

# ISSUES

"EVERYBODY HAS ONE"

## NEW CLUBS!

by **DYNASTY WILLIS**

This second semester is going to be a good one! The school is now offering three new Friday clubs. Our Friday afternoons were already full of students practicing for plays, making art, taking pictures, playing basketball and planning the yearbook. Now, instead of meeting in six different areas of the school, we're going to be meeting in nine. Our new clubs are soccer, book club, and cake decorating.

Here's what some of our students have to say about their clubs: Lexi Palermo is in the 11th grade and a member of the music club. She says, "I have a passion for music. I am very creative." Victoria Tate, an 11th grader in the drama club, says "I love theater very much, I get to learn dance steps and how to read scripts." Maria Tagaras is a 4th grader in our new cake decorating club. She says, "It is so fun! I get to eat a lot of sugary stuff!" Overall, our students are excited about the new Friday clubs.



**RONRICO DUCKWORTH:** "I would make a football club. It would be the best one in the school. I would make signs and put them everywhere to tell people about it."



**LUKE HENDERSON:** "I would start a volleyball club, but first I would get to know the people. Volleyball is a sport of fun. I would bring everyone snacks too."



**DEVIN RANDALL:** "I would start a hockey club by getting kids who like hockey. Then I would set up defense and offense teams. We would get a coach and uniforms and have a blast."

# INTERNATIONAL TRAVELS

Many of our WCA students come from very different places. Our students have a wide variety of cultures and family backgrounds. A few of our students were even born in different countries! Dimitri Tyner has family in Germany and visits every year. George Tagaras is very proud of his Greek Heritage and has visited Greece before. They both have vivid accounts of their travels.



## THE LAND OF THE OLYMPIANS

by GEORGE TAGARAS

Let us take a trip to an ancient country called Greece. Greece was an established country even before Christ walked the earth! Greece also plays an important role in the ending books of the Bible.

The traditions started by early Greeks are some that we still take part in today. For example, the Olympics were first held in ancient Greece in the town of Olympus. Not only have the Greeks influenced us entertainment-wise, but we have derived many of our letters from the Greek alphabet.

In the country of Greece today, there are many places where you will find a very picturesque landscape. It has very wide mountain ranges such as the Pindus, the Dikiti, and the Gramos. There are also many islands, the largest being Crete. The climate in Greece is mediterranean, which means it has very hot and dry summers and very cold and wet winters.

I went to visit Germany once. It was a great trip. It was very hot and humid. I went to this place called an Internet Cafe where you play on the computer and the employees bring you drinks and snacks. At the beach it was very cool. The water was crystal clear and there were no sharks.

## MY TIME IN GERMANY

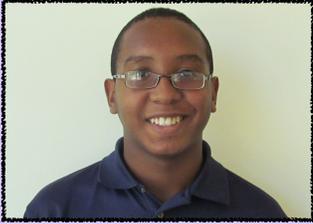
by DIMITRI TYNER

When I go to Germany I like to meet my family and spend time with them. We all love to eat Schnitzel which is thin sliced veal or pork. We also listen to Daniel Küblböck who is one of my favorite German musicians. When I go to Germany I also spend time with my friends. My two closest friends in Germany are Josiets and Aicats.

My favorite part of visiting Germany is the view. you get to see beautiful sunsets over the mountains. Another cool thing about Germany is the old buildings. Germany is a really cool place to visit all year round. In the summer, you get to go to a big wave pool where everyone swims together. You can also go in the winter when it gets very cold and you have to wear a big coat to keep warm. Germany is awesome and I think everyone should visit at least once.

In the summer we go to a water park. It has huge slides and a wave pool. My Mom and Dad go to the park too. They like to swim. I see a lot of nice cars over there too. I hope I can drive an Audi R8 on the autobahn one day.

## ABOUT ME



**Name:** Jordan Albino

**Age:** 14

**Grade:** 9th

**Birthday:** August 18,  
1999

**music:** Jordan's favorite type of music is pop. His favorite song is *Party Rock Anthem*.

**Hobbies:** Jordan enjoys playing video games and going on bike rides with his family. Sometimes he and his family go to Cliff Stevens Park.

**Fun fact:** Jordan plays the piano and the guitar.

**Advice:** "Stay in school kids!"

**Travels:** Jordan has been to more than 20 countries with his family. His favorite place was Costa Rica. "Costa Rica was so tropical and awesome! I saw a volcano named Arenal and beautiful beaches!"

# A NEW KIND OF CHAPEL

by SHELBY HOCKENBURY

How cool would it be if you had a say in what the band plays on Fridays? I play the guitar with the band and often watch students who are just standing there, seeming bored and uninterested. I've been thinking of different ways to make it more enjoyable with more choices. Chapel is for everyone, not just for the band. We would love to see more of you as excited to come and be as much of the experience as the band is. I think letting you vote on some of the songs the band plays could play would be a good idea. So now, we're going to let you pick some for us. Every week we will send out a survey on what you want to sing. Make sure you fill it out so you can have a say in what we sing at chapel. Hopefully that way everyone will start looking forward to Chapel to see which songs have been chosen.

# THE HISTORY OF GAMING

by LEVI SIEWERT & GEORGE TAGARAS

Video games have entertained people for generations. Video games started as programming practice for high school students and research tools testing the abilities of scientists in the late 1930's and early 1940's. The first widely circulated game was "space wars". space wars was one of the first video games that had a whole computer whose sole purpose was the game.

Many of our students love to play video games, putting them into the *gamer* category. One of our gamers is 10th grader Nathan Dean. He says, "I like video games because of their fun and adventure. I also like first person shooters because they are very realistic." Another 9th grade gamer, Jordan Albino said, "I like RPG games like *Kingdom Hearts* and *The Legend of Zelda*. They have platforms like *Super Mario*. I've been playing video games since I was four." When asked which gaming console they liked the most, both boys said it's a tied between Xbox 360 and the PSP.

# SENIOR SURVIVAL GUIDE : ADVICE FROM US



Lately the seniors have been getting a lot of questions regarding school. How we made it this far, what we did and didn't do, study habits, etc. Well, now instead of having to ask us, we're just going to tell you!

Being in school is tough with late nights doing homework turning into early mornings getting ready for school isn't the ideal way to live, but here's the secret, *it gets better*. Middle school homework isn't fun and getting rules in elementary school is devastating. However, it really does all pay off in the end.

So, our advice for this month is to **stay calm**. Take life one day at a time because before you know it, twelve years have gone by. Then, life really begins.

## FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Woodlawn Community Academy's "Issues" is written for students by students. Our goal for this newspaper is to give our students the opportunity to practice their written communication skills in a practical and fun way.

The teachers and parents at Woodlawn Community Academy strongly believe that the right education makes a world of difference in the lives of both mainstream and exceptional students. We are a Christian School that offers individualized instruction to all students.

 **DONATIONS**

If you would like to make a donation for a specific project or for our general operations please visit our fundraising page at [www.wcagive.org](http://www.wcagive.org)

## JANUARY - FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Jyron Fleming	Jan 10
Christopher Jones	Jan 13
Luke Henderson	Jan 14
Ashley Lawton	Jan 16
Jacob Makowski	Jan 23
Katherine Siewert	Jan 27
Michael Richardson	Jan 28
Austin Bishop	Feb 2
Lula Lawton	Feb 3
Jhonae Devine	Feb 12
Alexander Pena	Feb 12
Joseph Santiago	Feb 15
Jacob Dumala	Feb 15
Kayla Simmons	Feb 21
Shelby Hockenbury	Feb 23
Arianna Diaz	Feb 29

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