event like this until next year. Therefore, we as students think that there should be an end of the year dance for the hardworking fifth and sixth graders at the BCCS lower school. This would be a great chance for students to spend time with friends before summer vacation starts. It would also be the perfect opportunity for the sixth graders because not all of the students will be going to the upper school next year.

Besides socializing with friends, this dance will be a great way to celebrate everything the students and teachers have accomplished this year. We were thinking that this event could take place on June 14, the last Friday Boston Collegiate has as a school for the 2018-19 school year. We thought this would be a good time because it would leave time to plan the dance and it is really close to the beginning of summer vacation. If this isn't possible, we would hope you keep this idea in mind for next year.



We had some interviews with four kids from each sixth grade advisory. This is what they had to say...

Q and A for Students

Gavin Carey from Lake Forest 6, Ruth Reid from BC 6, Camryn Coutts from Amherst 6, and Ronan Mitchell from Haverford 6 answered the following questions:

Q1: How do you feel about leaving the BCCS lower school and your teachers?

Gavin: I feel sad because I'm leaving the teachers.

Ruth: Sad because I've been here for a while and got attached to the school and staff.

Camryn: It's very sad because I love my teachers.

Ronan: I'm a bit upset about leaving but I'm excited for what the future holds.

Q2: What do you plan to do as a student at the upper school moving forward?

Gavin: I plan to aim for first honor roll.

Ruth: I plan to run for class president and do many elections and interviews.

Camryn: I plan to create new relationships with new teachers.

Ronan: I plan to get good grades and graduate high school.

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Q3: Next year, if you are not moving to the upper school, what school are you going to? How does it make you feel? Or, if you are staying and your friends are leaving, how does that make you feel?

Gavin: I am staying at BCCS but I am sad to let go of a lot of close friends.

Ruth: Sad but happy because my friends are moving away to another school. (BLS, BLA or some other charter school in Boston.)

Ronan: Next year, I'm going to BLA and it makes me excited to have a new start.

Q4: Do you think there should be one more event to spend time with your BCCS friends? Please explain your answer.

Gavin: I do because you're going to be having a fun time with your friends one last time at the lower school.

Ruth: Yes because most people have been here for two years and are accustomed to the way the school works and the staff and teachers. Many people will enjoy a get-together. Since the sixth graders have a Stepping Up ceremony, this could be one big "stepping up" party/get-together for both grades.

Camryn: Yes I do because I want to see my friends one last time if they are not going to the upper school.

Ronan: Yes I do because over the past two years, I've really made some good friends and I think there should be one more event for us to spend time together.

Women in Sports

By Kate Hagenbuch and Isabel Sheppeck

There are many women that you might know only as great athletes but they are also great people. They have worked to make the sports they play fair for all genders. They have single-handedly (sometimes multi-handedly) changed the way women and girls around the world participate in sports.

One of those women is Venus Williams, a professional tennis player. She was able to get equal prize money for women in the Wimbledon tennis tournament. In 2007, in a comment published in the *London Times*, she quoted roughly that the Wimbledon prize money system isn't based on the skill of players and that it diminishes all the years of work that the women in the tournament put in to be a part of this tour. Her quote prompted a



representative in Parliament to bring the issue up, which resulted in the Prime Minister enforcing equal pay in the tournament.

Another team of women looking for equal pay is the U.S. Women's National Team (USWNT). The team filed a lawsuit against U.S. Soccer for gender discrimination. The lawsuit hasn't been successful yet because it is still continuing. Now, let's look at the stats:

1. The lawsuit says that, "if each team played 20 friendlies in a year and each team won all twenty friendlies, female WNT players would earn a maximum of \$99,000 or \$4,950 per game, while male MNT players [in a similar situation]

would earn an average of \$263,320 or \$13,166 per game against the various levels of competition they would face [this is not going to happen, the men's team is currently ranked 24 worldwide].”

2. The USWNT has won 3 out of 7 Women's World Cups.
3. They have won 4 Olympic gold medals.
4. They have won eight CONCACAF gold cups, a qualifying tournament for the World Cup.
5. And they have won 10 Algarve cups, one of the most well-respected and longest-running tournaments for women.

The U.S. men can't even begin to compare to this status. This is terrible pay discrimination. Do you think this is fair?

