

# The Wells Street Journal

Spring Edition 2022



**MUSTANGS**

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# School Happenings

## A Musical Masterpiece

*The Wells Street Journal Staff*



Hallie Wells Middle School brought Beauty and the Beast to life on May 19 and May 22, 2022. Students, staff, and members of the community gathered to watch the musical masterpiece.

With the guidance of Mr. Tilkens and Mrs. Harper, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students presented the 2-hour musical with 13 songs. Mariana Cabral Vives stunned the audience as Belle, and Ambha Chandran shocked everyone with an unexpectedly deep-voiced performance as Gaston.

The highlight of the performance may have been Yasmin Da Rocha playing Mrs. Potts, who wowed the audience with a rousing rendition of "Tale as Old as Time."

The effort exhibited by Mr. Tilkens, Mrs. Harper, and the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students was on full display and captivated everyone in the audience. It was clear that every cast member put their heart and soul into the success of the musical.

Congratulations to a successful show Mustangs!



# School Happenings

## Main Cast:

Belle	Mariana Cabral Vives
Beast	Cooper Sobel
Lumiere	Vinayak Babu Ganesh
Cogsworth	Chetan Gowda
Mrs. Potts	Yasmin Da Rocha
Madame de la bouche	Halle Eades
Chip	Luke Beeson
Gaston	Ambha Chandran
Lefou	Miah Dominique Santiago



Babbette	Kristina Kuzmenko
Silly Girl 1	Lexi Harper
Silly Girl 2	Reagan Sullivan
Silly Girl 3	Nihi Telukutla
Silly Girl 4	Jillian Loftis
Maurice	Pedram Behnam
Monsieur D'arque	Vick Peterson
Enchantress	Jennifer Letsou
Narrator	Noah Muttamara
	Bianca Sanchez
	Arya Sockalingam



# School Happenings

## Band and Brandenburg

*Jeff H., Staff Writer*

The Hallie Wells Middle School Bands are conducted by Mr. Dahlin and are composed of woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. The first band is the Beginner Band, which consists of all sixth graders. The second band is the Concert Band, which consists of seventh and eighth graders. The third band is the Advanced Band, which meets at Empower Hours, and consists of eighth graders, seventh graders, and sixth graders.

At the beginning of the year, three Hallie Wells Mustangs were accepted into the West County Band. Late congratulations to Jayson Lee, Jonathan Chang, and Vivien Turturro-Iuzzini. Two Mustangs were also accepted into the Montgomery County Junior Honors Band, known as All-County. Congratulations to clarinet players Jonathan Chang and Jayson Lee.

Five sixth grade mustangs also got into the Sixth Grade Junior Honors Band. Congratulations, Donna Lee, Kyle Chang, Grace Szcublewski, Sean Yi, and Anna Cho. Congratulations to all the talented musicians who were accepted into these prestigious honors ensembles! Three Hallie Wells Mustangs also competed in the County Solo Festival.

All three Mustangs got a 1, the highest score possible, and are eligible for the state level. Congratulations to Jonathan Chang, Jayson Lee, and Vivien Turturro-Iuzzini!

The Hallie Wells Middle School Orchestras are also conducted by Mr. Dahlin and there are three orchestras decided by grade level. The orchestras will be attending the MCPS Music Festival, in which school orchestras across the county will be competing and getting scored by their performances. Go Orchestra Mustangs!

On April 21, the Hallie Wells Middle School Instrumental Music Program hosted an Instrumental Music Performance and Talent Show in which Mustang Musicians showcased their skill and talent at their respective instruments. They also showcased special talents in which some of the most talented HWMS musicians performed Bach's Brandenburg Fifth Concerto.

Congratulations Mustangs!



# School Happenings

## Science Olympiad Team

*Jeff H., Staff Writer*

The Hallie Wells Middle School Science Olympiad Team consists of thirty students who were qualified for the team during tryouts earlier this school year. On March 12, 2022, the Hallie Wells Middle School Science Olympiad team competed against multiple schools in the Science Olympiad Regionals.

