



## Aeras Ambassadors: Computer Wizzes

By Liam Prather and Dylan Lim

Technology today is innovating at greater speeds than we have ever seen before. But what about the old technology that has been left behind? Aeras Ambassadors is a nonprofit club led by Watson Hewitt and Merritt Weinberg that partners directly with Aeras Technologies Inc. The student-led club collects donated devices, such as laptops and desktops, to refurbish and redistribute them back into the hands that need them in the Winter Park community.

When asked about the roots of the foundation, Watson Hewitt, the president of the club, stated, “during the peak of COVID we noticed all of the tech companies were upgrading their computers and replacing the old ones.” The Aeras Club already created a computer lab for a local Orlando school and produced a commercial for a UPS drive for computers. The current goal of the club is to receive more computers to refurbish and redistribute. These computers will receive new storage, new operating systems, and general improvements to help them work better when given to individuals in need. Even if you don’t know about technology this club is a great opportunity to learn about computers and how the whole process works. Also sponsored by Aeras, on SchoolPay students can contribute through a donation link for mice and headphones for the school.

Upon being asked about the club’s impact, Merritt Weinberg, vice president, stated, “The Aeras club has helped my perspective on community service by letting me see something I am talented in [the field of technology] and use that gift to help others in need.” Weinberg also stated, “[The Aeras club] has also helped me get a better sense of teamwork by working hard to accomplish our goals with my partner Watson and all of the Aeras club members” The Aeras club aims to serve the community to its fullest potential as well as to teach the club members themselves.

Meeting days are on Tuesdays and students can join the club and inquire further by texting @aeras to 81010 to join the Aeras Remind. Anyone with computer experience or looking to learn more about the use of computer technology is more than welcome to join!

### Inside this Edition

- Mya Blanton: IB Alumni (pg. 2)
- College Services with Ms. Mora (pg. 3)
- CAS Project (pg. 4)
- CAS Opportunities (pg. 4)
- Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Brielmaier (pg. 5)
- CAS 101 (pg. 5)
- IB Sports (pg. 6)
- Wounded Warrior Club (pg. 6)
- IB Arts (pg. 7)
- Theory of Knowledge Elective (pg. 7)



Review: *Girl A* by Abigail Dean  
By Kindell Welker



By the time *Girl A* begins, the mystery has already been solved. Lex and her siblings have escaped their abusive childhood home, watched their father get shot, and stood by while their mother died in prison. However, the book does not focus on these events, it rather delves into the deep and complex world of the aftermath. Lex's retelling of the story is flat, emotionless, and heartbreaking while it shows the reality of her trauma.

These experiences and the compelling writing style formulate a crushingly brilliant tale about a girl who is devastated by her past and who works hard to push through it. The novel works to untangle the complex emotional web of the trauma of its characters. Like most novels, it attempts to rouse its audience, but what makes it stand out is that it succeeds. It doesn't need to beg you to stay engaged, you simply want to. Even when it hurts, it's enjoyable and it's beau-

## IB Alumni: Mya Blanton

By Jackie Beattie

Winter Park's IB Program produces many stellar students. One of these superstars is 2021 graduate, Mya Blanton. Mya graduated earlier this year after making it through a senior year shaped by the pandemic. She is currently in her first semester as a freshman at Baylor University.

Growing up, Mya always harbored a love of photography. When she turned sixteen, she turned that passion into a business. Mya recalls that "photography was her creative outlet in high school." With the stress that can come with being in such a rigorous program as IB, she "always felt confident in photography." She values being able to meet new people and build relationships. Photography allows her to help people capture and preserve the precious moments of their lives. During high school, Mya managed to balance her professional business of photography and academics despite being fully booked with appointments throughout the year.



Looking back, Mya is grateful for the IB program and how it taught "balance and schedule management to work diligently and keep stress levels low." However, nothing stood out more than how she spoke about the inspiring community she was introduced to. She made "the sweetest friends", which made all of the difficult times worth it. She mentioned Winter Park's fabulous IB teachers and how they were always willing to be advocates for their students. Her main advice for current students is not to procrastinate. She noted that the IB Program can be challenging, but if you stay on top of your work and manage your time efficiently, "you can do it and be successful." She also stressed the importance of finding peace. When feeling overwhelmed, she advised to "take a deep breath, because you will end up where you need to be." And finally, don't be afraid to ask your teachers for help! The IB teachers are always willing to help whenever asked and want to make sure you succeed.

