

Volume 2



Edition 8

Middle School Times



"God's Got This"

Dr. Willett Shares
Her Wilberforce
Experience



Interview with Dr. Willett

By Matthias Cherukara and Kyle Hasenkamp

Q: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

A: In ten years, I see myself on a remote island doing research, oceanography research, and having Wilberforce students helping me do my research in the summer. Would you want to come to some island to study ocean physics and do research with me?

Q: What celebrity, historical figure, or fictional character would you want to have dinner with?

A: I would want to have dinner with Agatha Christie. She is one of my favorite authors. I have read her autobiography. It is like having a conversation with her, and I have so many more questions for her. She was also a strong believer and had a hard life, so I just admire her.

Q: What is the funniest memory you've ever had at Wilberforce?

A: Looking back, the funniest memory was the first year I was teaching here. It was when I got the seniors stuck in the elevator when we were trying to do a physics experiment. So the whole class of seniors, all seven of the original seven, were stuck in the elevator with me between floors. We broke the elevator.

Q: How long were you stuck?

A: We were stuck for about fifteen minutes. But if you asked them, it seemed like a couple of hours. So it's pretty funny how it got longer and longer the farther away from the story we get.

Q: What is your favorite food and why?

A: My favorite food is my husband's homemade pizza. He has been working on his recipe for his pizza dough for about 25 years. He is perfecting it, and it is delicious.

Q: Who do you think will win the House Cup this year and why?

A: Well, since I'm a governor, the house that wins this year will be a Wilberforce house. But I have to stay neutral because I love all the houses, and I have reasons for all of them winning.



Movie Review for Onward

By Laura Sallade

It's Ian's the awkward, teenage elf's birthday, and his mother brings out a gift their father left them when he died. The gift allows them to bring back their father for one day only, but when they attempt this, they only manage to bring back his lower half. Determined to bring back the rest of their father, Ian and his big brother Barley set off on a dangerous quest filled with maps, manticores, and gelatinous cubes in order to meet their dad. When their mom discovers where they've gone, she pursues them in an exciting adventure. But can Ian and Barley meet their dad before it's too late?

I highly recommend this new film for a great family movie night. Hope you enjoy this movie as much as I did!

Q: What is your favorite part about teaching at Wilberforce? How long have you been teaching here?

A: I have been teaching here, I think since the fall of 2015. My favorite thing at Wilberforce is the students, hands down. Spending time with the students and interacting and seeing how the students interact with each other at Wilberforce.

Q: What would your ideal vacation be like?

A: My ideal vacation would be to take my children to the International Space Station for a week.

Q: How are you spending your time and keeping yourself entertained during this quarantine?

A: Well, one of the things that I get to do since I like to sew is make banners to hang in MPR 2 for all of the houses! They are thirty inches wide. So I have the Macaulay one finished, and I'm going to work on Venn soon, and hopefully, I'll finish Thornton soon as well. Then the next

weekend, I'll finish up the More banner. So when we all get back together, even though they won't be decorated, the banners will be there, and they are beautiful! I'm also playing games with my family, and I'm learning how to teach remotely. Sometimes it's not obvious to me how to do it, so I'm trying a bunch of different ways.

Q: What was your childhood dream job? And why did you want to do it so much?

A: Well, I had two - one was being an astronaut, and the other was being an ocean researcher, which I actually did get to be! I loved going out on research vessels to collect data in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. So you either go out to space, and learn about space, or you go out on the ocean and learn about that. And I love doing it. So I was able to do one of the two things that I wanted to do.



Q: How did you become a house governor?

A: It was God's plan. I didn't expect it or intend for it to happen. I liked teaching physics and math, and then, when I started spending more time with the students two years ago, the girls didn't have a governor. They just had Mr. Young. The boys had a governor, but the girls didn't. And so I told Mr. Yoon that I thought maybe God was calling me to do it. He agreed, and here I am!

Q: What is one thing on your bucket list that you want to do soon?

A: So there are two things that I have on my bucket list - one that I think I can do soon; one maybe not so soon. Some summer, I'd like to drive slowly across the United States and spend some time in little towns, exploring what the rest of the country looks like. The reason why is that I grew up as an army brat, so we moved every two years. My sisters and I changed to a different state every two years, so I'd want to go back and see the rest of the country again. And the second one is that someday I'd like to hike up Mount Everest, but just to the base camp, so I could see what it looks like.

Q: What is one little-known skill you have?

A: I used to be a really good competitive golfer! And I haven't golfed in a long time, but I was the Denver Corporate Champion. Surprise!

Q: If the world was ending, what three things would you grab, and why?

