

Inaugural Knockabout Sustainers Cup Champions  
(Julie Ordos not pictured)



Inaugural Knockabout  
Champions Cup  
Victors

# WESANews

WASHINGTON EDUCATION & SQUASH ACADEMY  
NEWS & UPDATES

Issue  
07

November  
2018

## this issue

- Changes at WESA P.1
- Front Page News P.2
- Summer@WESA p. 3
- Volunteer with Us p. 4



2018-19 Elementary School Team

## Changes at WESA

### Meet Mr. Scott



### Meet Ms. Fannie



Scott Sparrow joins us as the new, full time Program Coordinator for WESA. Scott brings with him much coaching and training experience and his own collegiate athletic experience. Scott's experience is primarily in soccer, but he has played squash and looks forward to improving his squash game!

Fannie Watkinson is a part time WESA coach who began playing competitive squash in high school and went on to play at Stanford University. Fannie has coached many teams over the years, including squash, soccer, and ultimate Frisbee teams.

Scott's focus as he begins work with our scholars is to bolster their understanding of grit and to help ensure that our students embody this idea. He emphasizes the importance of having a fighting spirit when competing and the necessity of practicing with the same level of intensity at which you compete. Scott aims to bring our practices to the next level and prepare our scholars for the obstacles that we all undoubtedly encounter.

In her first month here, Fannie has jumped head first into the squash community. We are so lucky to have Fannie's expertise at WESA and are thrilled to have her contagious energy and positivity with us.

Scott and Fannie are both new to Seattle. Please help us in welcoming them to Washington and the squash community here, whether you see them with our scholars or playing on their own.

### Fundraising Shifts

As we enter into our 6<sup>th</sup> year, we have begun to make large changes in how we fundraise. As you know, WESA is a 501c3 nonprofit and we are powered primarily by donations from individuals like you.

Our goal as we move forward into the next 5 years is to ensure that WESA is sustainable and that you are a happy supporter! So while we will continue to ask for your support, we promise to make these asks **limited** and **predictable**.

At the start of the new year, we will be introducing our Donor Circles. The gifts from these donors are what sustain us and allow us to continue to grow. These are gifts that we rely on year after year. You tell us at what level you would like to give and that's that! When you give and how you give is always up to you. Keep your eyes out for more information as we enter 2019!

In addition to our Donor Circles, we will also hold two major fundraising events each year- the Annual Dinner & Auction and the WESA Knockabout, as well as the Lagunitas Happy Hour & Game Night.

You may notice that we have trimmed down the number of events we are holding. Our aim is to gather our community and supporters a few times each year while lessening the frequency of our requests. Transparency in this process is important to us, and we always welcome questions and feedback from you!

We hope these changes will allow for clearer communication between you and us, and will be fruitful for our program!

### 2019 Events

- ★ **Lagunitas Happy Hour & Game Night**  
Tuesday, Feb 26, 2019
- ★ **Annual Dinner & Auction**  
Spring 2019
- ★ **WESA Knockabout**  
Fall 2019

## Front Page News

### WESA Scholar Joins the Rainier Scholars

You may have heard a whisper about this last season, but we could not be more proud to announce that Nuhamin Samson has been accepted to the [Rainier Scholars!](#) Nuhamin has been working



overtime on her academics, learning leadership skills, and is currently in the process of applying to private middle schools for next year. Nuhamin continues to come to WESA every day. We wish her the best of luck and could not be more excited for her!

### Volunteers praised for "Helping Our Neighbors"

Middle and high school WESA scholars volunteered their time at [North Helpline](#) last year, kicking off a partnership that is continuing this year and into 2019. Students had a variety of tasks while at North Helpline, from distribution to stocking to collecting carts.

Our scholars were working hard all morning, lending a helping hand wherever needed. When helping to collect carts, our scholars noticed someone they believed would benefit from North Helpline's services. In spreading the word about the resources right around the corner, our scholars helped this individual get connected with the services at North Helpline. The shift leader from North Helpline praised our scholars for "helping our neighbors!" Well done!

### WESA Partners with AskNot America

"The AskNot Fellowship is a funded, yearlong program that unites local service internships with an in-depth civics curriculum." WESA has welcomed four [AskNot](#) fellows thus far and we are looking forward to a continued partnership with this new and wonderful organization.



Above, Wren Healy, an AskNot fellow, looks on as students try a simulated experience of controlling a driverless car at Living Computers.

In Partnership with



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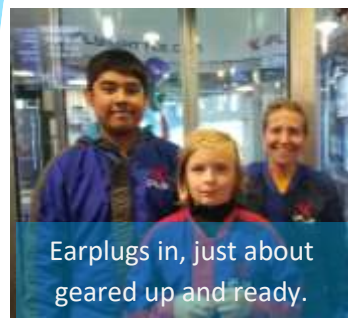


## S.T.E.A.M. SUMMER @ WESA

As you may recall, last year's summer program focused on careers. We introduced scholars to various employers, types of work environments, and career paths. This summer, Summer@WESA had a STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Mathematics) focus.