Our fellow Mustangs studied and competed hard and scored in the top five in almost every event. Hallie Wells Middle School competed at the Maryland State Science Olympiad Competition on April 2 at John Hopkins University in Baltimore. Some of the leading efforts in the Regionals Competition were led by the following students:

Shrey Agarwal- 3rd Place

Zaheen Ahmed- 3rd Place

Diya Kamalabharathy- 3rd Place

Anwitha Kondragunta- 3rd Place

Justin Li- 3rd Place

Saayuj Nair- 3rd Place

Christine Wang- 3rd Place

Nidhi Niranjana- 2nd Place

Jeff Hou- 2nd Place

Sedric Su- 2nd Place

Sajni Srinivasan- 1st Place

Ivy Shang- 1st and 2nd Place

At the State Tournament, the HWMS Science Olympiad Team earned a sixth-place finish, a record best for the school, and the leading efforts to capture such a finish were led by the following students:

Christine Wang and Sedric Su earned third place in Codebusters.

Jeff Hou and Sedric Su earned third place in Crave the Wave.

Ivy Shang and Sajni Srinivasan earned third place in ornithology.

Akshay Jilla and Hansel Suthar earned third place in Write It, Do It.

Congratulations to all students of the Science Olympiad team!

# School Happenings

An Interview with Mr. Silvio

*Jeff H., Staff Writer*

Why did you decide to sponsor the HWMS Science Olympiad Team?

Mr. Silvio: I decided to sponsor our Science Olympiad Team because my son was on his middle school's team from 6th-8th grade. I remember traveling to some of the competitions with him, and Science Olympiad really helped him grow his appreciation for science.

What did you think of the team's performance this year?

Mr. Silvio: I think the team performed very well this year. Making it to the state tournament 2 years in a row is a great accomplishment and then to place in the Top 6 at the state level was outstanding. I'm proud of how the team was able to work through a lot of challenges, like when we had to meet virtually instead of in-person, and still perform at such a high level.

What do you expect from next year's team and competition?

Mr. Silvio: I try not to go into a new season with any expectations, because each year is so different. I am excited, though, to see how well the team can do in the future.

What do you think was the highlight of this year's Science Olympiad Competition?

Mr. Silvio: The highlight has to be the two competitions (the regional and state tournaments). So many groups placed in the top 6 in their events. It's really awesome to get to see so many great performances from our team!



# School Happenings

## Club Highlight: Kits To Heart

*Miraya M., Staff Writer*

Interview with the Founder of Kits to Heart:

### 1. Tell me a little bit about yourself:

Hi! My name's Akanksha Rangarajan, and I live with my mom, dad, and my younger sister. I love to bike, read mystery novels, and learn music. Also, I want to pursue my career in medicine.

### 2. What is the name of your club? What is the meaning behind the name?

The official name of this club is, "Hallie Wells Middle School Kits to Heart Chapter," but HWMS Kits to Heart club for short. "Kits to Heart" basically means donating kits to cancer patients. "Heart" symbolizes life. It also symbolizes that these kits are thoughtfully curated, gifted and received with love.

Cancer patients face many challenges physically and emotionally. When we make these projects with a lot of thought and love for other people, it makes their day and keeps them hopeful. By doing this act of kindness, we are supporting many families affected by cancer.

### 3. What inspired you to start this club?

When I was doing my volunteer activity in Kits to Heart, I was inspired by Ms. Sonia Su, who also supported the idea of starting this chapter at Hallie Wells Middle School. She's a three time cancer alumni and one day, she received a care kit that made her day. She then started the Kits to Heart organization, and when this club started, we became a part of the wonderful cause too!

Also, when I was bringing this idea to Mr. McGough, who was extremely helpful and supported and encouraged me to start the club at our school, he extended his help by dedicating his time as the staff sponsor. My humble thanks to Ms. Sonia Su, founder of the Kits to Heart Organization, Mr. McGough, our Science Content Specialist and SSL Coordinator and my wonderful club members for making this possible. Also, I would like to thank all my 7th grade teachers who encouraged me a lot.