A: I would grab my children, my husband, and my dogs! Because I love them all!

Q: What if you could take a fourth thing?

A: Probably the antique sextant that my husband gave me as a Christmas present, because I love thinking about all things in the ocean. And a sextant is what they used to use to navigate with on a voyage. We play with it in my class, and we use it outside in our experiments.

Q: Do you have anything encouraging that you want to say to the rest of Wilberforce during this quarantine?

A: Yes. I would say the first thing that comes to mind is: God's got this. He knows exactly what's going on, and he knows how we can each grow and learn from this unique time in this unique experience. I challenge everyone to look to how it is that God is trying to grow us in this, either in our faith or in our love for him or our appreciation for the things that we have with our families and in our houses.



Featured Quotes

By Katherine Dorini, and Laura Sallade

"I'm not clumsy. It's just the floor hates me, the tables and chairs are bullies, & the wall gets in the way."

-Cristy (Robertson) Deckard

"Rice is great when you're hungry and you want 2000 of something."

- Mitch Hedberg

"Did you just fall? No, I was checking if gravity still works." -Anonymous

"Most of the time... when you're crying, nobody notices your tears. Most of the time... when you're worried, nobody feels your pain. Most of the time... when you're happy, nobody sees your smile. But when you burp just one time..."

-Anonymous

"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain."

-Dolly Parton

"A balanced diet is chocolate in both hands."

-Anonymous

Excerpt from *The Book About Nothing*

By Peter Yoon

Nothing. Absolute nothing. That's what I'm writing about. Yes, I know, it sounds crazy. An entire book about nothing? How could that even exist? I mean, it is literally on a subject that might be interpreted as nonexistent. Yet, the book exists. You are reading it right now. It has dozens of pages... on what? That's the thing. "Nothing" is a very interesting topic. It could be nonexistent, yet it could be seen in many places. In many places, there is air rather than nothing. Does that mean that "nothing" can be air? We often point at places where the air is, and refer to those places as "nothing." In space, is that "nothing" or antimatter?

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines nothing as "something that does not exist," and yet we talk of "nothing" as a "something," an existent state. You can do "nothing." You can see

"nothing." You can even be "nothing." Yet, nothing does exist. It comes from an old English word, "naping," meaning literally "insignificant thing," so perhaps it is in fact "something" and simply insignificant. This meaning occurs often in everyday use of the word when people say someone is "nothing" or "insignificant," or when you say, "this matter is nothing."

Yet, what is the other meaning, the "non-existent something?" How can there be something that does not exist? Well, first, what is "something?" Merriam Webster defines "something" as "some indeterminate or unspecified thing." This could make sense since "nothing" cannot be fully quantified and measured. This doesn't really help. What is the definition of "exist?" Merriam Webster (my trusty dictionary) defines "exist" as "to have real being whether spiritual or material." Perhaps this is where the true definition of the word "nothing" is. Nothing is immaterial, yet some people believe that there is a "spiritual nothing." Is this



Book Review on Lord Brocktree

By Emma Gordon

Lord Brocktree, by Brian Jacques, is a gripping adventure tale about a young hare named Dotti and her badger companion, Lord Brocktree. On their journey to the mountain of Salamandastron, they discover that the legendary mountain has been captured by the villain, Ungatt Trunn. The two must rally an army to take back the mountain, but will their plan succeed? Dotti and Lord Brocktree, who are joined by courageous woodland animals, face several perils along their journey to take back the mountain.

Lord Brocktree perfectly balances thrilling moments with enticing descriptions. It often switches perspectives in third-person, giving the reader insight into the characters' thoughts.

This novel is one in a series of 22 books. Captivating, compelling, and convincing, this book is a must-read for adventurers and thrill-seekers alike.

true? It depends on the interpretation. Some people might not think it is possible to gain “nothingness.” Is that even a “thing?”

So far, our evidence is inconclusive. We have discovered nothing’s everyday usage (insignificant), yet the definition of “nothing” as “something that does not exist” is all theoretical. We may never have a firm answer for that question.



“Flower” by Anonymous



Jokes, Riddles, Puzzles, and more

By Caden Frisch, Katherine Dorini, Megan Klein, and Will Evans.

Jokes:

1. Why couldn't the pony sing a lullaby? She was a little horse.
2. Why are frogs always so happy? They eat whatever bugs them.
3. A perfectionist walked into a bar...apparently, the bar wasn't set high enough.
4. Q. What is the biggest lie in the entire universe? A. "I have read and agree to the Terms & Conditions."
5. A bear walks into a bar and says, "Give me a whiskey and.....cola." "Why the big pause?" asks the bartender. The bear shrugged. "I'm not sure. I was born with them."
6. What did the big flower say to the little flower? Hi, bud!
7. How do pickles enjoy a day out? They relish it.

