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INSIGHT

A Newsletter from Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys

SPRING | 2024

EDUCATION IS THE DOOR TO OPPORTUNITY

BISHOPWALKERSCHOOL.ORG

THE INSTALLATION OF DR. ANGELINA ARRINGTON

A Service of Evening Prayer Celebrating Our New Head of School

The school community celebrated the installation of Dr. Angelina Arrington as BWS's third head of school at a special service on October 12 at Washington National Cathedral. Attended by BWS students, faculty, staff, parents, and trustees, the event was full of music, prayer, and inspiration.

The installation ceremony is a tradition in Episcopal schools. It marks the beginning of a head of school's tenure as an

important spiritual leader and primary voice for the school. Dr. Arrington was installed by The Right Reverend Mariann Budde, Bishop of Washington, who charged Dr. Arrington with honoring and upholding the school's mission and traditions.

Dr. Arrington began her address to the congregation by "taking a moment to pivot with gratitude," acknowledging the strong foundation on which BWS stands and the people who conceived and built the school. "They took a chance on a new school and blazed a trail to Mississippi Avenue," she said. She then invited the congregation to draw on the school's strength of spirit to create a model—"a lighthouse"—for the entire country.

The evening concluded with a cheerful procession led by a student carrying the school's new liturgical banner and accompanied by drumming by the Katinka Group.

◀ Akinfenwa Akintayo, BWS 5th grader, read the BWS School Prayer to the congregation.

OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL



A new liturgical banner

was created for the installation service. It features Sankofa, a Ghanaian Adinkra symbol that reminds us to look back at the past, learn from it, and then move forward. Designed

by BWS art teacher Ashlyn Edgecomb, the banner will be used for ceremonies at Washington National Cathedral.

"They took a chance on a new school and blazed a trail to Mississippi Avenue."



REMEMBERING SANDI HANNIBAL

The Bishop Walker School community is sad to announce the passing of Sandi Hannibal, a beloved member of our school's community. Sandi was a lifelong educator who was associated



with the Bishop Walker School since its inception as a member of the founding Governing Board, Advisory Committee, and Head of School Search Committee.

Sandi worked in both public and independent schools for over 35 years. A life-long Episcopalian, she devoted her career to providing opportunities for excellent education to students of all religious, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds.

Sandi was instrumental in the founding of our school, and she continued to be an active volunteer, as board member, tutor, and library storyteller, sharing her love of children's literature.

Please keep Sandi's dear husband, The Rev. Canon Preston Hannibal, and their children, Nika, Matt, and Alex, in your thoughts and prayers.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

April 29
11:00am

Washington
National
Cathedral

We really understood how important it was to have a school in which children had access to books, and the BEST teachers, and music and art—how important it was for all of that to be pulled together and combined with joy and a passion for learning.

—Sandi Hannibal on the founding of BWS.

BWS Library Leads a World Tour

There is a big, sunny library at the heart of the Bishop Walker School. The bright, colorful space houses around 10,000 books—all donations, carefully curated to support the BWS curriculum and highlight Black writers and illustrators. A small team of dedicated volunteers, led by Catherine Marquardt, built the impressive collection and runs a comprehensive library program that adds wonder and depth to the learning that happens at BWS.

SEEING THE WORLD

This year's library program has a theme: The BWS World Tour, where scholars will travel the seven continents in 8 months through the vast collection of books that offer up our multicultural world. Scholars spent the fall in Latin America, and Europe. They then moved on to Africa, packing their virtual bags with novels about the continent. They learn about the topography, history and culture of these places—flora, fauna and civilization. Story readings often lead to rich discussions that encourage keen comprehensive skills. Librarians choose books to compliment the class curriculum, introducing new cultures and illustrating historic

moments to highlight classroom subject matter. They sample food, view photos, listen to music and meet guests who come from the countries they're exploring.

"Right now we are in Asia." Mrs. Marquardt recounts the route: "via Jerusalem, Afghanistan, Iran, the Silk Road from China to Turkey. Then on to Tibet with Buddhism and the Dalai Lama, who was friends with Bishop Tutu who was friends with Bishop Walker!"

This library is more than a library.



BWS Board member Toya Carmichael reads to kindergarten students about the mythic origin of Kente cloth. She then shared a photo album of her trip to Ghana and taught students about the preparations needed for travel: passport, visas, vaccinations, packing, and research on the country.



Thank you
invaluable library volunteers!
MS. MARQUARDT
MRS. HILTON
MRS. FLORANCE
MS. WARE
MRS. CRUTCHINGTON

Every day, scholars may be seen lounging in blue bean bag chairs, quietly engrossed in books or sharing discoveries with friends.



Scholars sampling Egyptian mezze.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2024 ANNUAL DINNER

We are beyond grateful for all who attended, gave generously, and helped make this the most impactful BWS Annual Dinner yet!

Our celebration raised over \$1.3 million for the Bishop Walker School.



Maria Walker with her family, Dr. Arrington, and BWS alumnus Noah Montgomery

A very special thank you to our Annual Dinner co-chairs—Aimee Burck, Laura Steuart, Hilary West, and Juan Winans—and to our event underwriters for making this special night possible.

AN EVENT HONORING MARIA WALKER

Maria Walker has been pivotal to the growth and success of BWS since it was established in 2008. A founding member of the governing board, Mrs. Walker tirelessly stewarded the vision of a tuition-free school for low-income children of color that is full of love and joy. A longtime community volunteer and active member of the Episcopal church, she has rallied her community and her vast network of friends to support BWS and advance her late husband's commitment to fostering greater racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity within church schools.

Bishop John T. Walker felt that the Episcopal Diocese of Washington did not do enough to ensure equal access to quality education in the city. He was vocal in expressing this view and dreamed of establishing an Episcopal school in an underserved D.C. community modeled after St. Albans School and National Cathedral School. Bishop Walker never achieved that dream during his lifetime, due to his untimely death in 1989. Nonetheless, he had laid the groundwork. Mrs. Walker saw to it that his dream was eventually realized.



Welcome Brother Reggie!

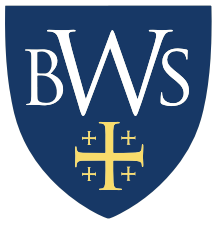
Brother Reggie Hayes has joined BWS as school chaplain and religion instructor. Growing up in Greensboro, NC, he attended Pentecostal, Baptist, and Methodist churches. Building on this ecumenical foundation, he has sought out and worshipped with monastic, Muslim, Jewish, and Catholic faith communities.

He was confirmed in the Episcopal Church in 2021 and continues to strengthen his interfaith relationships. He received a Master of Divinity degree from Virginia Theological Seminary in 2023 and is on the path to seeking ordination in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia.

^ Brother Reggie Hayes, BWS's new Lay Chaplain, leading the prayers at the installation of Dr. Arrington.

< You may find Brother Reggie greeting students as they arrive for school in the morning.





BISHOP JOHN T. WALKER SCHOOL FOR BOYS

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1801 MISSISSIPPI AVENUE, SE
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Kindergarten students dressed as prominent African American leaders for their Black history month project.

IN THE CLASSROOM



◀ Tuskegee Airmen
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. ▶

SAVE THE DATES!

- 5/1 BWS Graduate Luncheon
- 6/5 5th Grade Promotion
- 6/6 Last day of school!

For more pictures like these, and to read more stories about the Bishop Walker School and its programs, please visit www.bishopwalkerschool.org or follow us on Facebook or Instagram