A team facing a similar situation is the National Women's Hockey Team. They are currently boycotting the North American Pro League. They have even better reasons to boycott. There is no health insurance, and the team's salaries can get as low as \$2,000 per season. Some teammates have to work full time jobs to play. These are horrible conditions that no one should have to work in. The boycott is also related to the closing of the only other North American women's hockey league, the Canadian Women's Hockey League. They aren't the best option either, though, because they offered only a \$100,000 of maximum salary. The men's team gets a grand maximum \$79.5 million dollars. These women are changing the world of hockey.

These incredible women are inspirational and motivating. Stand with them in the fight for equality for women! In conclusion, these women are important because they determine the future for girls and boys who aspire to be great athletes and who want athletic equality.

Celebrating Teacher Inspiration

By Aneesah Edwards, Izai Mehciz, and Jason Chavez Mendez

Have you ever had questions about teachers that you never knew the answer to? Well, in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week in May, here are some answers to your questions. The teachers we asked were Ms. Maitland, Ms. Gaine, Mr. Gilbert, Ms. Porter, Mr. Eder, and Ms. Duggan. These are the questions and their answers.



Q: What inspired you to become a teacher?

Ms. Maitland: Growing up, my brother's school was hard so me and him usually had to go to tutoring with a teacher. So, I would say my brother and his tutoring teacher.

Ms. Gaine: I love working with children. My own daughter and the love of education in me really inspired me to become a teacher.

Mr. Gilbert: Growing up I always had fantastic teachers. I went to an all-boys independent school outside Philadelphia from grades 5-12 and some of the adults that had the biggest impact in my life were my teachers and coaches. I always had a good relationship with education and all those special people who taught me, so I think I really enjoyed the idea of having the exact same experience with students of my own.

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Ms. Porter: To be honest, I didn't know that I wanted to be a teacher. I earned my degree in biology and thought that I would work in a lab when I graduated.

Mr. Eder: I love being around kids.

Ms. Duggan: I really love science and loved working with kids so it was a perfect.

Q: Did you want to be a teacher from the beginning?

Ms. Maitland: When I was 10-12 I wanted to but I don't want to be a teacher forever. I eventually want to be an education consultant.

Ms. Gaine: Yes, when I was younger I wanted to become either a lawyer or a teacher.

Mr. Gilbert: At BC, I studied film production and creative writing. I double majored in both English and Film Studies, so I always had a dream to write for the big movies in Hollywood. Some part of my teaching career has always involved creative writing, screenwriting, movie-making, or digital literacy. But I definitely always had a dream to write, direct, or produce movies for the big screen. I still do!

Ms. Porter: During my last semester at school, I applied to both the Peace Corps and Teach for America (TFA). The Peace Corps is an organization that places people in all parts of the world to solve problems and help people. TFA is a teaching program that places you in schools around the country where there are not enough teachers. My first choice was to be in the Peace Corps, but when they placed me in Northern Siberia, I needed to decline. I can't be in the cold weather for very long, so that wouldn't be a very good place for me. I got into

TFA a week later and moved to Houston, TX where I would teach for the next two years.

Mr. Eder: Yes, since I was in college.

Q: What is one of your favorite things about teaching?

Ms. Maitland: Talking to new students would definitely be one of my favorite things about teaching because I get to learn new things.

Ms. Gaine: When students learn something new by me helping them learn.

Mr. Gilbert: I love working with young people who are developing their craft. Being around young people when they discover what makes them happy or what they're good at doing is probably the best feeling in the world. I think that's why I love teaching so much. And if a younger person doesn't know those things, that's okay, too, because it's my job to help!

Ms. Porter: I think that it is super cool that I have taught over 1000 kids here at BCCS, and that each day there is something different that is new and exciting in my class. Things that I don't think about in science are shared with me by my students, and I learn more each day.

Mr. Eder: I love it when kids get inspired.

Ms. Duggan: Seeing when kids get excited about solving problems or doing science

Q: If you could teach another subject, what would it be?

Ms. Maitland: I would teach Art because it is related to history, especially during the Boston Massacre.

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Ms. Gaine: I would teach ELA because there are always new stories in ELA.

Mr. Gilbert: I love teaching digital multimedia or filmmaking. Anything digital or computer based can be really fun and make you super successful when you're older. I love teaching that -- especially the process of making movies. Writing down your idea, casting actors, directing them on set, capturing their performance, and then editing it all together on the computer is such a dynamic process.