Now at Baylor, while majoring in journalism, she continues to bring joy to others through her skills. Anyone who has seen her work knows the talent that she developed. Her favorite part about going to Baylor now is its faith aspect and loving community. Mya excitedly talked about the way "Baylor faculty and students just love each other," and how it's such a welcoming place, no matter your background. According to her, Baylor University goes above and beyond to create events that promote socialization and friendship that make adapting to college life so much easier.

## College Services at Winter Park High School

By Ahana Manchanda and Sophia Fletcher

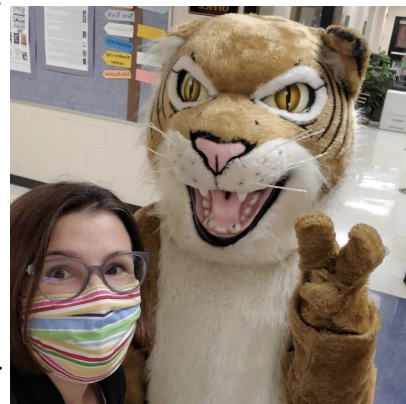
Along with the excitement of the college application process, comes its blues. Most students don't know where to start, be it creating a list of dream colleges, or creating an application. Luckily, these questions can be answered in Room 109, the College and Career Center. Mrs. Mora, the college and career specialist at Winter Park helps guide students toward finding the school that fits their needs. She offers her guidance during lunches and at designated times before and after school. Even if students aren't available to go to the CCC, they can simply look on the Student Canvas Page for resources.

She states that "the most important step is to find a school that is a good fit." This means a good academic, social, and financial fit. Mrs. Mora mentions that all colleges are different, and she suggests that when you are making your list, you should focus on your "non-negotiables," - things you cannot compromise on.

There are three application portals through which students can apply to colleges. The first is the Common Application which allows students to send a single application to several schools. The Coalition Application is similar, however, it is unique due to its ability to match the conditions that you want it to follow, such as it having a high graduation rate to even letting you leave the school with minimal debt. The coalition is also one of the best programs for minority students who are searching for a school with a broad diversity of students. Lastly, Questbridge is program which goal is to help students who are scoring high in academics but are struggling financially to find a school that will accommodate both. It is a rigorous scholarships program that has over 40 partnerships with universities that match with these students for a "free ride".

What is important to include in your college resume? Mrs. Mora answers this question by simply saying that "universities are looking to see how you spend your time outside of school." Something to keep in mind when forming your resume is that the people you are submitting it to are trying to figure out what kind of person you are, not just who you are as a student. Another major point to note when making your college application is that the admissions officers want to know what you can contribute to their college. Are you a student that engages themselves with the rest of the community? Colleges want to see how you are participating with the world outside of school.

One last note that Mrs. Mora wishes to leave you with is to, "Take advantage of the college visits" offered here at Winter Park! Listening to the representatives of these schools can give any student a new understanding of what each college offers; some could offer specific internship opportunities or even study-abroad programs with specific universities!



### Teacher Starter Packs: How to Become Your Favorite Teachers this Halloween!

<u>Mr. Littler</u>	<u>Mrs. Bitters</u>	<u>Mr. Trompeter</u>	<u>Dr. Farmer</u>
(Psychology)	(Music)	(Junior TOK, Sophomore English)	(Senior English, World religions)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A <i>refined</i> British accent and paraphernalia.</li> <li>A love for 'football'.</li> <li>A thoughtful mind-set.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your trusty cello.</li> <li>A welcoming smile.</li> <li>Some hilarious jokes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Star Wars mask</li> <li>Great writing skills.</li> <li>A side of sarcasm.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Old school glasses.</li> <li>A plaid, collard shirt.</li> <li>A passion for Shakespeare.</li> </ul>

*Of Course, to be any IB Teacher you'll also need your passion for teaching your dedicated students!*



## What is the CAS Project?

By Nadia Barua

While most of us may know what is required of us for our CAS hours, many of us are clueless when it comes to the CAS Project. What exactly is the CAS Project? Well, the CAS Project is just like any other CAS activity you may do for regular CAS hours, but just a little step further. Yes, that is very vague, so let's get into the details.

What makes a CAS Project different from just regular CAS hours is that your CAS Project should include more than just one CAS letter. Meaning, the CAS Project you do should be made up of either CS (Creativity & Service), SA (Service & Action), CA (Creativity & Action), or it may include all the letters, CAS (Creativity, Action, Service). The duration of your CAS Project is at least 1 month long and in that month you should have 20 hours devoted to your CAS project. One little detail within this point is that the hours of your CAS Project should be distributed between the letters of CAS which you choose for your Project. Additionally, you must be the one initiating your CAS Project. A CAS Project is an individual activity. While others may participate in your project and can earn hours for Service, Creativity, or Action, you need to be at the leadership position for that activity for it to count as your CAS Project. Last, but most certainly not the least, you need to have at least 1 CAS Project in your ManageBac CAS Portfolio. While you are welcome to do more than one CAS Project, it is an IB requirement to have at least 1. If you do not have a CAS Project completed by the time all of your other CAS hours are due, then you will not get the IB Diploma and will not be able to graduate!



