

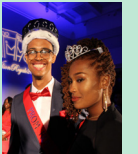
“The Tigers have shown that they know how to win on the rivers, fields, and tracks.”  
-Ben Korn P. 10



“It’s about incorporating art and design into a business major.”  
-Jane Martin P. 6



Check out the prom collage! P. 11



# Woodrow Wilson High School THE BEACON

June 5, 2015

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VOLUME 78 ISSUE 9

## DCPS Announces New Principal

**Eden Breslow**  
**Erin Doherty**  
**Zach Essig**  
Junior Editor  
Co-Editor in Chief  
News Editor

The nearly six-month wait is over. Chancellor Kaya Henderson announced on June 2 that Kimberly Martin, described as “scholarly,” will be Wilson’s new principal. Henderson and a Wilson selection committee unanimously voted in favor of Martin this past week.

The committee, comprised of elected parents, two students, and Instructional Superintendent Dan Shea, met with three prospective principals. “I thought it [the interviews] went really well with lots of good input from teachers, staff, parents and students,” said freshman Ben Korn, one of the student representatives.

PTSO President and fellow panel member Kim Bayliss is also excited about the result of the selection. “She just had a demeanor and a style that was no nonsense and you could just see her fitting in with the community,” Bayliss said. She characterized Martin as scholarly.

Once the representatives indicated their preference,



Photo by Christina Capasso/ Aspen Journalism—used with permission

**NEW PRINCIPAL MOVES MOUNTAINS - Wilson’s new principal, Kimberly Martin, pictured at Aspen High School, Colorado. She will begin at Wilson on June 29. Martin is, “looking forward to being part of this school that has a robust community.”**

the decision was sent to Kaya Henderson for approval. Approval was granted, and Martin will officially start as Wilson’s new principal on June 29.

Martin is a longtime educator who previously acted as principal of Thomas W. Harvey High School in Ohio and, more recently, Aspen High School in Colorado. Born in Ohio, she graduated from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. She got a master’s degree in education from John Carroll

University and worked towards a doctorate degree in urban education and policy studies at Cleveland State University. Despite her recent decision to move to DC, she said she still plans to work on her doctorate while principal of Wilson.

Although DCPS introduced her to the entire Wilson community as Dr. Martin, Bayliss said that is a mistake as her dissertation is incomplete. DCPS later sent a revised email that referred to the new principal as Ms. Martin.

Martin’s decision to move to DC began on May 6 when she was offered a position as a DCPS principal and was selected for the Wilson slot a few weeks later.

Martin, who was incredibly responsive to Beacon queries on the first morning of the announcement, believes that DCPS and urban schools across the country are improving. She also noted that the reform efforts that are taking place in DCPS are unparalleled. “I want to be a leader of the reform,”

Martin said, adding that Henderson is an inspiration. “The most important educator in our country right now is Kaya Henderson.”

The new principal does not plan to make any changes right off the bat. “I have to meet people, understand what people want,” Martin said. She also said that Wilson is already a “fantastic” school that contains all of the pieces needed to excel. She appreciates that Wilson can only succeed through collaboration with the existing Wilson administration.

When asked about important issues facing Wilson, such as overcrowding, she said she was not aware of that yet. Martin will assess the issues at hand when she arrives. “All decisions should be made based on student learning,” Martin said about her personal philosophy.

Martin hopes to meet as much of the Wilson community and student population as possible over the summer in order to have a smooth transition when school starts in the fall. Her student-first philosophy was highlighted when at the conclusion of the interview, she suggested with a chuckle, “text me.” •

## Tigers to Change Trademark

**Emily Morin**  
Contributor

Wilson is no longer able to use its green tiger graphic due to a copyright issue with nearby Towson University. Interim Principal Gregory Bargeman told all staff to discontinue its use on May 19, after being informed of the issue by DCPS lawyers.

To the untrained eye the only difference between the two logos is the color: the Wilson tiger is green while Towson’s is yellow. However, upon closer inspection it appears that other details are different: the Towson logo comes straight back to a point while the Wilson logo appears to fray off. Despite these minute differences, Towson’s lawyers decided Wilson is in violation of the copyright. Wilson has agreed to stop using the logo on new merchandise and to begin

phasing out sale of items already printed with the Towson look-alike logo.

Towson contacted DCPS about the issue this fall, and Wilson administrators were informed as early as September. Head athletic director Mitch Gore came to Wilson in 2010 and was unaware of the misconduct in using the logo, saying that it had already been in use under former athletic director Mike Burnell. No fingers were pointed, but the assumption is that whoever decided to create a logo similar to Towson’s did so without knowing of the copyright.

Gore wishes he “could go back and just talk to Towson,” believing that a simple conversation about consent could have prevented this whole ordeal.

The tiger is not the only Wilson logo that is shared with others. The curly “W” which is seen on the boys baseball team caps and other Wilson gear is the same logo used by the Washington Nationals. However, Wilson began using the curly “W” in 1993 while under the athletic director leadership of Eddie Saah, making it fair game for Wilson’s use.

Gore has notified all Wilson suppliers that the logo cannot be used anymore.

Changes have also been made to the student athletic awards, which now depict the school seal rather than the copyrighted tiger.

Discussion of a new logo has been brought up with art teacher Avram Walters, including the possibility of a student art contest to replace the Towson tiger. •



## DC Council Allocates New Funds to Wilson

**Emma Buzbee**  
News Editor

Nine hundred thousand additional dollars are intended to be added to Wilson’s 2015-2016 budget, announced Ward 3 State Board of Education member Ruth Wattenberg last Thursday. The \$900,000 will restore half of Wilson’s budget cuts, and was the amount requested by Wilson’s PTSO.

According to Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Cheh, the Committee on Education and the DC Council added a total of \$1.2 million into the DCPS Enrollment Fund. The money will be split between Wilson and Ballou High School. “Everybody understands that \$200,000 is for Ballou and the balance, or at least \$900,000, is for Wilson,” Cheh said.

Cheh acknowledged that there is “always the possibility

that the chancellor could not allocate it quite that way.” She hopes the budget money does not deviate from the DC Council’s plan.

DCPS announced in March that Wilson’s budget for the upcoming school year would be cut by \$1.8 million. The Wilson PTSO, along with the help of Cheh, organized a protest movement against the budget cuts. Members of the Wilson community signed a petition against the cuts, testified to the DC Council, and tweeted their disapproval at Chancellor of Education Kaya Henderson and Mayor Muriel Bowser.

Cheh believes the new budget money would not have happened without the community group, parents, and students. Former Wilson parent Matt Frumin said that

**CONT. ON PG 3**



# Wilson Says Goodbye to Faculty

Lena Frumin, Communications Director

Mary Beth Waits, Assistant Principal



Ms. Frumin, faculty member and mother of two Wilson graduates, has enjoyed working with the alumni network and keeping students, faculty, and parents informed about what's going on in Wilson's community. Reviving Wilson's history has also been one of her favorite experiences here, as she has been able to watch students engage in and learn from Wilson's past.

Advice: "Join the listserv to stay informed! And join Twitter!"



"Best memory... I think that there's too many to come up with one. But I think that the first year I was at Wilson I had won Wacky Tacky Day. I looked like a psychotic, on acid, crazy person - I mean literally, orange and pink socks, two different colored shoes, green-and-brown striped pants, Hawaiian shirt that was red and purple and whatever and a turquoise and purple headband with my hair spiked up... But I was new to Wilson, and when I came in and sold out for Wacky Tacky Day my first year, that's when I felt the students first accepting me. They were like, 'If she's willing to go out for that, she's okay.'"

Advice: "Whatever you do, own it."

Mary Ann Zehr, Bilingual Education Teacher



Zehr is finishing her fourth year at Wilson. Her most memorable experience here was seeing her students read certain books and then getting to meet the authors.

Advice: "Students should understand that everyone has something to say and only that person can say it. As a teenager you have a voice and your voice is really important."

Patrick O'Steen, Science Education Teacher

O' Steen has been teaching at Wilson for seven years. His most memorable experiences is the end of the year when seniors graduate, because a lot of times he taught them as freshmen or sophomores and developed relationships. He also likes to see kids off to the next stage in life.

Advice: "You should jump on opportunities whenever they arise, and that's what I am doing right now in my life. Life is too short to not take a chance on things, even if they're difficult, so it's always worth it to go for it."



Keith Downing, World Language Teacher

Downing has been teaching for two years. His most memorable experience is the growth he's seen in the students who took Spanish for the first time with him and how much Spanish they could use by the end of the school year.

Advice: "Keep trying hard. You are not going to accomplish anything major overnight - just keep working through any issues that you have and good things will come your way."



Rowena Njie, World Language Teacher

This was Njie's second year at Wilson. Her most memorable experience is seeing how students can accomplish anything when they put their minds to it.

Advice: "Never compare yourself to your peers. Some people learn at different paces and just because someone understands something quicker than you does not mean you can't understand it as well as them. Sometimes it will take you a little longer but that does not matter."



Sandra Wright, English Teacher



Wright's highlights at Wilson include being the mentor of L.A.V.A., an award winning literary magazine that has been at Wilson for nine years. She also enjoyed the incredible local and international field trips that she attended as a teacher, including two trips to Italy. In addition, she loved hearing from former students who say they were "over prepared" for college.

Advice: "Before you start your summer fun, go to the bookstore. You will flourish if you are well read."

In addition to those pictured, the following staff will also not be returning to Wilson next year: Special Education teacher Rondrea Bobo, College and Career Center Coordinator Sandy Bean, JROTC Academy lead teacher Colonel Scotti, art teacher Roberto DeCarvalho, administrative aid Jill Roos, and science teacher Leslie Maddox.

Photos by Narmin Alimammadova  
Compiled by Zach Essig and Narmin Alimammadova

# Wilson's New Grading System Is Out of This World

**Danielle Breslow**  
Junior Editor

Interim Principal Gregory Bargeman says that starting next year, Wilson plans to use Jupiter Grades as the sole online grading system for Wilson teachers.

Instructional coach David Thompson, who worked with Bargeman to select Jupiter Grades, says it "has many online, testing, posting, and feedback features that make Jupiter Grades a far superior product to the current program Wilson officially supports, Edline."

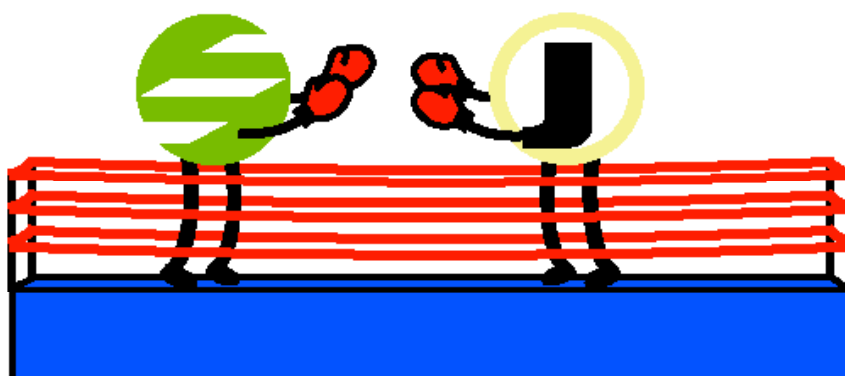
The current use of several different grading websites makes checking grades and staying up to date on homework assignments unnecessarily complicated for students. Edline, Jupiter Grades, and Schoology are the primary websites where students access their grades and

homework assignments. "It's kind of annoying that Wilson doesn't just use one [grading website]," says sophomore Nathalie Mitchell, "I hate having to switch for each class."

Edline is the most commonly used grading system by teachers. Though the administration did not require grading through Edline, "most teachers have used Edline the past four years," Thompson says.

Many students find Edline a helpful tool in staying informed about their grades. "It gives me an easy access to my grades," junior Tatyana Thorne says.

When it comes to Schoology, freshman Erin Keegan is happy that it is unpopular among teachers. "It's complicated to use and only one of my teachers



uses it," she says.

Sophomore Lidia Solorzano disagrees, arguing that Schoology is better than both Edline and Jupiter Grades: "I like the way it's formatted and it's good for looking at grades, submitting work and communicating to teachers."

Science teacher Danielle Krafft thinks Jupiter Grades is the better website for grading students. "It's a lot more friendly for the instructor," she says. "The only negative feedback I've gotten from students about it, is that they have to use so many websites to see their grades."

Hopefully the schoolwide switch to Jupiter grades makes for a smoother upcoming year. •

Graphic by Jarrah May



# Bringing the Budget Back

FROM PG 1

Wilson parents and community members made their message clear: “the initial allocation to Wilson which represented a significant cut in per pupil funding, and would have left Wilson with by far the lowest funding per pupil of any school in the city, would be insufficient to fully serve our students.”

Wilson administration previously said the more limited budget would mean that 14 administrative staff would have to be laid off and funding for various after-school programs would have to be cut. Now

some of these cuts will not be necessary.

“One would expect when funds are restored the DCPS central office will work with the principal to determine precisely how the funds will be used,” Frumin said, adding that it now falls to DCPS to restore the funding to Wilson.

Interim Principal Gregory Bargeman said he can’t comment on the new budget money, and how it will be used, until Henderson confirms it.

Frumin stated that it is now up to DCPS to confirm the additional budget money and restore the funds to Wilson. •

# Old Tiger Finds New Den

**Helen Malhotra**  
Co-Editor-In-Chief

Former principal Pete Cahall left Wilson last year in a cloud of controversy surrounding the reasons for his departure. After months of being off the Wilson community’s radar, Cahall announced in an email to the DC community his return as principal – this time at Thomas Edison High School of Technology in Montgomery County.

After Cahall left Wilson, he worked as a consultant in Prince George’s County for the remainder of the school year. May 29 was his last day of work in Prince George’s County before he took an unpaid leave of absence. His consulting contract ends in September, but he is prioritizing his new job. “I am trying to hit the ground running when I get there,” says Cahall.

This Monday, Cahall held a faculty meeting at his school to get to know his new colleagues. He will spend the rest of the first two weeks of June meeting the faculty, staff, parents, and students of Edison. He plans to go to the Dominican Republic for the rest of the month. Despite Cahall’s earlier plan, he never got around to writing a book about the Dominican Republic because he has been too busy. “That may come someday,” he says, “maybe when I retire.”



Right after his vacation on July 1, Cahall will officially start his job as principal of Thomas Edison. “Edison is kind of like a dream,” he says. It’s not a traditional high school that offers core classes, but it instead offers specialized and career-focused classes. “Students either attend their neighborhood

school in the morning for core classes and take a bus to Edison for technology and career classes in the afternoon, or vice versa,” says Cahall.