Ms. Porter: I think I would want to teach a lower grade than 5th grade. That way, I could teach all of the subjects together.

Mr. Eder: Probably ELA because I love to read.

Q: Were you ever a teacher at another school?

Ms. Maitland: Yes, I taught in Philadelphia at Saint Martin of Tours. I taught 3rd grade there and I taught in China. Fun fact - I still remember a student whom I taught in China!

Ms. Gaine: Yes, I used to work at Point Webster middle school in Quincy. I worked in special ed. I loved it, but they had a massive teacher strike and layoff. They went by seniority, which means they laid off everyone who was new. I had been there 7 years, but sadly I was also one of the teachers to get a pink slip (a letter letting you know you have been chosen to be laid off). However, I'm still close with some teachers from that school, such as the gym teacher who now teaches and coaches girls basketball and volleyball and who has won a bunch of championships. I also still see some of the kids, now in their 20s, but

they still remember me. I once saw one of them while buying a Christmas tree!

Mr. Gilbert: I was a 5th grade intern at the Chestnut Hill School in Chestnut Hill, MA (where Mr. Parker went to Lower School!), and I was a program director for students in grades 8-12 for filmmaking, graphic design, and web development at King School in Stamford, CT. I also spent some time working in the career center for Boston Latin Academy in Dorchester.

Ms. Porter: I taught in Houston, TX and Washington, D.C.

Mr. Eder: Yes, I used to teach at YAYA (Young Aspirations Young Artists) in New Orleans. It was a high school.

Ms. Duggan: I taught at Stem Prep Academy in Nashville.

Q: Have you had any other job other than teaching?

Ms. Maitland: I worked at a gym, I was a lifeguard and took a course learning how to be a lifeguard.

Ms. Gaine: Yes, I had 5 other jobs while being a teacher. I was a waitress, bartender, hairdresser, health care worker, and a caterer.

Mr. Gilbert: In high school, I worked at Marshalls! I also worked as a lab technician at a facility that tested for asbestos, lead, and mold (My dad is an Asbestos Safety Technician and used to work a second part time job at the same place to help pay for school). I was also a youth baseball umpire for over 10 years. In college, I worked in the dining

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hall prepping food and taking out garbage, made promotional videos for Boston College, and worked as a teaching assistant in the film department. I also worked for a production company that produced social justice documentaries out of Babson College. It was super fun and an awesome experience.

Ms. Porter: No. I've been teaching for 20 years!

Mr. Eder: Yes, a million! I used to work at a fish factory in Alaska.

Ms. Duggan: Not since college, but I was a gymnastics coach, and in the summers I trained new teachers.

Q: Have you ever taught another grade before?

Ms. Maitland: 3rd, 5th and 6th are the only grades I taught in my career.

Ms. Gaine: Yes, I have taught many grades, but my favorite is 5th and 6th because you get to welcome students to a new school.

Mr. Gilbert: I was a substitute 1st and 3rd grade teacher, a 5th grade teaching intern, and an instructor/advisor for grades 8-12. This is my first year teaching 6th grade!

Ms. Porter: I taught high school biology and chemistry in Houston, 7th and 8th grade science in Washington, D.C., and 5th grade here at BCCS.

Mr. Eder: Yes, I have taught every single grade and I've taught senior citizens.

Ms. Duggan: Yes, I taught fifth grade for two years.

Endangered Species

By Claire Amador, Audrey Baehrend, and Zahra McGill

Saola

The 4th most endangered species in the *world* are Saolas. They are so rare they are almost mythical. For this reason they are often called Asian Unicorns. They are like huge deer and look a bit like antelopes too. They are extremely endangered mainly because humans are hunting them for their horns but they are also becoming endangered because tigers are one of their main predators. They are herbivores and eat mostly plants. Since there aren't very many left it's hard to tell that they change vegetation in their habitat. They only live for about 8-11 years and there are only a few hundred left. Both males and females have long, sharp, parallel positioned horns that can reach 20 inches in length. They look like bigger deer and are dark brown. They

have distinctive white spots on their head. They can be between 59 and 77 inches long and can weigh between 176 to 220 pounds.