## Where to get your CAS Hours

By Dickson Colado



There are many different programs that can help IB students earn CAS hours. Mr. Blackmon stresses that people should “pick a service that they are passionate about” and keep working on it! Pit Crew, which is a program at WPHS that helps mentally disabled students, gives service hours. Working at the Second Harvest Food Bank and Cancer Society are two incredible programs that will allow you to provide service to others. You can also build houses for those without the proper means to do so by volunteering for Habitat for Humanity. The Boys and Girls Club of Central Florida is yet another service opportunity, where you go and help children who need a safe and enriching environment. If these things seem like too much for your schedule, there are still many other CAS opportunities that the school and community offer. Tutoring other kids from different schools or younger kids is an efficient way to earn service hours. Army of Angels, a local nonprofit,

can help find possible volunteer. Rylee Perrault states that “Army of Angels offers a lot of service opportunities and tutoring is just one of them!” Another opportunity is to referee a middle school sport, so if you live near a middle school or elementary school this is a great idea. To find even more opportunities, you can go to the Winter Park website under the Pre-IB dropdown where you can find a list of opportunities for IB students. Mr. Brielmaier encourages you to reach out if you are having trouble with finding something to do. The amount of hours needed might seem like a lot, but there are plentiful opportunities available; you just have to be willing to put in the time and effort to help others.

## Get to Know Mr. Brielmaier

By Veronica Cabrera-Lopez and Nadia Barua

If you're in IB and you don't know who Mr. Brielmaier is, you obviously haven't been working on your CAS hours. He is both the CAS Coordinator and teaches HL Math as well as AP Calculus AB and BC. He describes HL Math as, "all the math you've ever learned, on steroids." Many have applauded his teaching as he never strays from trying his very hardest to ensure that every one of his students has a good understanding of the class material. His teaching style makes all his students feel comfortable in class, even if they're not the best at math. This helps his students adjust very well to the rigorous curriculum.



After graduating from FSU with a degree in math education, Mr. Brielmaier immediately started teaching at WPHS. He has now been teaching for twenty-three years. Even though he excelled in math during school, his love of working with kids is what drove him to teaching. He states, "I knew I wanted to work with kids, I like interacting with teenagers." He's empathetic and helpful, even in subjects not related to math. "He's probably the best math teacher I've ever had," says Joyce Thomas, a student of his for the past three years. This relationship between Mr. Brielmaier and his students allows for a more effective learning environment.

Although he was positive in his career choice, not everyone in his family agreed. His parents saw no money in his endeavor as a teacher but he was unmoved by their protest. "I like that I have a job that I don't mind going to almost 25 years in," he says. This is what makes Mr. Brielmaier such an amazing teacher. His love for his job plays an integral role in his amazing teaching. His message to the student body is to "find something you like, more than something that will make you money."

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## CAS Crash Course

By Brooke Chepenik and Scarlett Griffin

*"CAS is one of the pillars of the IB diploma program...it's intended to foster a well-rounded student with a better understanding of the world around them."* - Mr. Brielmaier, Winter Park High School Math Teacher and CAS Coordinator.

**Creativity** hours include any productive experience where you spend time being innovative. Your work must be an original product that fosters original thinking.

**Activity** hours include any activity that requires physical exertion and contributes to a healthy lifestyle. Supervision is not required for activity hours, but IB students should always adhere to the honor code. You also do not have to be on a sports team to get your activity hours! Simply walking or biking around your neighborhood can be used to meet the requirements.

**Service** hours involve your help responding to needs within your community. You can obtain service hours through an organization or event in your community. However, note that community service affiliated with a religious or political organization, service that benefits you directly, or something that involves a donation of money does not count!

IB CAS requirements include 150 hours between your IB junior and senior year. Of the 150 hours, 75 hours must be service hours. Freshman and sophomores: don't wait to complete all of your hours your junior and senior year because a minimum of 100 service hours is required for the Bright Futures scholarship! When starting CAS, ensure that all of your activities are pre-approved and involve at least one learning outcome.

