



Washburn High School Foundation

Spring 2019

201 West 49th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419-2588



Dear Friends,

Spring has finally sprung here in Miller Country. This winter, although a bit late in arrival, provided a test of adversity for the students and staff of Washburn. With many days of school cancelled due to snow and cold, the Washburn school community rallied and handled the situation with minimal disruption.

We have much to celebrate at Washburn - and that's because of your continual support. Thank you for helping students expand their educational opportunities - both in and out of the classroom and for providing teachers with the support needed to fulfill their calling with creativity.

For the second consecutive year, the Millerbots Robotics team competed in the FIRST Robotics World Championships in Detroit, Michigan April 23-27. To ensure that all team members could attend, the Foundation provided one-time support to help with travel costs. Thank you for making this possible.

Your generosity also led to the installation of an aquarium in the new science wing. This feature provides opportunities for learning as well as creating a peaceful and calming experience for both students and teachers as they move through their busy days. Thank you, Washburn friends.

Your generous donations and engagement continue to bear fruit as we look to support Washburn in its growth. We were pleased to partner with the Greiling family this winter to help create a new scholarship for Washburn graduates. In addition, recent estate gifts have grown the endowment fund to over \$600,000. Our goal is to grow the fund to \$1 million to provide ongoing funding for the Foundation's mini grants, scholarships, and administrative grants. If you'd like to include the Washburn High School Foundation in your estate planning or provide scholarship funds, please reach out to us at info@WashburnConnections.org.

Most of all, THANK YOU for your continued generous donations. The students and staff at Washburn are grateful for your support.

Go Millers!

Mark Bachman, '91
President, Washburn High School Foundation

P.S. You'll read on page 4 that Fine Arts Coordinator, Choir and Theater Director Nancy Lee is retiring at the end of the 2019 school year. She was part of Washburn's revival beginning in 2008. Please join us in helping to celebrate Ms. Lee and all that she has done for Washburn and its students at a reception at the school on June 5 from 6 to 9 pm.



Members of the Washburn robotics team with their robot.

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ACADEMICS

MINI-GRANT Program Awards \$49,000 in Funds to Teachers, Coaches and Staff

The Washburn Foundation Board completed another successful mini-grant cycle this spring, bringing our 2018-19 school year grant total to \$49,000. These funds enrich the learning in classrooms, support extracurricular activities and help create safe, welcoming spaces throughout the building. Here, in the words of our staff and teachers, is a sample of approved grant proposals:

"I would love to take my students to the Walker Sculpture garden and the Northern Clay Center. I would be able to take up to 42 students. More of my students would have access and opportunity to visit this way." - Cristina Benz, Art teacher

"The Economics challenge is a quiz bowl style competition in which students test their economic knowledge against other students in the Twin Cities area. This tournament challenges students to think economically in a fun way and allows students to network with other students in the area. My goal for IB Economics is to have the subject be relatable and applicable to real life." Paul Czarnezki, Economics teacher

These grants make me feel like I have a voice in how to teach and what materials are best to use for my students.

- Peter Grul, Engineering and Robotics Teacher



"We'd like a 3-panel screen to put between the cots in the Health Office. This would provide much needed privacy for ill students, as well as decrease the possibility of spreading communicable diseases. Knowing that their privacy is protected will give students confidence that the Health Office is a safe place to be so that they are more likely to visit instead of going home." - Denise Schneider, Nurse

Thank you donors! Your contributions make a difference!

ACADEMICS

NEW SCIENCE WING

FEATURES AQUARIUM

With the science wing addition completed last summer, one of the Foundation’s investments was installed - a 500 gallon aquarium. The aquarium is visible the length of the 2nd floor hall and has been a magnet for kids before school, after school and during passing time. Eric Adams, biology teacher, first drew up plans for the aquarium in 2012, and received the enthusiastic support of then-principal Rhonda Dean.

Mr. Adams uses the aquarium in class for examples and to give analogies when discussing competition, variation, genetics, and ecological relationships. “In class, the aquarium is right at the center of where I teach,” said Mr. Adams. “The exposed filtration gives an excellent representation of difficult to comprehend processes, primarily the nitrogen cycle and how this contained environment remains sustainable.”

