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Fifth grader Elle shows off a week's collection of Ziplocs, snack bags, plastic bags, and granola bar wrappers that she helped collect in the lunchroom. These organized bags are dropped off at Mom's Organic Market for special recycling.

WHO WILL SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT?

By Maxine

**Who helps the environment?
Do people actually care?**

At the beginning of fifth grade, I knew a few things about the environment, but not much. Then my mind was completely opened when Ms. Veiock started talking about it. I didn't know what was going on at first, and then I figured out that there were a lot of problems in the environment.

I wrote a persuasive essay and had to do more research.

I got more information and it led to me caring even more about the environment. Then I went to camp and we talked more about it.

I feel strongly about saving the environment. I want people to know what's going on. So I'm going looking for more information about who's helping the environment at our school and then spreading the word so other people know what's going on and can help, too.

See page 3 for our spotlight on third-grade teacher Mr. Duffy.

PATROLS: BEHIND THE BADGE AND BELT

By Vivien

While I walk down the bus aisle asking students to sit down and turn around, I wonder if they'll get back up after I've passed. I can feel when they stand back up - it's just a sense. I've been a patrol for two years now and I am getting pretty good at knowing their next move. As I creep back up the aisle, I watch as the students slowly slouch back down.

In my experience, I feel like I repeat directions too much. Students are always asking why. Why do I have to get out of the aisle? Why do I have to sit down? Why can't we eat? Why can't we move seats? Why do we even have patrols? Well, I'm here to answer

that question - the last one that is, which answers all of them.

"Our bus situation is very chaotic and crazy," Mrs. Mertz, the gym teacher and patrol facilitator said, explaining that WMES has many busses, many students, and a challenging bus-loading platform. Patrols keep students safe, younger students especially because they don't yet understand the rules from not having much experience.

"Patrols are good role models as far as respect goes," Mrs. Mertz exclaimed. "Patrols influence younger students."

In my experience, I agree that patrols are substantial role models for younger kids, but at a certain age

students don't want to listen to patrols. I get that. Trust me. I do. When I was in third grade I felt like I knew all the rules and that I was the most responsible person ever... I WAS WRONG! Looking back now, I know that I made a bunch of mistakes. *Continued on page 2*



SHRINKING
STUDENTS?

COOL VERSUS
POPULAR

INTERVIEW WITH
MR. CORRELLUS

FAMED AUTHOR
VISITS WMES

PERSPECTIVE ON PATROLS



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We need leadership, especially when we are younger. If you've done something bad on the bus, the patrols will keep an eye on you and they will notice all the little mistakes that they wouldn't have otherwise. So basically if you want to be left alone, be good when patrols are looking. Which means if you make good choices, patrols will let little mistakes slide. And trust me on this one. When I was a kid, which was two years ago, I wanted to disobey all the patrols. I wanted always to stand up on the bus. I wanted to be a rebel.

But then my brother became a patrol, which

forced me to be a better student. And now, I'm following in his footsteps.

Most kids on the bus or in the hall just don't seem to care. Whenever I walk down the hallway I see kids pushing people aside to get where they need to go. They don't seem to care if they get in trouble. They don't care if they get hurt..well, they care, but honestly, students want to move. They want to get to class or get home, even if they hurt others. They just want to zip through the hall. To them, the sooner you get to class, the sooner you can leave.

You might not want to listen to patrols. Or maybe you do. Patrols don't want

you to get hurt or get in major trouble. You might think they do sometimes, but trust me, they don't. Patrols are supposed to keep you safe. Shocking, right?

"Patrols are for the safety of the school. They really are role models and younger students look up to," Mr. Brotemarkle exclaimed. "I hope students listen to them." In truth, patrols do a whole lot for the school.

"I want to thank patrols for helping me keep the school safe. I'm just one person and there are 100 patrols. We work as a team. Without them, my job would be very hard," Mrs. Mertz said.

In my experience, people don't respect patrols for what they do. But consider this: every time a patrol jumps out of the emergency exit, a car could crash into them, but they do it for everybody else. They care about the safety of others. Patrols just want you to be safe.

I've heard older students telling younger students not to listen to

patrols. People need to know what patrols do for their safety. How do you think patrols feel knowing that you don't want to listen to them? I'm a patrol, so I actually know how it feels. But on a rainy day, a patrol could save your life.

Imagine life without patrols. What would happen? Would you be safe? Patrols might yell at you too much, but if they do, they probably have an excellent reason.

All in all patrols are important. You should be grateful for them. Say thank you. Make them feel like you really care.

SO, ARE PATROLS NECESSARY?

Patrols keep the school safe. Some people don't like to listen to patrols. Maybe because they were mean to you once or you just don't like them, but patrols make a difference. Patrols keep you safe. And how do you treat them?

WE NEED PATROLS.

You might not think so, but one day they might save your life. Patrols are important. You need to know that.

NY TIMES BESTSELLER CHRIS GRABENSTEIN INSPIRES WMES

By Milad

He worked on his first book for four years, co-authored the *I Funny* and *Treasure Hunter* series, and he visited us at WMES. He is... CHRIS GRABENSTEIN.

