



A Kamiak Knight's Tale: 2022 Year in Review



Picture courtesy of the rehearsal of Chicago by Kamiak High School's drama department. SOURCE: Bryan Sullivan

By **ESAW ADHANA**

MUKILTEO—After its near-complete shutdown in 2020 and battle to continue through 2021's COVID restrictions, it seems as if 2022 has been the year where Kamiak's Drama Department has finally been able to bounce back. In May, the Drama team took to the stage with their production of Chicago, a jazz-oriented play set in the roaring 1920s, starring (now-graduated) Laini Kirk and Paige Shubert.

The show was a huge success, quickly selling out on its closing night and ultimately earning the team recognition from the 5th Avenue Theatre Awards for their outstanding performance and musical talent.

Under the direction of their Instructor Bryan Sullivan, the Kamiak Drama Team has consistently put on spectacular performances, and we can't wait for their upcoming winter play, Shakespeare in Love and later, in the spring, for their musical, Freaky Friday!

KAMIAK CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA

In addition to the Drama team's success, the Kamiak Choir and Orchestra teamed up to perform in their annual Messiah concert at the Everett Civic Auditorium just this last December. This year marked the 25th anniversary of the concert, and the performance was a ringing success. With laughs and festive music galore, we thank them for a great way to welcome the new year.

KAMIAK SHOW BAND

As for the spectacular show band, they earned bronze in the Northwest Association for Performing Arts Circuit Competition this last November, and their dazzling costumes and beautiful performances caught our eyes, ending the Oregon-based contest with an impressive score: 89.20 / 100.

And let's not forget about Kamiak's talented fall color guard! In addition



Continued **PAGE 02 >>**



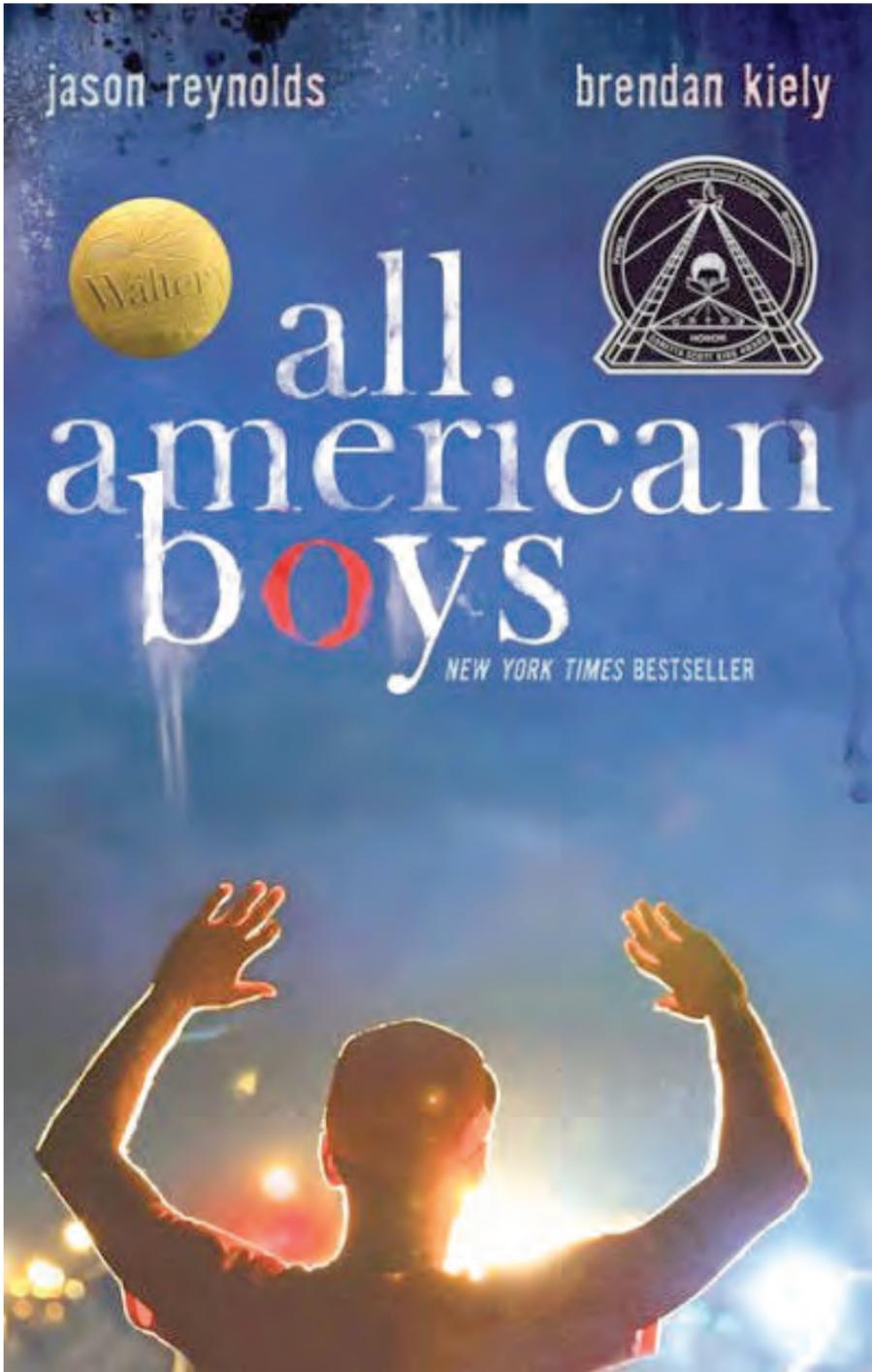
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2022 YEAR IN REVIEW POLICY CHANGES