“The aquarium offers a peaceful oasis that can provide a moment of relaxation during an otherwise fast paced day for both teachers and students,” continued Mr. Adams. “I get questions from students I don’t even know about the fish, and I have also heard kids telling their friends the names they have given the different fish.”

The bottom of the aquarium installation was intentionally left exposed to show the filtration process. And in keeping with Miller pride, the piping was intentionally colored in Washburn orange and blue.



Lucas Woychick – National Merit Finalist

Senior Lucas Woychick is a National Merit Finalist from Washburn High School. In addition to excelling at school, Lucas has been an active member of the choir and theater program. Most recently he played Wilbur Turnblad in Hairspray and King Charlemagne in Pippin. He plans to attend Luther College in the fall.



ARTS

Nancy Lee Retirement

Washburn High School Fine Arts Coordinator, Choir and Theater Director Nancy Lee is retiring at the end of the 2019 school year. Ms. Lee has taught around the country for 34 years, including at Armatage Elementary and Southwest High School in Minneapolis. She came to Washburn in 2008 and helped reinvent the choir and theater departments. That year she directed the first musical in 17 years at the high school. Since then she has directed award-winning Spotlight musicals, led Miller Voices to Superior ratings in the MN Region 6AA State Choir Contest and mentored hundreds of students. Nancy Lee was awarded an Honorable Mention from the Tony Awards Excellence in Theatre Education Award in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Join us for an open house honoring Ms. Lee's career on Wednesday, June 5 at Washburn High School from 6 to 9 p.m.

Spotlight Musical: Pippin

The 2019 Winter Spotlight musical was the eclectic, high-energy show Pippin. Even a snowstorm could not derail the students as they performed seven shows across two weekends. The show was Director Nancy Lee's last musical at the high school and the performers gave it their all for her.



New Mural Combines Art and Science

Students from the fall and spring Studio Art classes worked with muralist Melodee Strong and Washburn High School art teacher Cristina Benz to create a science mural in the new wing. All students submitted drawings of what they believe represents science. Their drawings were used to create a cohesive piece. Ms. Strong is a muralist and teacher at Franklin Middle School. She and Ms. Benz have worked together to create the other two murals in the school. Minneapolis City Council member Jeremy Schroeder (upper left) celebrated with the students.

Band and Choir Tour U.S.

The Washburn High School band and Miller Voices took their talents on the road this year. In early April the band headed to New Orleans to do a clinic at Tulane University, busk on the streets, and experience the sights and sounds of NOLA. Miller Voices choir went to New York City at the end of April. Some of the highlights included seeing "Mean Girls" on Broadway, performing at Advent Lutheran Church, going to the famed Birdland Jazz Club, sight-seeing and singing in flash mobs around the city.

ATHLETICS

WHS Alpine Skiing

The boys Alpine ski team placed first in the Section IV Alpine Championships and second at the State Championship. Washburn skiers Luke Conway (junior), Logan Griggs (senior), and Zach Bion (freshman) placed 2nd, 7th, and 11th at State respectively. All three skiers earned All-State Honors. Washburn's 2nd place finish is the team's first medal at the State Meet in at least 40 years.

The girls' Alpine team finished third at the Section IV Championships. Co-captain Ahnika Berg (senior) placed fourth in the Section IV Championships and 19th at the State Meet, as well as earning All-State Honors.



Group pic: Zach Bion ('22), Luke Conway ('20), Logan Griggs ('19), Alexander Heath ('19), Willem Robertson ('20), Augie Bent ('20), Wilson Psotka ('20) - 2nd Place Team @ State Meet

Cross Country: Senior Emily Covert finished 5th in the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships in San Diego and is a 1st team All-American runner. She also placed 4th in the Nike Cross Country national invitational event.

Football: Latrell Bible was selected to play in the MN State High School Football All-Star game. He was one of only 24 south metro student athletes to be selected (and only two MPS students). Read more about Latrell on page 7.

Soccer: Senior Marli Rajacich was selected as a Minnesota All-Central (Regional) player and moved to the ballot for potential All-American honors.

Gymnastics: The gymnastics team won the Minneapolis city conference in 2018-19, and broke records on uneven bars (Capri Hanson), beam and floor (both Franny Dicus Breen).

Wrestling: Patrick Lockwood and Henry Kantzes both qualified for state. Patrick finished in the top 8 and tied the conference all-time win record at 188.