An even more compelling feature, especially for Cahall, is the absence of standardized testing. “There is only testing in that after [the students] complete a course, there is an industry certification test, but there is no testing like PARCC,” says Cahall. After each course, students take tests that are administered by the specific industry involved. For example, a student enrolled in a cosmetology class would take a cosmetology standardized test at the end of the course, if certification is required.

This upcoming school year, Edison is undergoing renovation, and as the new principal, Cahall is going to be helping oversee the new design for the building. Edison is still in the planning stages for their new campus, which allows Cahall to play an active role in the renovation. Cahall, who was the principal of Wilson during the renovation four years ago, is experienced in this area. Cahall says this is an “incredible opportunity because I will be

able to make suggestions and changes based on the vision of the school.” He also plans to add more programs, such as hospitality and restaurant

management.

While Cahall is off to new and exciting experiences, he won’t forget the impact Wilson has had on him. “Wilson has captured my heart. I miss it. The best six and a half years of my life have been at Wilson,” he says. “Honestly, there’s not a better school than Wilson.” •



**Allie Schwab**  
Contributor

New Internet filters caused many students and teachers to have problems accessing Google sites in the past few months, including Google Drive, Gmail, and Google Docs.

In an attempt to resolve these issues, teachers and administrators reached out to the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) to inform them that these sites were being blocked. OCTO allowed the sites to be accessed from DCPS Internet, but only temporarily.

# Google Drive Rumors Dispelled

The common blocks to useful sites sparked rumors among the student body of permanent blocks in the 2015-2016 school year.

Luckily, these rumors are not true. David Rose, Deputy Chief of the Educational Technology & Library Programs in the Office of Learning and Teaching for DCPS, confirmed that there are no plans to block all Google sites for the 2015-2016 school year. OCTO plans to update the software this summer, so hopefully Gmail, Docs, Drive, and all other (school appropriate) sites students have grown

accustomed to will be fully functional next fall.

The DCPS website states that the computer program, called iBoss, was implemented by OCTO during winter break in an effort to establish standards for the acceptable uses of Internet and email services within the DCPS network.

Sophomore Pearl Strand was relieved that Google websites would not be blocked next year because otherwise, “how [were] you supposed to access information in classes that require Internet?” •

Graphic by Zola Canady



**2015**  
**CONGRATULATIONS SOPHIA**  
**WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!**  
**LOVE, MOM, DAD, AND NATE**

# Congratulations Lauren

We're so proud of all you've accomplished and can't wait for your next adventure.

Love, Mom, Dad & Sophie





# Issues With DCPS Fight Policy

**David Fadul**  
Staff Writer

There are some rules that DCPS makes extremely clear to its community. Rules regarding teachers and fights, however, are anything but. While fights aren't commonplace at Wilson, they do happen often enough to be a part of our school's culture. Sometimes breaking fights up is quick and easy, but many times it can be a dangerous and difficult job.

A fight between two female students, which was filmed by a Wilson student, was the cause of controversy in February. The backlash was not because of the fighting students, however, but rather the apparent indifference of a teacher who was caught on camera refusing to intervene. Indeed, the mother of one of the girls believed that staff should have helped immediately.

"I think there should have been intervention right away," she told local Fox 5 News reporters.

At first I also wondered why the teacher had done nothing to stop the two students from fighting. As I dug deeper, however, I found that teachers are taught virtually nothing about how to stop a fight by DCPS.

"I've been in DCPS for five years total, and I've never been to a fight protocol," said mass media teacher Kadesha Bonds. "If you're not trained in the area or trained on what to do, you freeze."

The fact that teachers are pretty much left to their own devices is curious, especially since fights are not out-of-the-ordinary occurrences at most DCPS schools.

DCPS has provided crystal clear guidelines for what to

do when students are truant or even wear hats inside, yet they have not done the same with fights. It seems like DCPS expects teachers to just know how to deal with fights.

According to Interim Principal Gregory Bargeman, the teachers union contract tells teachers to notify somebody in the case of a fight. The Wilson administration has tried to implement this system, but many teachers are still unaware of that policy, so how can they be expected to stick to it in a fight situation?

"There is no clear cut policy on what [teachers] are supposed to do," Bargeman said. "If a teacher got into a fight and they got injured, it would be on DCPS. So it's a liability issue also."

Bargeman's answer makes sense. There is a limit on what DCPS can tell teachers to do

before risking conflict with the teachers unions. However, there are still questions that deserve to be answered.

Do teachers really know about this policy? From those I talked to, it seemed like their responses to fights were of their own accord and not from a contract rule. And why don't parents know about this policy? Something this important should be made available to the entire community, especially for those who send their students to school expecting a safe environment.

Many students don't know what to expect from teachers—if anything—in a fight. "All I've known is what I've heard from teachers [and] how they're scared to get involved in fights due to possible lawsuits and injuries," junior Peter Maeder said.

DCPS has failed to make

its policies clear for the whole Wilson community. This failure manifested itself in the uproar over the controversial video, which proved to be an unnecessary upset for the parents, the school, and the teacher involved.

It is unacceptable that teachers are made to feel powerless in confrontational situations, and it is ridiculous that the only way students and parents are made aware of the policy is by word of mouth. It is not only in the best interests of DCPS officials to make their policies clear, but it is also their duty.

Asking teachers to physically break up fights themselves is unreasonable. But asking for a clear-cut policy, to ensure the safety of all, is not. •

# Who Runs the World? Not the SGA

**Sam Masling**  
Junior Editor

The Student Government is given very little opportunity to make a difference at Wilson, and consequently, the wishes of the student body often go unspoken and unheard. Two weeks ago, school-wide elections took place to decide who would be the student representatives next year. The elected candidates will participate in staff meetings and try to improve daily life at Wilson. These people should be valued by the administration because communication between students and staff is crucial if a school is to improve. Unfortunately the SGA is given very little power and is barely promoted by the administration.

During this year's elections, I wasn't given the opportunity to attend the campaign speeches, had no idea when the voting was scheduled to take place, and the only reason I even knew that we were having elections is because I'm particularly drawn to water fountains in between classes where all the campaign posters are located.

At the beginning of the year, Wilson's administration told us that its job is to turn us into responsible adults who will be prepared for life after high school. They insisted that we take responsibility for our own actions and how we present ourselves. While this is an inspiring message, it doesn't seem to hold water, especially

in the case of the student government.

The Wilson administration delegates very little to the SGA outside of organizing school dances and social events. While our student government does a very good job of this, it shouldn't be the only thing the SGA oversees.

Adults tend to think that high school students are irresponsible and that it would be illogical to give them any real power. This is not true. The "Butterfly" club at Wilson, run almost entirely by students, has been teaching French to five-year-olds in an inner-city school for three years. Our famed Robotics team, with physics teacher Angela Benjamin providing them a room and accompanying them on trips. Given the opportunity, students can do great things, but misconceptions of irresponsibility often hold us back.

The SGA home page on the Wilson website reads, "The SGA aims to improve scholar participation and communication within the school."

The SGA's intentions are great, but how can it improve school-wide communication when the administration doesn't even consult them before making major changes?

Junior Noah Howard, who was class president last year, said that the only time the Wilson administration consulted

the SGA was to organize school events. When major structural changes were made, the SGA wasn't consulted at all, only notified a couple of days in advance.

"The only thing we really did all year structure-wise was make the hall sweeps a minute later," sophomore class president Mati Cano said.

If Wilson's goal is to prepare us for the real world, then as we get older and become more

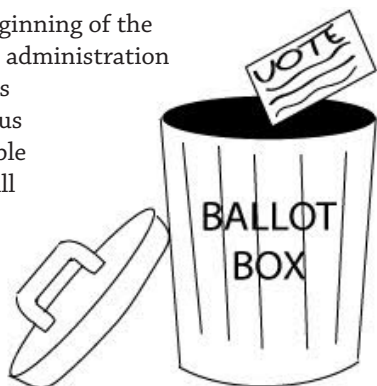
independent, we should have the power to actually change the things that we see as wrong in our school.

Right now the SGA can't do that. "The relationship the SGA has with the administration is pretty poor," Howard said.

Wilson has a lot of great teachers and a fantastic staff. They love to say, 'we were kids once too', but it is hard for adults to understand the wants and needs of a school with 2,000

teenagers. The SGA is here to translate those needs and relate them back and forth between the student body and the administration.

Instead of looking at the SGA as just a mouthpiece for the student body, we should view it as a bridge to compromise, finding ways to make both the staff and students happy. •



Graphic by Zola Canady



**Mia "Lightning in a Bottle" Strazzella, we will miss you.**  
**Good luck, California girl.**  
**We love you! - Mom, Dad, Mason & Sophia**



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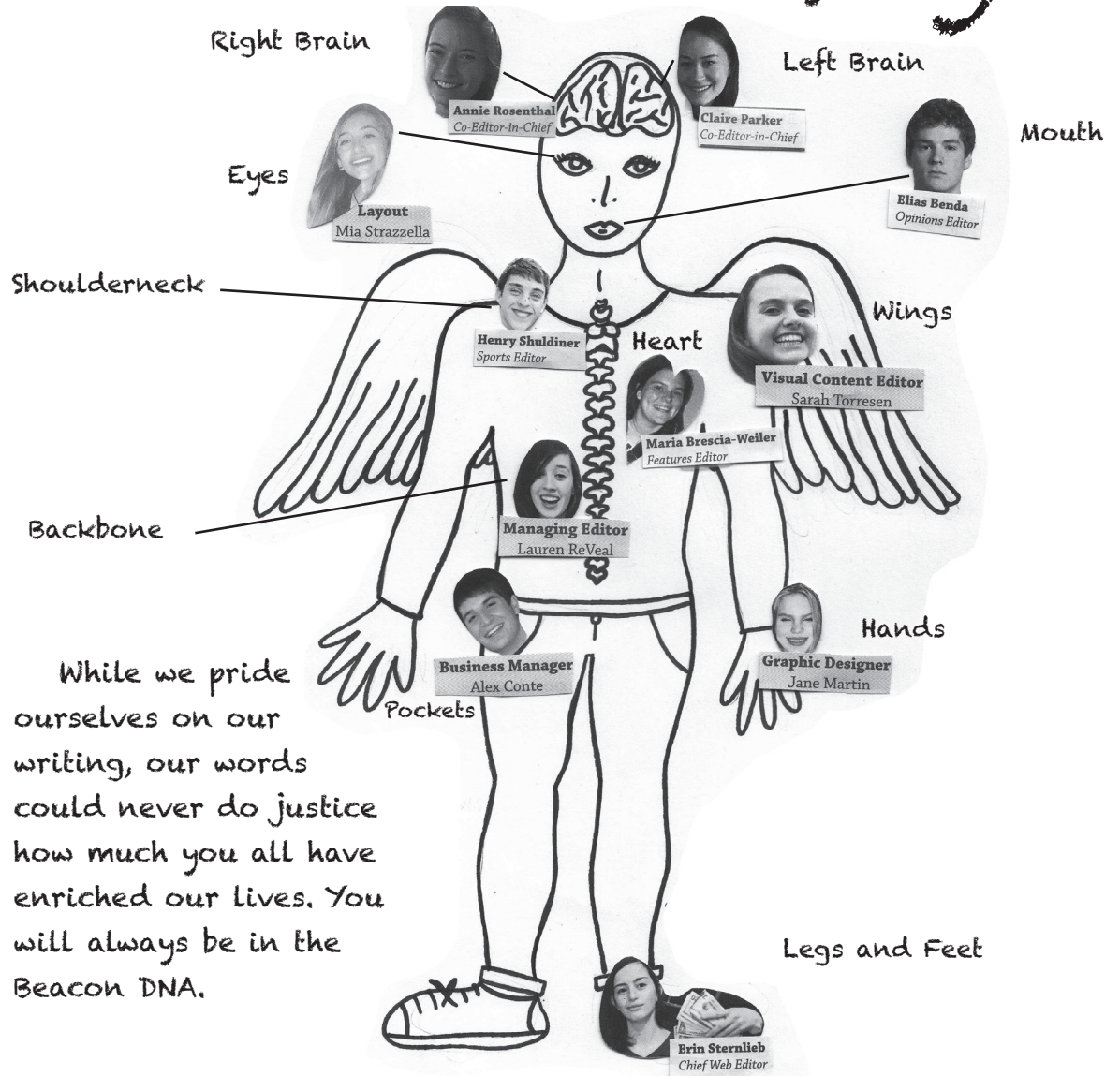
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*The Beacon* is a public forum created for the purpose of expressing the views of and providing information to the Wilson student body. Thank you for reading *The Beacon*.

## THE BEACON BOY A Senior Goodbye



While we pride ourselves on our writing, our words could never do justice how much you all have enriched our lives. You will always be in the Beacon DNA.

Annie, you always had the Beacon on your mind and were on the creative grind. Your writing skills amaze us and your sunny disposition helped to make the Beacon an open place to share our ideas. We are so grateful for all you've done.

Claire, you made us and all of our articles look smarter. You were an inspiring leader and you made the Beacon an incredible paper with your organizational skills and reporting abilities. Thank you for bringing out the best in everyone.

Mia, you have an excellent eye for design. Thank you for beautifying the paper.

Elias, you were never afraid to voice your opinion and we hope that

never changes. Thank you for being the Beacon's mouthpiece.

Sarah, your design skills brought us to new heights. Your swift keyboard strokes saved us from lengthy late nights. Thank you for always making the small office a fun space.

Maria, you have enough heart for the entire Beacon staff and you kept the love flowing around. Thank you for always being a compassionate and caring friend.

Lauren, you were the backbone of the Beacon and always kept us on a straight path. Thank you for keeping us on track and always having our back.

Jane, you put the art in articles

in a hands-on kind of way. Thank you for always taking the initiative to lend a helping hand.

Alex, you were a dime for investing your time into our finances. Thank you for keeping our wallet organized so we didn't have to worry.

Henry, you're a good sport and always made the right calls. You kept the Beacon's head held high. Thank you for keeping everyone conNECKted.

Erin, you kept us grounded and always pushed us to take big steps. Thank you for moving us forward into the digital age.

*Love, the Beacon Staff*

## Beacon Editors Bid Farewell

Dear Wilson,

Thank you for reading the paper this year, and for giving us plenty to write about! As we wrap up our last year at Wilson, we're realizing just how much the Beacon has meant to us over the past four years. It gave us new ways to interpret the world, taught us to pay attention and think critically, allowed us to meet new people and stay attuned to what's going on in the school, and gave us a backstage pass to tons of significant moments at Wilson, from Cahall's turbulent tenure to the Turkey Bowl to prom. Wilson is such a ridiculous, special place, unlike anything any of us are likely to ever find again, and we're thankful to the Beacon for allowing us to be fully engaged with it.

