



Nov./Dec. 2024

“We’re Better than
The New York Times”

Issue No. 1



Students enjoy the foam bubbles — and dunking Principal Kip — at the Fall Festival on October 25, 2024.

A Look Back At The Fall Festival

By Claire Pittman, Ryan
Casiley, and Skye Harris

So, Fall Festival was on October 25, 2024, and this year Fall Fest was different: Sadly, there were no inflatables! 😞

But there were food, games, prizes, music, t-shirts, facepainting, and you could decorate a pumpkin! Also, you could play in the playground, which was open all day. Our advice was to jump in the foam bubbles if you got the chance. Or, if you were lucky enough, you could DUNK PRINCIPAL KIP!

Everyone had a great time! We look forward to next year’s festival and more FALL FUN!

Welcome to the inaugural edition of *The Wildcat Wonder!*

Take a look inside for more news, arts, and culture from Garrison students!

Halloween Fun at Garrison

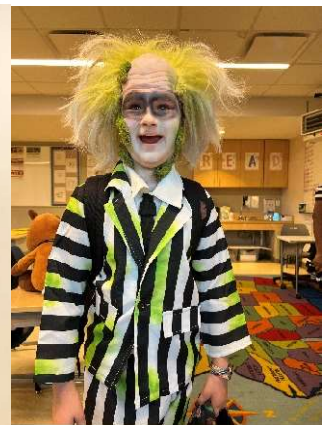
By Soliana Getachew

Last month we all celebrated Halloween!

You may have thought Halloween has always been the same, but that's not true. For example, before all the trick or treating began, you used to have to dance for treats!

It all started 2,000 years ago, and it has become a tradition — *Boo! Tricked you!* — for some people to trick other people (like I just did).

These days, kids enjoy going trick or treating, wearing costumes or decorating for the holiday! And this year was no exception!



Teachers and students dressed up for Halloween in fun and spooky costumes!

Introducing *The Wildcat Wonder*

By Emmie Ober

Drumroll please... Introducing *The Wildcat Wonder!!!*

In this newspaper we will give you the latest news (no gossip 🗨️ ugggghhhh).

Here are some of our staff! We will introduce other members of our staff in future editions.

- Ryan Casiley is in the fifth grade, and his favorite food is pizza.
- Oliver Constantino is in the fourth grade, and his favorite food is tacos.
- Sailaja Duraiswamy is in fifth grade and is a New York Mets fan.
- Amelia Ferry is in the fourth grade, and her birthday is on *Mean Girls Day*.
- Buraimoh Gbadamosi is in the fourth grade and likes to draw horror, just like Madison.
- Madison Hardaway is in the fourth grade and loves horror stories.
- Hunter Kelley is in fourth grade and claims that Josue is "the sigma ligma rizler."
- Grayson Maiselman is in fifth grade and played Ursula in *The Little Mermaid*.
- Skye Marshall is in fifth grade and is on the cheerleading team.
- Luka Maru is in fourth grade and his favorite book is "BONE."
- Claire Pittman is in the fifth grade and claims that she is soooooo *smart*.
- Saron Solomon is in fourth grade and can draw realism.
- Josue Labaceno Vasquez is in fourth grade, and he is very funny. Here is a joke from him: "My dog looked at another person's dog poop and said, 'Wow, it looks like you.'"
- Emmie (me) is in fourth grade and saw a Taylor Swift concert in Indiana.

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with Emely Gombres Aquino

By Luka Maru

We recently had Hispanic Heritage month at Garrison, so I thought it would be a good idea to talk about one of our fellow students, Emely Gombres Aquino!

Now, Emely lives in Washington, D.C., but her story starts with her grandmother, who lived in Mexico. One time, her uncle asked her to go to America.

Although it is a nice idea, it is hard!

Many people are not able to immigrate to America, but Emely's grandmother persevered and got into America.

Emely is proud to be Hispanic. Her favorite food is papusas. A papusa is a type of flatbread that can be filled with beans and cheese, but it comes in many different flavors.

Emely is named after her mother Amelia, and she is also from El Salvador.

Emely loves Hispanic Heritage Month.

Welp, that's all folks. See you in the next paper, because as our slogan says, "We're Better Than *The New York Times*"!



Emely's favorite food is papusas!

A Garrison Teacher Leaves the Classroom

By Saron Solomon

Mrs. Machmer is Garrison Elementary's art teacher.

She likes camping and hiking. She also likes gardening, but she has trouble planting tomatoes.

She also used to be a first and second grade teacher.

I bet it was hard to handle all of those children and then switching to be an art teacher! And she did that for twelve years!

Mrs. Machmer became an art teacher three years ago. She also got married in 2024. (If I was her, my favorite lesson would be making clay pots.)



Mrs. Machmer enjoys the outdoors!

The 2024 Election Surprised Some People. What's Next?