# School Happenings

## 4. What do you do during club meetings?

We make Origami, Handmade Art Journals, Handwritten Inspiring Letters, Friendship Bracelets, and Alpha Key chains for the care kits that give hope and joy and spread positivity to many lives which makes our service more meaningful and gives valuable experience to all of us. We are also raising funds for cancer patients nationwide.

This club also helps increase teen cancer awareness, a topic to be discussed and not to be avoided. I believe school is the best place to bring this awareness. So it's very important to spread cancer awareness to our friends and families and also time for us to give back to the community. A small difference can go a long way, and we not only help cancer patients undergoing the treatment process, but also help ourselves and the fellow members.

Doing these activities, with the inspiring messages, will eventually stick to us, and help us to make the right choices. It also helps us earn SSL hours. Also, here I would like to share that our school is the first middle school to start this KTH club in Maryland. We are very happy that we could make such initiatives. It is all because of the great support from our school teachers. Thanks to them, and everyone's support, once again.



KITS TO HEART

# Op-ed

## Why Recycling Is Important

Shreya V., Staff Writer

What would happen if the world stopped recycling forever? Well then, there would be more pollution, the landfills will overflow and our natural habitats will be destroyed. So, it is really important that we all take part in recycling. We should do our part in what we can to stop the world from losing its precious resources at a fast rate by recycling.

Recycling is the process when something old and used can be turned into something new. If we don't recycle, we could get more diseases because of the pollution and chemicals. People can also get jobs and save money because of recycling. It helps the economy since it gets people jobs.

Paper, metal, glass and some types of plastic can be recycled. Electronics, styrofoam, plastic bags and a bunch of other things can not be recycled. Germany has done the most recycling since 2016. Chile does 1% recycling while 99% ends up in the landfill. Food can be recycled by making compost out of it. Compost is a great natural resource that helps fruits, vegetables and plants grow.

I help in recycling by helping my parents take out the recycle bin on the recycle day, and I also sort the plastic and paper products and put them in different bins.

In conclusion, recycling is important because it helps our environment, and the future of our planet will be healthier and more efficient. We should create more awareness about recycling by telling everyone about the benefits of recycling.



# Creative Writing

## Ode to Beargorrillas

*By Keshav G., Staff Writer*

The Orang-Utang swings from the tree  
As it sings a little song  
A song about the very old  
Apes who played till dawn

“Ook, Ook” said the ape  
With the orange-reddish fur  
Who knew about the great gorillas  
With the face of a big brown bear

They roamed the big green jungle  
Where they ate the fruit galore  
And then they danced along the fire  
Where they wished they ate some more

No one knows the whereabouts  
Of these apes with the faces of bear  
Except for small old Ting the King  
With the head the size of a pear

“You think they only walk on land”  
Said the Orang-Utang  
“They walk along the shifty seas  
Where they catch fish with their fangs”

Alas, these apeish bears were never found  
And now one knows of them  
Unless you meet a orange ape  
Who knows that they aren't dead



# Creative Writing

## Visions Of Punarok :Part III

Miraya M., Staff Writer

“Do you need anything, Yu’ina’koun?” (Apollo’s Punarokian name)

“Yes, I want to say that I can’t do this at all. You chose the wrong person for this task. I can’t bear all the agony. No, I’m not doing this...”

“Before you say that, do you remember what I told you earlier? We had a small lecture about this,” spoke Wa’rtoko’i with a solemn expression.

An immediate lightning bolt as fast as the speed of light had struck my mind when he said these words. Ah, yes. Finally, my mind recollected what Wa’rtoko’i had mentioned when I met him.

“Wait. Yes, yes, yes! I’ve got it. You basically want me to implement the techniques of one of the words written in the artifact, so I can beat the Jukut. In simple words, “Namqūwan” means resilience. So, it’s my duty to possess the quality and have trust in myself to say that I can accomplish anything!” I remarked and gave a slight smile.

