15th Annual Cultural Festival 2018: Europe and Australia!

This year was the 15th anniversary of our celebration of cultures of the world, during our Annual Cultural Festival! Our students from three years old through sixth grade assembled the school’s interactive Cultural Museum on Friday, and attended performances and enjoyed food from countries around the world. The theme of this year’s festival was a study of Europe and Australia. During the week of the Cultural Festival, students and parents participated in the interactive activities such as Australian Aboriginal dot paintings with paint and clay, a slide viewer with vintage images of Europe, (continued on page 6)
Chess Trophies to Be Proud Of
Current MSS Willow students Jasper Kyle and Justin Dunn (photo right) recently competed in the Donlin Drive Winter Scholastic Chess Tournament in Liverpool. Both boys were undefeated and won 1st and 2nd place in the K-6 bracket, respectively. Despite fielding only two of five possible players, their team tied for second in points, bringing home a 3rd-place trophy too! Anyone interested in joining them in future tournaments can contact Jasper’s father, MSS parent Harold Kyle.

History Bee Winners
Two of the ACE National History Bee competition winners at CBA included Elena Chiodi (2017) and Lukas Ward (2017). They took an online exam in their classrooms to qualify and will now go on to compete in the regional round. In the second photo on the right, second row, Elena is the first on the left, and Lucas the third.

Theatre Star
The Jamesville-DeWitt High School presented the Broadway hit musical comedy All Shook Up, whose cast featured former MSS student Blake Lucas as Natalie’s father, Jim. Blake’s mother, Lisa Lucas, is our Lower Elementary Great Books teacher. The third photo at the right shows Mrs. Getz and Blake Lucas at the musical event.

A New MSS Arrival
Lisa and Joel Milazzo, and their older son Caiden, welcomed Ethan Matthew Milazzo on March 9, 2018. Ethan, photo bottom right, weighed 7 pounds 10 ounces and was 20 inches long. Lisa is one of the Maple Cottage teachers, and her teaching partner Julie Martin also had a little boy in December. Over this past school year, our staff community have welcomed four new babies, and one more is on the way in April! Congratulations to all our new mothers!

National Merit Scholar
Christian Brothers Academy senior Grace Getman (2012) is a semifinalist in the 63rd Annual National Merit Scholarship Program. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation conducts the annual NMSP with the (continued on page 4)
This year’s Alumni Reunion had a record turnout of almost 70 alumni and their parents! Above, back row, left to right, were alumni students: Shannon Quinn, Max Ward, John Alexander French-Lawyer, Colin O’Connor, Jon Koss, Malachi Emmanuel, Jeremy French-Lawyer, Abigail Zuber, Ireland Fernandez-Cosgrove, Jess Abrams, Mychal Emmanuel, Taylor Abrams, Isabelle Enslin, Liam Murphy, Kevin Fratostitanu and Natalie Stopyra. In the front row were: Ellie Pedone, Anna Pedone, Elena Chiodi, Lukas Ward, Christina Wojtowycz, Annabel Davis and Lesia Wojtowycz. Attending, but not included in the photo were Robert Dotterer, Isabelle Enslin, Jeff and Tyler Gabriel, Connor Hughes, Quin Kenny, Kelsey O’Connor, David Jumbelic Safran, Ben Stevens, Maria and Julia Vazquez, and Shelby Weinstein. Parents, back row, left to right were, Bob Quinn, Larry Fratostitanu, Mary Lawyer O’Connor, Anju Gupta, Karl Hughes, Karen Fernandez-Cosgrove, Sarah Davis, Judy Leiblein, Brenda Abrams, Michael Cosgrove, Angela Murphy, Ted Emmanuel, Andy Wojtowycz, Gary Stopyra, and John and Claudine Ward. In the first row, Pat Getz, Sharon Vazquez, Susan French-Lawyer, Martha Wojtowycz, Oana Fratostitanu, Kim Pedone and Melanie Stopyra. Not included in the photo: Nancy, Bill and Graham Finch, Rene Gabriel, Wendy Howard, Trina Luftinger, John Vazquez and Andrea Viczian.
goal of honoring the nation’s scholastic champions.

