Totowa Titans

The Park Press

Washington Park School

Volume 20, Issue 2

Principal's Message: ***March 2026***

Spring may not feel close yet, but it's right around the corner! As we reach the midpoint of the third marking period, I'd like to take a moment to highlight some of the wonderful events that have taken place at Washington Park School.

February had two exciting celebrations. Our annual Eighth Grade Fashion Show gave students the chance to shine as they walked the runway for family, friends, and staff. We also hosted the Unplugged Concert, where many of our talented students performed, and every performance was truly phenomenal.

Our actors, production team, and stage crew continue to prepare enthusiastically for the upcoming March opening of *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* Their dedication shines through in every rehearsal.

I would also like to give recognition to our fourth-grade students for their contributions to the Passaic County Poster Calendar contest. Congratulations to Liam Doret for receiving honorable mention for his outstanding artwork, well done!

To all students: stay focused on your academic goals and continue working hard. Your success remains our top priority at Washington Park. I wish everyone the very best as we move into the second half of the school year. Keep putting your best foot forward!

THREE WISHES, ZERO QUIZZES

By:Lyanna Puerta

Sofia Szydlowski

The eighth-grade students of the Class of 2026 were given a wonderful opportunity to go see *Aladdin* on Broadway in the New Amsterdam Theater in New York City, New York. The Parent Teacher Organization was very considerate and purchased tickets on the upper balcony for all the eighth-grade students interested. For the majority of the students, it was their first time witnessing a Broadway musical.

A young, poor man named Aladdin, played by Rodeny Ingram, is the "diamond in the rough." After being sent to the Cave of Wonders by Jafar, played by Dennis Stowe, he encounters Genie, played by Micheal James Scott, who grants him three wishes. Wanting to woo Princess Jasmine, played by Sonya Balsara, he uses his first wish to become a prince, but the plan soon backfires. His second wish is to free himself and his friends from the palace dungeon. Soon, he defeats the Grand Vizier, Jafar, and uses his third wish to free Genie. Aladdin learns a lesson about love, and he and Jasmine get happily married.

Overall, every student who went to the show thought it was perfect, and it really was! From the acting, to the singing, to the dancing, to special effects, everything about the show was on point, with many students' favorite part being the magic carpet ride. The costumes were also beautifully made; in fact, there were 8,644 Swarovski crystals in each one.

It was, without a doubt, an unforgettable performance that left everyone wanting more.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WASHINGTON PARK HONOR STUDENTS

MARKING PERIOD 2

GRADE 4

A Honors

Ibtesam Al Maaz
Azra Alkaya
Emma Anzaldi
Mia Castro Santiago
Zeni Curtis
Rocco Cusumano
Rose Dante
Francesco DiDio
Connor Dingle
Isabella Dominguez
Liam Doret
Donovan Elk
Daivik Ghose
Ivan Gragnaniello
Andrew Lopez
Madelyn Minieri
Ayaan Mohammed
Amira Raza
Kane Rickert
Seren Rodriguez
Farhan Shawon
Noah Valverde
Nicholas Varcadipane
Annabelle Vargas
Ryan Verney
Aubrey Wolfersberger
Mason Younes

B Honors

Safwan Ahmed
Tanisha Ahmed
Isabella Bitar
Abigail Breban
Albert Breban
Francesca Buonocore
Zachary Camacho
Jesse Cedeno
David Fontanella
Devika Ghose
Nico Grant
Mason Guerriero
Armaan Kalsi-Miles
Liam Le
Ava Lippman
Conner MacDonald
Liam Matos
Omar Merza
Mark Minery
Jatniel Molina
Safiyyah-Demetria Malak Moudiab Nieto
Joshua Tierney
Jade Tomasello
Sofia Valencia
Annelys Vega
Devin Velazquez
Carlyn Veras
Logan Winters

GRADE 5

A Honors

Rania Alfukaha
Eduardo Chavez
Chandrika Dey
Yosra Hazin
Lucas Martinez
Walter Mulroony
John Peragallo
Jake Szydlowski
Cole Toledo
Emma Troca
Llarissa Velasquez

B Honors

Zaid Abdelhay
Adyan Ahmed
Sheldon Blaine
Francis Borace
Aziyah Bowden
Giovanni Castaldo
Violet Cedeno
Marco Chavez
Samara Chowdhury
Elias Darwish
Lorenzo Disque
Charleigh Felix
Noah Flores
Viviana Gill
Grant Gourley
Everett Haberman
Kyle Henry
Kyin Karam
Miaa Lajara
Amelayah Lamberty
Gregory LaRose
Tenley Manla
Lina Marmo
Aubrey Matos
Amelia Maturi
Erin Morillo
Julianna Newman
Dylann Pena
Liliana Percan
Katherine Rosiello
Sienna Saleh
Sarah Santiago
Sophia Sawyer
Ilyaas Shahid
Humaira Sultana
Melis Susen
Anna Sutula
Heilyn Vargas Cobo
Jayden Vasquez