By **ESAW ADHANA**

MUKILTEO—Throughout this calendar year, the Mukilteo School Board approved budgets, fundraisers, and policies, just as we’ve seen in years prior, but during this year especially, we’ve seen many students engaging in what they believe in and making themselves heard.

Last January, the District debated and ultimately approved the removal of Harper Lee’s controversial *To Kill A Mockingbird* from the required freshman English curriculum list. It was a tough, controversial decision, and in one of their meetings, the Mukilteo School Board considered fifteen speakers, composed of students, teachers, and Mukilteo community members, ultimately coming to their unanimous

decision. In a statement from School Board President Michael Simmons at the time of the decision, “All board members voted with clear minds and only after seriously considering the information provided.”

Currently, the novel remains on the “approved novel list” and can be taught at a teacher’s discretion, but many teachers have replaced its presence with *All American Boys*, a fictional young adult novel by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely.

The novel depicts the bleak reality of police brutality for black men in America in a heart-wrenching way, yet this book too has also garnered controversy in districts nationally, in challenge of the book’s references of drugs, profanity, and violence.

SEX EDUCATION

In November of 2020, Washington voters approved Referendum 90, the Sex Education in Public Schools Measure, to uphold Senate Bill 5395, approving the statewide change in sexual health curriculum. With the official bill now requiring sexual health be taught “Twice to students in grades nine through twelve” along with other provisions, the Kamiak sexual health education system needed an update. Eventually, the Mukilteo School District opted to add a sophomore grade curriculum, in addition to their freshman grade curriculum.

With a goal of recognizing all students and seeing all identities, a team consisting of thirty Mukilteo nurses, teachers, counselors, and students total began to discuss possible programs. They met online through Zoom calls throughout January and February of last year, delineating between curriculums and accessing them through a plethora of criteria, with a focus on inclusion and medical accuracy.

Ultimately, they settled upon P3 (Positive Prevention Plus) for elementary, middle, and special education schools and FLASH for high school students.