“You’ve got it all settled. Resilience and confidence go hand-in-hand. With resilience comes confidence, Yu’ina’koun. Confidence is the driving power and a simple voice in your head telling you that you’re able to reach your goals. That is... if you set your mind to it. If you develop this type of mindset, you’re going to move mountains and see magnificent, breathtaking views. What I mean by “magnificent, breathtaking views” is that you’ll see a whole new aspect.

to your life that you never would’ve imagined. Sometimes, you’ll have pitfalls, a black hole might succumb to you, and you can’t resist the feeling of self-doubt. That goes for several people. Trust me, I’ve traveled through several alternate galaxies, and not a single one is completely perfect. Why? Because there is no such thing as a “Utopian society.”

A wave of contentment and pleasure came over me. Now, a light bulb had sparked my mind, and I was all ready to take the bull by the horns.

“Thank you, I appreciate the advice. I’m prepared because I’ll use every inch of my power if I have to.”

Wa’rtoko’i exclaimed, “Use them wisely, but...wonderful, my boy! Just keep on going! There is no one to stop you. Prove your power and worth! I have full faith in you.”

Putting the artifact back in my pocket, I looked around at the scattered destruction of houses, irregular/infertile soil, dirty brownish, muddy texture of the ground, and some cities engulfed in the evil power. Amounts of mist and fog replaced the sky and covered the mountains entirely. Of course, I knew that I certainly wanted to prevent the issue from occurring and didn’t want to see the Punarokians under so much pressure and suffering... I’m a good person at heart. Also, if I didn’t get rid of the Jukut, it would PREVENT my existence! Who can envision that?

# Creative Writing

Initially, my plan was to call the Jukut's attention, so he can stop whatever scheme he's putting into action. Therefore, I raged like the fire and sun, "COME HERE, YOU FILTHY

SAVAGE!! I WILL STAND ON MY GROUND AND FIGHT FOR WHAT'S BEST TO PROTECT MY PEOPLE! YOU BETTER STOP WHAT YOU'RE DOING. BE PREPARED AS I WILL TAKE YOU DOWN." Easy. Just like that, I executed the strategy. My powers burst like a Supernova explosion, spiraled around the whole of Punarok, and what remained of the Jukut was only a particle of dust.

Echoes of hurrahs and shouts of triumph in Punarokian resounded all over in happiness that I was able to conquer the monster at last! Feelings of triumph and jubilation had taken a hold of me.

"Mu'o'kut Lĩnkum Mútgúi I'una'klam Punarok!!" (The boy has restored the hope back in Punarok!!) shouted crowds of people.

Melancholic maroon sky converted to the brightest, radiant shades of Caribbean Blue. Everything came back to life, as the birds and other animals sang their lovely songs. A ray of hope flickered in the realm. Instantaneously, a breeze of leaves and sparks of luminescent light had rotated around a spot where Wa'rtoko'i appeared.

"See, you proved yourself to the Jukut. I knew you could do it! Confidence is the key. However, you should know one thing."

"What is it, Wa'rtoko'i?" I slightly shrugged, having a perplexed look.

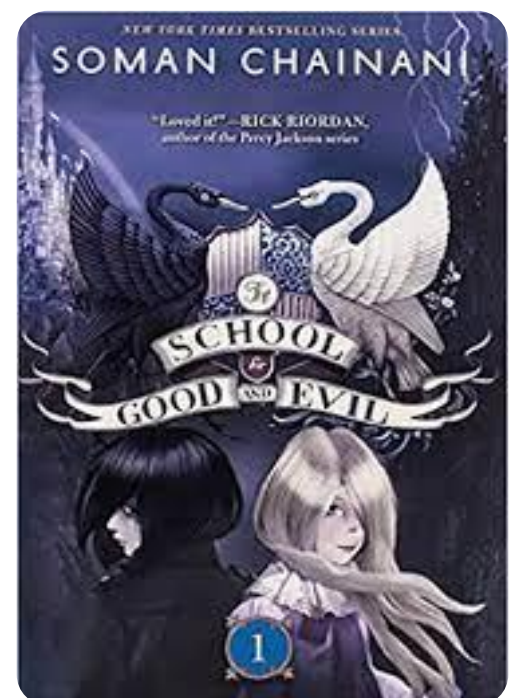
# The School for Good & Evil: Book Review

By: Julie Choi, Staff Writer

The village of Gavaldon believes that the School Master takes two children every year. One for Good, one for Evil. Most of the taken children appear in stories as heroes and villains, the books mysteriously turning up at Gavaldon's bookstore. Sophie, a beautiful girl, believes wholeheartedly that she'll be taken for the School for Good as a princess. Agatha, a lonely girl living in a graveyard, doesn't believe in the School for Good & Evil at all.