**Shakespeare Competition**

Ireland Fernandez-Cosgrove (2013) was the winner of the prestigious English-Speaking Union’s National Shakespeare Competition at FM High School this spring. This school-based program helps students develop their speaking and critical thinking skills and their appreciation of literature. Ireland also played Charlotte, one of the stepsisters in *Cinderella*, at FM’s recent production of that play!

**Team Skater**

Andrea Auer (2009) is a junior at Nazareth College, studying occupational therapy. She and her family were recently in Fort Myers, Florida, when Andrea competed in the Skating Sectional Championships. Her synchronized skating team received a Bronze Medal in the open collegiate level. Andrea’s sister Martina Auer (2012) is an honors student and senior at CBA, and both are pictured in the top-right photo, Andrea on the left.

**Five Scholastic Art Award Winners**

The Scholastic Art Awards is the largest annual art competition in America, honoring the creative work of students for over 70 years. ESM student Jessica Irene Abrams (2014) won a Gold Key, and her twin sister, Taylor Abrams (2014), won a Gold Key in Drawing and Illustration. The girls both won Silver Keys, Jessica in Ceramics and Glass and Taylor in Printmaking. Jess, at right in second photo from the top, is pictured below her award-winning drawing. Former MSS student and current JD freshman Azriel Czerniak Linder received a Gold Key in Photography. MPH junior Angelina Shenandoah (2013) won a Silver Key in Drawing and Illustration. Current CBA student Sara Vertino (2013) received a Silver Key and an Honorable Mention. In addition, she is a member of the inaugural Everson Teen Arts Council. Sara has assisted in curating its’ upcoming art show titled “Ripple Effect: Altering the Face of Nature.”

**Science Olympiad Team**

CBA’s two Science Olympiad teams competed with 40 others from around central New York at LeMoyne College and included Grace Getman (2012) and Lesia Wojtowycz (2015). Lesia is seen in the third photo from the top, right, first row on the left, and Grace in the second row at far right with other members of the CBA team.

**Wrestler**

Wrestling is a new interest for Antonio Fernandez-Cosgrove (2016) this year at FM, where he has taken to it “like a duck to water”! Antonio is pictured at the lower right, ready to get to it!
Morgane Rigney (2002) was one of our school’s very first students at our original location at Temple Beth El! Her family made the move with us to our current campus on Waldorf Parkway in 2000. After her graduation, Morgane attended Fayetteville-Manlius Schools, where she graduated in 2008. Morgane’s mother, Kerin Rigney, was our first French teacher, and they are pictured together (to the right) in Montreal on that annual school French trip.

Morgane worked as an operations supervisor for a large monitoring station in Syracuse for many years and later moved to the Southwest, where she was a crew supervisor for a nature conservation corps.

When Morgane recently checked in with us, she let us know that she now works as a Hotshot Firefighter. She is part of an elite firefighting group called the Mormon Lake Hotshots, based in Flagstaff, Arizona.

There are many different kinds of wildland firefighting crews, and Morgane works in one of the most highly trained crews in the country, called an Interagency Hotshot crew. These crews battle the most serious fires nationwide and exceed the requirements of type 1 firefighters in terms of their extensive training and high physical fitness standards. They undertake difficult, dangerous, and stressful assignments. They respond to large, high-priority fires and are trained and equipped to work in remote areas for extended periods of time with little logistical support.

Morgane’s crew is highly trained and utilized to fight the biggest, hottest, most dangerous and physically grueling parts of big fires. Because they deploy to the nastiest fires, the crew travels all over the country and are typically on the road for about six months at a time (with breaks usually every 14 days).

While assigned a fire, they work 14-to 18-hour days, sleep on the ground and often eat dehydrated food. They utilize all-terrain vehicles, helicopters, and hike to fires in remote areas. On many fires they fought last summer, they hiked up to 15 miles per day carrying full gear (50-70 pounds).