Students were introduced to the concept of coding and worked on creating individual projects using Scratch, a "free programming language and online community where you can create your own interactive stories, games, and animations" developed by MIT. WESA Volunteer, Sean Langhi, helped to create [How To videos](#) to introduce our students to a variety of concepts found in Scratch.

Students also had the opportunity to attend a number of STEAM focused field trips. Students visited [Living Computers: Museum + Labs](#), took a course at the Apple Store, and learned about the physics of skydiving and even tried flying on their own (indoors, of course!).



Earplugs in, just about geared up and ready.

This summer was made possible through the generosity of donors from all over the country. Students

## Integrity. Grit. Growth.

were able to explore and discover with Scratch because of our Chromebooks & Cases Campaign which allowed us to purchase Chromebooks for use during tutoring. This initiative was funded by donors from across the west, with particular support from alumni of Vassar College. Additional support from across the country enabled us to bring our students to iFly Indoor Skydiving and learn about and experience the physics of skydiving firsthand.



Working together to program Sphero, the robot!

### THE GLOBE READS

Continuing our involvement with The Globe Reads, students met with students from Hong Kong this fall, discussing what peer pressure looks like in Seattle and in Hong Kong. We look forward to discussing careers with this same class later this month. Last year we began adding a taste of each country to our international book club. Prior to our discussion with Hong Kong, we had a Chinese dinner!



### STEPPING UP OUR GAME

An increased staff promotes increased organization, discipline, and learning! Stop by a practice anytime to see the changes taking place at WESA. We could not be happier to have the opportunity to implement changes that we believe will promote Grit, Integrity, and Growth in our students!



Opportunity Through Squash.



Volunteer John coaches our 10<sup>th</sup> grade scholars

### MENTORING COMES TO WESA

We have launched our new Mentor Program for our high school scholars. Chris Jung, a member of our Young Professionals Board and active community member, has worked hard to get this program launched this fall. We have matched all of our high school students with an adult mentor, knowing the tremendous positive impact these relationships have on children's lives. Mentors have joined us from our Board of Directors, Young Professionals Board, and squash community. We will be looking for more mentors next year for our rising freshman. Do you think you might be interested? Please reach out to Chris Jung ([christopherjung14@gmail.com](mailto:christopherjung14@gmail.com)) or Kate Frost ([kate.frost@seattlesquash.org](mailto:kate.frost@seattlesquash.org)) to learn more!



Being part of a team means more than just competing together

### Volunteering at WESA!

This quarter we would like to recognize **John Curle** (pictured above). John joined us last March and is with us nearly every Saturday to help coach our scholars. As if volunteering his time at WESA was not enough, John has gone out of his way to spread word of our work to his company, helping to secure multiple grants from Brighton Jones, LLC and encourage his colleagues to come visit and learn what we're all about! John has also recently joined our Young Professional Board, taking his involvement with WESA to the next level. We are extremely grateful for all that John does for WESA and our scholars could not be happier to jump on court and learn from him. Thanks, John!

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Due to interest from our community in ensuring that our scholars have the necessary equipment, not just to play, but to play at the best of their abilities, we will be starting a Sponsorship program at WESA. Sponsors will work with their middle or high school student to ensure that they have all necessary equipment for the start of the season. This is no more than a \$400 commitment and is sure to make an enormous difference to our scholars. Interested in becoming a sponsor? Please contact Karim Ders ([k.ders1@gmail.com](mailto:k.ders1@gmail.com)) or Kate Frost ([kate.frost@seattlesquash.org](mailto:kate.frost@seattlesquash.org)) for more information.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Academic Tutoring	Squash Coaching
<b>@ Northgate Elementary</b> Thurs: 5:15 – 6:30 PM Fri: 4:30-5:45PM	<b>@ the SAC Northgate</b> Tues: 3:00 – 4:00PM
<b>@ the SAC Downtown</b> Thurs: 3:30 – 4:30 PM Sat: 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	<b>@ the SAC Downtown</b> Thurs: 3:30 – 4:30 PM Sat: 10:30 – 11:30 AM
<b>@ Harbor Square AC</b> Wed: 4-6PM	<b>@ Harbor Square AC</b> Wed: 4-6PM



@W\_E\_S\_A



Washington Education & Squash Academy



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As always, please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or comments at [info@seattlesquash.org](mailto:info@seattlesquash.org).

We love hearing from you!

Visit <http://www.wesacademy.org/volunteer/> to sign up!