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The Garrison Community Celebrates Jonah West-Ramirez's Life

By Oliver Constantino and Surya Chandrasekharan



Jonah's celebration had many different emotions.

The celebration was at Garrison on September 13, 2025 from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. Jonah's too short life started on September 9, 2015 and ended on August 5, 2025.

So many people came to celebrate Jonah's life. At the beginning of Jonah's celebration was the celebration of his life. There were slide shows of Jonah and his family.

Some people went up in front of a bunch of people to talk about how they missed him. Winta (5th grade), one of Jonah's best friends, went up and gave a speech. It was very emotional.

After that, they let us outside. Outside there were so many different things you could do.

So many people went to different places just to get Jonah's favorite foods. There was pizza, takis, chips, chicken, candy and more.

There were also activities for the kids. All the activities were important to Jonah in some way. Some kids wanted to play sports, like football or soccer. Some kids liked to be creative by making slime, rock painting, or even t-shirt painting. Some kids wanted to be competitive by playing with beyblades or playing video games. Some people decided to write a note to Jonah's family.

"Every morning, if he bumped into me, he would say hi," Madeline (4th grade) recalled about Jonah. Emmie (5th grade) said, "He tried to teach me about beyblades."

"Jonah liked to read flopped over a chair or upside down," Ms. Coleman said. "He was so kind and smart. I really miss him and his presence in the library."

Whatever you did during the celebration, you had fun.

You could feel Jonah's spirit watching us while we did his favorite things.



Does Ms. Williams Like Being a Teacher?

By Melanie Benitez

Ms. Williams is a 5th grade teacher who teaches math. We recently spoke with her to learn about her, how she decided to become a teacher, and other things.

Ms. Williams said that she *loves* teaching and that she was a teenager when she knew she wanted to be a teacher.

She has been a teacher for over 22 years, and she said that the best thing about being a teacher is that she loves working with kids.

Her favorite color is red. She has no pets and no favorite flower.

These are the words she *always* says: "67," "Big brain," and "you're buggin'."



DC Scores Soccer Teams Triumph Over Opposing Teams

By Hunter Kelley

The DC Scores soccer team had its first game on September 25th.

DC scores is a soccer/poetry after-school program. On Mondays, we do soccer practice. On Wednesdays, we do poetry practice. And on Thursdays, we do other games.

Let's get started with the girls' team. First we played Tubman and won 4 to 1. Winta (5th grade) said about the game that "it was good," but overall I think they played amazing, and most importantly, they scored 4 goals.

Next we have the boys' team. We won 8 to 0. We crushed Tubman.



DC
SCORES
my time."

Now on to quotes from some interviews (warning: roasts might happen). Micah (5th grade) said, "The team did a great job. I got 2 goals and 2 assists." Derion (5th grade) said, "Tubman was sorry." Josue (5th grade) said "Tubman is good, but they're wasting

my time."
It was a very good game. We look forward to the next one!

Are the School Snacks Good?

By Saron Solomon

Students have been debating whether the after-school school snack is good. Sometimes, we get pizza, tacos, or lasagna, but we don't get them every day.

And if you are wondering who makes the food? The wonderful lunch ladies at our school!

Fun fact time! Lots of students want fast food for lunch, but did you know that DCPS public schools actually have budgets — yep, you heard me, budgets — and if they bought fast food for all of the kids in the public schools, then they would run out of money and wouldn't have any money left for the materials.



Are the current school snacks good or not? Based on interviews with a group of 5th grade students, we learned that people complain a lot about the school not putting enough effort into the snack, the snack being cold, it being flavorless, and it being leftovers from lunch.

"I think the school snacks taste bad," said Madison. Amelia agreed, saying, "I think school snacks are not good." Winta said the snacks are "not that good," and Derion referred to them as "disgusting."

Not everyone is so critical. "I actually like their school snack," said Josue, "but it depends on what they have."

As we can see, most students we spoke with don't like the snacks, but are there any more people that do? Perhaps Garrison needs to step up the good work!

