

# WRMS News



*In This Issue:* WRM Class of 2012..... pg 2  
Graduation 2012 ..... pg 4  
Alumni Corner ..... pg 5  
Chickens ..... pg 6  
Goats ..... pg 6  
Tennis..... pg 6  
MS Adventure Trip .....pg 7  
Annual Giving Update ..... pg 7  
MS ROPES Course..... pg 8  
6th Grade Trip to Fossil Rim..... pg 8

WHITE ROCK MONTESSORI SCHOOL NEWS • FALL • 2012

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## Blast from the Past!

We are so happy to have nine currently enrolled students who are children of former students.



### UE Class 1977-1978

*Back Row:*

Sue Henry, Anthony Shilling,  
Frankie Davis, Jamie Crump,  
Tryn Henry, Jimmy Campbell

*Front Row:*

Cecily Duckett, Gina Parker,  
Billie Runion, Betsy Menke,  
Todd Cave, Tyson Henry,  
Neil Brass

### Next Generation 2012

*Standing Left:*

Tryn and Landry (Henry) Harper

*Standing Right:*

Neil, Zoe and Evie Brass

*Stairs from Top:*

Sue Henry

Frank, Luke and Dalton Davis  
Todd, Taylor and Chance Cave  
Tyson and Bruhn Henry

*Center Front:*

Matthew and Max Warren  
(Class of 1989)



# White Rock Montessori Class of 2012

Members of the Class of 2012 reflect on memories of their years at WRM.



*Asad-ullah Khan, Jonah Smith, Kira Bell, Sophia Davison, Alyson Garcia, Vivie Behrens, Isabel Brown, Alina Linde, Sydney Abdo, Declan Kenny*



## Sydney Abdo

Industrious, creative Sydney is enjoying the opportunity to further develop her artistic talents at Booker T. Washington School for the Performing and Visual Arts. In the nine years she attended WRM, Sydney says that her most valuable lesson was to “never give up.” She likes to pass this advice along to others when she can, and has shown this perseverance as she has worked her way towards the Silver Award in Girl Scouts. She has done extensive volunteer work at the Dallas Heritage Village and likes to read, write, listen to music, and work on art during her spare time.



## Vivie Behrens

During her ten years at White Rock Montessori, Vivie feels she has had the benefit of wonderful role models, both peers and teachers, who have encouraged her to go the extra mile, exceed expectations, and define herself as unique and successful. With strong interests in traveling, piano, ballet, jazz, and art, Vivie experiences great joy when she has time to spend working on her latest art piece. She feels that WRM has taught her to “embrace her surroundings and make the most of opportunities.” She is now attending Ursuline Academy.



## Kira Bell

Kira enrolled at WRM as a three-year-old. She remembers her creativity being awakened when a lower elementary teacher invited Kira to attend an art exhibit at Booker T. Washington School for the Performing and Visual Arts. Serendipitously, that is exactly where she is now attending high school! She also found that middle school physics class was interesting, and, due to her teacher’s approach, math was “actually very pleasant”! Kira has fond memories of being exposed to the outdoor environment while at WRM, through outdoor play in lower elementary, the 6th grade trip to Fossil Rim, and the middle school adventure trips. She appreciates the fact that at WRM she was allowed to be herself and to develop her independence and creativity.



## Isabel Brown

After attending WRM for eleven years, Isabel is now putting her impressive academic skills into practice at Ursuline Academy. Well-rounded and ambitious, Isabel likes to read, write, and listen to music. She is a fan of old movies and has been involved in children’s theater. She is accomplished at figure skating and piano, and serves as a junior historian at Dallas Heritage Village. Isabel feels that a valuable skill she learned at WRM was to efficiently manage her time. She also learned to prioritize and balance out her work and social life - both valuable life-skills!



## Sophia Davison

Having attended WRM for ten years, Sophia is now at Booker T. Washington School for the Performing and Visual Arts where she is studying music. She credits all her teachers with being very important to her development, but particularly feels that her preschool teachers had an important impact on her life and supported her through her entire school experience. Sophia played soccer when she was younger. She has studied both violin and the visual arts for over seven years. Traveling has also been a very big part of her life. She enjoys doing “anything with music: playing, listening, collecting, and learning.” Sophia will always remember her adventure trip experiences. She feels that her years at WRM have taught her to be aware and open-minded, and always look at the overall outcome rather than always choosing the path with immediate benefits.