GRADE 6

A Honors

Zayan Ali
Faith Brown
Tala Dandis
Zenaida Davila
Gioselynn Delgado
Alessia Jurlina
Aubrey Lippman
Ishaan Mohammed
Adriana Montuori
Nicholas Nozka
Aria Pereira
Gabriella Persaud
Haley Rexach
Dante Reynoso
Santiago Sebastiani
Daniella Stroh
Nicholas Vancheri

B Honors

Raishma Alam
Matteo Barattin
Rylan Britting
Caeden Chavarria
Shaila Choudhury
Tanisha Chowdhury
AnnMarie Dante
Colton Dingle
Addison Elk
Charles Farrell
Jayden Fernandez
Emely Genao Cortorreal
Samantha Granados
Leah Hall
Kush Kanani
Savannah Lions
Nicholas Lowack
Lilianna Madrid
MiaMaria Massola
Alia McGlynn
Mariana Merza
Lucas Minery
Allyson Moreno
Amelia Muniz
Victoria Ortiz
Alyson Perez
Tiffany Raftery
Samuel Reyes Martinez
Gianna Rivera
Brandon Rosado
Everly Ryan
Giovanni Siano
Justinah Steele
Ava Torsiello
Mackenzie Varcadipane
Gabriel Vera

GRADE 7

A Honors

Erva Cevik
Ella Deleon
Robert Grambone
Alexander Jimenez
Anabela Kovacheva
Eliana Lopez
Emilia Nestorovski
Jeneen Obeidallah
Jake Percan
Mehnaz Rahman

Saulo Ramos
Mizael Rodriguez
Kayla Schiavo
Kylee Valverde

B Honors

Antonio Aliano
Lujain Ayyoush
Maite Barraza
Pier Becka
Julia Bladek
Dominic Borgese
Amelia Breban
Janelle Campbell
Brian Cappadonna
Daniela Castillo Cruz
Analiz Coste Tavarez
Lilianna D'Amico
Ilay Dinler
Iltay Dinler
Giselle Esa
Angel Estrella
Adriana Grullon
Cole Guess
Olivia Henry
Gabriella Molina
Ian Moore
Dariel Morel
Jane Mulroony
Amanda Olpindo
Juliet Ortiz
Abigail Perez
Adriana Pietraccini
Massiel Rodriguez
Domenica Romaniello
Noah Salazar
David Sidoroski
Adam Urban

GRADE 8

A Honors

Yverlin Alvarez Vargas
Kasper Bajek
Natalia Bajek
Marina Barbiere
Nathaniel Bladek
James Cabezas
Frank Conca
Ellenise Dominguez
Scarlett Fisher
Kaylee Gallardo
Carmelina Grambone
Valeria Granados
Michael Greco
Andy Guilliani
Kenan Gulistan
Ghazelle Huzien
Ava Juliano
Kadin Karam
Isabella LaRose
Zahra Lions
Liam Marthone
MaKenna Mazur
Morgan Minieri
Luka Mladenovic
Aliyah Morgan
Brian Olivo
Lyanna Puerta
Ayrton Rodriguez
Gianni Rodriguez
Ryan Scheck
Joseph Siecieska
Sofia Szydlowski
Patrick Verney

B Honors

Omar Asad
Rafael Balaguer
Emily Borgua
Kayla Bruno
Jayden Castillo
Rianna Ceka
Stefano Chavez
Jake Conde
Raelynn Corentin
Nashly Coste Tavarez
Caleigh Dalida
Isabella Di Blasio
Aaron Diaz
Amaia Diaz
Alicia Funes
Melvin Gonzalez Campos
Lyedia Gutekunst
Mohammed Hammad
Maddox Heerema
Frank Iurato
Eleana Lehr
Brianna Lezcano
Abigail Lima
Kayla Lora
Aiden Martinez
Sophia Molina
Stephania Ochoa
Catalina Padilla
Kevin Puglise
Chelsy Ramirez
Emmanuel Reyes Martinez
Milania Rios
Nicholas Ripp
Kayla Salinas
Abigail Salvador
Olivia Torres
Abderraouf Touka
Aubrey Vasquez

'TIS THE SEASON

By: Lyanna Puerta

The Washington Park Winter Concert on December 11, 2025, was a huge hit! This year it seemed like there were more students on the stage than ever before, and everyone got to perform. Senior chorus sang "White Christmas," "Walking in the Air," and "Snowman." Junior chorus also did well with their four songs and blew it out of the park. All these songs were sung beautifully, and the chorus couldn't have sung them any better.