As a teenager, it is so cool to have a legitimate platform for your thoughts, opinions, complaints, suggestions, and observations. There are very few other places where someone else is guaranteed to read (or even look at) something you've created and take it seriously. Neither of us would have nearly as good an idea of what we want to do with our lives or who we are as people without the Beacon.

Our mission this year as Editors-in-Chief was to help the Beacon diversify both its content and its contributors in order to reach a wider range of people. During the year, the Beacon staff grew to the largest it's ever been, and with their creative energy and hard work, we were able to make definite strides. But there's still a lot to be done.

If you've contributed, thanks, and if you haven't, do it! the Beacon is meant to be the voice of the student body, and it can't fully represent the wack conglomeration of people that is Wilson without you. You can email [beaconchiefeditor@gmail.com](mailto:beaconchiefeditor@gmail.com), visit the Beacon office (down the hallway on the right side of the auditorium), talk to Ms. Stryker, or approach literally anyone on the staff in the hall or in class. We promise they'd love to hear what you have to say.

We love you, Wilson! Keep making us proud, and keep being your beautiful messy self.

Love,  
Annie and Claire



# Letter From a Manic Pixie Dream Girl

By Ellie Melick

To my best friend, the Geeky-But-Cute White Male Protagonist,

Hey, bud. It's me, your favorite Manic Pixie Dream Girl. You know, the one with wild eyes? Who smiles like the world is one big joke that only she gets? The mysterious girl-next-door who you really don't know at all but are definitely in love with? Yeah, that one.

I'm here to thank you—yes, you!—for bringing to life this archetype which I embody so well. Thanks to your obsession with my character, John Green has a career, and the insecure girls who read his novels have yet another unrealistic wonder-woman mold to try to cram themselves into.

Oh, and I know how hard it's been for you, in your nice suburban home, spending your days caught up in a quirky hobby like homemade instrument-making instead of putting in work at sports practice like all the other boys. So I just want to remind you how great you are, since I know you sometimes forget. But first, let's talk about me.

You noticed me on the first day of school, freshman year. You'd spent the summer lounging in the AC playing videogames with your best friend since pre-K (you know, the fat one). You entered high

school dreading the next four years of your life, and were imagining jumping out the window—but then, you saw me. And from that moment on, although we never talked, I was always dancing behind your eyes, the signature bangles which line my wrists chiming along. They sound like fairy dust.

Ever since that day, you've loved me. Of course, you'll say it's my radiant 'natural' beauty and bohemian spirit that drives you crazy, or maybe even my 'forget-the-haters' attitude, but we all know the real reason you're locked under my spell: I sell books. I'm written in such a way that the millions of teen and pre-teen girls who read about me are somehow all able to identify with me, and in a way that the smaller (but equally profitable) number of boy readers can fall in love with. I'm 'authentic', I'm 'different', I'm 'interesting' — I'm a Manic Pixie Dream Girl, and people love me in a way that they'll never be able to love themselves.

But let's be real: what is it that makes me so special? My characters always seem layered and intricate, but are they really? Everything that supposedly makes me 'authentic' stems from the fact that I don't have an Instagram, while all that makes me 'different' is based on a warped view of what it means to be normal, and whatever it is people find so 'interesting' about me comes from a perverse romanticization of

manic-depressive psychological disorders. (Think about it; Margot of "Paper Towns" abandoning her family for a spontaneous game of tag along the East Coast? Alaska of "Looking for Alaska" drunk driving in the pouring rain to work off her sobs? Do those sound like healthy behaviors to you?)

None of that character breakdown matters, though, because as long as there are impressionable young girls and egotistical boys around to slurp up narratives boasting my archetype, I'm here to stay. So what really matters is you, the Geeky-But-Cute White Male Protagonist. Because your needs come first; so if you require girls like me to make up for whatever it is you think society owes you, then it's girls like me you'll have. And if pop literature wants to keep reducing teenage girls to characters thinner than their physical embodiments, whose only real purpose is to satisfy the needs of privileged male protagonists, then that's what pop literature will keep on doing.

I am truly thankful, though. Without your idolization of me, I'd be nothing, just another boring, ordinary girl. Which, let's be honest, is the worst thing for a girl to be.

It's an important message you're sending: that girls are only at their very best when they're being true to themselves—provided that their true selves are wild, beautiful, and eager to be worshipped by whichever white boy claims them first.

Yours Truly,  
The Manic Pixie Dream Girl •

## Top 10 Cheap Dates

1. Candlelit granola bar dinner in Ms. Waits' office
2. Order eggs but hold the steak at Steak n' Egg
3. Take your lover to the library and pay for their printer fees
4. Eat garlic slices at Angelico's
5. Cop a pop tart from a freshman at STEP and sneak it to your significant other
6. Stand outside the 9:30 Club and listen to the music through the walls
7. Eat Fort Reno shrubbery awkwardly behind two freshmen who are obviously trying to hook up
8. Cuddle up in the atrium and watch the college slideshow together
9. Put together a romantic playlist with that iTunes gift card you forgot about
10. Can't go wrong with a rice burrito

# Hall Sweeps Create More Messes

Alaitz Ruiz  
Contributor

The six minutes that we Wilson students have between classes can be used to saunter around social circles, hurry to class, or make a pit stop at your locker. Some students, have no choice but to run down the

halls and trek up as many as four flights of stairs to get to their next class. Others have the luxury of having their next period down the hall.

Most people stop and talk to their friends in between classes, as the hallways allow for brief social encounters. I see the same group of people always

posted up by the water fountain on the third floor, and the same dap and chat rituals all over the hallways. So in this mix of people who are simply talking to their friends and those who are furiously sprinting to their next period, who is to blame for the implementation of hall sweeps?

The answer, most would

believe, is those who are posted up in the halls. But the way Wilson hall sweeps are set up, everybody – regardless of their excuse – is held up in the dean's office.

I personally remember a time when I had to make the walk from one end of the second floor all the way up to the fourth floor where my next class was. I considered stopping by the bathroom, but I decided against it, seeing as it was out of the way. I then turned the corner and was less than 20 feet away from the classroom when the bell rang. I was thinking; nah, I'm straight, I'm not even that far from class. Nevertheless, I accelerated my pace, and made it into class before my teacher closed the door.

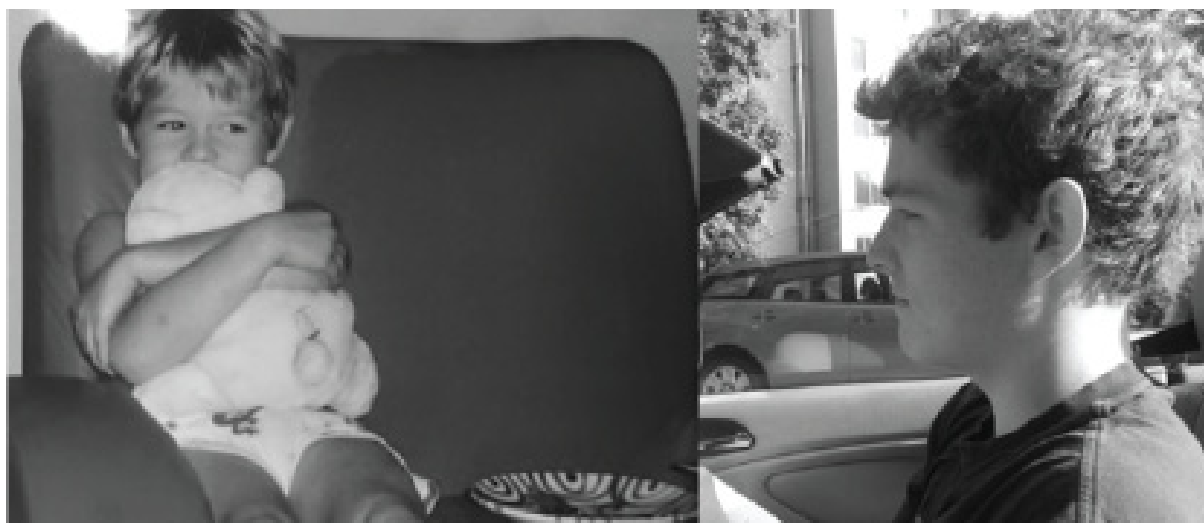
I sat down, thinking I had made it, when a dean popped in and pulled me out of class. The

reasoning was that since I was not physically inside of my class by when the bell had rung, I was to be hall swept.

After the long wait for everyone else to be signed off, and a spirited conversation with the dean, I was 15 minutes late. I walked into class, and was informed that I had just missed a quiz.

The extra 10 seconds it took me to get to class ended up costing me 15 minutes and a quiz. Although this might not be the case for every hall sweep, many of these sweeps are taking more time from students than being late to class would. Essentially, these sweeps, which are supposed to get students into class on time, simply delay their class arrival further through an often tedious and unpleasant process.

All these hall sweeps do is make students even later to class. It's clear that there is a need for change in the hall sweep policy at Wilson. •



CONGRATULATIONS, Elias! We're so proud of you!



# Sun's Out, Pens Down

**Eden Breslow**  
Junior Editor

Unfortunately, most students know the struggles of summer homework. Every year Wilson students spend countless hours hunched over their schoolwork, enduring finals and APs and more, only to be greeted by more work during the time they are supposed to be on break. What is the point of this? Summer should be a time to relax and get away from the stress of school. That way when students return in the middle of August, they're rested and ready for another year.

My typical summer task involves at least three full days of assignments, most of them from math and English classes. Last summer I had to do about 100 Delta Math problems (which becomes extremely tedious), and read two books and write about them. I know it does not sound like much (and plenty of students have more to do), but when all that's on your mind is trying to make the most of each summer day, having to sit down and click numbers into the Delta Math calculator gets annoying.

Students at Wilson are under so much pressure every day of the school year, with hours of homework, essays, and tests. Summer should be an escape from all things academic.

We will all be adults soon enough, with stressful things like mortgages, bank loans, and full time jobs to worry about. Why not let us enjoy our final years of freedom?

Teachers think that when they assign summer work it will keep what they've taught us fresh in our minds during the break. But most students don't start the assignments until a week before school starts, at the earliest. So really, everyone is going to forget the course material anyway.

Summer is a time for enjoying the outdoors, not sitting by the light of your computer writing an essay or punching values into a graphing calculator. It's healthier for students to go outside and be free of stress for a couple months.

All I ask is that our wonderful, extraordinary, brilliant teachers keep the workload heavy during the academic year, but the summer assignments light – or better yet, nonexistent. This would allow everyone to relax and enjoy the warm weather. Plus, students have plenty to learn by experiencing the real world. I hope this summer every Wilson student has the opportunity to get out and catch some rays – and not just those from the glare of a laptop screen. •

The Beacon is in search of a Finance Editor for the 2015/2016 school year. Duties include soliciting advertising and subscriptions, keeping track of those customers, paying bills, and making a financial report to the editorial team once each month. The job requires an estimated average of two hours each week (but fluctuates wildly). Applicants need to be reliable, honest, communicative, and extremely organized. A student who can run an \$8,000/year business would be of interest to plenty of colleges. Interested? Email [beaconchiefeditor@gmail.com](mailto:beaconchiefeditor@gmail.com)



To Liam (our favorite superhero),

Congratulations on a job well done! We are so proud of you.

Love,  
Mom & Dad

**Congratulations Ella! We are so proud of you!**  
Love, Mom, Dad and Owen



**Can't hide that Tiger pride!**

**Love, Dylan & Ciaran**



# Senior Reflects on Sports

**Max Cooper**  
Contributor

Playing sports at Wilson was one of the best decisions I made in high school. For the past four years I've played at least one sport each year and loved every moment of it.

As a freshman, it can be difficult to make new friends. You may have your old friends from middle school, but branching out of your comfort zone can be difficult, especially in a school with nearly 2,000 students. That is where sports come into play.

The Wilson Athletics family is close-knit and provides a great way to make friends and develop relationships with students and coaches alike. Although the Wilson teams are close, you do not need to have started from the beginning to join the family.

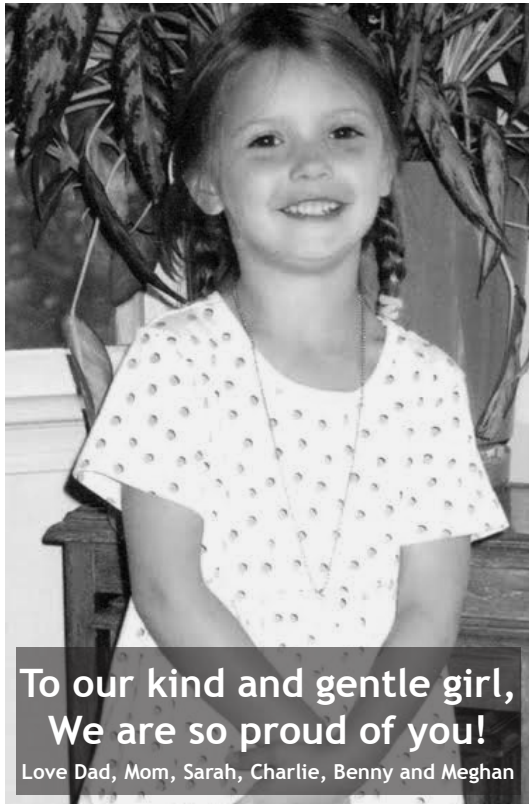
This year, as a senior, I decided I would run cross country in the fall. A lot of the students who ran this year had been running cross country and track since their freshman year and had therefore already developed close relationships with each other and as a team. But when I joined, everyone was incredibly welcoming and it was a pleasure to be a part of the team. By the end of the season, I felt like I had known most of my teammates my entire life even though I had met most of them

only this year.