Swimming: Alex Hawkins qualified for the swimming state tournament.



Thirteen Millers signed letters of intent to play athletics in college. Standing left to right: Grace Dickel, Lizzie Mewes, Marli Rajacich, Emily Covert, Caleb Haugland, Latrell Bible. Sitting left to right: Maddie Dieffenbach, Nick Katzman, Otis Anderson, Harvey Wilhelm (not pictured), Molly McChesney, Ty Benjaafar, Patrick Lockwood

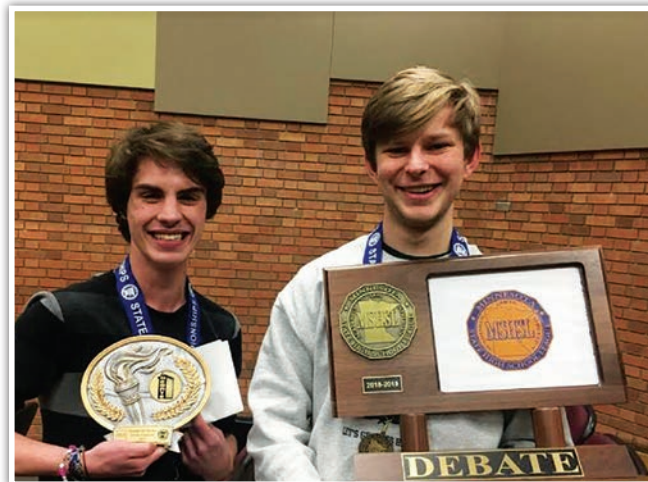
STUDENT ACTIVITIES

DEBATE TEAM WINS STATE, MARY DIERKES NAMED COACH OF THE YEAR

The Washburn Debate team won the State tournament for the second year in a row. Simon Jarcho (pictured left) and Henry Bruan (right) were undefeated going into Finals, where they went on to win the whole thing.

In addition, Washburn social studies teacher, Mary Dierkes was awarded the 2018 Debate Teacher Coach of the Year by the Urban Debate League. Ms. Dierkes has led the Washburn debate program for five years. This year she was assisted by Izak Gallini-Matyas and Delia Rossini.

In addition, Lily Endo, a 2018 Washburn graduate and four-year debater is now a community coach at Highland Park High School, and was chosen as the 2018 Community Coach of the Year.



Millerbots Win North Star Regional Tournament

The Washburn Millerbots robotics team won the North Star Regional robotics tournament March 27-30, 2019, and for the second consecutive year competed in the FIRST Robotics World Championships in Detroit, Michigan April 23-27, 2019. The team formed an alliance with Edina ("The Green Machine") and Minnetonka ("Chicken Bot Pie") to win the regional competition. The Washburn Millerbot team also won the "Industrial Design Award", sponsored by General Motors. The award "celebrates form and function in an efficiently designed machine that effectively addresses the game challenge."

After much intense competition involving strategy, alliances, and robot modification, the team ended the FIRST championship with an overall ranking of 46. With fierce competition, this is very respectable. In addition to competing in the FIRST championship, they visited the Michigan Science Center and explored exhibits featuring technologies and science unique to Detroit. The strength of the engineering program at Washburn is a source of huge pride for Washburn.

Congratulations to the team, volunteers, and first-year coach Peter Grul who teaches engineering at Washburn!



1st Row: Svetlana Greipel, Sofia Garcia, Marcus Ernst, Jack O'Kane, Lars Haugen, Jack Lonn, Olivia Donney; 2nd Row: Charlie Ruff, Maddie Kelly, Cassidey Shafer, Shirley O'Mara, Jameson Cochrane, Ed Shipp, Owen Knynch, Victor LaBrie, Grant Ober, Patrick Ryan, Thomas Shroeder, Eli Knaus, Mike Schroeder, Owen Cody; 3rd Row: Ahmed-Rashid Shire, Sergei Miller, Alex Goodland, Aidan Sutton, Charlie Boesen, Sully Leier; 4th Row: Dan Hollar, Peter Grul, Ben Guengerich, John Boesen

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Latrell Bible: Headed to Division I Football at University of Wyoming

Latrell Bible was just four years old when he began playing football, after seeing his older brother play. Fourteen years later, he is headed off to the University of Wyoming where he will play Division I Football, his dream since coming to Washburn High School, where he has had a successful run playing as an offensive and defensive lineman.