The senior band played "The Nutcracker" and "Jammin' Caribbean," as the eighth grade students were brought to the front, since it was their last year participating in the Winter Concert. Both the Beginning and Junior band did outstandingly well. The finale was the song "Yuletide," where both the chorus and the band performed together.

It was an amazing night to open the Winter Season.

Totowa Titans

The Park Press

HOOP! THERE IT IS!

By: Marina Barbiere

Kayla Bruno

"Our motto is you need to earn your time on the court with hard work and effort," said Mr. Tracy. The Totowa Titans have had countless successes in the basketball field, and this year was just another dunk in the basket for the boys' team! In total, they won eleven games and only lost three. Their biggest rival was Lincoln Park, and they beat them 70-68 by two points during the first game, then came around and won against them again with 66-31 at home. Mr. Tracy states, "That was our best game of the season as we played well as a cohesive team."

The biggest games they've played were their victories against Lincoln Park and Rockaway Boro, and there were barely any games lost against East Hanover and Boonton. As Mr. Tracy has said, "The tournament was high energy," when describing the atmosphere of the tournaments. They had beaten North Warren in the first round but lost to Mountain Lakes in the quarterfinals. According to Mr. Tracy, it was disheartening since they were winning by 9 at the half and double digits in the third quarter of the tournament.

The top scorers were Aydin Azhir, Robert Ardis, and Rafeal Balaguer, and the starting five of the season's best were Aydin Azhir, RJ Ardis, Rafeal Balaguer, John Ralston, and Aiden Martinez for most of the season. Most of the players on the team improved, including Aiden Martinez, John Ralston, and Robert Ardis. John Ralston and Aiden Martinez stood out when it came to defense, and Aydin Azhir led the team in blocks! There were many lead scorers that led to the team's success. This includes Aydin Azhir, Robert Adris, and Rafael Balaguer being defense threats. Specifically, Aydin Azhir being a great interior player, Robert Ardis being the best shooter, and Rafeal Balaguer's court awareness and powerful passing.

This year's players' resilient work leads to excitement for what the upcoming years will bring!

Meet the team:

Frank Conca
Roger Davila
Mohammed Hammad
Manny Porch
Ryan Scheck

7th grade

Chad Alesandrelli
Christian Huliev
Mason Pommells
Adrian Santana
David Sidoroski

6th grade

Matthew Conca
Kadeem McCutcheon

Managers

Aaron Diaz
Michael Greco
Dominic Lorusso

Coach

Mr. Tracy

HOOPS! I DID IT AGAIN!

By: Lyanna Puerta

Sofia Szydlowski

The Totowa Titans girls' basketball team has had a challenging season this year, but they enjoyed making memories on the court together. Even though the team didn't win any of the ten games they played, they were able to grow, and their skills improved throughout the season. The girls' coach, Mr. D'Amelio, encouraged the girls to try their hardest and push through the tough season.

Jaylani Rodriguez scored the most points for the team, with forty-two points, while also leading the offense as their point guard. The closest runner up was Aubrey Vasquez, with twenty-nine points, with both Lyanna Puerta and Valeria Grandos following with twenty-three points. Mr. D'Amelio said no specific person was the best on defense, but that the whole team played it well. According to Mr. D'Amelio, Bloomingdale was the toughest to beat.

For the duration of the season, none of the girls lost their motivation or got discouraged, and everyone tried their best!

Meet the team:

7th grade

Tahanee Ahmed
Lilianna D'Amico
Emilia Nestorovski
Jaylani Rodriguez

6th grade

Samantha Granados
Leah Hall

Coach

Mr. D'Amelio

8th grade

Valeria Granados
Waleska Gonzalez
Lyanna Puerta
Aubrey Vasquez

Managers

Raelynn Corentin
Ghazelle Huzien
Eleana Lehr
Stephania Ochoa

STARGAZING IN STYLE

By: Zahra Lions

Morgan Minieri

On February 19, 2026, the eighth grade students dressed their best to celebrate the 23rd annual Eighth Grade Fashion Show. The Class of 2026 Student Council Representatives Patrick Verney and Ava Juliano proudly narrated the models' entrances on the runway. This year's theme was chosen by the eighth grade participants. Choices were "Diamonds and Denim," "Hollywood Glamour," and the winner was, "A Night under the Stars." This year's fashion show took place at The Grand, as opposed to the usual Brownstone.