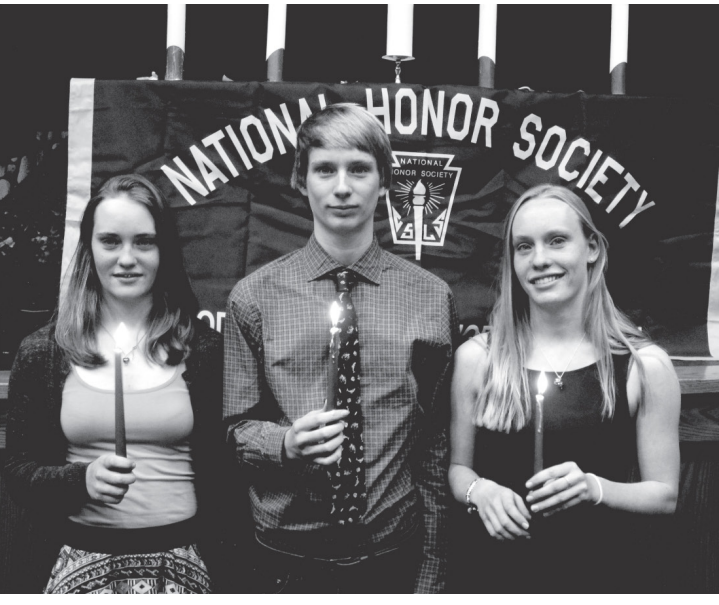
Befriending students is only half the benefit of joining teams and playing sports, though. Every coach I have played for at Wilson has taught me a lot about how to act on and off the field, and they have all been a good source of support if I or another player ever needed anything.

Former boys lacrosse coach George Arlotto always taught us to respect each other and everyone else, and to always play the Wilson Way. You've probably heard that a lot around the school and it means that you need to work hard and do your best to succeed. That is a lesson that will stick with me for a long time, and although it sounds corny, the results are apparent. Nearly every team at Wilson has won at least one championship, and there was no other way to get there than with hard work.

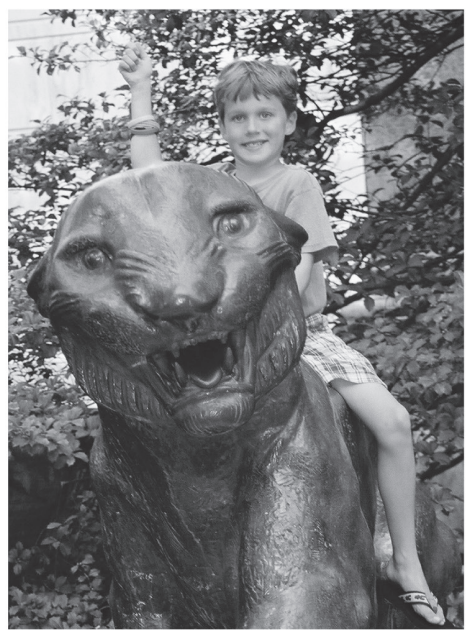
As seniors, whether we played one year, all four, or just cheered from the stands, Wilson sports were an important part of our lives. The programs bring people together to be excited when we win or to support each other when we lose. There are not many schools I know of that had students protesting downtown after being unfairly removed from a shot to win their football championship. I will always be proud to say I was a Wilson Tiger. •



Congratulations and Best Wishes for Future Success to Maggie, Will and Sarah and their Classmates!



## An Ode to Gibby



Whether you're riding the tiger...or throwing a nasty split(ter).



You'll always be our All Star, you'll still be a hit(ter)!

**Congratulations  
and Much Love  
from Mom, Dad,  
Fenner, and  
Lucy**



# ATHLETES OF THE SEASON

## HANNAH THOMPSON, SOFTBALL



Thompson has been playing for the Wilson softball team all four years of high school. She, along with three other seniors (Nina Wiramidjaja, Sarah Torresen, and Emma Keyes) has watched the program develop since freshman year. "The team has grown in size and skills. We have become a lot more competitive with other teams in the area," she says. Thompson, who was on Wilson's engineering track, will be studying engineering at Swarthmore next year, where she will also be playing for the softball team.

## ABBY KOERNER, CREW



Koerner is the fastest rower on Varsity 8+, a team that finished 4th at WMIRA Championships and advanced to semifinals at the Stotesbury Cup Regatta. "It feels like I've been rowing my whole life," she says, even though she's only started rowing 3 years ago. Her favorite thing about crew is the intensity of it. "I think that in crew, if you want to win it's all or nothing.. and I always want to win." Koerner, who is a sophomore, will return to Wilson Crew next fall.

## SARAH MARION, GIRLS VARSITY LACROSSE



Marion has been playing lacrosse for Wilson since freshman year. This year she had nine goals over the last four games, including two in the 5-4 win over Maret. Some of her favorite moments have come through lacrosse, such as during her junior year when the team split into two teams and did a scavenger hunt. Next year, Marion will attend Brown University. Her advice for lacrosse players of any skill level is to "practice stick skills at home because it definitely shows in practice."

## CONNOR MOSBY, VARSITY LACROSSE



Mosby's 15 goals this season did not come by surprise, as he's a very experienced lacrosse player. He's been playing lacrosse for 13 years, participating on various teams in Baltimore and eventually finding a home at Wilson. Mosby has three college offers on the table (Lynn, Hendrix, and Limestone), but he's been talking to other schools. He plans on committing over the summer. Mosby's competitive spirit and love for the sport is apparent in everything he says: one of his favorite parts about being on the team is "beating a private school and letting them know not to doubt Wilson."

"My coach is going to email me workout plans over the summer. I'm also going to go to the gym and do whatever. The workout plan probably says to go on runs and I like running in the summer. I frickin' hate running in the winter." -Chris Bock, Crew (Junior)

"I will go on runs and eat healthy and drink a lot of water." -Jisca Adigo, Soccer (Sophomore)

"I'll just be running around at camp." -Jake Radack, Ultimate Frisbee (Junior)

"I plan on going to the gym about five times a week and going on runs while on vacation. I'll probably also play pickup soccer and lacrosse with my friends." -Laura Schwartz, Soccer and Lacrosse (Junior)

"Work out with my trainer... Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard."  
-Juwan Hikim, Basketball (Senior)

"I'll be going to hot yoga every day."  
-Emily Morin, Crew (Junior)

"I am going to do cross country summer training for Wilson. I am also going to make sure I run and exercise almost every day."  
-Mei Copacino, Soccer and Cross Country (Freshman)

"I'm going to run, go to summer training, stay healthy and not get hurt."  
-Ahmed Ali, Cross Country and Track (Senior)

"I'll probably be at summer training for cross country so it won't be like I'm on vacation at all."  
-Ethan Diner, Cross Country and Track (Junior)

"Weight lift and work on my stamina by running daily."  
-Kelby Smith, Basketball (Junior)

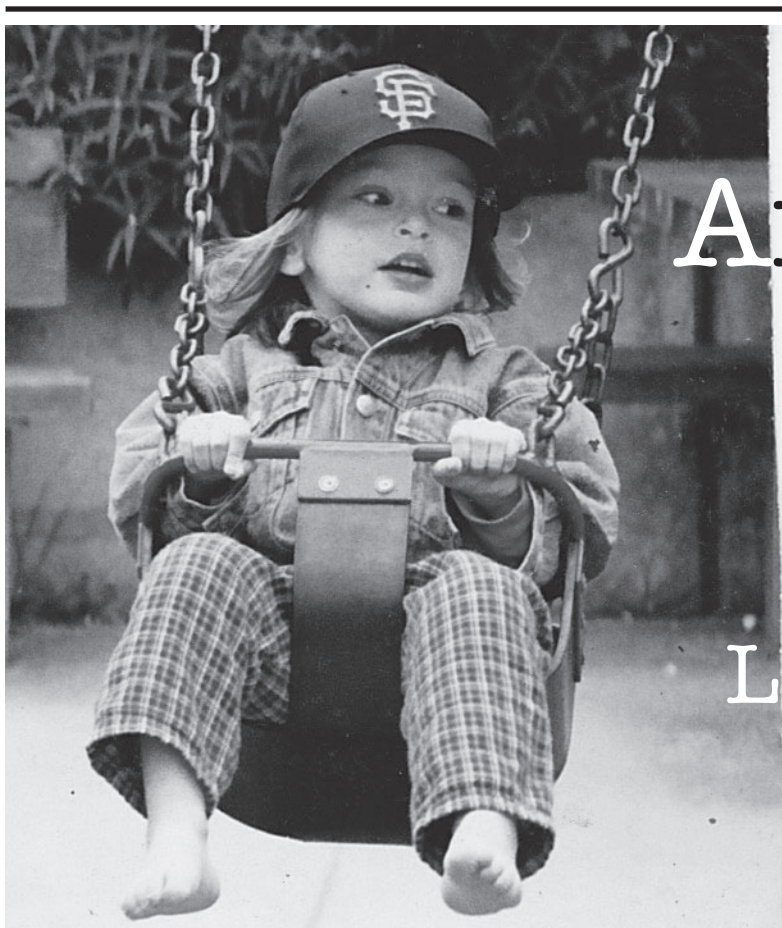
"I plan to not only stay in shape, but to improve over the summer. With the fall soccer season approaching, I want to be in the best position to help the team do well."  
-Kaili Gregory, Soccer (Junior)

"I have a workout journal with lots of erging workouts as well as stationary ab and leg drills. I plan to continue to exercise at least six days a week. I'm trying to put the "ab" in ABby."  
-Abby Koerner, Crew (Sophomore)

"This summer I am going to stay in shape by doing what I would do during the other three seasons: hit, throw, and lift a few times a week."  
-Ari Ettleson, Baseball (Junior)

"I'm going to be playing travel softball and probably running and/or biking with my bros."  
-Alexis Coates, Volleyball and Softball (Senior)

Compiled by Helen Malhotra  
Graphic by Tom Giagtzoglou



Annie,  
We are  
so proud  
of you!

Love,  
Mom, Dad,  
Isabel, and  
Okra



# Wilson Teams Wrap Up Seasons

**Ben Korn**  
Contributor

While DC experienced another spring full of disappointments in the world of professional sports, Wilson continued its excellence and set an even higher standard for next year.

On May 13, the Washington Capitals lost to the New York Rangers in a pivotal Game Seven and were eliminated from the Stanley Cup Playoffs. Two days later the Washington Wizards exited the postseason at the hands of the Atlanta Hawks. It was a tough couple of days for DC sports indeed.

In the Wilson sports community, however, the Tigers have shown that they know how to win on the rivers, fields and tracks.

The varsity crew team took to the waters of the Anacostia River during the Washington Metropolitan Interscholastic Rowing Association Championship this May to compete against teams from all over the region and row Wilson to the national finals.

Junior and varsity rower Peter Maeder says of the team, "Our season has gone really well with every rower coming into it with an intensity I haven't seen on our team before. For the first time in years we were able to compete with some of the best crews on the Eastern seaboard." Two boats raced in nationals:

one placed 12th in the nation, and the other rowed hard but unfortunately was outpaced by the competition.

In track and field, both the Wilson boys and girls teams won the DCIAA championships.

"There is no doubt about it, I am excited about winning," Coach Desmond Dunham says. "I told both teams beforehand that sometimes you need to kill an ant with a sledgehammer and we did just that. We won handily on both sides!"

The lacrosse team also has that winning attitude. This year the team won the DCIAA championships after a hard fought match against School Without Walls. "Although we have a rookie program, throughout the course of the season, we pulled it together," says sophomore defender Walter Riley.

The varsity boys baseball team captured its 23rd straight DCIAA championship, defeating Bell 13-3 on May 26. In arguably the best season ever for Wilson baseball, the team went 29-9 and defeated (Wash Post) ranked teams such as Riverdale Baptist and Dematha. The team lost a heartbreaker to St. Albans on May 29 in the DCSAA semifinal.

Across the board, from varsity to JV, Wilson found ways to win. It seems like professional sports teams in DC could take a page out of the book of the Wilson Tigers' winning ways. •



Photo by Ellie LeBlanc and Carl Stewart

**WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS - TOP: Ari Ettleson swings for the fences against School without Walls in the DCSAA quarter-finals. BOTTOM LEFT: The boy's Senior 4+ practices on the Potomac before heading off to Nationals. BOTTOM RIGHT: Wilson and School without Walls duke it out on on May 13th with Wilson ending up on top.**

## FEATURES

# Best of Prom: Casino Royale

By Sarah Robinson



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT.....  
Prom king: Devin Rivera  
Prom queen: Mykia Washington

With Coolidge High School's prom literally across the street from Wilson's, there was bound to be competition. Needless to say, the students of Wilson pulled out every stop in terms of outfits and rides. A special shout-out goes to Wilson's very own Hospitality and Tourism Academy and Beverly Reynolds for planning and running all of Wilson's beautiful prom this year.

The official hashtag for twitter was #WilsonRoyale15. After careful deliberation and analysis of this hashtag, the following have been deemed best dressed.



Photos by Luc Niekema

**BEST DRESSED AT PROM - (left to right) Jan McGlennon, Carlos Hood and Kalena Wiggins, Leroy Jenkins, Juwan "Freak" Hikim, Robin Jones, Angelo Hernandez, and Mary Beth Waits.**

BEST DRESSED GIRLS: Robin Jones and Kalena Wiggins

BEST DRESSED BOYS: Carlos Hood and Juwan Hikim

BEST DRESSED TEACHERS:

Jan McGlennon: Our beloved Latin teacher took an oh-so-classy approach, sporting a mid-length black dress with pearls.

Leroy Jenkins: You could tell that this English teacher had been saving his classic black tux for a special occasion like this.

BEST DRESSED ADMINISTRATORS:

Mary Beth Waits: Dressed in a red, bond-girl style dress with lace trim, one almost forgot she took away your off-campus lunch pass.

Angelo Hernandez: Student's last names A-D's dean rolled up in an all black suit with his black and red Jordans. Both classy and classic.

