

December, 2024

The Column

Student Culture

Student interview feature pieces



Cultural Foods

By *Rehanna Carryl*

We get to have a look into the culture and traditions of the students of WHSAD. This ranges from the food they eat to the holidays they celebrate. It's interesting to learn about different backgrounds aside from your own. I'm from Guyana, a country in South America. I love my country and I'm proud to be from there. It's good to hear from other students about their countries, which make up a part of their identity.

Ashley Ochoa

"I'm from Mexico. I was born in the U.S. and both my parents are from Mexico. My native language is Spanish. My culture is mostly based on dancing and music. We listen to cumbia and traditional style dancing in Latin culture. Dia

de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is my favourite holiday. In our culture, it means our family members in the afterlife can come visit us for a brief reunion of the living and the dead. Some foods I eat in my culture are tlacoyos, pozole and caldo de res."

Alan Acosta

"I'm from the Dominican Republic. I was born there, but I left when I was six to come to the U.S.

Every year, we celebrate El Carnaval de la Vega. They dress up with masks and costumes and they have whips and they crack it on the floor and it makes a sound. Our most famous food is mangú, smashed up plantain plated with fried cheese, fried onions and salami. Sancocho is a seven meat stew, and la bandera is the national dish. It's white rice, beans and chicken."

Jonathan Chan

"I'm from Guatemala and El Salvador. I was born in the U.S. I eat tamales and corn foods. I celebrate Christmas and we go out."

Aioki Sandy

"I'm from Trinidad and Tobago. I love the food and the fact I'm mixed with Indian. I love roti, doubles, crab, and chicken curry. We celebrate a carnival two days a year where we get to dress up in costumes and party.

The night before the carnival is Jab Jab where people go out in all white clothes and drink. They get covered in mud since they throw mud at each other."

Hailey Arlene

"I'm from the U.S. but my family is from Puerto Rico. I like that we have a bunch of delicious foods. My favorite food is rice, beans and chicken. We go to a parade and we bring a flag and embrace our culture."

Pets of WHSAD

By *George Pinto*

Passing through the hallway you may have noticed the "Pets of WHSAD" board, where you'll find dozens of adorable photos of students' pets. Thanks to Ms. Terraferma, who runs the display, we were able to ask some students what they love about their pets. If you are interested in featuring your pet, feel free to do the Google Form posted next to the pictures. Additionally, if you want to be interviewed for this section, please email george.pinto25@whsadstudents.org.





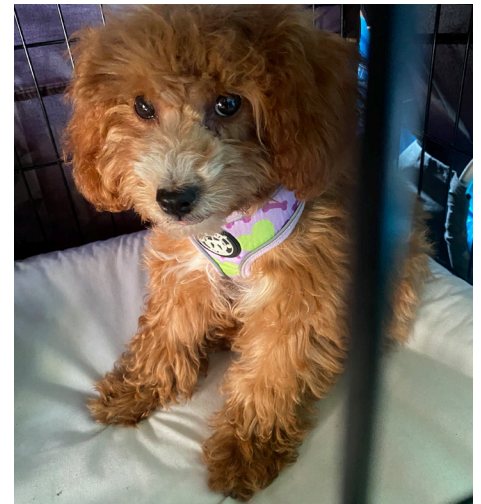
Chance

“Chance is really smart. He knows how to open my door. His favorite thing to do is chew on our couch. I still love everything about him, even though he can be kind of a pain sometimes.”



Maggie

“She’s really sweet, like she just wants to say hi to everyone. She’s happiest when everyone is in the same room because she feels like she can relax when she knows we’re all there. Her favorite thing to do is probably beg for cheese and play with other dogs.”



Bella

“I love Bella because she’s very playful and sweet. She’s very friendly, and she likes to run around and play catch with her favorite toy, an ice cream plushie”



Sparkles

“Sparkles is small, but she thinks she’s a big dog. She likes to bark at everything like walls, people, big dogs. But she’s really cute, and when she runs her ears flap.”