Here's Your Next Cup of Coffee!

By Maia Greenberg, Eliana Graffin and Zeylania Nebil

The Coffee Bar is an awesome place if you desperately need food and drinks when you get picked up from school. There is a large variety of foods, drinks, and desserts to pick from!

Some of the foods include croissants, biscotti, danishes, yogurt, and much more to choose from. Some of the drinks are Spindrift (sparkled waters), Americanos, flat whites, hot chocolate (for the cold), black eye coffee, cardamom latte, and London fog.

Last but not least are the desserts! They include sticky buns, cookies, and donuts (sometimes).

Garrison students and faculty both enjoy going to The Coffee Bar. "It is small, cozy, and the customer service is great!" said Ms. Cathryn. "I love their lattes."

"I love it there," said Ms. Frazier, "and my favorite thing to get is an Iced Vanilla Latte."

"I normally get the Americano and the ham and cheese croissant," Ms. Coleman told us. "It's my favorite place to go before and after school."

"I think The Coffee Bar is an amazing place to go to after school with my mom!" said Zeylania (who is also one of the authors of this story). "I love how it looks on the inside! A very good place to study when you need to concentrate!"

The Coffee Bar is open on school days from 7am to 5pm. On weekends, they are open from 8am to 6pm.

Thank you for reading this review on the coffee bar. Have a good rest of your day!



The Scoop!

The Best Movie Theater in Town?

By Madeline McDermott and Amelia Ferry



Have you heard of Alamo Drafthouse? If not, we're here to tell you all about it!

Alamo Drafthouse is a movie theater known for its service. It has many theaters and reclining seats. The movie theater is located at Crystal City and Bryant Street (in D.C.). The movie theater was founded in 1997, and since that day it has been making dreams come true

Our experiences were very good! We really enjoyed the movie theater. Amelia liked the food, and Madeline liked how you can order from your seat.

Other Wildcats had a variety of opinions. "My brother ordered food, but it did not come and they still charged us," said Emmie (5th grade). Saron (5th grade) said, "I like it, but it was a bit expensive." Caden (4th grade) said, "They have W candy!!"

Zeylania (4th grade) said that "it was an awesome experience." Ms. Coleman noted that "they have kid-friendly movies, and Ms. Shutsky (3rd grade teacher) liked how "you can order from your seat and the popcorn comes in a metal container."

That's all for this issue with Amelia and Madeline with The Scoop!

A Call for Family Appreciation Day

By Yaretzi Flores Torres

I think we should have a Family Appreciation day every Thursday.

Why? Because our family does a lot of work. They love us and they care for us. I think we should celebrate them by telling them we love them, say thank you for everything they do, and bake them a cookie if you can.

Many people at Garrison agree with the idea.

Ashley said that a Family Appreciation Day is a good idea "because they care for us, they birth us, they give us clothes, help us, and give us a pretty life." Emely and Josue both said that family members deserve recognition because they do "everything for us."

Last but not least, Ms. Gerard said she liked the idea because "they care for us, and it will give us more gratitude. And tell them thank you for making us good food."

Politics with Emmie

By Emmie Ober

Welcome back to Politics with Emmie!

The first thing we are going to cover is The Gulf of America. Or is it The Gulf of Mexico? Good question! The answer is that the government is trying to make people call it that, but you can call it either one.

For example, the fifth graders in Mr. PD's class made USA maps. When we got to the gulf of Mexico or America, he told us to label it as The Gulf of America. Then when I was driving home, I asked my mom to look at Google to look at what it was called. On Google it is labeled The Gulf of America.

Now that you know the two sides of this, let's move on to our next topic: President Donald Trump.

Trump instructed his Attorney General Pam Bondi to target specific political opponents and prosecute them for alleged crimes. This means that he told Pam Bondi to make it hard for people that he has problems with.