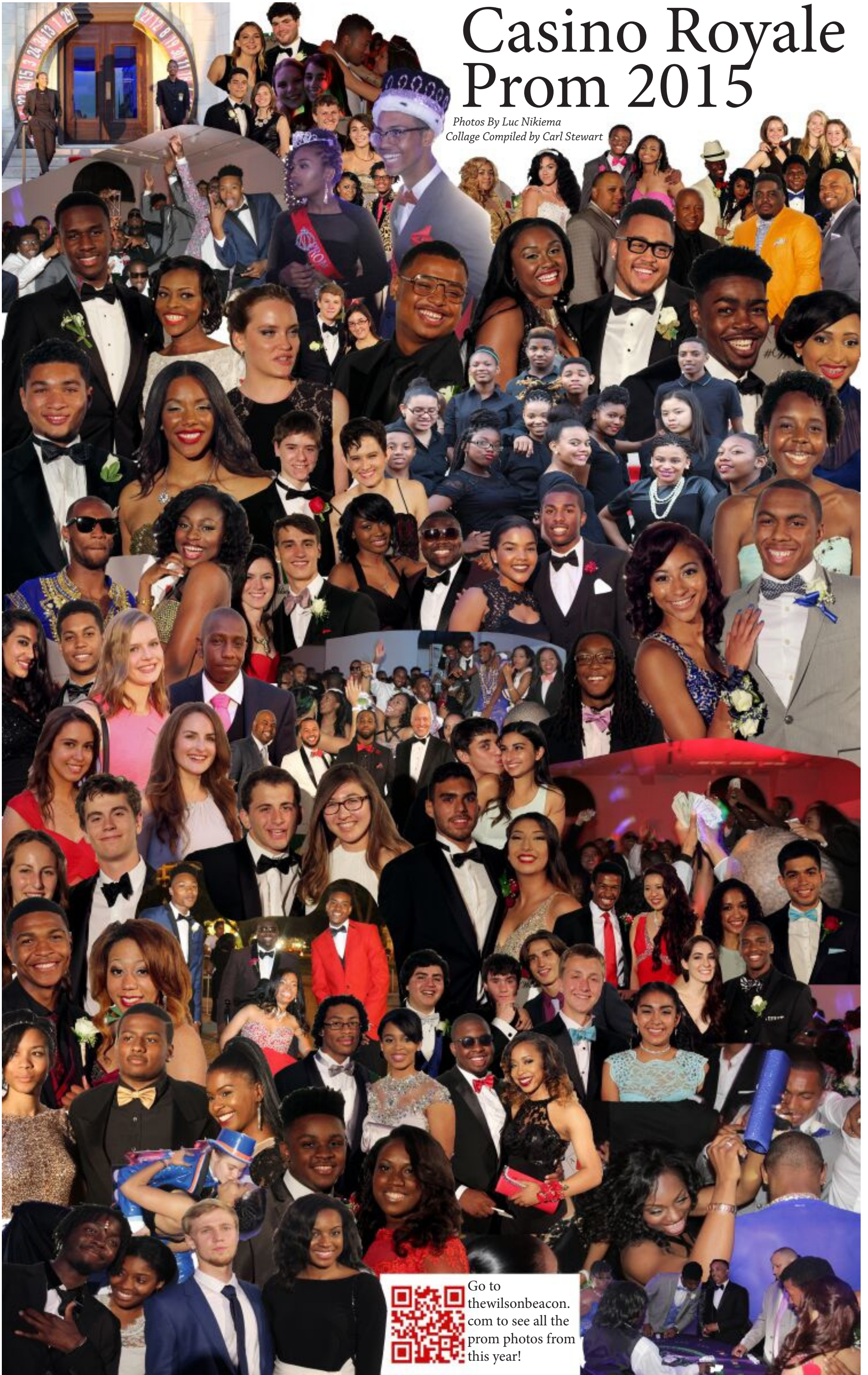
BEST RIDE:

All-white limo with gullwing style doors. The driver rolled out a mini red carpet for the attendees. Enough said.



# Casino Royale Prom 2015

Photos By Luc Nikiema  
Collage Compiled by Carl Stewart

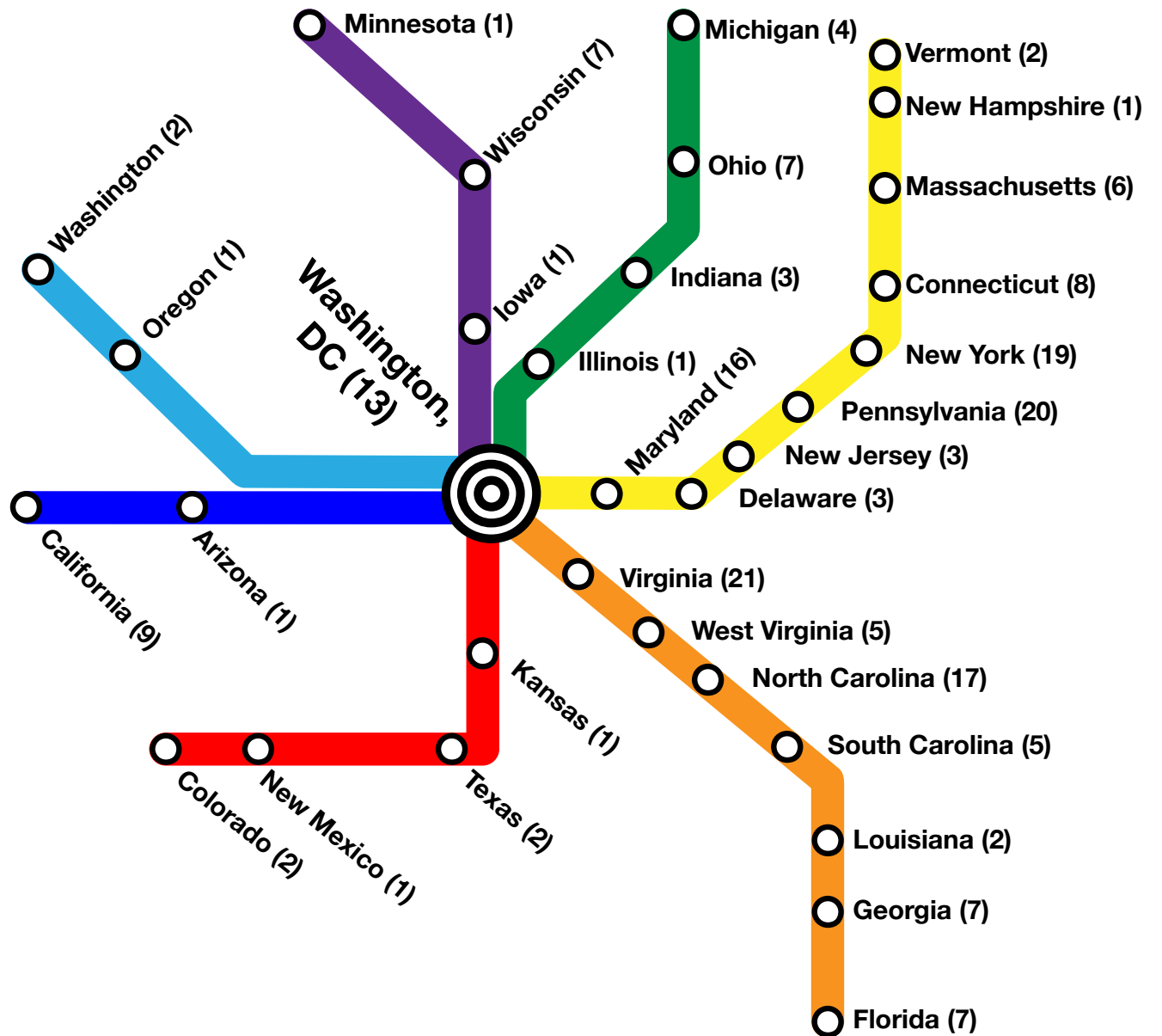
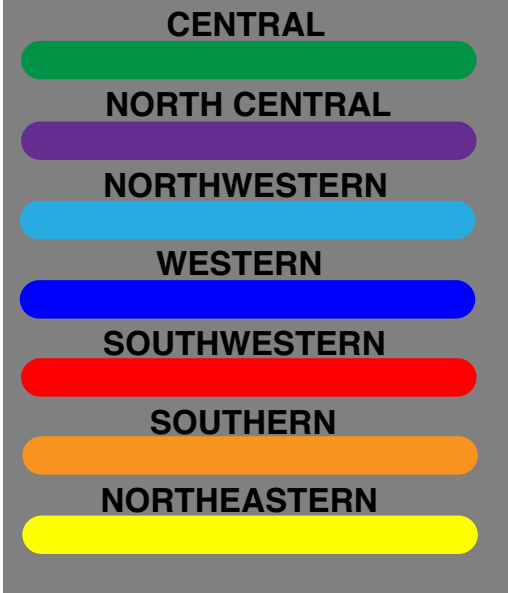


Go to [thewilsonbeacon.com](http://thewilsonbeacon.com) to see all the prom photos from this year!



Graphic by Tom Giagtoglou

## SENIORS HOP ON THE COLLEGE TRAIN



# Summer Checklist For Rising Seniors

By Zach Essig

The departure of beloved college counselor Sandy Bean may leave juniors feeling apprehensive about the coming college application process. However, the Beacon has got you covered with all the greatest tips on how to get into the college of your dreams

### Checklist for Rising Seniors:

- ☑ If you haven't already, decide whether to take the SAT or the ACT. You have the option to take whichever test best suits you, which you can figure out based on how well you do on practice tests. After you decide which test you want to take (or both!), register for the fall administration of that test. Fee waivers are available in the College and Career Center.
- ☑ Start drafting a list of colleges that you want to apply to. Think about location, size, type of school, etc. Consider visiting colleges to get a better sense of what type of school you prefer.
- ☑ Think about signing up for an honors or AP course for next year. Advanced classes are a great way to showcase your academic ambition and drive.
- ☑ Also think about taking the SAT subject tests. While many colleges do not require them, a growing cohort is beginning to recommend taking at least two subject-specific tests, and they are a great way to distinguish yourself from the rest of the crowd. The SAT subject tests are short multiple-choice tests that cover subjects from Latin to biology, so you can choose the subject you're best at to showcase your skills.

- ☑ If you decide that college is not the right option for you, think about what other things you can do when you graduate. Research gap-year programs, vocational/technical schools, and other programs such as the military. Stop by the College and Career Center to get some guidance.
- ☑ Begin your college essays! Although the thought of writing during the summer can be daunting, it is an opportune time to get a head start on those college essays. The prompts for next year's Common App have already been released: find them at <http://www.commonapp.org>.
- ☑ Make sure your Naviance account is set up and fill out your Tiger Paws evaluation survey on Naviance, the online college application portal Wilson uses. Counselors use the information you provide in the survey to write recommendations.
- ☑ Have fun! Junior summer/senior year is supposed to be one of the most memorable times of your life. Make sure to savor every day and not let it fly by too fast.

As long as you are organized and stay on top of things, you will be fine! Remember, there are numerous people at Wilson who are here to help you. You got this!

# Students Follow Their He(art)s to College

**Tara Bretzfelder**  
**Zola Canady**  
Staff Writer  
Junior Editor

Graduation is approaching quickly and Wilson's seniors are preparing to start the next chapter of their lives. Several of this year's graduating seniors selected schools where they can pursue their passions: art, fashion, and design.

Senior Jane Martin is going to The New School's Parsons School of Design in

New York City and plans on majoring in Strategic Design and Management. "It's about incorporating art and design into a business major," she says, "So I'm getting a BBA, which is a Bachelor of Business Administration." A BBA is one of the many degree programs Parsons offers to undergraduates.

Martin chose her school because of her interest in marketing and her desire to live in the city. The New School offers classes in subjects other

than art, which she plans to take advantage of. "I'm really excited to take more art classes and to be around other people who are interested in the same things as I am," she says.

However, not all aspiring artists are going to be attending art colleges. Senior Leander Trotter is attending a standard college in New York. Trotter will study design at Marist college and will major in fashion design. "I didn't want to go to a full arts school because I wanted a more diverse environment, so I chose

a regular school," he says.

Griffin Feeney, another Wilson senior, will be attending the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) with the intent of majoring in Industrial Design. "If you go to the accepted-students days you get to feel the whole energy of the school and that's why I chose it."

Tristan Huber, another budding artist, will be traveling outside of the country next year to attend Concordia University's Faculty of Fine Arts, majoring in drawing and painting. Huber

chose the university because he believes it's the best art school in Montreal, Canada; and he says he can get reduced tuition. "I can get a job because I'm bilingual and schools are cheaper for me," Huber says. "I'm most excited for the music and art scene."

All of these students have shown their great excitement and interest in their schools and majors because they have chosen colleges based on their talents and many interests. •



# Opinions Range on Free-Range Parenting

**Nora Charles**  
Features Editor

Overprotective parents are a source of frustration for high school students everywhere. Books have coined phrases like “tiger mom” and “helicopter parent” to label the overprotective parenting techniques that enrage teens. “Free-range parenting,” a name first coined by New York City author Lenore Skenazy, describes a movement seeking to combat the hypervigilant parenting that is so widespread today. However, it has recently been making news headlines with issues of its own.

Danielle and Alexander Meitiv, a couple from Silver Spring, stepped into the middle of the national parenting argument after letting their children, ages ten and six, walk the mile home from a park near their house. In December and then a second time in April, concerned bystanders spotted the children and called the police. Consequently, the couple was investigated and charged with child neglect. The Meitivs rolled their eyes at the charge,

claiming they believe in “free-range parenting,” giving their children freedom and space to gain independence.

Last week they were cleared of the December charges, and will likely be cleared of April’s, since Montgomery County does not require adult supervision of children outdoors. However, their children now fear the police, and the Meitivs worry that what has happened to them will discourage other parents from giving their own children the independence they believe is crucial to development.

Wilson students reacted to the situation mainly by laughing at the police action and the parents’ outrage. Junior Meru Kush said that investigating the parents in Silver Spring “made no sense.”

Junior Adirah Abney felt that outsiders should not get so worked up over a situation they do not understand. “Maybe the parents don’t have a car; maybe they both work, maybe they can’t pick their children up, maybe their kids are in the position to take the train or the bus by themselves.” And, in any case, it is pointless to fight about

it. “Other parents need to mind their own business with other children because that’s not your child,” Abney pointed out.

Kush liked the sound of free-range parenting. “Honestly, we don’t need more people to be dependent on their parents when they are in their 40s.” When he was six years old, Kush took the train with his sister, and by age ten he was going the 14 stops from Tenleytown to Takoma alone every day for school. “The only time I felt unsafe was when I was on crutches, but then I mostly got rides,” he said.

But when asked what type of parent he might be, he hesitated. “Well, I say that I wouldn’t be protective at all, but I probably will be. I’ll be supportive, scared, all that jazz,” he said.

Junior Lina Klose, who has lived in Chevy Chase her whole life, grew up with different boundaries. “I wasn’t allowed to go out by myself until I was in sixth grade, and that was only up to Broad Branch Market, which was five blocks from my house.” She understood why such backlash erupted after the kids walked home in Silver Spring: “I think naturally parents just worry a lot.”

Klose believes this fear has increased. “The way my mom describes her childhood is going

out and playing kickball for three hours until it was dark and then coming home. But she says it’s different now because there are bigger threats,” Klose said.

Wilson psychology teacher Michael Garbus agrees. He grew up in the 60s in northern New Jersey. “All our parents were free-range parents. We would come home from school and then leave and bike back when it got dark. My parents never

as newspapers and TV news stations broadcast terrorist bombings and murders in graphic detail.