By Sailaja Duraiswamy and Emmie Ober

The presidential election just happened, and this one was perhaps the most important in history.

If Kamala Harris won, America would have had their first woman president, but she did not win. Donald Trump did.

Now, let's talk about the "Battleground States." Battleground states are states that often vote differently during each presidential election. They might vote Republican one election and Democrat the next. For example, Pennsylvania voted Republican in 2016 and in 2020 they voted Democrat.

Prior to the election, according to ABC News, Pennsylvania was leaning Democrat, and Michigan, Wisconsin, and Nevada were also leaning Democrat. Georgia, Arizona, And North Carolina were leaning Republican. It ended up being too close to call.

In the end, all of the battleground states voted Trump. (Guess people can't rely on ABC News!)



We believe that our president for the next four years should try to complete the following:

1. Reduce inflation
2. Give everyone equal rights
3. Make sure everyone has access to healthcare
4. Make sure everyone has a good education
5. Make sure everyone has enough to eat
6. Protect air, water, and wildlife, and reduce climate change

It is, however, highly unlikely that Donald Trump will complete these six things based on what he did during his first term in office and analyses of his policy proposals by independent experts and observers.

Theater Season Kicks Off at Garrison

By Grayson Bea Maiselman

I'm going to tell you all about the school performances for *The Wildcat Wonder*!

Recently, the fifth grade and the fourth grade did a performance for Hispanic Heritage Month, and there were songs in between each part. The other grades performed songs, and I interviewed Ms. Boone, the music teacher, and some students for their thoughts.

Ms. Boone said that she wanted to make the Hispanic kids at Garrison feel like they belong. She gets our attention with funny things like calling us "chicken nuggets" and is very nice to the younger students.

Ms. Boone had an amazing idea for the performance, and the performance itself was amazing.

Students had different reactions to the Hispanic Heritage month performance.

Emmie, a 4th grader, thought it was a good idea to make everyone feel like they belonged at Garrison.

William, a 4th grader, thought it was a good idea.

Maddox, a 4th grader, thought that the performance was an amazing idea overall. He thought that the idea of making it was a good idea because all the other plays are in English, and this performance let all the Hispanic kids at the school feel welcome.

Ms. Boone just finished auditions for the spring play, *The Lion King*, and next up is the Winter Performance!

REVIEWS

Animal Review: The Saola

By Josue Labaceno Vasquez

The monthly animal is the saola. I specifically picked this animal because it is one of the few rare animals.

The saola was discovered in 1992 and is often called the Asian unicorn. There are fewer than 750 left in existence. Its diet is vegetarian. It is extremely illegal to hunt them.

The saola is one of the rarest, largest mammals to exist. The saolas' habitat is limited to the Annamite mountains, a range of mountains in Vietnam and Laos. (The discovery of saolas was made by accident when a survey team from the Vietnamese Ministry of Forestry was sent to evaluate biodiversity in the area.)

The average lifespan of a saola typically ranges from eight to eleven years in the wild.

Saolas communicate with each other through a variety of sounds and body movements. When they feel threatened, they point their horns at their opponent and start snorting loudly.

The average size of a saola is about five feet. Their horns can reach up to a length of three inches. They are considered to be a critically



Saolas are often called "the Asian unicorn."

endangered large-sized species and are shorter compared to tigers.

Saolas are large-sized mammals and their weight ranges from 176-220 pounds (80-100 kilograms).

Saolas are not generally considered to be dangerous animals. They do not directly pose any threat to human beings, and they are known to display calm behavior around humans.

The saola is listed as Critically Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. This is mainly due to habitat loss and the fact that they are hunted for their skin and meat. A huge decline in their population has been observed.



A flawed but ultimately worthwhile read.

Book Review: *One Halloween Night*

By Amelia Ferry

I recently read *One Halloween Night* by Mark Teague. The story was about three friends trick or treating.

Overall, I loved the teamwork throughout the book and the three friends sticking together no matter what.

In my opinion, the book could have been even better if there had been more dialogue from the characters. But overall, the book was chill and spooky and an all-around fun read!

THE SPORTS PAGE

The Sports Report

By Hunter Kelley

Hi, my name is Hunter! My buddy Ollie and I will be covering sports for *The Wildcat Wonder*.

I play for two soccer teams. One is a practice team that meets on Wednesdays. For the other team, we have practices on Thursdays and games on Saturday.

I also enjoy professional sports. I recently went to two hockey games for the Capitals. In the first game of the season, they lost 5-3 against the New Jersey Devils. In the second game, they won 4-2 against the Las Vegas Knights.



Back to me: I won a recent soccer game 5-3.

Ollie, my buddy, plays on three teams. One is a basketball team, and the other two are soccer teams.

He is on my Wednesday team and has the same coach as me, but we play in different leagues.