I interviewed Mrs. Bruner about his recent assembly at Waples Mill in October.

She explained, "In August, I was called by the school. Barnes and Noble had contacted them and asked if we wanted him to come to our school because he would be in our area. They said October 19th and it wouldn't cost anything except that we would need to sell his books ahead of time.

"He likes to sell 100 books," she added. "We sold in the upper 70s." Barnes and Noble also gave WMES students a 20% discount on all of the books.

According to Mrs. Bruner, the person at Barnes and Noble said that she'd seen him and he was wonderful in person.

Mrs. Bruner is familiar with



Grabenstein's book because one of his books was a Virginia Reader's Choice book two years ago.

"I really like *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*. It felt like *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, but with literature," Mrs. Bruner said one early morning in the library after his visit. "It had good references to stories that I hoped would make students want to read them. I also read *Island of Dr. Libris* and I really like that, too."

"He entwines famous literature

into his stories. And it's fast-paced and kids just want to keep reading it," she said.

Mrs. Bruner liked his assembly, too. "I liked two messages: that writing is like improv — just get the stories out of your head. But also that it takes a lot of writing and editing to get it where it needs to go, to be polished. He said he wrote *Limoncello* 8 times. So don't be afraid to get it all down, especially now that we have computers and we can revise so easily."

She explained, "Writing can always be better. I think it was important to hear him explain that he had to write for 4 years full-time before anyone would take any of his manuscripts. I was very impressed by the amount of writing he's done. Forty-eight books is an incredible amount of work."

Grabenstein taught us you have to work hard at something to be good at it since he took a lot of time and effort into his very first book.

MR. DUFFY ON BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES, OYSTERS



Mr. Duffy stands in his classroom where bird photographs collage the wall.

By Maxine

He plants trees, bands birds, raises monarchs, takes care of oysters, labels storm drains – and those are just some of the things Mr. Duffy does for the environment. In addition to all that, he also likes to teach people about birds, plant milkweed for the monarchs, and has a coffee purchasing program to help protect birds.

He plants milkweed so the monarch caterpillars can feed off the leaves and, later, as butterflies, continue using the plant to survive. The reason why milkweed is so important is because when the monarchs eat it, they become poisonous to predators. Milkweed is native, so

it's good for our natural environment, too. It is also the only food monarchs will eat. We have lots in our schoolyard - it's the fluffy things. They float in the wind and grow. Mr. Duffy says we may start growing more on our own in the years that come.

He takes care of oysters. He usually takes 4-8 people, a family or two from WMES, on Saturday mornings. They clean out their cages in Annapolis suspended off of docks. The cages need to be cleaned about once a month. He says that the weather is so beautiful, even in February, that they don't really have to change the date. The weather is usually fine.

He has a coffee purchasing program that

helps birds. Most of the time, if you grow coffee, you hurt the environment because you are cutting down trees to make more land to make more coffee. Habitat loss takes away animal habitats. But there are some farmers that help the environment. He buys from them to help get it out to more people. They are called Birds and Beans and they are sponsored by the Smithsonian.

He also takes kids on trips to see sea turtles. When he plants trees, he announces it in the PTA and tries to get kids to go with him. He labeled over 700 storm drains (making us the only school in FCPS to label their whole neighborhood) so that people don't dump trash into them. He recycles just about everything and uses reusable bags, too.

"I won't say I'm perfect because I forget a bag from time to time," he said.

Even still, Mr. Duffy does everything he can to help the environment. He organizes many different events and he's a role model for us all.

SO WHY DON'T MORE PEOPLE CARE?

Mr. Duffy has been caring about the environment for 40 years, but he said it doesn't seem much better than it did then.

"There's not enough money, it seems, to take care of the earth," he said, explaining that certain environmental jobs don't make enough money.

Or maybe there's plenty of money, but people don't think it's a great enough cause to do something about it.

Other people don't think about the environment or think someone else will take care of it. Others think nature is scary or gross.

"I like to be outside enjoying nature," he said. "To me, I don't understand why more people don't want to be outside."

Cool Vs. Popular

By Adi

Are cool and popular the same thing? What is the difference between cool and popular? How do you determine whether someone is cool or popular?

These are all good questions about cool versus popular. Even though it is not something that you think about a lot, it does help to know the difference.

Well, the answer to the first question: NO! They are very different. Someone that is cool can be popular, but is also nice. A cool person is friendly. Someone popular can be mean or nice. They could be a bully or have a lot of friends.

Knowing the difference between cool and popular helps make new friends because people want to be friends with someone nice and it helps you be aware of how you are interacting with other people.

You know someone is popular if they are well-known and have some sort of power over people. That power could be that they have lots of friends or they fight everyone and always win and everyone is scared of them. They're notorious.

Someone is cool if they are pleasant and admirable. They don't have to be very well-known, but they are kind. Keep this in mind when you are trying to make new friends.