Additionally phones make it possible for parents to act on the fear the media instills. “If I miss a call from my mom and I call her back and she doesn’t answer, I need to be home in five minutes because I will be in so much trouble,” junior Molly Wackler explained.

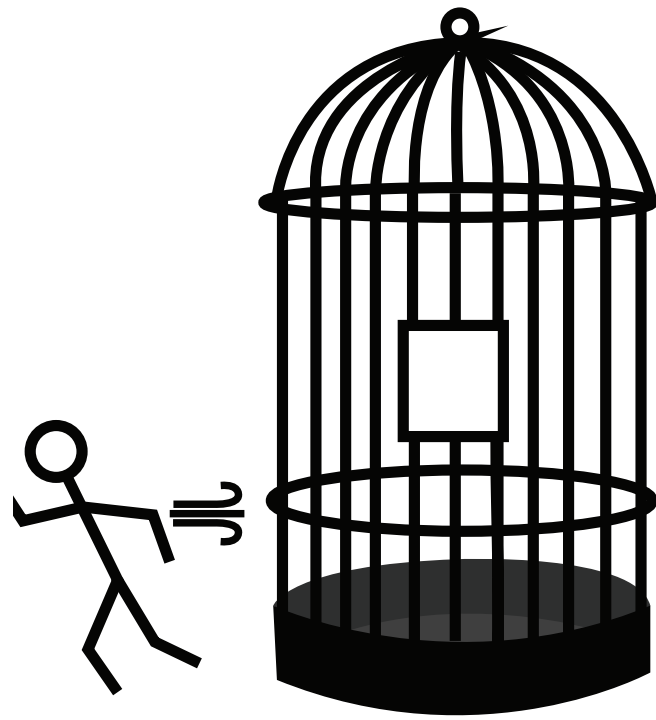
Klose has a similar situation. “[My mom] gets really mad if I forget to text her back. She always asks what’s the point of me having a phone if I don’t answer it,” she laughed. A new app, College120, alerts parents when their child skips a class, even when they live on a college campus hours away.

One of the biggest concerns of parents is rape, which pertains

asked where I was going and I never told them,” he said matter-of-factly.

Statistics show that across the country, crime is at its lowest point since the 1950s. Maybe we are just more aware of the crime that does exist today,

mostly to girls. “My mom is a feminist and worked for Planned Parenthood and all that, but she still says I can’t do certain things that my brother can do because I’m a girl,” Klose said. “It’s the most frustrating thing in the entire world.”



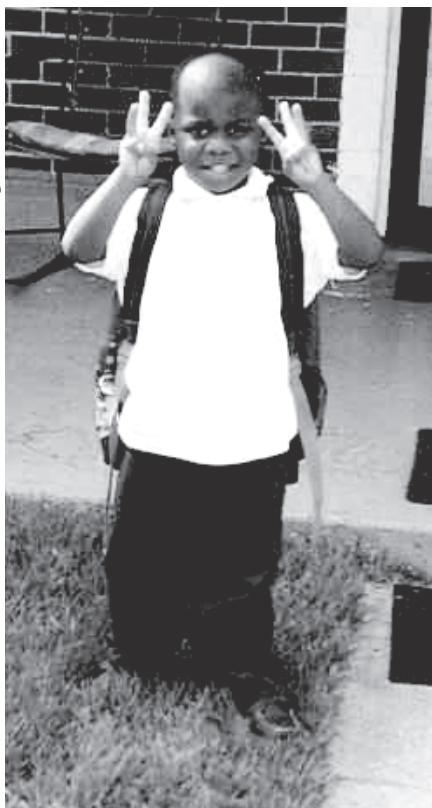
Graphic by Jarrah May

Want an alternative to the college madness? Click here for the link. (Kidding! Please go to [thewilsonbeacon.com](http://thewilsonbeacon.com))



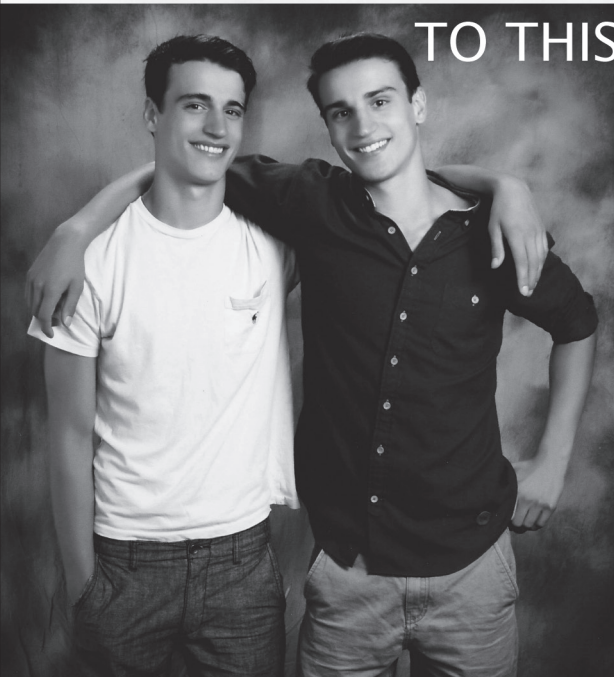
Nicholas,

I am very proud of what you have accomplished and the man you have become. I can remember your first day of school up until now and you have grown up to be a very nice and caring son and good friend to others.



I LOVE YOU very much and wish you nothing but the best in your future endeavors that you are soon to embark upon. Always remember to stay focused on the goal and never be afraid to take one step back or two steps forward.

Love you always,  
Mom.



TO THIS

Congratulations Tristan and Loïc Love with all our hearts,  
Mama and Papa



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CONGRATULATIONS RYA G !!



**WE ARE SO PROUD!  
THE ORDWAY 6  
DAD & CLAIRE  
DANNY, JONAH & ELI**

ALL THE BEST TO THE **CLASS OF 2015!**



Compiled By Helen Malhotra

# ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A SENIOR?



## SKYLER MACKEY

1. November 1?
2. Beyoncé, Queen B
3. Fancy Dresses
4. Let me go get my whip, or whip me to this party
5. Ms. McLaughlin
6. Conner Mosby
7. Green winky face hippies
8. Hillary, Rick Perry, Waka Flocka
9. All I can think of is 'xln'


1. What was the early decision deadline this year?
2. Who was in Nicki Minaj's latest music video?
3. What was the theme for prom?
4. Use 'whip' in a sentence
5. Who was the first African American woman to win a Nobel Prize in literature?
6. Who was the 23rd president?
7. Explain Sweetlife in five words or less
8. Name three candidates for the 2016 Presidential campaign
9. What is a natural log?



## MR. SINGER

1. November 1
2. Nicki Minaj, technically true
3. Casino (invalid answer, Mr. Singer tricked someone into telling him the answer)
4. I like Cool Whip on my ice cream
5. I'm so embarrassed... um, Toni Morrison?
6. Benjamin Harrison
7. Oh I got nothing
8. Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, and which of the annoying Republicans do I want to choose... Rand Paul
9. It's an exponent! Of base e to be exact

1. November 1 2. Beyoncé 3. Casino Royale 4. (answers may vary) I can drive, I got the whip 5. Toni Morrison 6. Benjamin Harrison 7. (answers may vary) 8. Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, Jim Webb, Jeb Bush, etc. 9. An exponent, logarithm with base e



The Wilson Class of '15 rocks.  
So do you, Megan!  
**Congratulations!**  
Love,  
Mom, Dad, Peter, and Bailey 🐾



Lions and Tiger and Bears, Oh My!

The dreams that you dare to dream really do come true!

Madzi is Cornell bound, Congratulations!



A shout-out to Mary Stapp, Alexandra Stryker, and Mary Carpenter!

We LOVE reading the Beacon, in print and online, and we are so grateful for your mentoring, support, and guidance of our young journalists!

Your hard work and dedication, together with theirs, produce a terrific paper!

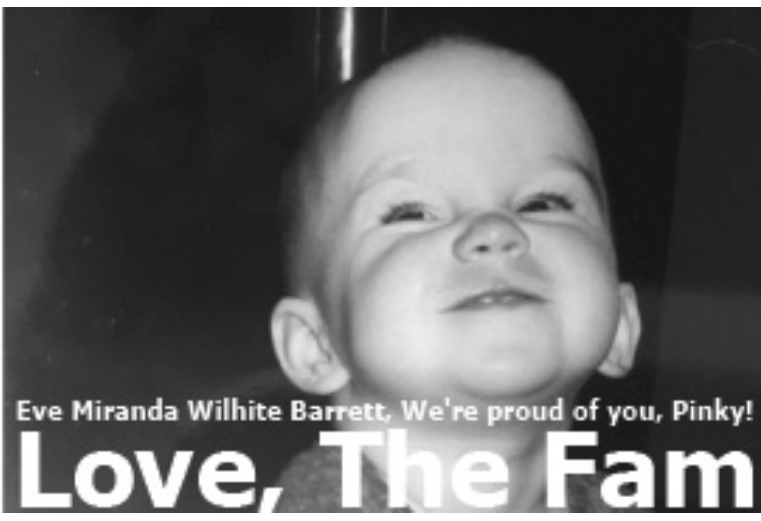
Thank you from the Beacon seniors' families!



**BULLFROG BAGELS**  
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To read about a student's clothing line, get a book recommendation, or read about upcoming movies, visit [thewilsonbeacon.com](http://thewilsonbeacon.com)!



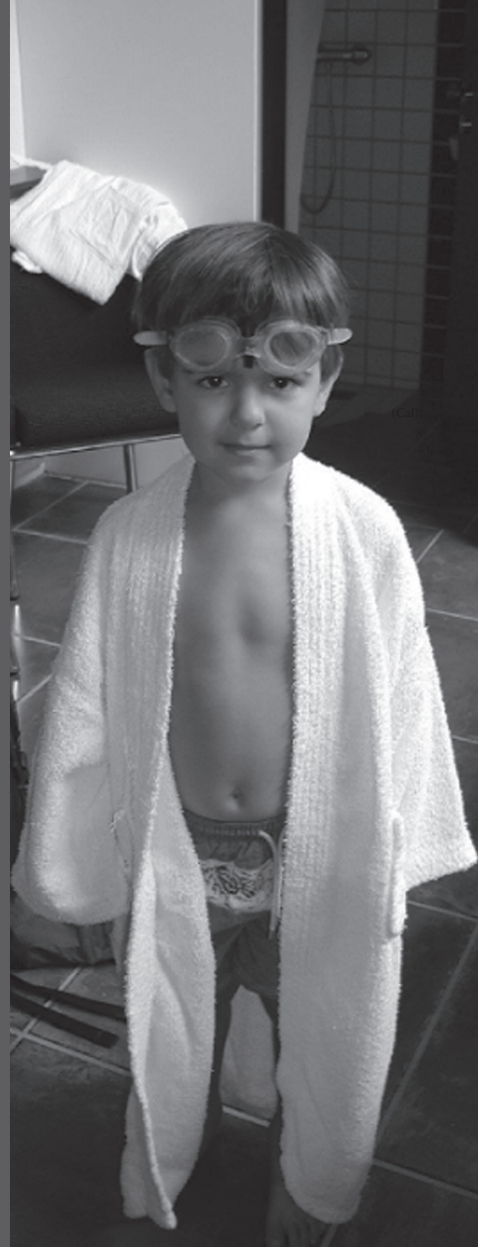
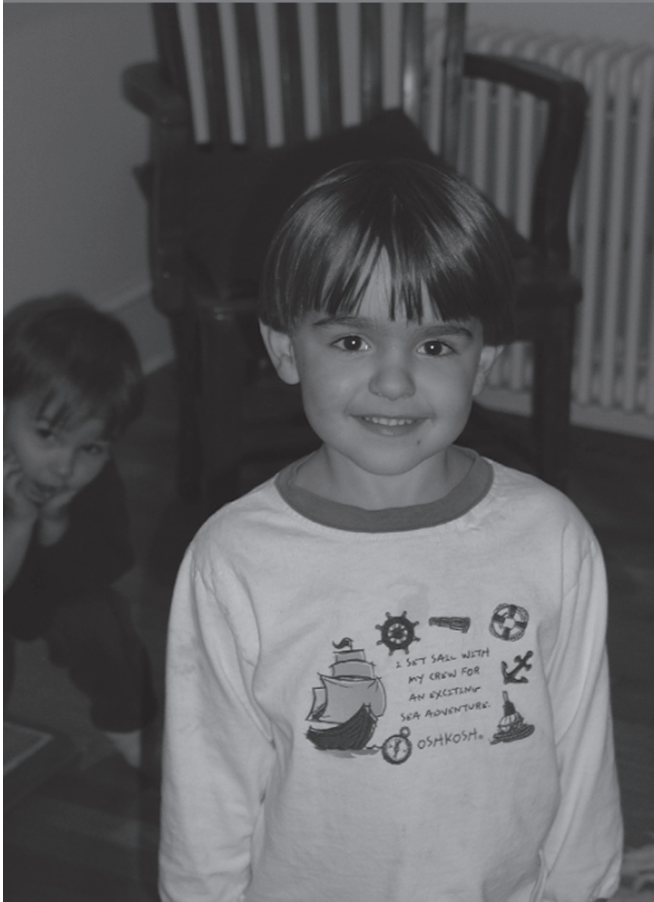
Eve Miranda Wilhite Barrett, We're proud of you, Pinky!  
**Love, The Fam**

Congrats Nick,  
You have come a long way.  
Good luck on your new  
endeavors!

- Mom, Dad and Alexei.



Congratulations to Paul  
Rock and the class of  
2015!  
Love from Mom, Dad and  
Clare



**You're one of a kind Ethan Tanen! We love you,  
Mom, Dad, Abby and Seth**



# COP OR NAH? WITH KOPETSKY AND SMEE ROME PIZZA



We've all thought at some point: Why the hell am I going to Angelico after school? It's been statistically proven that it's more likely to win the lottery and get mauled by a polar bear and a black bear all in the same day than it is to get a solid slice of pizza at Angelico. Literally. With almost every slice you get, the cheese slides off the 'za like beads of sweat down Mr. Cahall's squeaky head. On top of the poor quality pizza, we're fairly certain that an initiation requirement for working at Angelico is to kill a kitten and a toddler. Contrast these workers with the friendly Eastern European ways of Rome Pizza's employee (singular), and we've found our alternative after-school pizza option.

Amidst the giants of Tenleytown pizza, Rome is often forgotten. Located across the street from the over-salted haven Pete's Apizza (shout out to Will Neady), it's a cheaper and chillier option, perfect for both late-night bites and after school snacks that will leave the squad belly full and happy.