Mila

“She’s a lot, but she keeps me on my toes. She’s a really great listener too, like if she does something she’s not supposed to, and you tell her to stop, she won’t do it again, that’s what I love most about her. We found her abandoned on a beach in San Diego, and at first she was really scared, but then we took her home and gave her food and she just totally brightened up. She went from being homeless, to having a family.”



Trigo

“I love Trigo because he makes me happy, and he’s really cute. He’s very playful and shy, he reminds me a lot of myself actually. He’s also really smart, like he learns tricks easily and knows what not to do when I tell him to stop. He likes to play a lot, and he loves the sound of bells and chewing on Nerf bullets”



Luna

“I love Luna because she’s very lovable. She likes everyone she meets. Her favorite thing to do is cuddle.”

Teacher Spotlight

An introduction to WHSAD's newest teachers!



Ms. Barrett

By Rehanna Carryl

Why did you choose to work at WHSAD?

I felt as though the school community seemed very warm and welcoming. During my Demo Lesson, students like Jordan Louis were really engaged in the CPR lesson and demonstrated they were excited to learn. I also think Architecture and Design is a really cool program and I thought it would be great to teach students at this school.

What inspires you to teach?

I never thought I'd be a teacher since my mom is a high school English and theater teacher, and I always watched her bring home papers to grade. But I wanted a career where I could also have a family, which has always been my dream since I was a kid. I like the idea of being home at nights, weekends, and holidays with my family. I also have always enjoyed teaching students. I volunteered at

theater summer camps as a Student Counselor for younger kids.

Why did you choose to teach Physical Education? Why is PE important?

Physical Education is very important, and it was one of my favorite subjects in school. Running around and being active is how I live my life. Exercise creates endorphins and makes people happy. I love the idea of helping students be physically active in their lives. Not every student might enjoy participating in a sport, but my hope is I can help students find an activity they enjoy so they can be physically active for their lifetime. In my previous schools, I got to take students out for different activities for PE like ice skating, roller skating, and swimming, plus we also had a great international dance unit.

Why did you choose to teach Health? Why is it important?

Health is wealth. In my opinion it is one of the most important classes that students take in high school because it helps students learn to analyze the world around them and make educated decisions about their wellbeing. Destigmatizing mental health and letting students know it is very normal to reach out for support if they are struggling is vital. I also enjoy teaching the Comprehensive Sexual Education Health unit. We cover essential topics such as consent, STD protection, sexual orientation and gender identity, reproduction and reproductive health, birth control, abstinence, and healthy, unhealthy, and abusive relationships. This unit allows

students to advocate for their personal health.

Tell me about your interest in anime.

I've always loved anime. I started out with Digimon, Pokemon, and Sailor Moon. Then I moved on to Yu Yu Hakusho, FullMetal Alchemist, Fruits Basket, and Inuyasha. I used to watch them on Adult Swim during middle school, and I was hooked. I love how manga and anime allow you to experience adventures through their stories. I love the ones with fantasy elements and that have strong character development. I believe that manga and anime allow students to experience more empathy for others. It's something everyone can enjoy. As an adult they also have anime that are more "slice of life" with adult topics and experiences. One subgenre I really love is manga that relates to cooking and baking. Kitchen Princess is a great example, because they include the recipes for the food she cooks in the volumes so you can try it out yourself at home!

What do you like to do for fun outside the school?

I play travel club ultimate (Frisbee). I play on a team that represents NYC in the Women's Division for USA Ultimate. I've been playing the sport for twelve years and playing in College as well. I also have coached youth ultimate for ten years. My club team travels to tournaments all over the US. In my spare time, I also love to rollerblade and figure skate. I can roller skate too. Rollerblading and playing music in my headphones while I blade is freeing. I love to blade in parks like Central Park and

Prospect Park. I also enjoy cooking and baking for fun. I bake specialty cupcakes, though I only sold the basic cupcakes for the Anime Club bake sale because the specialty ones take a long time to make. The beach is one of my favorite places during the summer. I go to the beach often with my boyfriend and my friends. I love to swim in the ocean.