I mean, my quote is, "Why be friends with someone who is only friends with you to use you?" It's as simple as that.

Try to remember this because it may not be important to you now, but it will most likely help more in middle school and later on in life. For example, right now you are a kid, so adults are friendly to you, but as you get older you have to be nice to them for them to respect you.

I hope this passage has helped you learn the differences between cool and popular in detail, and that it will help you make better friends now and later on in your life.

ARE WMES STUDENTS SHRINKING?

By Eli

Over time, I've been noticing my friends are shorter than me. And new students come that are small, too. So I started to think, "Are people getting shorter?"

Last year, people in our grade seemed short. I assumed they would get a little taller during the summer. Or during the school year. But so far it hasn't happened. My friends seem to be the same height. I know because they look like they're at the same line on the wall. I also compare them to adults, like teachers or parents, that I know have stopped growing. I say to myself, "Maxine is about as tall as her mom's neck." or "John is as tall as Mr. Matt's shoulder."

I go to the doctor and they tell me how much I've grown. Sometimes I've grown more or less than other people - still, most of the population at WMES seems to be shrinking. So I decided to investigate.

I asked some sources what they think. I started with Erin-Grace, a sixth grader and a close friend because it wouldn't be so awkward. I knew she would have an opinion because she is shorter than most people and she has a lot of opinions. She laughed because she's short, but she believes it's true that there are lots of short sixth graders.

Next I asked Madilyn. Madilyn is also a close friend and she's taller, about five feet, five inches to be exact. She agrees, too, because she has lots of short friends.

Maxine and I were talking about this topic and she asked, "Are you sure it's not that you're just getting taller?"

I both agreed and disagreed. I am getting taller, but it's not just me noticing. My friends are noticing it, too.

Then I started asking teachers. I asked Mrs. Zaman in the cafeteria and she disagreed and said something about her son being taller.

Mr. Andes disagreed and actually thinks students are getting taller. "I think people are getting taller as people are eating more," he said. "It could depend on culture."

Since Mr. Andes is a sixth grade teacher and he teaches science, I thought he would be a reliable source. Still he wasn't very sure.

"Sixth grade students have always exhibited a wide-variety of heights," he said. "Some guys are so tall and some guys are so short. It's a hard age to determine an average and it's hard to see how tall someone might be in the future because some people have their growth spurts later in their life."

I don't think Mr. Andes has looked into the topic before. He wasn't positive, so I still wasn't sure what to think.

So I did some research. An article on Time.com said that in 1914 American men ranked third tallest in the world and women fourth tallest. Now they've fallen to 37th and 42nd place. So Americans are definitely getting shorter. Or other people are getting taller.

I still think that we are getting shorter. I'm not the only one that thinks so. And we're still shorter than some adults. As Mr. Andes said, "Well, I'm still taller than all the sixth graders."

SCA: In Brief

By Milad

Remember January 20th when we inaugurated our new president? Well, let's stop talking about Trump because we have a new president and she is MAHIKA ARAVIND. Our new VP is OWEN PATERSON. We have, for secretary, FREDDIE CARRUTHERS and for PR, we have PAIGE PATERSON.

Personally, I feel like it is an amazing thing that Mahika won. I mean, in her interview, she said she didn't even plan for herself to win because it was her mother that pushed her to do it.

After winning, she explained, "I feel pressured because I always have to be good in class." She also explained that she wants to have more fun spirit days.

I asked her what she was going to do with green team. She said, "We are talking to Mr. Brotemarkle about starting it."

WAPLES WELCOMES: MR. CORRELLUS

By: Amanda

Every year, many new people join the WMES family. This year, we welcomed Assistant Principal Mr. Correllus. Before WMES, Mr. Correllus was an assistant principal at Herndon Elementary for 8 years. To get to know him better, I met him in his office where he has a giant desk and very comfortable chairs with cozy cushions. Read below to understand who he is.

Amanda: What's your favorite thing about WMES?

Mr. Correllus: The people. Students are motivated to work and are excited. The staff and teachers are really nice. People really like it here.

Amanda: What things would you like to see improved?

Mr. Correllus: Transportation [buses and Kiss and Ride] is still a bit



difficult. It is getting better, but not there yet.

Amanda: Do you think our SCA election is fair?

Mr. Correllus: Yes, everyone can vote and listen to speeches.

Amanda: What did you first think when you came to WMES?

Mr. Correllus: How nice the building was. Very nice and modern. Lots of space.

Amanda: What do you think of the students here at WMES?

Mr. Correllus: I'm impressed with the students — they enjoy learning and are very hands on.

Amanda: Do you have any pets?

Mr. Correllus: No, I don't have any pets. My wife is allergic.

Amanda: What are your favorite animals?

Mr. Correllus: I love ocean animals and grew up around and at the beach.

Amanda: What college did you go to?

Mr. Correllus: Framingham State University [in Massachusetts].

Amanda: Do you have any kids?

Mr. Correllus: Two sons — one at Fox Mill and one at Rachel Carson.