Unlike the stingy, stick-up-the-butt people at Angelico who won't let you sit outside even when there's negative people in the restaurant, Rome has a wild policy where they let you sit where you want for however long you want. Compared to Angelico, which apparently has reserved ghost seating after 8 PM, Rome is in prime position when it comes to people-watching. At Rome, you meet people from all walks of the DMV. From Walls wannabes to Burke baddies walking by (sike naw, you thought those kids went outside), to Georgetown Day suckas and their extended families eating a big Pete's Apizza meal after little Esther's bat mitzvah, Rome is poppin any time of day.

As far as the pizza goes, here's what you need to know: it'll do. It won't make you sick, and it'll satiate that tiger-sized hunger that comes after a day on the prowl, feasting on knowledge and defending yourself against joaning hyenas. It's also cheap - for \$3.30, they give you basically a fourth of a pizza.

Here's what you need to take away from this: Angelico should serve solely to deliver, because their delivery pizza and in-house triangles are two completely different stories. Anyone who goes there to dine in is dead to us. Try Rome instead, they could use the extra cash flow. •

## FINAL VERDICT: COP



**Congratulations, Anne,  
we are so proud of you!**  
Much Love,  
Your Family

*To all the wonderful teachers, staff,  
students and families who have made  
Wilson such a great place to be:*

**THANK YOU!**

*From the family of Claire Parker*



*I am so proud of you my amazing  
niece and love you more than words  
can say. I have watched you in awe,  
blossom into a caring and wonderful  
young woman and can't wait to see  
what you have in store for the world.  
All my love, Aunt Candace*



## MAY HOROSCOPES

**ARIES** *By Brian Keyes*

New things are coming. Anything could happen. This summer will be something to remember. Tigers for life. You better get ready.

**TAURUS**   
1738 is a code. Fetty Wap is the messenger. A messenger for the Illuminati.

**GEMINI**   
Prom was pretty crazy, but not nearly as crazy as secret prom.

**CANCER**   
The Beacon will get in some beef with the SGA on twitter. It'll be lit.

**LEO**   
You might have found yourself hitting up the gym more to get your 'beach body'. That's stupid. You'll never look like a beach.

**VIRGO**   
Befriend Jenny Li before she's gone, so when she becomes president of the world she can put you in a nice position.

**LIBRA**   
Do something daring with your wardrobe. Maybe wear a black crop top with a white skirt. Mix it up a little.

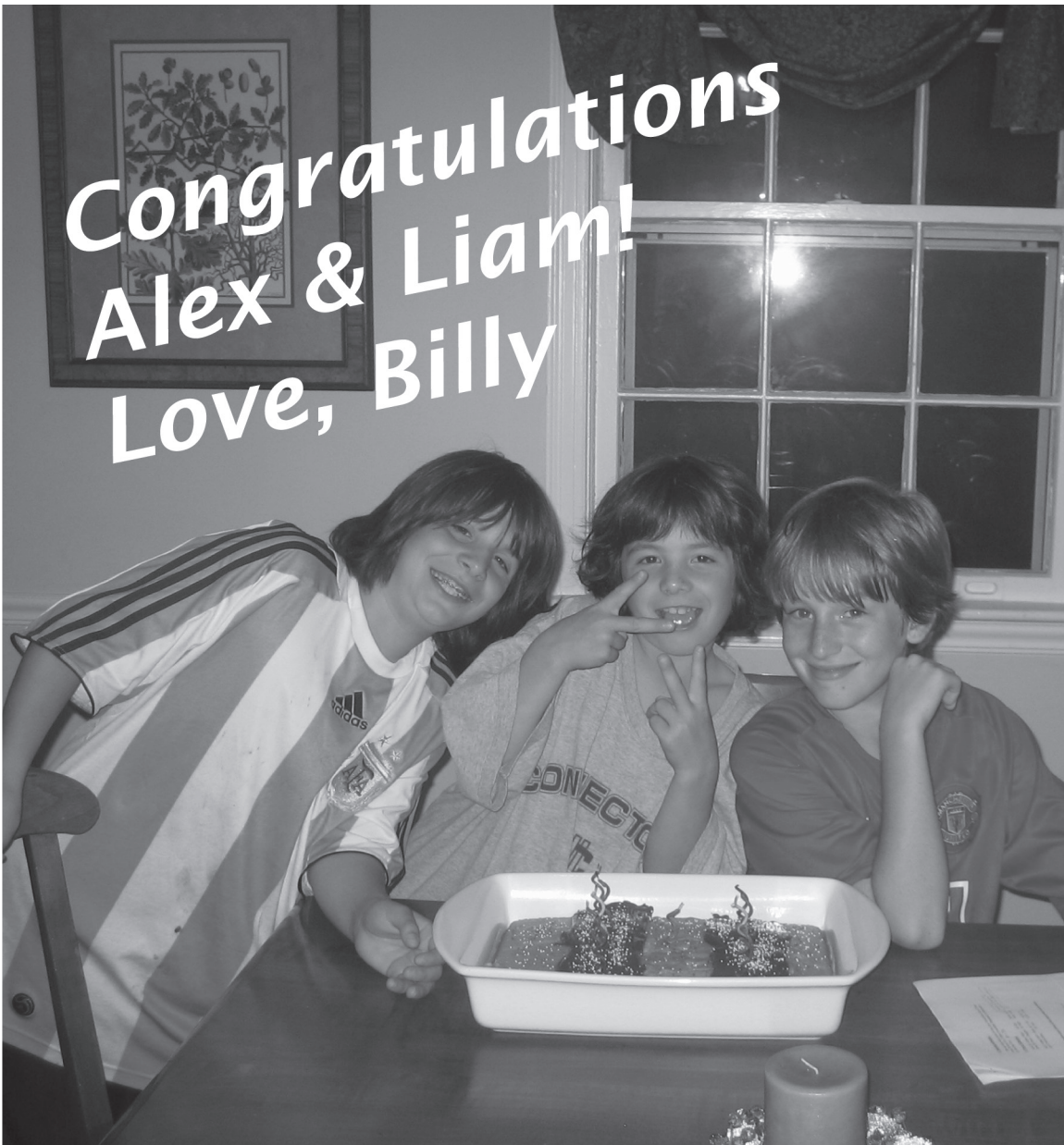
**SCORPIO**   
If you're ever having a bad day, just remember that Mr. Hernandez dunked on a kid once. At least you're not that kid.

**SAGGITARIUS**   
Just know that statistically, your mom has probably fantasized about the guy from 50 Shades of Grey.

**CAPRICORN**   
If you're a freshman wearing Axe body spray, just know you're hated. It doesn't matter how little you have on. It's still too much.

**AQUARIUS**   
Getting hall swept sucks, but it feels a little bit better when the voice shouting at you is the silky smooth chocolate thunder voice of Mr. Bargeman.

**PISCES**   
You might have had an emotional moment about waffles recently. Get it together.



As you continue to move forward through this life remember this quote from Horace Mann, "Be Ashamed to Die Until You Have Won Some Victory For Humanity." We love you, we have faith in your insights, your growing knowledge and your commitment to making a difference.

Mom & Dad





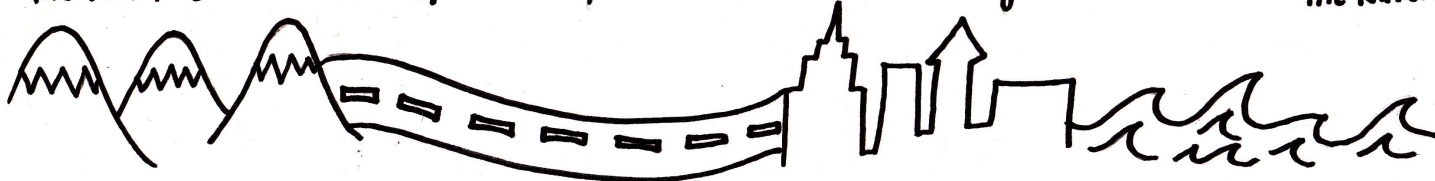
# A PLAYLIST ABOUT GETTING THE HELL OUT

Compiled by Emma Keyes

OF HERE (A MIX FOR SENIORS)

Illustration by Ella Friedman

1. One More Hour - SLEATER-KINNEY
2. Bastards of Young - THE REPLACEMENTS
3. What an Experience - JANELLE MONÁE
4. Corner of the Sky - MATTHEW JAMES THOMAS (from Pippin)
5. The House That Heaven Built - JAPANDROIDS
6. Runaway - KANYE WEST FT. PUSH T
7. Teen Age Riot - SONIC YOUTH
8. Optimist - DAVID BYRNE + ST. VINCENT
9. Ooh La La - THE FACES
10. Maps - THE FRONT BOTTOMS
11. Skeptic Goodbye - YOU WON'T
12. Everything's Good (Good Ass Outro) - CHANCE THE RAPPER



## RANDOM KID TO RANDOM GIG

**Carolina Bayon**  
Junior Editor

"Let me see your hands. Don't wash these off or drink alcohol."

The scruffy man at the Black Cat entrance placed a large black 'X' on each of our hands, meaning that we were underage.

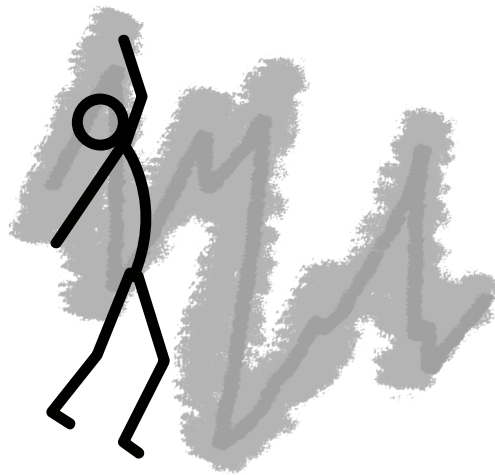
We walked into a room full of adults. Past the main bar was the entrance to the backstage area. At that entrance we paid \$5 and got another stamp on our hands. We walked into a totally empty room. Just a vacant stage, two women dancing off on the side, a man alone on a bench drinking beer, a bartender, and us.

As I stood in the corner with my friends, one of them reassured me that it was only 10:30 and the club would fill up

within half an hour. Having built up a lot of expectations for this 90s hip-hop dance party, it all seemed somewhat dull. I didn't know what to do other than wait for it to fill up. On the upside, I was surrounded by my friends in a growing crowd of couples and drunk people, and the music was good. When Marky Mark's "Good Vibrations" came on, I got in the groove. I felt the vibrations.

I checked my phone after dancing for a while. It was 11:13. By this time I was having a lot of fun dancing and bumping into random people. Not all the music was hip-hop, but each song was an unexpected surprise. As a person who dances alone in her room all the time, I had no problem coming up with new dance moves.

All I felt was sweat, heat,



and my pained feet (due to the platform Converse I was wearing). Two of my friends weren't feeling it anymore and left after Tupac's "California Love".

Around 11:30 we were exhausted and sweaty. Naturally we had to take a break. We

wandered into what seemed like a social hub for DC's youth. Everywhere we looked, people were laughing, drinking, or playing pool; we just sat down and soaked it all in.

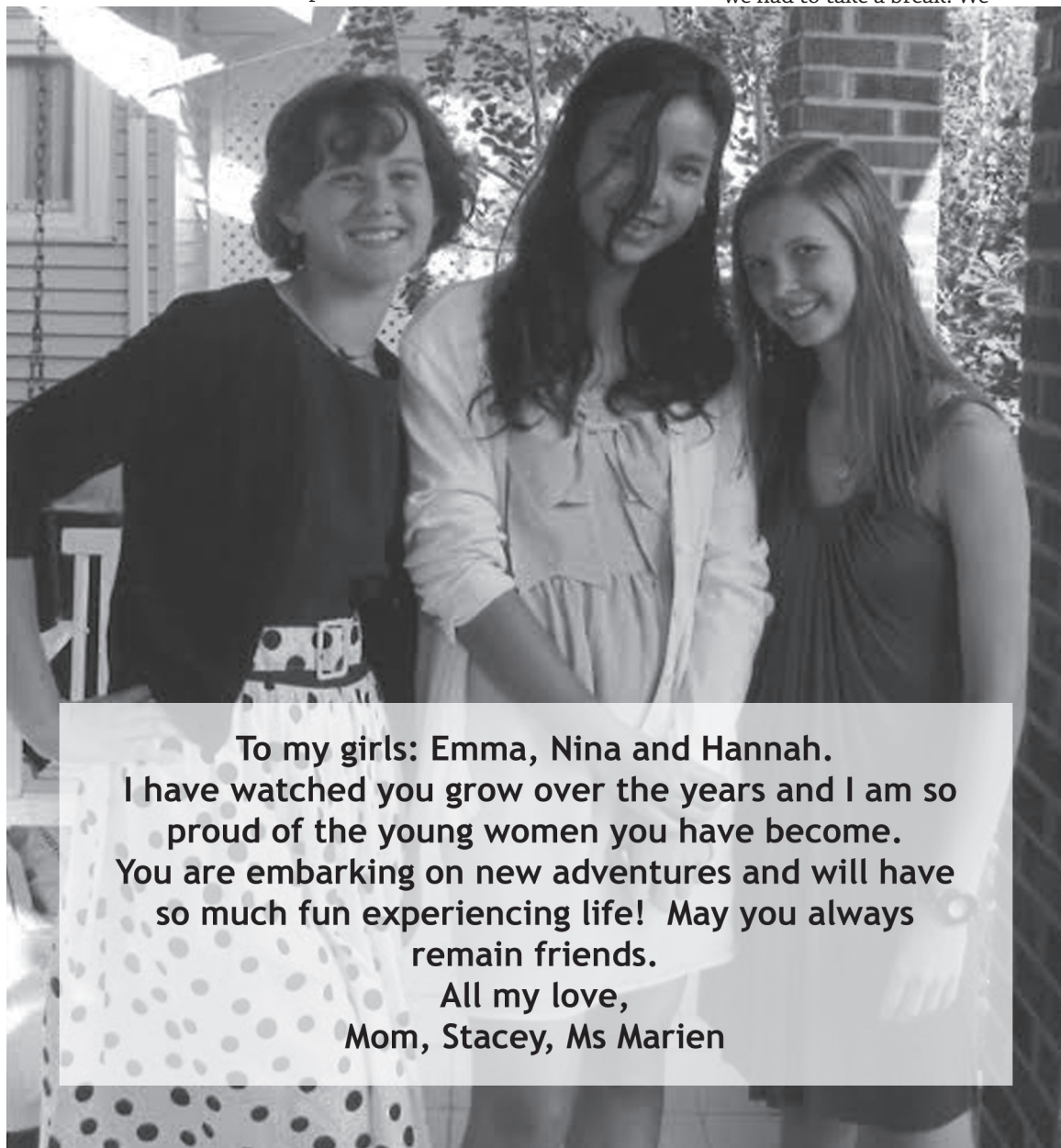
Grossed out by the couple making out on the couch across from us, we made our way back to the room where the dancing was.