What is the best memory from growing up?

I can't think of one in particular, but I love my two younger siblings, Delia and Sean, very much. We had a lot of great memories growing up together.

What is your favorite food?

It's yellow rice and refried beans with extra cheese on the beans and flan from my favorite restaurant. Unfortunately, my favorite restaurant is not here in NYC.

Where are you from? Tell me about your culture.

I'm from Manhattan. I'm a fifth generation New Yorker. My family is from Stuytown, which was convenient when my mom only had to walk across the street to give birth to me at the hospital. Though I didn't fully get to grow up here. We had to move for a job and unfortunately, I had to live in FL for a lot of my youth. I'm Irish and Italian (Sicilian), and my family is very large and diverse, with my close family, Mom's siblings, being Irish and Puerto Rican. That definitely had an impact on my food tastes, especially my love of Puerto Rican foods since we'd cook them at home often.

What is something interesting to know about you?

I went to a specialized high school for performing and visual arts. I was a Musical Theatre and Choir major. I don't do this anymore, but I used to act, sing, and dance a lot.



Sports

Updates, profiles, and reports on Van Arsdale sporting events.

Soccer Profiles

By George Pinto and Giovanni Gomez

This year, the Van Arsdale Soccer Team did exceptionally well, making it all the way to the semifinals. This was a huge feat for them, especially considering the team is only two years old. To commemorate a good season, The Column has arranged to do a profile on some of the players to learn a little more about what makes this sport special.

Alan Joshua Flores, #4 Senior, WP

Alan has been playing since he was eight years old, and has been playing for Van Arsdale from the beginning. His dad inspired him to play, and encouraged him to become a Goalkeeper. His favorite memory from playing with the team was losing 4-0 when the team first began. Although they lost, it motivated them to work harder. He is grateful for the friends he's made playing for the team, and says his favorite part of the sport is slide tackling. Alan plays both Goalkeeper and Center Back, depending on what the team needs.

Allan Maliza, #15 Senior, A&D

Allan has been playing soccer since he was five years old, and for Van Arsdale for two years. His favorite thing about the soccer team is having fun with his friends

and being competitive. He says the environment and the spirit are what makes the team fun, and he switches between playing Winger and Midfielder.

Frank Narea, #11
Junior, WP

Frank has been playing soccer since he was four years old, inspired by his mom's love of the sport. He originally started as a Goalkeeper, but has since switched to Center Back. He has been playing for Van Arsdale the past two years.

Dylan Nocelotl, #17
Junior, A&D

Dylan has been playing since he was a kid, but only started getting serious about it during high school. He has been playing as a Midfielder for Van Arsdale since last October.

Angel Pacheco, #7
Senior, WP

Angel started playing soccer when he was seven years old, and has played for Van Arsdale since last October. He says he enjoys the ups and downs of the game, from the anxiety before a match, the adrenaline of scoring a goal, and the focus he gets throughout the game. He usually plays Left Wing, and hopes to continue doing so in the future.

Jancarlos Quinche, #99
Sophomore, WP

Jancarlos started playing soccer when he was six years old, inspired by his dad. His favorite part of the sport is meeting new teammates, and he has been playing

for Van Arsdale as a Defensive Midfielder since last spring. His favorite memory from playing with the team is scoring a last minute goal in a game against FA Euro.

Marcos Ramirez, #10
Junior, WP

Marcos is a Center Midfielder, and has been playing with Van Arsdale since the beginning. His favorite thing about the sport is the adrenaline rush, and the feeling you get winning as a team. He says the teammates feel like brothers to him, and that this, along with his competitive spirit, is why he plays.

Damien Carlos Salazar, #6
Junior, WP

Damien was inspired to play soccer by his dad, who played when he was young. He was also inspired by Rafa Marquez, and plays as a Center Back because of him. His favorite thing about the team is making memories with his friends.

Brandon Vilchis, #14
Senior, WP

This is Brandon's first year on the soccer team, and he is a Midfielder.