Hotshots are considered professional hikers, and many of the men on Morgane’s crew are some of the strongest hikers in the country. Morgane is the only woman on her crew of 20, and she says that “I spend a good portion of the winter training to be able to keep up with my coworkers.” Chainsaws and hand tools are the most commonly used tools to construct handlines, removing all fuel material to stop a fire. Morgane tells us, "Working as a hotshot is definitely a kind of lifestyle. I'm essentially on from April to October and work and travel almost nonstop for six months. After October, I start my off-season with many of my coworkers, and I travel, relax, ski and climb, until fire season starts again in April.”

Morgane’s parents live in Fayetteville, and she is the oldest of her two sisters, Mia and Clair, and brother Sam, all of whom attended MSS.
(continued from page 1) research projects and dioramas, passports and “trips” to European countries, scenes from Madagascar, our annual musical, costumes and hats from around the world, science projects, a tapestry loom and so much more! The museum included the lower elementary community service project too, raising money for books for the Kingwood Library in Houston, destroyed by the recent hurricane.

On the last day of the festival, the entire school community gathered to enjoy student and parent performances including French and European folk songs, poetry readings from our Enrichment Program, “Writing Winter,” Irish music by MSS parent Patrick Kenny, a fencing demonstration by three Willow students. We also had many dance demonstrations; including a tango dance* by alumnus Max Eyle (2005) and his dance partner Erika Clement, a Norwegian dance by the Lower EI students accompanied by recorders, Maori haka dances, and the Greek hasapiko and kalamatiano by all our elementary fitness students. Parents contributed tasty international cuisine from their own cultural backgrounds, and many students chose to wear clothing to represent an aspect of their own cultural heritage or one of interest to them. *For those interested in the tango, check out SyracuseTango at

Clockwise from above left: Students from Pine Cottage join in singing European songs; Ben Chiodi, Nehemiah Chao, Betty Anderson and Aiden Michel (Willow) view their Willow classmates’ science projects; Jesse Carpenter (Cedar) makes Kandinsky-style art for the community tree mural; Max Eyle (2005) and Erika Clement dance a tango; Brian Durkin and Leo Plourde do a fencing demonstration, narrated by Justin Dunn (Willow); Safina Ahmed (Willow), Siri Brubaker, Simone Winkelman and Zachary Jones-Pike (Evergreen) make Australian dot paintings for our aboriginal community art project. Josie Grant, Luca Stefano, Arav Arasu, Anika Das, Tabitha Twomey-Smith and Susanna Ruckdeschel (Oak) pose in front of Evergreen Classroom’s Eiffel Tower. Lower left: Upper Elementary students participate in a Maori haka dance. Above left, both lower Evergreen and Cedar classes do a Greek dance called the hasapiko.
“Window” is published by the Montessori School of Syracuse four times per year unless otherwise noted. Contributors to this edition are Mary Lawyer O’Connor and some parent contributors. Editing is provided by Susan J. Cohan and Tammy Panipinto. Comments, questions and submissions are welcomed by Mary Lawyer O’Connor at msshead@gmail.com.
Role Models

The Cultural Museum provided many opportunities for our youngest students to learn from older role models and mentors. Students from ages 3 through 12 visited the museum together in small groups to make art, try a curling game, listen to a science presentation and pose in front of the Eiffel Tower. As students viewed each other’s work, the elders enjoyed sharing and being role models and helpers, assisting with costumes, finding supplies, helping with a puzzle or talking about their projects. When respect and kind communication are modeled by senior students, their younger friends have these behaviors reinforced. So much great learning was going on at this event!

Brian Durkin (Willow) shares his science project about robots he built with younger students at the Cultural Festival. From left: Brian Durkin, Siri Brubaker, Coen Kinsella, Isabelle Benjamin, Zachary Jones-Pike, Joye Lai and Safina Ahmed (Cedar, Evergreen and Willow students).