## Alyson Garcia

Alyson came to us from another Montessori school and attended WRM for nine years. She enjoyed soccer and learned to play the guitar as a younger student, but fell in love with the theater just prior to her 5th grade year. She is currently indulging that passion at Booker T. Washington School for the Performing and Visual Arts. An adventuresome girl who has enjoyed family travel both here and abroad, Alyson especially enjoyed trips to Fairfield, and the middle school Adventure Trip to North Padre. She loved her UE trip to Enterprise City, where she served as a reporter. Alyson says that she learned to be determined while at White Rock. Her motto is “Even if I want to quit, I still have to keep going.”



## Declan Kenny

Declan attended WRM for ten years, and is now a freshman at Jesuit College Preparatory School. A born entrepreneur who always has one or two very profitable businesses in the works, Declan was quite shy as a young child. Early on, it seems he did his talking with his feet, becoming an exceptional soccer player on a national scale and playing competitively with his traveling team both in the U.S. and in Germany. Declan also travels regularly to Ireland to visit family. As he grew older, Declan gradually overcame his shyness, and by the time he entered middle school he had found his voice and is now able to speak and interact with people of all ages comfortably. He appreciates the fact that WRM allowed him the time and space to develop this aspect of his character.



## Asad-ullah Khan

Attending the Talented and Gifted High School at Townview, Asad-ullah will have plenty of opportunity to put his impressive academic skills to work. Asad-ullah attended WRM for eight years, and feels one lesson he learned while at WRM is to have respect for others. He likes to play soccer, tennis, and chess, and “mess around with computers” (a modest description of his remarkable ability with technology). He especially enjoyed flying kites with his buddies while on the 2011 adventure trip. When asked what important skill he learned at WRM, he replied, “It is important to have a calendar!”

## White Rock Montessori Class of 2012 (continued)



### Alina Linde

During her eleven years at WRM, Alina was inspired in such diverse areas and activities as reading, knitting, sewing, history, and math, a subject that her teachers actually made "fun to learn!" In fact, when asked what particular memories of her WRM experience stand out to her, she describes the lesson on quadratic equations and completing the square. She also appreciates the fun she has had with her friends and the members of her Girl Scout troop. In her spare time she enjoys knitting, playing the piano, traveling, both here and abroad, reading, and ice skating. Ambitious and energetic, Alina has participated in Girl Scouting since first grade, and is currently working on her silver award. At WRM she learned to manage her time, avoid procrastination, and think outside the box. She is now attending the Talented and Gifted High School at Townview.



### Jonah Smith

Jonah came to WRM as a 7th grade student. Although he had the benefit of just two years of Montessori education, Jonah feels that White Rock was, for him, "an interesting journey in self awareness." He found his teachers here to be patient and enthusiastic. A gifted musician and song writer, Jonah feels that music is his life. He loves to write, play, and listen to music and read poetry. He will always remember taking a science test on the bus on the way back from the adventure trip. Jonah is attending Booker T. Washington School for the Performing and Visual Arts for music.

# Graduation 2012



*Tanner Alford, Declan Kenny, Esteban Usuga, and Asad-ullah Khan*



*PS2 Graduates: Cole Flynn, Zayn Rivera-Jayroe, Benjamin Devenport, Ms. Giroux, Mia Housey, Campbell Chase, Isabela Correa, and Eva Bechtol*



*Rhys Flynn*



*Sawyer Thompson, Michael Stein, and Adrian Spalding*

# Alumni Corner



**Natalie Buckner**  
WRM Class of 2009

Natalie Buckner is finishing her senior year at Booker T. Washington School for the Performing and Visual Arts this spring. An accomplished artist, Natalie's work has been hung in many shows throughout the city, including the Young Master's Fine Arts Exhibition at the DMA and in Washington D.C. in a show sponsored by the American Association of Museum Directors. Natalie believes that she mastered the transition into high school with ease, due to all the skills she developed at an early age at WRM. She intends to continue the study of painting and printmaking at the college level. Her portfolio has already been accepted at the Art Institute of Chicago, although she has not made a decision on where she will attend college yet.