One of the people that Trump told her to target is former FBI Director James Comey. The reason Trump has a problem with Comey is because he accuses Comey of trying to send him to jail. If someone tried to send me to jail, I would also have a problem with them, but I think this is unfair because Trump did things that were worthy of prosecution.



Pam Bondi and James Comey

The next subject we are going to cover is Charlie Kirk. Kirk was a U.S political activist who recently passed away.

While he was talking with an audience member about mass shootings, Kirk was shot and pronounced dead later. The suspect for his killing is Tyler Robinson, who is 22 years old.

During Kirk's life he wrote many books, hosted his own talk show, and before he passed away he was recognized as one of the biggest voices of the MAGA movement.

Lots of people know of TikTok being almost banned, but ever since Trump became president, the TikTok ban has been paused. On September 25, 2025, Trump signed an executive order that allows

American investors to take a lot of control of the app's US operations. The deal provides a compromise to a full ban, which was previously authorized by a law made in 2024.



You might be wondering why Tik Tok would be banned. The reason is because Biden thought that it was bad for kids and that China was using it to spy on us. Biden said it would be banned unless someone within a certain time bought it. Now the potential investors include Oracle and private equity from Silver Lake.

Recently there has been a government shutdown. This basically happened because Congress could not agree on a yearly budget. Many people with jobs in the federal government are not being getting paid.

One of the reasons Congress cannot agree on a yearly budget is because they have different ideas of how much health insurance should cost. The Senate Democrats refused to support a yearly budget that did not preserve the Affordable Care Act subsidies, which make health insurance more affordable. Another reason that Congress is not agreeing is because the Democrats are upset that Trump is violating the budget, and the Republicans don't care, so they are not agreeing.

See you next time!

THE SPORTS PAGE

Soccer Player of the Month

By Surya Chandrasekharan

Dean Huijsen is 20 and plays for Real Madrid (the best team). He is 6 foot, five inches, and he plays center back.

He was born on April 14, 2005. His full name is Dean Donny Huijsen Wijismuller. He is worth 70 million euros.

He has 9 goals, 751 minutes, one red card, and one yellow card. Real Madrid has won 2 games in the 2024-25 season.

I like that he went to the best team that and he is a good soccer player. I don't like that he left Juventus.



Soccer Player of the Month #2

By Josue Labaceno Vasquez

If you don't know about Luis Suarez he is basically Messi's duo. He is also an Uruguayan professional soccer/footballer who plays striker and currently plays for Inter Miami.

He got his fighting title because he always plays with Messi and they are best friends even outside of the field.

He is regarded as one of the best strikers off all time. He has earned 21 trophies — crazy but true.

"He's okay, but people think he is much better than he is," Winta (5th grade) told me recently. I disagree. I think he is a very good player even if he played with Messi, who I kind of dislike. I think that Suarez is very good himself.

Derion (5th grade) said, "He's trash." I strongly disagree. I think he's a very good player, but that's your opinion and I respect that



Micah (5th grade) said, "He's the goat. He assists Messi all the time." I strongly agree.