The week leading up to the fashion show was extremely nerve-racking for all. Ms. Emma and the Stars students had props and centerpieces to be done, and participants had practices to attend to, learning how to walk the runway. With the help of Ms. Peranio and Ms. Capitelli, the practices ran smoothly.

As usual, the girls had to choose their own dresses that had to be approved by the administration. In the past Roberts Tuxedo was kind enough to supply free tuxedos for the boys, but this year they decided to discontinue that tradition, and boys had to buy their own tuxedos. Suits were also an option.

The forty-four-students participating were required to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. After the show, students sat and enjoyed a delicious three-course dinner with family and friends. You cannot have an event without any music! Thankfully, Mr. Carl was there to provide the soundtrack for the night. Overall, the night was one for the books and will forever be remembered.

Totowa Titans

The Park Press

GET YOUR BOOK ON!

By: Sofia Szydlowski

Read across America

February is in full swing and so is Read Across America Month! Created to honor the beloved former children's book author, Dr. Suess, Read Across America Month is a reading competition made to celebrate the diversity of reading and literature. Grades two through six are participating and will see which classroom can read the most books within the span of the month.

This year the theme is the Winter Olympics, with each classroom being assigned a different country that participates in the event. Students who participate in the Turning the Pages Club are overseeing the competition, with eighth grade members handling the second and third grade readers, seventh grade members checking on fourth grade, and the sixth grade members checking in on the fifth and sixth grade readers.

This is a wonderful opportunity for students to start to read and learn more, as well as develop a love for books at a young age.

NEW FACE, SAME MISSION!

By: Marina Barbiere

William Felegi

There is a new vice principal at Washington Park School this year, and his name is Mr. Felegi! He came to this school on February 9th and has already made an impact. Mr. Felegi came from Saddle Brook School District, and he has a background in teaching social studies and special education.

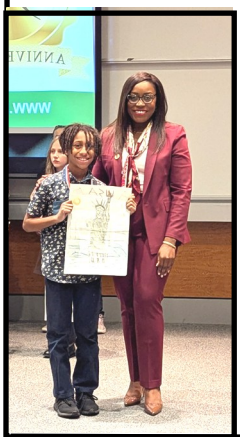
Mr. Felegi's favorite color is green! He also has a cute dog named Angel. She is a German short hair pointer. Mr. Felegi's go-to food to get is buffalo wings. His favorite movie is a controversial one. Some people find it to be a Christmas movie, while others disagree. This movie is the one and only, *Diehard*. He likes to listen to a lot of music, specifically country music.

The last place that he visited is The Keystone State, Pennsylvania. We all wish that we could have superpowers. For some, it's to read minds or run fast, but for Mr. Felegi it is the ability to fly.

We are all excited to see what Mr. Felegi has to offer!

30th PASSAIC COUNY POSTER CONTEST

On January 22, 2026, the 30th Annual Passaic County Clerk Poster Calendar Contest Award Ceremony was held. The theme of the poster contest was the landmarks of Passaic County. The ceremony took place in the Passaic County Police Academy where a member of the office of the Passaic County Clerk staff, Danielle Ireland-Imhof, judged the posters made by the students. Ms. Emma, the art teacher at Washington Park School, encouraged every student in the fourth grade to participate.



One Washington Park student, Liam Doret, won honorable mention for the 2026 Poster Contest. Since the USA is celebrating America's 250th Anniversary, the students were also allowed to feature a US landmark. Liam chose the Statue of Liberty rather than a Passaic County landmark.

Even though there was only one student recognized, each fourth grade student's poster was creative and showed a determination to win.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 16- 1:20 P.M. dismissal

March 30- Board of Education Meeting 7 P.M. WPS

April 1- Art Show/Science Fair

April 2- 1:20 P.M. dismissal

April 3- April 10- Schools closed

April 13- Schools reopen

April 16,17- Eighth grade trip/ Washington, D.C.

April 17– Report Cards MP 3

March 26, 27- Spring Musical

ADVISOR—Ms. Doreen Peranio

NEWSPAPER STAFF:

Marina Barbiere	Ghazelle Huzien	Stephania Ochoa
Kayla Bruno	Zahra Lions	Lyanna Puerta
Valeria Granados	Morgan Minieri	Sofia Szydlowski

This newspaper staff represents the students from different class periods who sacrificed recess time to learn the journalism and process-writing skills that were taught during this time period, ending with this actual newspaper publication. Thank you to all WPS staff members who cooperated with the newspaper staff by giving of their time and interviews. The staff very much enjoyed their introduction to the world of newspaper writing.