**Ashley Duncan**  
WRM Class of 2005

After spending a year in Spain, Ashley Duncan received her degree in Spanish with a minor in psychology from SMU last spring. Ashley describes her year abroad as "life changing," and plans to return to Spain after graduation to teach English and work towards a Masters in bilingual education. Ashley's mother, Kimberly, was a former teacher at WRM, and now teaches at Mariposa Montessori School in Austin, Texas.



**Megan Barnes**  
WRM Class of 2008

Megan Barnes graduated from Episcopal School of Dallas in May of 2012. While at ESD, Megan was a National Merit Commended Student, AP Scholar, member of the National Honor Society, Design Editor for the ESD Eagle Edition Newspaper, contributor to the Itinerary Literary Magazine, and a member of the school choir and theater, with lead roles in both. She also was a four-time recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award (100 hours of service annually), received the ESD Faculty Award for 2011, and was a 4-year member of the ESD hockey team. Megan is attending Rhodes College.

**Graeme Scruggs**  
WRM Class of 2006



Graeme Scruggs was inducted into Upsilon Pi Epsilon (Computer Science National Honor Society) at SMU's Honors Convocation last spring. Graeme graduated from the Talented and Gifted High School at Townview and is on target to receive his degree in Computer Science/Math from SMU in May, 2014. As well as this most recent honor, Graeme is an Engineering Fellows Scholar, SMU Mustang Scholar, SMU Distinguished Scholar, and President's Scholar. Graeme currently works at the Dallas Community Lighthouse as an instructor/mentor for at-risk students, ages 5-13.



**Sanaya Robles**  
WRM Class of 2008

WRM Alum, Sanaya Robles returned to our middle school last spring to present a project she and several of her Ursuline classmates developed for their environmental science class, entitled "Solving Poverty." The students were assigned the task of researching ways to reduce poverty around the world and then presenting their plan to a group of students, showing how they can make an impact. The theme of the presentation closely aligned with our school's philosophy and teachings and was well received by the class. It was great to see Sanaya again and to participate in her project. Sanaya graduated last spring and now attends Colorado State University, where she is majoring in Liberal Arts.

# Chickens

Many thanks to the families who helped take care of our brood of chickens over the summer. The Wehrmanns, Farners, Thomans, Hollases, Dunhams, McCalls, Kings, Ranspots, Matthews, Schmitzes, Ashcrafts, Taylors, and Mr. Beau all rotated weeks to make sure our Montessori hens were happy and well fed.



Oreo



Splash

# Goats

We had a great turn out for our community work days last spring and this fall. In the spring, the first pen for our new goats was created, while in the fall a second goat pen was constructed and we began the first phase of our permaculture project at the back of the property.

Many thanks to all of the families and Middle School volunteers who volunteered on one or both days.



Dads working in the garden.



Checkers and Caesar

# Tennis

Congratulations to our 10-and-Under and 12-and-Under tennis teams. Both teams are USTA City Champs!



**2011-2012 10-and-Under USTA City Champs, Spring 2012**  
William Mathews, Finley Scott, Benjamin Schwartz,  
and Jonathan Farner with Coach K



**2011-2012 12-and-Under USTA City Champs, Spring 2012**  
Back Row: Coach K, Beck McCall, Michael Stein,  
Elijah Sisk, Michael Thomas  
Front Row: Thomas Farner, Ashlyn Duy, Sammy Lattig-Bayona



**2012-2013 10-and-Under USTA City Champs, Fall 2012**  
Benjamin Schwartz, William Mathews, Jonathan Farner,  
and Finley Scott with Coach K



**2012-2013 12-and-Under USTA City Champs, Fall 2012**  
Thomas Farner, Michael Stein, Coach K, Sammy Lattig-Bayona,  
Ashlyn Duy, Michael Thomas, and Beck McCall