During Latrell's sophomore year at Washburn, he started to receive interest from Division I schools. He chose University of Wyoming because they were interested in him as both a student and an athlete. In a November Southwest Journal article, Latrell shared that "[The Wyoming football program was] really big on me getting a degree. And that's something I really take pride in is getting an education." He plans to pursue a career in physical therapy.

Looking back, Latrell is grateful for his experience at Washburn and credits his community where he learned to be a leader on and off the field for the future. In the Southwest Journal article, Latrell said "I feel really appreciated, supported by my parents and my family and just the whole student body at Washburn High School." Washburn Athletic Director Reggie Perkins agrees that the success of Latrell and others is in part due to the program but really comes down to the individual effort and hard work of the student athletes.

Washburn Seniors Raise Funds for Cancer Research

Grace Dickel, Ella Kester, and Megan Reed raised over \$18,000 for cancer research through the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS). They sponsored a one-mile run and held a contest to raise money by pie-ing the principal and others during a pep fest.



Somali Cultural Night

The First Annual Somali Cultural Night was planned by the newly formed Somali Student Association. Through their leadership and weeks of thoughtful planning they created a beautiful evening of dance, theater, poetry, fashion shows, and a cultural dinner.

Soul Fest

Soul Fest is a tradition at Washburn that has continued for many years. It is student organized with the support and mentorship of theater teacher, Crystal Spring. This year the theme was "Rooting for Everyone Black!"



Washburn Seniors Launch GoFundMe Campaign for Local Business Owner

When the local convenience store, CK Food & Fuel, was torched by arsonists last fall, Washburn senior Patrick Lockwood and some of his classmates rallied around the store owner, Martin Onuh. Until it burned, the store was frequented by students before and after school, as well as at lunch. Through a GoFundMe campaign, the students raised more than \$25,000 for Martin, an honorary member of the Miller community.

The Greiling Family Scholarship

This winter the WHS Foundation received a generous donation from the Greiling Family to fund an annual, four-year college scholarship into perpetuity. We, and all future Greiling Scholars, are grateful and humbled by their generosity.

Although Bob and Kathy Greiling are not graduates of Washburn High School, they know the positive impact of a Minneapolis Public School education. Bob graduated from the now closed Central High School ('59) and studied physics at the University of Minnesota ('63) before pursuing a career in the computer industry and then real estate development. Although Kathy is a native of Duluth and graduate of Duluth East ('61), their children Natasha (WHS '91) and Robert "Bo" (WHS '95) walked up the hills of Tangletown and through the halls of Washburn throughout their high school careers. Tasha and Bo both pursued their own interests while at WHS that included involvement with The Grist and multiple sports which, along with their academics, gave them a balanced foundation for future endeavors.

The mission of the scholarship is to provide ongoing financial support to Washburn High School students throughout their college career. Each recipient is eligible to receive a scholarship for up to four years if the student remains in good academic standing. With a goal of encouraging students to assist in the economic growth of the Minneapolis metro area after graduation, preference shall be given to students who attend an accredited university in the Midwest five state region.

Boys Soccer Coach Aaron Percy Awarded Coach of the Year

Boys Soccer Head Coach Aaron Percy was selected as the 2018 Large School Coach of the Year for Minnesota by the National United Coaches Association. The award recipient is chosen annually by a committee of coaches from around the region. His successes include growing the program to nearly 100 players, winning three consecutive City Conference Titles, and being a four-time Section Coach of the Year over the last eight years. He is also proud to have two of his players in the last four years be awarded the prestigious Minnesota Mr. Soccer honor. Coach Percy is a '92 Washburn grad and Washburn's Advanced Academic Coordinator.

SCHOOL EVENTS

June 5, 6:00 - 9:00 Farewell reception for Nancy Lee

June 8 Graduation

August 8 Miller Open

September 21 Super Soccer Saturday

September 27 Homecoming

Class Reunions

Class of 1999 August 3

Class of 1994 September 2019

Class of 1989 August 3

Class of 1979 August 17

Class of 1974 August 3

Class of 1969 September 14