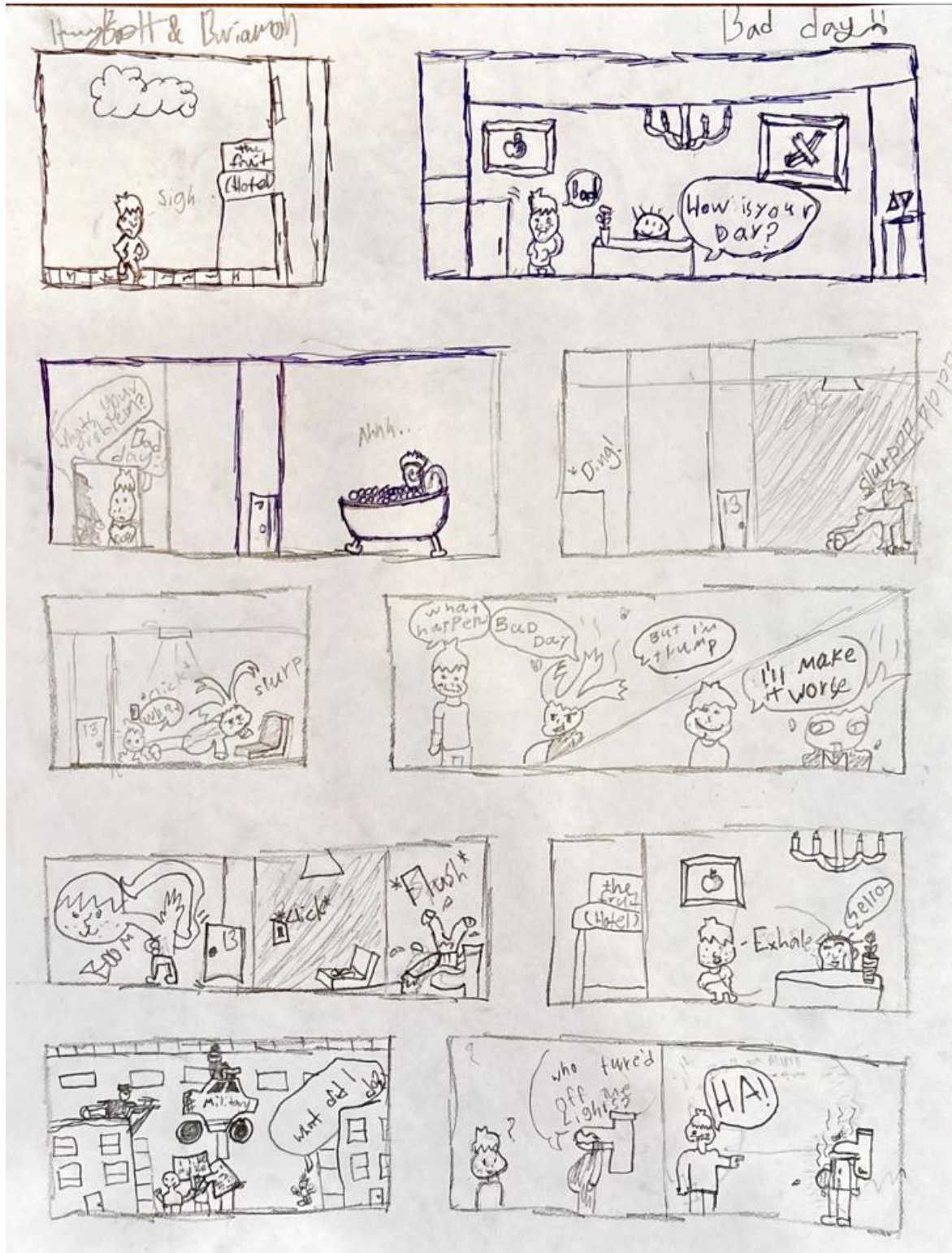
Tahj, Messiah, Caleb, and Eric (all 5th grade) agreed that Messi is "cool and helpful and he needs a little work." I agree.

Emmie (5th grade) said, "He's weird." I don't find him weird, but whatever you say.

CARTOONS

Bad Day

By Buraimoh Gbadamosi and Henry Bartlett



A Note from the Editor

The Wildcat Wonder is back for its second year!

We are pleased to welcome back many students from last year and a whole new group of fourth graders. The students hit the ground running with their first issue and are excited to share their work.

The students were pleased to have two guests visit them already. The first was **Ben Jacobs**, an experienced Washington reporter who covers Congress. He talked with the students about his work, how to conduct an interview, and his favorite and least favorite stories to do.

Our second guest was a club favorite: **Matt Wuerker**. Wuerker is the Pulitzer-prize winning cartoonist for Politico and our most frequent visitor. He once again taught the students how to improve their drawing skills – and also what the word “metaphor” means!



The Wildcat Wonder always welcomes constructive feedback and ideas. You can reach us by email at thewildcatwonder@gmail.com.