One night, the School Master returns. Sophie is thrilled when he takes her, dreaming of princes and beautification classes. Agatha only cares about going home.

But as they arrive at the School for Good & Evil, they find their paths reversed. Sophie is dumped in the Evil side and Agatha ends up on the Good side. They're first convinced it's a mistake, but as their story continues, they realize that it's a sign to who they really are.



Vivien Turturro-Iuzzini

# **Serafina and the Black Cloak**

By Robert Beatty



*Serafina and the Black Cloak* takes place in late-17th-century Asheville, North Carolina, at the famed Biltmore Estate. Here, Serafina protects her territory and keeps guests and residents safe from her home in the shadows. When children suddenly begin to go missing and Serafina becomes a target, she grows determined to catch the trespasser. However, it soon becomes clear that the offender is hiding in plain sight- as a guest at George and Edith Vanderbilt's holiday party.

This thrilling fantasy-mystery is just the beginning of the full *Serafina* series, and certainly sets the bar high for the other three novels. Robert Beatty combines the natural wonders of his hometown with incredible myths and legends- some of them even of his own making.

# Movie Reviews (My Opinion) By Kaitlyn Choi



Encanto

Encanto is a Hispanic Disney film about a magical family. The main character, Mirabel was the only person in her family without magical powers. No one knows how or why. Her uncle Bruno also vanished mysteriously and is a disgrace to the family. I feel like this movie is very overrated. I do enjoy some of the songs like Dos Oruguitas and We don't talk about Bruno. In my eyes, this is just another normal Disney movie. Somehow, the popularity has grown by a million and even won an oscar award. I am definitely shocked by this and don't think Encanto lived up to its hype.



Diary of a Wimpy Kid  
(New Animated 2021  
version)

Diary of a Wimpy Kid is based on the popular kids book about a kid trying to survive middle school. I loved the live-action movies of this but I feel that the new animated version doesn't live up to it. The animations were pretty cool but the characters were very dry. There were not a lot of detail and emotion into this film and everything was boring and straightforward. The only thing positive about this movie was the animations were very different and 22nd century like.



# Turning Red

By: Shreya Venkatraman

Turning Red is a new Disney and Pixar movie about Melin Lee, a 13 year old Chinese-Canadian girl living in 2002. She has a great family and great friends and her life is pretty normal. However, the next day, she turns into a giant red panda when her emotions rise up. She has to learn how to control her panda and hide it from her mom. She is saving money to go to the 4Town concert. The thing is that there is a way to get rid of the panda and they have to do it while her friends go to the concert. Will she stay for the ceremony and let go of the panda inside of her or will she go to the concert and be a red panda forever? Watch the movie on Disney+ to find out.



# Spin

By: Shreya Venkatraman

A girl named Rhea finds her passion by mixing beats and soon, she helps a guy named Max with a song. But, when he presents it to the school, he doesn't credit Rhea with helping him even though she did most of the work. Rhea has the chance to show everyone her talent in a competition, but Max is participating in it. Also, her dad doesn't want her to go because he needs help with his restaurant. Is Rhea going to go and if so, how is she going to escape without her father knowing? Watch this movie on Disney+.