Riddles:

1. I make two people out of one. What am I?
2. I am something people love or hate. I change peoples' appearances and thoughts. If a person takes care of themselves, I will go up even higher. To some people, I will fool them. To others, I am a mystery. Some people might want to try and hide me but I will show. No matter how hard people try I will never go down. What am I?
3. The more you take away, the more I grow. What am I?
4. What is seen in the middle of March and April that can't be seen at the beginning or end of either month?
5. A word I know, six letters it contains. Remove one letter, and twelve remains. What am I?
6. You see a boat filled with people. You look again, but this time you don't see a single person on the boat. Why?
7. What's $\frac{3}{7}$ chicken, $\frac{2}{3}$ cat, and $\frac{2}{4}$ goat?



Dolittle Movie Critique

By Joshua Jen

This movie was primarily inspired by the second Doctor Dolittle book, *The Voyages of Doctor Dolittle*. The movie, starring Robert Downey Jr., Emma Thompson, Selena Gomez, and Tom Holland, was quite a disappointment. First, however, I will start with the things I enjoyed about this movie. *Dolittle* was quite exciting to watch, and it was quite adventurous. Downey brought along into *Dolittle* a lot of the same excitement that he brought to the Avengers movies. Along with that, *Dolittle* was narrated in a way where previous knowledge about the *Dolittle* series was unnecessary. Now, on to the not-so-good things. *Dolittle* lacked humor. It was a fast-paced movie, but it was also quite boring which is a hard combination to achieve. *Dolittle* also veered from the book quite a lot (which I would recommend). I'd give *Dolittle* the movie a 4/10.

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Answers can be found on page 15!



The Brightness in a Blaze

By: Marilyn Chen

“Everything is burning, nothing will remain of the frame.”

~ Notre Dame spokesman Andre Finot

Flames. Panic. Destruction. Ashes. Just over a year ago, on April 15, 2019, Notre Dame caught on fire. The Notre Dame Cathedral is a historic cathedral in Paris, France that has been standing for roughly 800 years.

Construction of the Cathedral began in 1163. Completed in 1345, Notre Dame became the most famous of the Gothic cathedrals of the Middle Ages. It is also recognized as one of the most beloved pieces of architecture in the world. The cathedral was built on the Ile de la Cité, an island in the Seine river in Paris.

The cathedral is famous for its many gargoyles (gargoyles are carved human and animal sculptures projecting from the gutter of a building that typically act as a spout to divert rainwater and were also believed to scare off evil) and its iconic flying buttresses (supports of stone or brick). Among the most celebrated artworks inside are the cathedral's three stained-glass, rose-shaped windows.

Apart from being home to many artworks, Notre Dame is also a popular tourist attraction. Like many cathedrals, Notre Dame's priceless treasures include a Catholic relic; Christ's crown of thorns, which is only occasionally displayed, such as on Fridays during Lent.

The 2019 fire spread across the cathedral's ceiling and the burnt spire tumbled to the ground. As the spire fell, the sky lit up orange. Reporters at the scene described massive plumes of yellow-brown smoke filling the air above the cathedral. Ash fell on the island that houses Notre Dame, Ile de la Cité, right at the center of Paris. People could only watch in shock as two-thirds of the ceiling burned. Paris police said there were no reported deaths. The fire was extinguished after nine hours, but permanent damage had already been done.

The cause of the blaze is not certain, but French media quoted the Paris fire brigade saying the fire was "potentially linked" to a 6 million euro (\$6.8 million) renovation project on the church's spire. This could have been due to the fact



that Notre Dame had not been in great shape for a while before the fire. Pollution, weathering, and acid rain stained and pitted its walls and gargoyles. This led to extensive renovation, and the renovation process introduced new fire hazards.

According to Umair Irfan, a staff writer for Vox.com, "Bringing power tools, electric lamps, and welding equipment in close proximity to a centuries-old building increases the risk of ignition. This is a hazard that comes with any kind of renovation at this scale, but it's especially risky with a structure that wasn't designed with fire prevention in mind. The scaffolding structure also provided fuel for the fire."

French President Emmanuel Macron treated the fire as a national emergency. He rushed to the scene and went straight into meetings at the Paris police headquarters nearby. Paris' deputy mayor, Emmanuel Gregoire, said emergency services were called upon. They were trying to save the famed art pieces stored in the cathedral.