## Wounded Warriors: Student Led Club

*By Maddie Clark and Bridget Gizzi*



Winter Park High School is a melting pot for different extracurricular activities. If you happen to stay after school on any certain day, you'll find many opportunities to inject your influence into our school, community, and beyond. One of the many

clubs you'll find is called the Wounded Warrior Club, run by eleventh grade I.B. students Jackie Beattie (president) and Bridget Gizzi (vice president).

The club is a service organization and charity that targets helping veterans and ex-servicemen who have suffered from physical and/or mental injuries while serving. Countless veterans make up the homeless population in America, as they are unable to find work when they come back from deployment. The Wounded Warrior Project is designed to change that and help the lives of a multitude of veterans. Jackie Beattie elaborates on how being involved with the club has changed her outlook on life, "I founded this club because I noticed there is a problem concerning veterans in our nation, and I believed that the Wounded Warrior Project was doing great things. I wanted my school to be a part of it. Being able to partner with the Wounded Warrior Project, spreading awareness, and supporting their cause in my community has really positively impacted and further broadened my perspective on life."

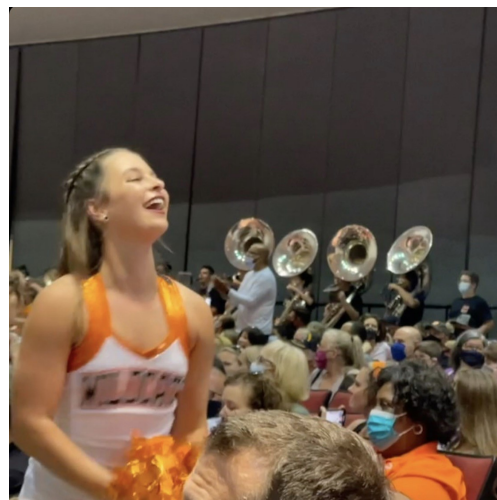
Furthermore, club treasurer Kate Batterson has a bright vision for the club's future. She hopes to expand the finances of the organization and more, explaining that "It's something that should be more recognized that doesn't have much popular awareness". With the club's inaugural year being last year, and with COVID-19 putting a hold on many of the school's extracurricular activities, officers and members of the club are excited to get the ball rolling and serve their community. Even though it was hard to truly make an impact last year, the members created a bond over their desire to improve the livelihood of our Wounded Warriors, and are excited to see the heights the club can reach.

## IB Students in Action!

*By Madison Layman and Lauren Laskowski*

The Wildcat IB students are back for the 2021-2022 school year! Being face to face, students are adapting to rigorous courses while also enjoying the opportunity to participate in athletic programs.

Hannah DeGrace (pictured), a sophomore in the Pre-IB program, balances varsity dance team commitments, being secretary in the Student Government Association, and her social life. When asked about how she balances her everyday commitments, she says, "I focus on the end goal of success." She is thankful to be involved in a dance program that has brought her some of her closest friends, and in that way her social life is equally distributed with her passion for dancing.



Eden Layman, a senior, is balancing her responsibilities as captain of the varsity lacrosse team with college applications and finishing her IB requirements. She says that "keeping a planner and staying organized is the most important thing to do." Through trial and error she learned the best way to finish her work is having a daily outline of what needs to be prioritized.

Hannah and Eden are just two examples of IB students that juggle academics and their sports in Winter Park High School's athletics program. They found that it is all about finding what works best for you and your schedule. They also recognize that if you love what you're doing you will be able to succeed. With any sport, there will be some time taken away from focusing on academics, but having a system to stay motivated is very beneficial.



## IB Arts: A Balance of Time and Tone

By Deanna Davis

Winter Park High School's arts program consists of award-winning ensembles, choirs, orchestras, and theatrical performances. Students devote hours to developing their craft, perfecting techniques, and striving for excellence.

Juliana Lugo, a freshman at WPHS, spoke on her transition to high school in the IB program, as well as the band department. Originally, things weren't going her way, "Honestly in the beginning I was super overwhelmed and I for sure cried". But as time progressed, Juliana took a step back, analyzed the situation, and found a solution. Juliana said, "What helped me when I fell behind was writing everything down on a piece of paper and prioritizing assignments, it's all about time management and self-discipline." Juliana is confident that her strategies will help her and fellow IB students. Anna Nguyen, a sophomore at Winter Park who currently plays two, going on three instruments, also shares her secrets on how she manages. Anna expresses

some difficulties in her schedule regarding band and the toll on her mental health. "Trying to complete homework and committing so many hours to band, as well as extracurricular activities can really cause a burnout". Through the challenges, Anna still manages to stand on her own two feet and complete all her challenging schoolwork.