Pangolins

Pangolins are little creatures that are shy and look a little like armadillos. They are the most endangered animal. Pangolins are taken from the wild, illegally, and killed every 5 minutes. That is 300 pangolins captured and killed every day. One reason they are endangered is because of their meat and scales. Their scales are worth up to an

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astounding \$3,000 per kilogram and a shipment is worth \$1.427 million and that's only one shipment. Their meat and scales are used as medicine in Asia and Africa. They are also sometimes used in restaurants in China. They are brought to the table alive, just to be killed in front of the paying customer. They are so rare that the San Diego Zoo is the only zoo in North America that has a pangolin. One way you can help the fight to save pangolins is you can



donate money. If you can't donate, then you should tell all of your friends, family, random people or whatever, just spread the word!

Penguins

Penguins are classified as an endangered species because most penguin colonies will have lost half of their population by the end of the century. A penguin is a black and white flightless seabird, and there are various types of penguins, such as African Penguins, Emperor Penguins, and Chinstrap Penguins. In some regions nearly 80% of the population have decreased because of climate change, which is also known as global warming. There are only about 12 million penguins left in Antarctica. Penguins such as Emperor and King Penguins lay single eggs after mating. However, all other species of penguins lay two eggs. Some things to help the poor penguins is to take action and help wildlife, stop pollution, and speak up for wildlife. Bringing awareness to your community can also help spread the word! There is a day that celebrates penguins, called



Penguin Awareness day, on January 20th.

Marvel Recap

By Aidan Hegarty and Sammie Wynn
(with additional reporting by Matthew Amador)



After the release of *Avengers Endgame*, which is on the verge of becoming the most popular movie of all time, it all started with the release of *Iron Man* in 2008. So far there have been 22 *Avengers* movies, including *Endgame*.

Before we dive deep, let me explain about these things called the Infinity Stones created by the cosmic entities. There are six Infinity Stones. The six stones are called the Time Stone, the Mind Stone, the Reality Stone, the Space Stone, the Power Stone, and the Soul Stone. The Time Stone lets you control time. The Mind Stone lets you control people's minds. The Reality Stone lets you mess with the surrounding space. The Space Stone lets you teleport to places. The Power Stone lets you have a lot of strength and telekinesis. Last but not least, the Soul Stone lets you see people's souls. Here is a recap of the earlier movies that will give you a good review of the stories before seeing the newer movies.

2008 *Iron Man*: Tony Stark, a billionaire and genius, shows the US army his new weapon in enemy territory.

Then, Tony gets attacked and raided by US enemies. Thankfully Tony survives but he gets held hostage and a



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piece of metal is so close to his heart that he needs a magnet so it doesn't get into his heart and that's why he has his arc reactor. He then made a special robot suit to escape (he later calls the suit Iron Man Mark 1). After the incident, he decides to stop making weapons and to make iron man suits to stop terrorists. It turns out his partner, Jeff Bridges, is very jealous of him and told the terrorists to kill Iron Man. Jeff builds a bigger version of Iron Mark 1 called the Iron Monger. Thankfully, Iron Man saves the day.

2009 *The Incredible Hulk*: A guy named Bruce Banner tries to replicate a super soldier serum with radiation. It fails and when Bruce is angry, he turns into a green monster nicknamed "The Hulk." Then, the government uses the Hulk and



his blood to make super soldiers.

After the hulk has been found, a surviving soldier is taken into a lab to

get injected by the correct super soldier serum. After another Hulk attack, Bruce goes to New York to find a scientist who can get rid of the Hulk. The government comes there and the soldier who has the super soldier gets the Hulk's blood and becomes an Abomination (literally, that's his name) and attacks the city. However, Hulk saves the day.

2010 *Iron Man 2*: After Tony informs everyone that he is Iron Man, the military wants to use his technology for war and people want to discover his secrets. His palladium arc reactor also is poisoning him and putting him in a drunk-like state and he makes a new element. Iron Man, Black Widow, a former Russian spy,

and War Machine, Iron Man Mark 2 with cannons on him, save the day.

2011 *Captain America The First Avenger*: In World War 2, Steve Rogers tries to join the army but he's too weak. He joins the super soldier experiment. He gets the super soldier serum and fights Hydra, the Nazis' science department, and Red Skull, who has the Tesseract, the Space Stone. At the end, Red Skull goes through a wormhole while holding the Tesseract and Captain America saves the day by driving a plane with bombs to the arctic but gets frozen in ice and the Tesseract falls into the Arctic Ocean.