French historian Camille Pascal said that the blaze was "the destruction of invaluable heritage. It's been 800 years that the Cathedral watches over Paris," Pascal said. "Happy and unfortunate events for centuries have been marked by the bells of Notre Dame." He added, "we can be only horrified by what we see."

A little over a year ago, on April 15, 2019, Notre Dame lit on fire. Everyone did what they could. It was devastating and caused centuries of history and art to be reduced to ashes. Now, the cathedral is slowly and steadily being rebuilt. It will never be the same again, but it will be stronger than it ever was before.

Let this be a lesson and a reminder to us. A reminder that sometimes in life, situations will worsen before they get better. But they will get better. What breaks us will break us, but will also make us stronger. Whatever happens, will shape us to become wiser. As is commonly said, this too shall pass. Some day, these challenging times will only be a memory.



CONGRATULATIONS, TOP NATIONAL LATIN EXAM SCORERS!

From Class 6:

Ribbon and Certificate:

Angela Sun, Daniel Gordon, and Laura Sallade

Certificate:

Nina Luca-Chis, Noah Rodriguez, David Jin, and Thierry Antoine

From Class 7:

SUMMA CUM LAUDE:

Katherine Dorini, Philip Schidlovsky, David Jen, Elle Haan, and Peter Yoon

MAXIMA CUM LAUDE:

Adeline Edwards, Luke Haan, and Kyle Hasenkamp

CUM LAUDE:

Nathan Nowak and John David

From Class 8:

SUMMA CUM LAUDE:

Emma Gordon

MAXIMA CUM LAUDE:

Virginia Whitman, Maria Madigan, Joshua Lai, and Dorothy Wong

MAGNA CUM LAUDE:

Andrew Pratt

CUM LAUDE:

Timothy Griegel, and Joshua Jen



Student Spotlight Interview with David Jen and Adeline Edwards

By Nina Luca-Chis and Laura Sallade

Q: What extracurriculars and sports do you participate in both outside and inside of school?

Adeline Edwards: I run track and cross country inside of school, and I climb and do whatever's outdoorsy outside of school. I also do debate, but I just don't count that as a sport.

David Jen: No sports inside of school, but I play tennis and golf outside of school. I also do rock climbing. And we both do debate.

Q: If you could spend the day with any celebrity in the world, who would you spend the day with and why?

DJ: Does Jesus count? I've always wondered that. I mean he's a cultural icon. C.S. Lewis. He seems like a cool guy, and he's also Christian. Actually, I would hang out with Awkwafina.

AE: Yea, I'd like to hang out with CS Lewis.

Q: What are some things that you like to do during quarantine?

AE: I'm enjoying it. Writing letters all the way. I like writing letters so much. I like making my own envelopes.

DJ: I don't know, I hate quarantine so much. I think maybe the best thing about quarantine is that I get to read a lot of books, and we get to watch a lot of movies as well, so I guess that's it.

Q: What are your favorite thing and least favorite thing about online learning and why?

DJ: My least favorite thing is that we don't have a pass/fail grading system, and I think that we should. My favorite thing is that it's pretty organized. It's more organized than I thought it'd be. But it's a bit confusing too.

AE: My favorite thing about online learning is that we can mute people on zoom chats. It's pretty handy. Our class has never been so quiet before. My least favorite thing is that I miss all my friends. I also hate being in front of a computer for so long.

DJ: Same! My eyes hurt from being in front of a computer for so long.



Book Review on The Book Thief

By Katherine Dorini

The *Book Thief* follows the life of Liesel Hubermann who lives in Nazi Germany during the Second World War. Narrated by Death himself, the story gives light to the fact that the war impacted everyone.

After Liesel's mother drops Liesel off at Himmel Street with her new Mama and Papa, Liesel learns to make this new place her home. Whether it's being soothed by her Papa's accordion, or playing soccer on the streets with her friends, Liesel is content and happy. And her happiness grows when Liesel (a.k.a. The Book Thief) learns to read with the books she and her best friend, Rudy, have stolen. However, when she realizes that Hitler may not be the person she wants to win the war, her whole life is thrown into chaos.

Amidst realizations of her past, friends that she's not supposed to have, and the constant threat of being bombed, it takes all Liesel's got to stay focused. I would recommend this book to all!

Q: You both entered a contentious writing competition, and both were chosen among hundreds to have your work published. For the Grannie Annie writing competition, and the 350 for 50 competition, what did you each write about and why?

DJ: My grandparents were very interesting. They came over from China to Taiwan. My grandpa on my mom's side had a pretty interesting story, so I chose that.

