



Residential Life NEWSLETTER



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Student Highlights: Boys Volleyball

Washington Academy has a rich history in women's volleyball, but on the rise throughout the county is men's volleyball. Coach Corey Schwinn has been working to build the program over the last several years. This year, the program boasts twenty participants fifteen of which are international students.

Coach Schwinn notes the team has been improving greatly over the last several weeks and that it has been really fun to see. They had an intersquad scrimmage that was broadcast to international parents over zoom. They also had the opportunity to scrimmage with the University of Maine Orono club volleyball team!

The team has competed in several other games with local schools and participated in various tournaments throughout the state.



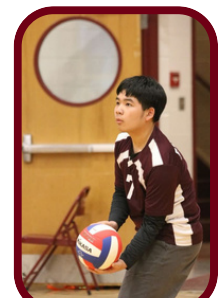
Jacopo Ganni



Mateo Fernandez



Dung "Mike" Le



Tien Vo



Other Sports Highlights

Cheerleading



Another program regaining momentum at Washington Academy is the cheer program. Just two years ago two students decided to reignite the passion for cheering and it has been gaining participants ever since. This year the squad had fifteen cheerleaders including eleven international students.

The girls noted that they wanted to join the squad because it was a uniquely American experience. They enjoyed cheering on our basketball teams and inspiring Raider Pride.



Senior Night: Ms. Hill, Erika Rossi, Vittoria Tomasi, Susanna Consonni



Basketball



Senior Arianna Pighi



Johanna Kiland



Juan Lopez Garda



Ada Gungor
Alp Kucukkebabci

Basketball is typically the most popular high school sport in Downeast Maine. Washington Academy is no different. This year Johanna and Arianna represented the Raiders on the girls team and Juan, Ada and Alp played for the boys.

It was an exciting season of growth as both teams worked to improve their records throughout the year.

Where We've Been

Trampoline Park

Urban Air is the ultimate indoor playground during the winter months. Students got to enjoy trampolines, a giant jungle gym, the arcade, battle beams and much more on their trip to the indoor adventure park.



UMO Basketball

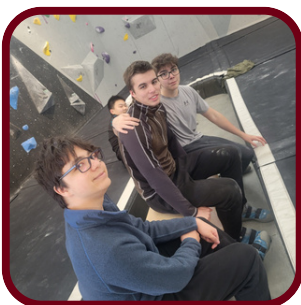
Students enjoyed some Division I basketball watching the Black Bears take on the rival Catamounts from the University of Vermont. Located in Orono, the University of Maine is a popular state college offering over 100 degree programs.

After the game, students enjoyed dinner at a Governors, a popular local restaurant.



Rock Climbing

At Volta Rock Climbing Gym our students were offered a variety of climbing challenges, from bouldering to top rope. It provided an enriching experience for our students, fostering not only physical skills but also promoting teamwork and confidence.



Moosehorn



XC Skiing and Snowshoeing

Our students recently had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the winter landscapes of the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge in Downeast Maine, engaging in cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. This outing was not only a physical adventure but also an opportunity to appreciate the natural beauty of our region during the winter months.

Equipped with skis and snowshoes provided by Washington County Community College (WCCC), students shared their appreciation for the beauty of winter in Maine and the fun of learning a new winter sport.



EVENTS AROUND CAMPUS

Lunar New Year

On January 29th, students and staff celebrated Lunar New Year. Lunar New Year, is a significant cultural and celebratory event marked by millions worldwide, commemorating the beginning of a new year on the traditional lunisolar calendar. It is characterized by festive gatherings, traditional foods, fireworks, and rituals intended to usher in a year of good luck and prosperity. In the dorms students created decorations, ate traditional foods and received the traditional red envelopes symbolizing the transfer fortune and blessings from the elders, symbolizing good luck and warding off evil spirits for the coming year.



Chess Tournament

Recently a number of international and local students from WA joined in competing at a chess tournament at Cobscook Institute. The Chess Club is run by Dr. and Mrs. Dean and they are excited about the opportunity to grow the club and see the students skills improve. They are hoping to be involved in other tournaments throughout the remainder of the year.



Math Team



The math team placed first in the Downeast League and will be participating in the annual Maine state math meet in April!



Karaoke

At our recent dorm karaoke night, students showcased their talents by performing songs both in English and their native languages. The evening was sweetened with a selection of ice cream and snacks, as students enjoyed watching their peers perform.



Drama Club

The drama club put on a production of The Wizard of Oz for students and community members to enjoy.



Meet our Residential Life Team: Core Administrators

Our administrative team at WA is a diverse group of dedicated professionals committed to fostering a supportive and enriching educational environment. Led by Jud McBrine, Head of School, who has been part of WA since 1995, the team brings together a wealth of experience from various backgrounds. Jud, a former teacher and coach, has been instrumental in the school's growth and was recognized as Maine Principal of the Year in 2005. Rich Olivares, Associate Head of School, a devoted father and lifelong educator from Southern California, enjoys seeing students thrive in academics and athletics. Marissa Carroll, Assistant Head of School, transitioned from the legal field to education, bringing a passion for youth development and college counseling, while embracing Maine's vibrant seasons with her family.

The admissions team is led by Brittany Gatcomb, Director of Admissions, who joined Washington Academy's Admissions Team in 2014. She is passionate about recruiting on behalf of WA, building relationships with students and parents worldwide, and educating them on the benefits of a boarding school education. Outside of her professional life, she enjoys traveling, hiking, fishing, and spending time at the lake with her husband. Scott Harriman, Admissions Associate, whose background in political science and public administration fuels his passion for outreach, works alongside Brittany to welcome new students to the WA community. Overseeing student life, Stephanie Griffin, Director of Residential Life, is a dedicated educator with a history and civics background, bringing her enthusiasm for travel and culture to WA. Felicia Hill, Assistant Director of Residential Life, recently moved from Washington and has a strong background in student support services and business management. She brings valuable experience to her role, ensuring a positive and enriching residential experience for WA students. Together, this team ensures that WA remains a welcoming and thriving community for students and families alike.



Mr. McBrine



Mr. Olivares



Mrs. Carroll



Ms. Griffin



Mrs. Gatcomb



Mr. Harriman



Ms. Hill