# Middle School Adventure Trip

by Judge Rock, Ian Greenberg, and Esteban Usuga



*Judge Rock, Coach O, Asad-ullah Khan, Ian Greenberg, Sydney Abdo, Sophia Davison, Kira Bell, Vivie Behrens, Alina Linde, Alyson Garcia, Tanner Alford, Isabel Brown, Aliyah Clifton, Declan Kenny, Nash Farmer, Lydia Todd, (front) Esteban Usuga and John Hollas*

For the Middle School Adventure Trip in April 2012, the class took a 12 hour bus ride to El Rancho Chaa - a working ranch nestled in the middle of 900 square miles of untamed Southwestern Texas desert just outside of the small town of Presidio, Texas. It truly was like setting foot into another world. We beheld beautiful desert mountains and cliffs, usually visible only in movies. Cactus plants and jagged rock outcroppings erupted from the parched soil and during the cool, clear nights, the lights of Ojunaga, Mexico sparkled on the horizon. This was the backdrop and setting for our whirlwind week with the professional staff of El Rancho Chaa.

The Middle School students worked in various groups in all aspects of the ranch. Fueled by student-prepared meals, fence lines were erected, and daily chores kept us all busy when we were not hiking along the ridges, horseback riding through the brush, or swimming in the old cistern overlooking the breathtaking expanse of the desert. Led by Charlie Angell, a local outfitter and our guide during our adventures in the desert, the Middle School explored a system of caves, climbing and crawling through the various tunnels hidden in the endless range of mountains that keep old Native American hunting grounds and even green marshes secret from the blazing sun.

As the air cooled in the evening, the ranch hands and the students sat around a fire, enjoying a meal, playing guitar, and reminiscing about the experiences and adventures of the days that passed all too quickly.

After breaking camp and regrettably boarding the bus, the Middle School was escorted to the nearby town of Presidio, Texas. Just opposite the southwestern spur of the Rio Grande, Presidio boasts a small population of just over 4000, but what they lack in size they more than made up for with heart. Led by the de-facto town "mayor" and coordinator of our activities within the city, the Middle School was welcomed with open arms. The local paper took our photo as we worked with Sol University cleaning an archaeological site, and toured Fort Leaton, a local museum built into a Spanish-American War fort. After taking the final meal of our trip in a quaint Mexican restaurant, the Middle School boarded the bus and traveled through the vast expanses of Texas as the sun set behind us and then rose upon our return to Dallas.

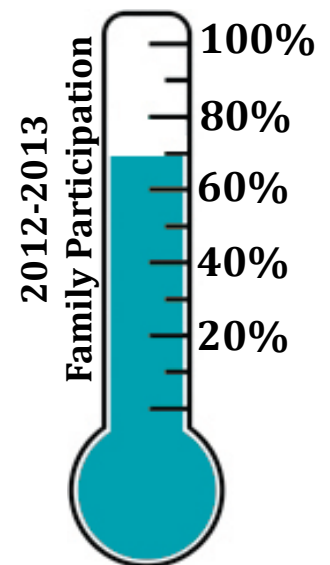
# Annual Giving

Last year 76% of White Rock families contributed to Annual Giving, raising a total of just under \$25,000.

This year we are off to a great start! Ninety-one donations were made on Donor Bridge Day, allowing the school to receive additional matching funds. Total Donor Bridge contributions on that day amounted to \$18,110. To date, our 2012-2013 campaign has brought in \$19,773 from 70% percent of White Rock families. Contributions to this year's campaign may be made any time through June 30th, 2013.

There is still time to donate! You may mail a check or money order to the school or, if you'd like to donate with a credit card, download and mail in a completed Pledge Card which can be found on our website in the "Support Our School" section.

Many thanks to all who have participated in this important fund raiser.





Michael Stein



Two students scale the climbing wall.

## Sixth Grade Trip to Fossil Rim



Students on a safari tour of the animal parks.



Students waded in the cool river water.



Lincoln Anthony, Max Piersanti, Julia Mitterer-Claudet, Shaina Adelman, Sarah Nuñez-Lafontaine, Michael Thomas, Elizabeth McPherson, Solvay Linde, Thomas Farner, Annelise Hutchison, Margaret Smith, Beck McCall, Michael Stein, Sawyer Thompson, and Ben Hurt