AE: So my mom inspired me to write my piece. I don't think any of you have read this book but, *The Salt to the Sea* is about Wilhelm Gustloff. This was the greatest naval disaster in history, and it killed about 10,000 people. So I decided to write about that.

Q: What is your favorite type of thing to write and why?

AE: I like writing short stories because every word that you use has a lot of meaning and you have to get good at smushing them down to three paragraphs or something. I also tend to wander off on tangents when the writing gets long.

DJ: I'm bad at poems. I mean, I like short stories.

What else is there to write? I like making my writing short and concise.

Q: Who is your favorite author and why?

AE: That's easy for me: Lemony Snicket all the way.

DJ: It matters what genre it is. For a modern genre, definitely Shannon Messenger. I love CS Lewis as well. The Chronicles of Narnia are some of my favorite books.

Q: If you could travel anywhere, where would you go and why?

AE: Well that's easy. I'd travel everywhere.

DJ: Honestly me too. I'd like to go to this slum in Egypt where they recycle 85% of their stuff. I really want to visit there because it is so cool, and no one actually recycles that much. And then I'd like to go to Mozambique. I just like saying that country's name.



Q: What are some little known skills you have?

DJ: I don't have any skills.

AE: I'm a chicken farmer! It's official!

Q: If the world was ending, what 3 things would you grab and why?

DJ: If the world was ending, I'd be dead.

AE: If the world was ending, I wouldn't grab anything. I'd go outside and watch the world ending. Because that's a much better ending than to grab three things that you're not going to be able to do anything with.

Q: If your house was burning, what three things would you grab?

AE: I would run out of there as fast as I could!

DJ: I would grab my siblings! I would grab humans!

AE: I would grab my chickens!

Q: What is your favorite song to sing in the shower and why?

AE: This is really personal - I don't know what to say.

DJ: I don't even know the names of what I sing.

AE: I sing too many songs to name one.

DJ: Most of them are by Ariana Grande. I also like to sing Reflection from Mulan.



**“Cherry Blossoms” Taken by
Laura Sallade**



Advice Column, answered by The Wilberine:

Q. How long would a well-cooked spaghetti piece stick to the wall?

A: Well, my parents wouldn't let me throw it onto the wall to test, but if pasta sticks to the wall, it doesn't mean it's done. So I'm not sure. I suppose it matters what sort of pasta. I have only tried making spaghetti once, and I undercooked it, so it did not stick to the wall. Also, that whole "pasta will stick to the wall" saying is a myth.

Q. HELLO! How do you survive quarantine?!?!?

A: Quarantine is stressful, so I like to take breaks from school and everything that is going on and read. But remember: the best way to survive quarantine is to not get COVID. So stay positive and push through. You got this!

Q. Why can black holes spin if their gravitational pull is so strong? If they do, why do they have regularity or singularity (most likely regularity)?

A: I have no idea, but you could discuss it over dinner with your family. You could ask Mr. Yang, because he knows a lot about space.

Q. Is a hot dog a sandwich?

A. Technically, a sandwich has two pieces of bread with filling in between, so no, a hot dog is not a sandwich. But if you put it on sandwich bread, it could be!

Q. Is cereal soup?

A. Cereal is not soup, but technically, it could be a drink. That is, only if you are eating it with milk. Otherwise, it is just baked wheat. However, according to Noah Van Leeuwen, the devoted Cheerio eater, it is. So, I am not sure.

Use the link below to ask questions!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdSHKqQ5cV5VD6Kty9pmk1eM4dDrEI4Y1hN8GFkBjXYWc4LWg/viewform>



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Suggestions for the newspaper, submissions, questions, letters to the editors and more can be sent to middleschooltimeswilberforce@gmail.com



Riddle Answer Key:

1. I make two people out of one. What am I? **A mirror.**
2. I am something people love or hate. I change people's appearances and thoughts. If a person takes care of themselves I will go up even higher. To some people, I will fool them. To others, I am a mystery. Some people might want to try and hide me but I will show. No matter how hard people try I will never go down. What am I? **Age.**
3. The more you take away, the more I become. What am I? **A hole.**
4. What is seen in the middle of March and April that can't be seen at the beginning or end of either month? **R.**
5. A word I know, six letters it contains, remove one letter, and twelve remains. What am I? **Dozens**
6. You see a boat filled with people. You look again, but this time you don't see a single person on the boat. Why? **The boat has not sunk. All the people on the boat are married.**
7. Whats 3/7 chicken, 2/3 cat, and 2/4 goat? **Chicago. The first three words out of seven of chicken is CHI, the first two words out of 3 of cat is CA, and first two words out of goat is GO. Therefore making, (CHI)(CA)(GO).**

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