As part of our coverage, we are also covering sports video games! We can report that the new soccer game FC25 is very popular. There is also a new hockey game called NHL25. Both games are made by EA Sports (a very popular sports video game company), and each is available on the PlayStation 5 (a very popular gaming console company).



Garrison Students Enjoy Various Sports

By Ollie Constantino

Hi, my name is Ollie, and I'm the Garrison *Wildcat Wonder* reporter covering sports with my friend Hunter.

Hunter and I both play sports and both have fun. Hunter plays soccer. He plays on the PPA Development team called the Adams Tigers. (Hunter says his team isn't good and he's the only good player.) I (Ollie) play for the PPA premier team called PPA. We're a pretty good team and keep getting better.

I (Ollie) also play for a basketball team, and we're really good but need to work on our passing.

Today in interviews, we're going to interview Mehruz Reshid about him and how he likes sports. Mehruz is on the D.C. Scores team, and he thinks his team is really good at passing. Mehruz says that he is frustrated that he doesn't get to play that much but he still likes watching.

Mehruz thinks that his team's best player is Zayden because he scores most of the goals and is just a really good player, so special shoutout to Zayden!

CARTOONS

The Law ... According to Donald Trump

By Buraimoh Gbadosi



A Note from the Editor

The Wildcat Wonder is produced by Garrison Elementary's Newspaper Club, a new after-school activity this year for students at Garrison Elementary. The club meets every Thursday after school, and their goal is to produce a semi-monthly newspaper for students, parents, and other members of the Garrison Elementary community.

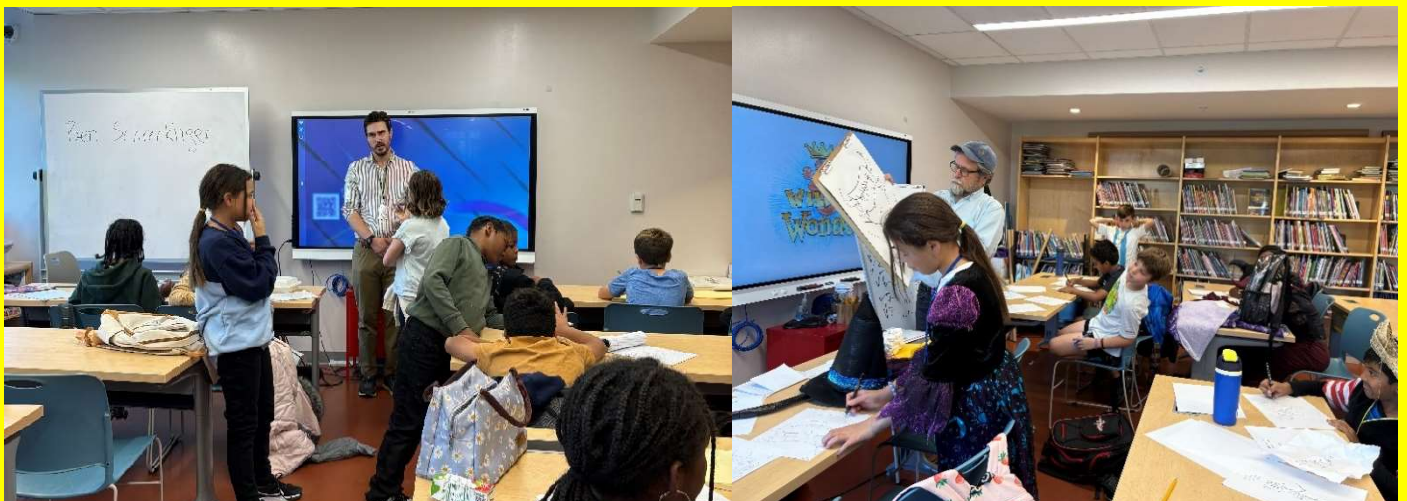
The Wildcat Wonder is a direct result of the students' work and collaboration. In addition to writing the stories, the students came up with the name of the newspaper as well as the newspaper's motto ("We're Better than *The New York Times*!"). They also drew their own ideas for the newspaper's logo, which ultimately led to the logo on our front page.

The club uses its meetings to brainstorm ideas, to assign stories and other projects, and to provide time for the students to work on their stories. The club also welcomes occasional guests to help the students develop their skills, work on their stories, and have a little fun.

So far, the club has hosted several visitors. Victoria Guida, an economics writer, joined the club one week to help the students come up with the newspaper's name and to help them understand how to craft questions and conduct an interview. Ben Schreckinger, a national political correspondent, joined the students for their first-ever "press conference," where they took turns asking him questions about his work.

The club was also recently joined by Matt Wuerker, a Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist. Matt prepared *The Wildcat Wonder*'s logo after reviewing the students' ideas, and he then spent an afternoon with the students teaching them about how he does his work and how they could improve their own drawing.

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



Ben Schreckinger (left) and Matt Wuerker (right) work with the students.