At this point it was midnight and almost over, so we decided to make the best of it - but it wasn't all fun. My friend and I got on the stage and an obviously drunk guy got too close.

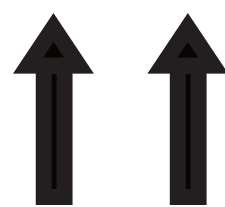
My motivation to keep having fun was that I didn't

know anybody there, and I knew I'd regret not enjoying every bit of the experience. When it became apparent there was a break-dance contest between drunk and drunker on the stage, I realized that everyone was there just to have fun and let loose. Though I'm quite familiar with 90s music, going to a club surrounded by people I didn't know and being in an environment I'm not used to broadened my horizons. Dancing at the Black Cat was a new and fun experience that I'd definitely recommend. Whether it's a "Fresh to Death - 90's Hip Hop and Pop Dance Party" or an alternative concert at the club, it's guaranteed to be a great environment to try something new and have a fun night with friends. •

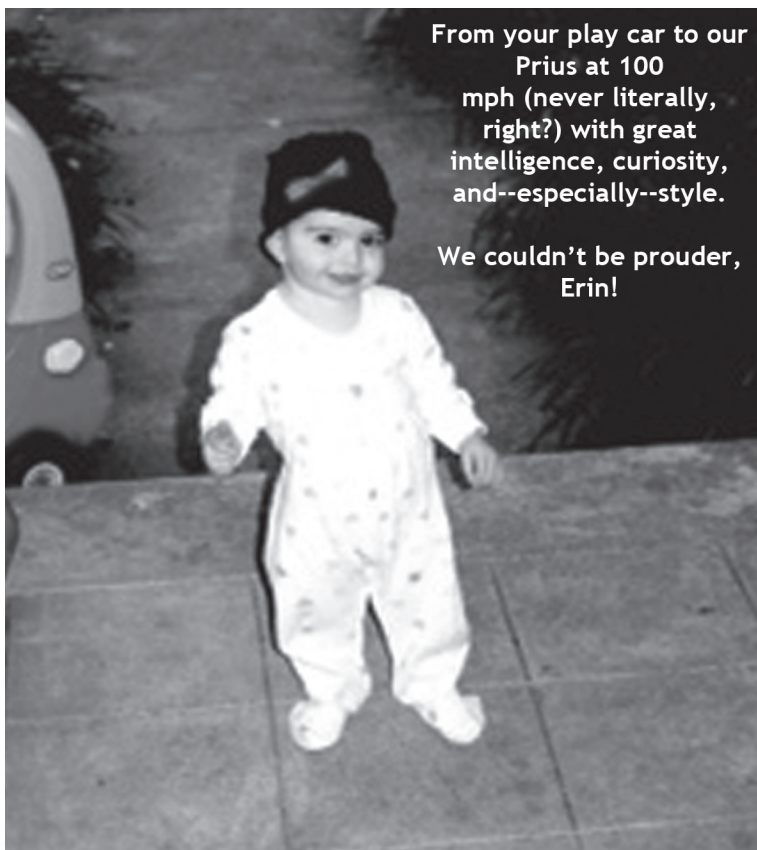
Graphic by Jarrah May



To my girls: Emma, Nina and Hannah. I have watched you grow over the years and I am so proud of the young women you have become. You are embarking on new adventures and will have so much fun experiencing life! May you always remain friends.  
All my love,  
Mom, Stacey, Ms Marien



If you're interested in going to a random concert in the area and writing about it, email [beaconchiefeditor@gmail.com](mailto:beaconchiefeditor@gmail.com)!



From your play car to our Prius at 100 mph (never literally, right?) with great intelligence, curiosity, and--especially--style.

We couldn't be prouder, Erin!



# OUTFITS OF THE WEEK

Photo by Rochelle O'Brien



Avery Crocker 11th Grade



Emily Reynaud 12th Grade

## DC and Friends Fuel Devin Khan's Art

**Ella Feldman**  
Style Editor

Photography, paintings, doodles on priority mail stickers: this man does it all. Junior Devin Khan is an artist who draws most of his inspiration from his daily life. The things that go on in his school and his city elicit from him artful photos that capture moments as if they were happening right in front of you, and beautiful semi-abstract paintings with bold colors that are so lively it feels as if they could bounce off the canvas.

Khan has been drawn to art ever since he can remember. He attributes some of this interest to his sister,

who recently graduated from Drexel University with a major in photography. Like Khan himself, his sister has always been interested in painting and photography. Having her around as an influence has greatly impacted Khan's interest in art. "I think after a while I just picked it up," he says of being surrounded by her art. He's also constantly influenced by his friends and his surroundings.

Khan realized how much he was into art the summer before 9th grade, and that interest has grown as he's been at Wilson. Recently, he has focused on capturing people in both his photos and paintings. He draws faces and shoots portraits,

which makes sense given that his friends play such a big role in his art.

Color is also a dominant force in his works, and balancing them in different ways is one of his favorite things to explore when painting. This is evident in his art, which is full of energy that comes from a variety of contrasting shades and colors.

DC is another large influence in Khan's work. He says that the art scene going on in the District inspires him greatly because there are so many artists with a variety of backgrounds and ways of expressing themselves. "There's so many different styles," Khan says about the city. "When you

see the art it's really cool to see the clash."

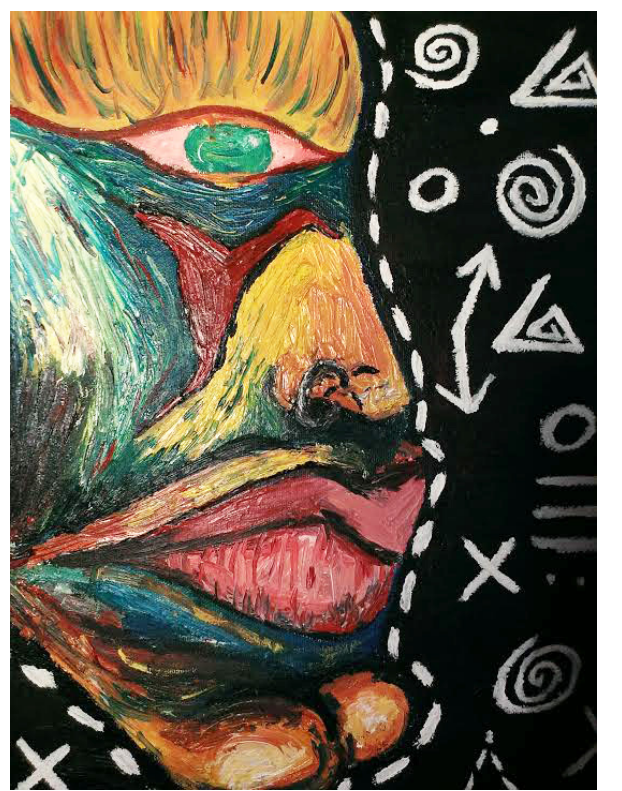
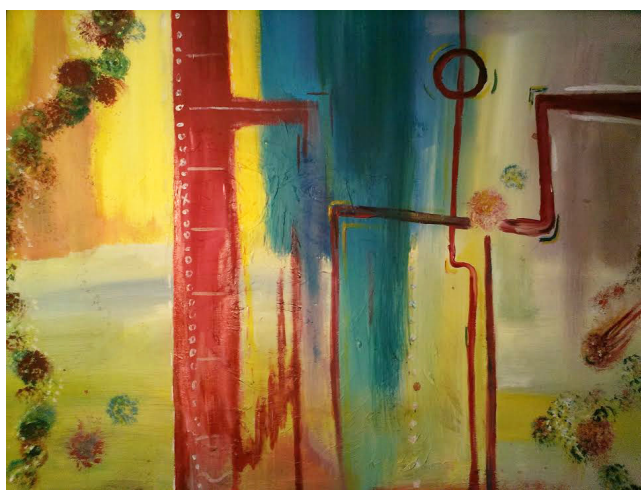
He adds that DC's image of business and government is only on the surface, and disregards the amount of culture the city has to offer.

Although he finds he can express himself through both, Khan is more drawn to photography than he is to painting. "I think there's a lot more you can do," he says. He acknowledges that the high quality cameras that come with modern smartphones allow for more people to take photos whenever and wherever they want, but 'point and shoot' older models of cameras appeal more to Khan. "With a digital you take

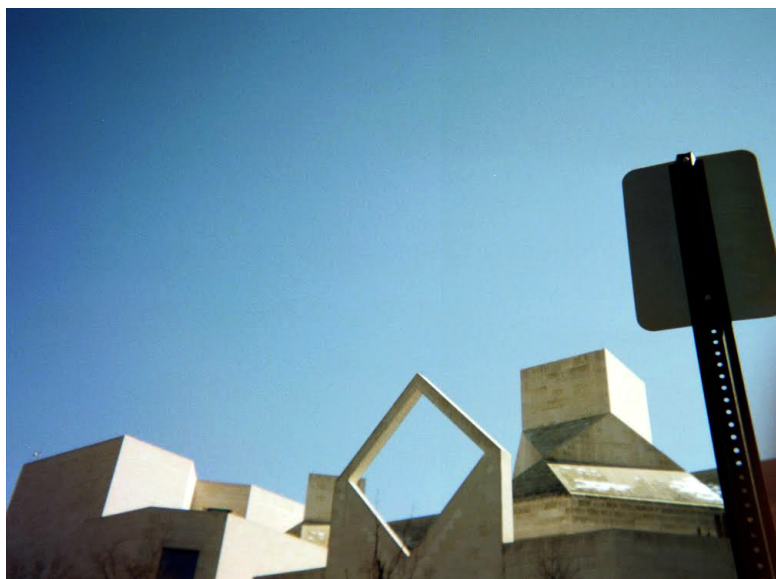
20 [pictures] and it's no big deal, but with film you only have 27 shots, you only have a roll of film," he says. "And it's money. If you waste a shot, you waste money."

Because of this, a lot of Khan's photographs are taken with a variety of film cameras. Photography is something he wants to follow into college and beyond.

"It's one of the only things I know I really, really like doing," Khan says of his passion for art. "Wherever it takes me, I really wanna follow it." •



**DEVIN KHAN DRAW - And he Khan paint, too! Junior Devin Khan expresses his talent through DC and familial influence.**





Compiled by Hannah Wyatt, Will Hamlin and Rochelle O'Brien

## What's the most valuable lesson you've learned at Wilson?



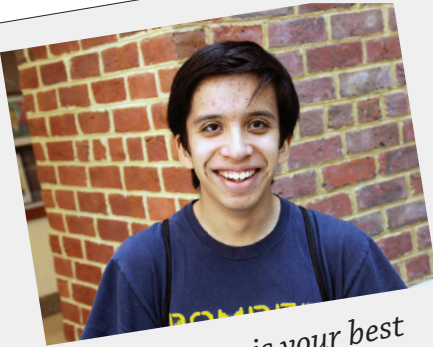
*"Don't get got"*  
**Billy Wiltshire**  
**Will Gibson**  
**Ben Kostyack**



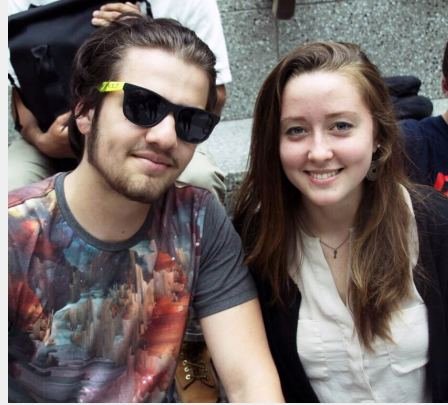
*"Don't dress to impress, because it doesn't matter"*  
**Javon Johnson**



*"Always listen to Dunham's advice"*  
**Ahmed Ali**  
**Nguyen Nguyen**



*"Sparknotes is your best friend"*  
**Max Aviles**



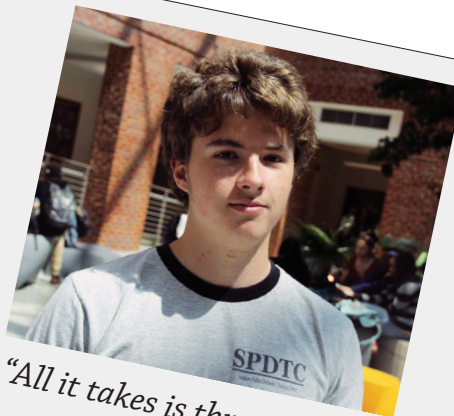
*"Make friends with the security guards"*  
**Carlo Gatti**  
**Jo Belanger**



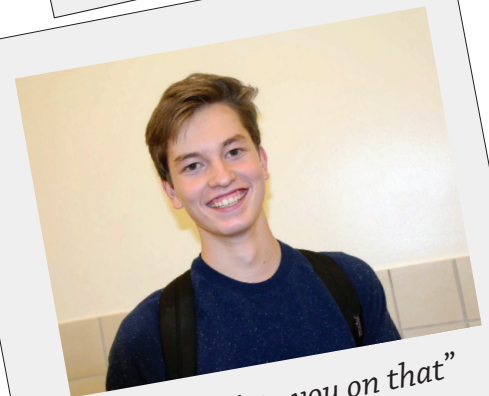
*"Look like you know what you're doing and you're fine"*  
**Erin Sternlieb**  
**Sophia Cordes**  
**Annie Rosenthal**



*"Don't get cooked"*  
**Lennard Long**  
**RJ White**



*"All it takes is three clicks to excuse an absence"*  
**Alex Rochon**



*"I'll get back to you on that"*  
**Alex Carroll-Cabanes**



*"Do not sit on the toilets"*  
**Rodney Savoy**



*"Make friends with everyone, except freshman, only date freshman, grades don't matter"*  
**Scott Thomas**  
**Annie Rosenthal**  
**Sarah Torresen**  
**Maria Brescia-Weiler**  
**Suzy Carnevali-Doan**



*"Be unique"*  
**Jock Pollock**



*"You don't need a backpack every day"*  
**Wendy Perez**  
**Maria Chevez**  
**Mo Ismail**