The arts program at WPHS is unforgettable, and although many sacrifices and compromises are made, the ending results are spectacular!

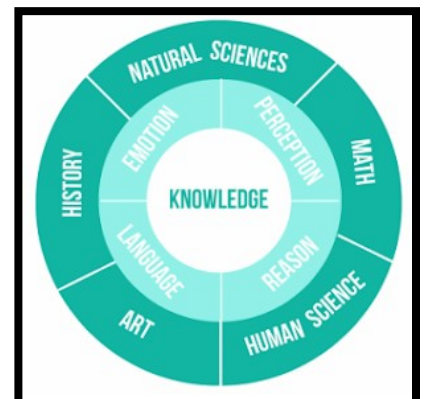
## Elective Spotlight: Theory of Knowledge

By: Ava Loar

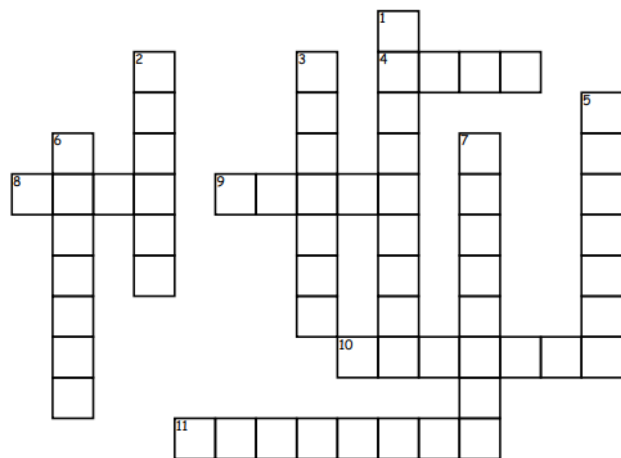
Before the 2021-2022 school year, Theory of Knowledge (TOK) was a course that only seniors could take. This school year, though, TOK has opened up to Juniors as an elective. The class consists of "base level TOK skills (thinking, questioning, and knowing), group service (a class-wide CAS project), and a working study group that allows time to catch up in other classes and, with diligence, complete a draft of the Extended Essay before the end of junior year," according to Mr. Trompeter, teacher of the junior TOK course. Mr. Trompeter describes the course as a way for students to become, "straight-up better people," and to solidify their own beliefs while having "considered, questioned, and solidified their own beliefs and values."

Alongside evaluating the internal thought processes, TOK also allows you to complete CAS hours that count towards your diploma. This is done through a class-wide community service project that is unique to each class. Two days of the week, however, students are allotted a study hall period that allows them to "be as successful and stress-free as possible in your junior year heading into your final year in high school," according to Mr. Trompeter. When surveyed, 54% of students in TOK said that the study hall was one of the reasons they recommended taking TOK as an elective in their junior year. It may seem pointless to take an IB class when it isn't required, but junior TOK allows students to acquire, "the mindset and attitude of the TOK learner," according to Mr. Trompeter.

TOK is a great opportunity for students to develop skills needed to question the world around them rather than just fulfilling another class requirement. It allows for the growth and expansion of students' mindset beyond the normalcy of finding one answer to a question and allows for the appreciation of the journey to the answer. The world around us is an amazing place, and TOK allows students to experience more of what it has to offer.



## Fall Crossword Puzzle



### Across:

4. A tasty yellow vegetable with kernels
8. Another word for Autumn
9. A crisp red fruit
10. Something worn in the Fall
11. The way trees look during Fall

### Down:

1. Used to scare birds away
2. A color of fall leaves
3. Used to make Jack-o-lanterns
5. The middle month of Fall
6. Another word for gathering crops before winter
7. A sport that is played during Fall.



## How to make Caramel Apples



### **Ingredients:**

- 8–9 cold apples
- 1 and 3/4 cups (420ml) heavy cream
- 1 cup (240ml) light corn syrup
- 2 cups (400g) packed light or dark brown sugar
- 1/4 cup (4 Tablespoons; 60g) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

**Step 1:** Combine cream, corn syrup, brown sugar, butter, and salt in a large saucepan over medium heat—stir consistently until the butter is melted. Attach a candy thermometer to the side of the pan.

**Step 2:** Let the mixture bubble until it reaches 235°F without stirring.

**Step 3:** Once at that temperature, stir in the vanilla and allow the caramel to cool for 10–15 minutes.

**Step 4:** With the apples on their sticks, dip them into the caramel and place onto a sheet of wax paper on a baking pan, add any desired toppings and let the apples cool.

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