2011 *Thor*: Thor, god of thunder, is about to inherit the throne in Asgard, one of the 9 realms, from his father, Odin. However, on the same day as his crowning, the Frost giants, Asgard's enemies, attack Asgard. After starting a war with them, Odin gets angry and banishes Thor to Earth where Jane Foster and Erik Selvig find and befriend him. S.H.I.E.L.D. (Strategic Homeland Intervention, Enforcement and Logistics Division), basically FBI but it deals with superhuman and supernatural beings, interrogates Thor. In Asgard, Loki, god of mischief and Thor's brother, puts Odin in a deep sleep and convinces Thor that Odin is dead. Thor's friends tell him that Loki is lying. It turns out that Loki actually sent the Frost giants to Asgard. Thor and his friends, including Heimdall, the master of the bifrost path, the way you get to places in Asgard, defeat the Frost giants but Loki gets away and



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S.H.I.E.L.D and Thor become allies.

2012 *The Avengers*: S.H.I.E.L.D tests out the Tesseract, which was found by Iron Man's dad. The Tesseract sends out a portal which Loki, with his scepter containing the Mind Stone, enters. Loki manages to brainwash Erik Selvig, who tested out the Tesseract, and Clint Barton, an agent of S.H.I.E.L.D and nicknamed Hawkeye. After the S.H.I.E.L.D base collapsed, Nick Fury, an agent of S.H.I.E.L.D, calls S.H.I.E.L.D to let them know that the Avengers need to assemble. So they assembled Bruce Banner, Natasha Romanoff, an agent of S.H.I.E.L.D nicknamed Black Widow, Tony Stark, and Steve Rogers, who got thawed out by S.H.I.E.L.D, meeting up in S.H.I.E.L.D's helicarrier, an aircraft carrier that can fly. Meanwhile, Loki convinces the Other, a ruler of the alien race the Chitauri, for Loki to lead an army of them. In Germany, Loki terrorizes people for them to kneel to him but Captain America fights off Loki with Black Widow in a quinjet, S.H.I.E.L.D's advance jets. Then, Iron Man comes in and traps Loki. When bringing back Loki, Thor steals Loki so Thor, Captain America, an Iron Man fight. They makeup and Thor joins the Avengers. However, Loki's posse of Hawkeye, Erik Selvig, and brainwashed soldiers attack the Helicarrier, setting off the Hulk, freeing Loki, and Thor gets trapped. However, they assemble again in New York, fight off Loki's army of aliens, and save the day by Iron Man who drove a nuke missile into the mothership of the aliens.



And don't forget...

END-OF-YEAR BOOK SWAP

WHO: All Current **5th-Grade** Students

WHEN: Friday, **June 14th** during 5th or 6th pd. ELA

HOW: If possible, bring **1+ books from your own collection** at home (w/permission) that you've finished or no longer want.

Bring donation book/s anytime during the week of **Mon. 6/10**.

Every student, even if unable to donate, will go home with 1+ book for the summer.

We will also have an **optional children's book swap**, for students to get books to read with younger siblings/cousins! Bring a **picture book** if you'd like to participate in this swap.

We will also be hosting an optional **Summer Book Swap, July 17th** at the LS. Look for the similar **blue** flyer on the reverse side for more info!

You're Invited to a... SUMMER BOOK SWAP

WHO: BCCS Students Entering **6th OR 7th** Grade Next Year
Plus parents/caregivers. Siblings are welcome, too!

WHEN: Wednesday, **July 17th**; 5-7 PM
Come right at 5, or drop by anytime before 7.

WHERE: BCCS LS Library

WHY: To **visit** with friends/teachers, get fresh **books** to read the final 5 weeks of summer, and enjoy **ice cream** treats!

HOW: Bring **1+ books** you've finished or no longer want.
(These can be books **we** provided you, OR from your **own** collection.)
We will also have a small selection of **children's books** to swap, for younger siblings/cousins.
Bring **1+ picture books** to participate in this particular swap!

RSVP / MORE INFO: Email Ms. Hafferkamp, Ms. JB, or Ms. Downes

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Have a great summer!