# How to Make a Pull-Apart Cupcake Football Field

*Cindy B., Staff Writer*

Yield: 12 cupcakes, One pull apart cupcake cake

Prep Time: 45 Minutes

Bake Time: 25-35 Minutes

Total Time: 70-80 Minutes

Difficulty: 4/10

Recipe By Cindy Bagheri, Staff Writer

## Ingredients:

- 1 ½ sticks of unsalted butter
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 ½ tbsp vanilla extract
- 1 ½ cup all purpose flour
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp baking soda
- 1 cup milk
- 1 tbsp apple cider vinegar

## Buttercream Ingredients:

- 2 sticks unsalted butter
- 3 cups powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¼ teaspoon green food coloring

## Decoration:

- 11 yellow gummy bears
- 11 red gummy bears
- 5 tablespoons of the not colored buttercream
- 6 tablespoons milk chocolate
- 6 pretzel sticks



Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees fahrenheit. Place neutral colored cupcake liners into your cupcake tin, and spray each liner.
2. Make the batter. Cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add in the eggs one at a time, and cream together. Mix in the vanilla.
3. In a separate bowl, sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Once sifted, add the dry ingredients into the wet,  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the bowl at a time. This will ensure that all the ingredients are evenly combined.
4. Once combined, mix in milk and apple cider vinegar.
5. Scoop batter into the cupcake tins evenly, and place into the oven for about 25-35 minutes (check every 6-7 after 10 minutes).
6. Allow cupcakes to fully cool before frosting. Place all cupcakes in a rectangle shape that resembles a football field.
7. Now make the frosting. Cream the butter for about 3 minutes before mixing in the powdered sugar. Add in the vanilla extract, and save 5 tablespoons for the yard lines.
8. Then add in the food coloring. Add in more if necessary, make sure the color resembles grass.
9. Create your goal posts. Connect 3 pretzels with melted chocolate, and pour the chocolate over the pretzels. Allow it to harden before using.
10. Optional: Create a small football using the extra chocolate and white frosting.
11. Now, put it all together. Spread the buttercream evenly across the cupcakes, decorating it like a cake. Place the saved white buttercream into a piping bag, and pipe 10 lines for yard lines. Stick the gummy bears onto the cake, and stick the pretzel field goal posts into the end zones of the cupcakes. If made, place the mini football onto the middle of the cupcakes.
12. Enjoy!



## O Ka'āina Nui o Ka Lā (Magnificent Land of Sunshine/Great Land of the Sun)

Traveling  
With Miraya  
M.



What comes to your mind when you think of an archipelago state comprised of eight islands and including many landforms? (specifically mountains, volcanoes, plateaus) It is highly diverse topography-wise and was caused by the formation of tectonic plate boundaries, thus creating these islets we know today.

If you guessed the name, you are correct. The answer is Hawaii, in fact. Throughout the article, I am planning to share my experiences with you in this massive, geographical location and explain why YOU should visit. Before we delve into the “places,” let us consider where it is situated. Located in the Western part of US and geographically found to drift closer towards Oceania, the region, itself, is part of an area known as Polynesia. As to how the phenomenon was formed, a hotspot (magma and molten rock rising above) essentially created a volcanic trail releasing lava. By means of hardening and cooling, new land began to emerge, granting the gift of life to the spectacular wonder.

(Majority of these places will be focusing on Honolulu).



## **Hanauma Bay:**

Note: If you attend a grand circle tour, you will certainly come across this body of water.

### **Hana - Bay; Uma - Curved**

Details: Marine protected area, underwater park, known as the island of "Oahu's Jewels."

Snorkeling (must have some prior knowledge unless guided by an instructor) is a common activity among many people. Recommended time to arrive is before 9 AM or after 1 PM.



### **Ho'omaluhia Botanical Gardens:**

Ho'omaluhia - "A Peaceful Refuge"

Duration of walk: 1-2 hours (Typical Visit) Driving would take about 20 minutes.

Details: Originally opened in 1982, the garden essentially includes flora and plants from other geographical areas/regions.



## **Diamond Head (Le 'ahi):**

Calcite Crystals in rocks were originally mistaken for diamonds which gave the name to this volcanic cone.

Nature tours are available for those who want to behold the magnificent view of the island and ocean. When walking around, you will be able to learn about the geology and volcanic creation behind this crater.



**Bye eighth graders! We wish you the best of luck and an amazing high school experience!**

**Have a wonderful summer Mustangs!**



**MUSTANGS**