Jadon Micah Wilson, #22
Senior, A&D

Jadon started playing soccer when he was little, but spent some time playing basketball instead, before returning to soccer. He has been playing for Van Arsdale as a Striker since the beginning.

Media

Hear about the books, movies, TV shows, and music that WHSAD students are enjoying right now.

Supernatural

By Madison Kelly

Supernatural is a TV series that follows the lives of two brothers, Sam and Dean Winchester, as they hunt demons, ghosts, monsters, and other supernatural creatures. For 15 seasons, the show blends horror, drama, and dark comedy, exploring themes of family, destiny, sacrifice, and the battle between good and evil. The series is known for its complex characters, especially the evolving relationship between the Winchester brothers, and its creative element of mystery and religion.

What makes Supernatural one of my favorite shows is its ability to balance intense action and horror with moments of humor and heart. It never shies away from the emotional depth of its characters, particularly how the Winchesters struggle with their responsibilities, their loyalty to each other, and the personal sacrifices they make. Supernatural is a thrilling and emotional journey about two brothers fighting against fate, constantly questioning what it means to be human, and proving that family isn't just blood, it's the people who fight beside you, no matter how dark the road ahead.

The Glass Castle Clubs

By George Pinto

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls is a memoir of Walls' childhood, growing up with a complex family dynamic. Her and her three siblings struggle with the burden of extreme poverty, bullying, alcoholism, and constantly moving around. While their childhood was far from easy, they grew closer from their shared struggles. She mentions how her father always inspired her to be brave and dream big, and her mother instilled in her beliefs from ethics to religion. The story displays the complexity of a loving, yet dysfunctional family, through their action packed lives and deep connections.

The memoir follows Walls starting from her first memory in a trailer park in Arizona, moving around through the western United States, living in a small Appalachian town, and then finally escaping to New York City. Some say the center of the story is the complicated relationship between her and her dad, but my biggest take away was the resilience of herself and her siblings. They found creative ways to make money and find food when they didn't have much, and they had fun running around the desert looking for shiny rocks and biking through Phoenix, Arizona. When they moved too much to make long-lasting friendships, they still had each other. They learned to have fun on their own and be there for one another when no one else was.

If you like nonfiction, memoirs, and coming-of-age stories, I highly recommend you read The Glass Castle. It is a beautifully written tale of struggle and perseverance.

A look into some of WHSAD's clubs.



Culinary

By Madison Kelly

Who: Interviewees, Ms.Cumberbatch, Ashley Ochoa

What: The best part of culinary club is being with students and working together to create dishes as a team. You can best describe a culinary club as a fun club that involves many different students. It is a club that requires teamwork to have a fruitful outcome that really brings people together. In culinary we create different types of foods that we can give back to the school community and benefit other clubs funding. Foods such as pastries, and dinner items such as pastas and soups will be included in the club. And we learn to use different recipes to develop the best tasting food and add it to our WSHAD cookbook at the end of the school for all students to use.

When: Mondays and Thursdays from 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Where: Ms.Cumberbatch's room: 231 and then we go to the Kitchen/Cafeteria

Why: The purpose of the culinary club is to teach the students the art of baking and culinary through a series of teamwork and cooking sessions. We learn the skills of team collaboration and how to better operate a kitchen so we can create better food. We learn the skills of creating food from scratch such as pastas and different types of methods to create them. We understand the importance of time management and scheduling, which are skills we can use for future purposes such as school and other responsibilities. We use these skills to better ourselves and create the most delicious food possible for our school community and others who are interested.



Music

By Rehanna Carryl

Who: Interviewee, Marco Quijije

What: It's not only a guitar club, it's a music club. They play all types of music and a lot of genres. They practice everyday and they have a jam session. They get in a circle playing different instruments like bass, violin and guitar. This helps test out their skills and what they learned.

When: Wednesdays at 2:40

Where: Room 226

Why: The club gives people experience and a sense of

accomplishment. It's a social club so it helps you to interact with other people and learn new things. Marco's favorite song is "Sunshine of Your Love" by the band "Cream". Marco stated that the reason he joined Music Club was because he wanted to socialize with other musicians so that he could see their perspectives on music.



Manufacturing

By George Pinto

Who: Interviewee, Mr. Codio, the WHSAD Director of Industry Partnerships

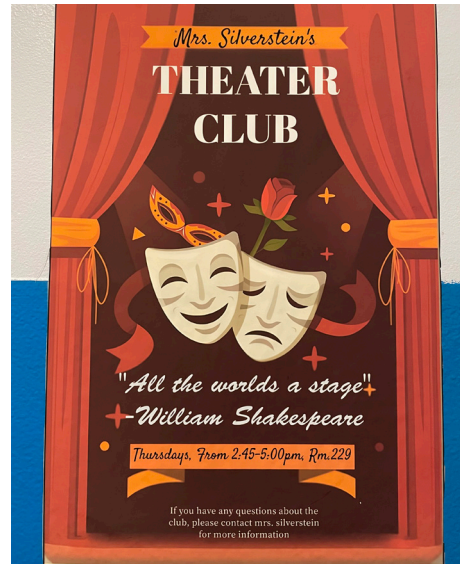
What: Manufacturing students use the 3D printer and laser engraver to design and produce things for the school, as well as themselves. Not only do they design and print many of the decorations in the hallway, but they also use the materials and machinery to create their own designs to take home, or even sell to others. As part of the Manufacturing Club, students also partner with organizations like Shine Global and the Columbus Citizens Foundation to design awards and centerpieces.

When: 2:45-5:30, Monday - Friday

Where: Room 232

Why: Manufacturing club is a great way to get more involved in the school community, and have a say

in how our environment looks. It also gives students the opportunity to become entrepreneurs. By learning how to design, and use the machinery, students can create a product to sell in their own business. If you are interested in learning how to use some of the tools in the computer lab, feel free to stop by after school to learn more about them.



Theater

By George Pinto

Who: Interviewee, Ms. Silverstein, the English 11 Teacher, Dramatic Literature

What: In the theater club students participate in improv and perform monologues. Together they work on their acting and memorizing skills to perform for each other, and even write their own plays. Next semester they plan to write and perform a play to put on for the school. This is a great opportunity to help out with set design, wardrobe, lighting, choreography, or stage management, even if you're not interested in acting. Auditions will be open to the whole school, not just the members of the theater club, so if you are interested, but not

available for the meetings, you will still have a chance to be a part of the performance in the spring.

When: Thursdays, 2:45-5:00

Where: In the library

Why: This is a chance for students to improve their performance skills and be a part of a production. You can learn how to act, write, choreograph, and run a show. If you enjoy performance or storytelling, feel free to sit in on a meeting and see if you're interested in joining.



Woodworking

By Rehanna Carryl

Who: Dean Fencerilla is in the Woodworking Club.

What: Woodworking is a club that teaches you how to use wood and proper techniques, such as measuring. It teaches you how to use carpentry in your everyday life, such as building a cabinet or making a table. So far, they've been learning how to measure, reverse engineering, and how to use the bandsaw. They made a sketch of a table and figured out its measurements. Also, they made a cutting board using a band saw. Overall, the club is quiet and focused. There is a lot of

preparation and carefulness because the machines are dangerous.

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:15 pm

Where: Room 326

Why: You can have a positive experience in the woodworking club. It's a skill you can use in your day to day life and enjoy doing it. The people there are dedicated to the skill and want to do woodworking. They want to be there and they don't feel forced. The purpose is to learn a skill to use in labor and in trade school such as becoming a carpenter. You won't have to pay people to do your labor but do some work yourself . Dean joined the club because he was in art class and he had Mr. Crockford, the woodworking teacher. He was familiar with the teacher and he is fond of him. He thought it would be a useful skill and was interested in doing woodworking as a side hobby. His favorite thing to make in the club would be a cross to represent christianity. He wants to do a job dealing with trade so woodworking is a good foundation for it. Woodworking is beneficial to the students at WHSAD because It would attract other professions besides architects such as carpenters. However, carpentry and architecture go hand in hand.