COVID WALKOUT

As seen through another event back in January, students made themselves heard through peaceful protesting. At this time, the peak of the pandemic na-

tionally in the United States, a group of roughly eighty students assembled for a walkout, protesting the school’s decision to keep the campus open despite the high percentages of sick students and staff. On the 21st, these students assembled after discussing their plans through numerous Zoom meetings over the prior weekend and creating a list of demands they hoped the district would abide by. The students received media coverage through KOMO News, encouraging their free speech.

Kamiak and the Mukilteo School District have constantly worked towards meeting the needs and values of the school community. Students and their activism have highlighted the importance of student voices and perspectives in shaping the direction of their own education, working towards creating a more inclusive and effective learning environment for all students and staff alike.

from page 3 KAMIAK SHOW BAND

to their fantastic performance at the Homecoming Football Game on October 21, they scored first in their class and second overall in the Puget Sound Festival of Bands finals. Way to go!

Overall, it’s been a fantastic year for the performing arts at Kamiak High School, and there’s no doubt that the Kamiak Knights are talented and dedicated to their craft. We wish them luck in 2023!

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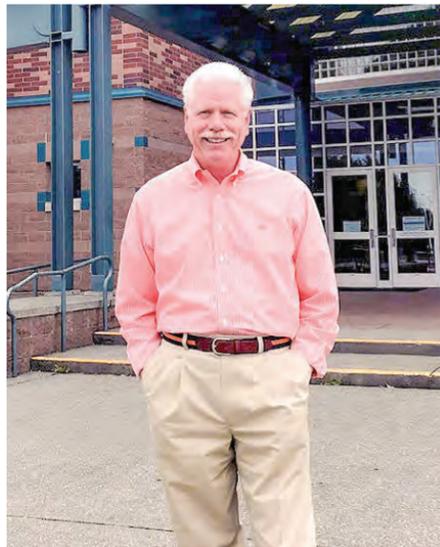
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CAMPUS LIFE

2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

By **ESAW EDHANA**

MUKILTEO—Last year, we tragically lost Mike Gallagher, Kamiak’s former principal between 2008 and 2018. During his retirement he remained an active, friendly, and well-revered member of the Mukilteo School District. He warmed the hearts and opened the minds of thousands of students, may Principal Gallagher rest in peace.



Mike Gallagher, retired Kamiak High School principal. SOURCE: Mukilteo School District.

HOMEcomings DANCE

As of last January, Kamiak’s student population was slightly above 2,000, and currently, in the 2022-23 school year, it has reached a record-breaking near-2,300 students. With so many new faces, it has been an amazing year with many accomplishments to celebrate!

From this, it’s somewhat unsurprising to hear that Kamiak’s Homecoming Dance last October sold out of its 1,000 tickets within the first two days of sales — ultimately leading to a hasty venue change from the school’s Commons to the main gym. With the music, lights, and snacks galore, and despite the minor hiccups along the way, the many student and faculty leaders helped make our first Homecoming in two years a night to remember.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

Not only have we seen an increase in student population, we also saw many new teachers and faculty this year. At the beginning of the 2022-23 school year, we welcomed staff members, including a psychologist, support staff, and nearly twenty new teachers, who have brought a diverse range of skills and expertise to our community. From teaching Japanese to cooking to history to physical education, our new teachers have brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to our classrooms.

KAMIAK STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Last year we had six students who achieved recognition through the National Merit Scholarship Program (NMSC). Ellie Choi, Maggie Chu, Parker Develice, Chloe Lee, Tan “Ronald” Luong, and Bomi Kim (not pictured) have all been named Commended Students in the 2023 NMSC, an honor that recognizes their outstanding academic achievements and potential for success in college

through their taking of the PSAT exam in their junior years.



Five of six Kamiak students who achieved recognition through the National Merit Scholarship Program. Photo courtesy of Kamiak High School



Artwork courtesy of Congress Rick Larsen’s Office, the 2022 Congressional Art Competition winning piece, Double-Layered

In May, Toko Kameda’s watercolor painting titled Escapism won the Jurors’ Choice Award in Washington

State’s 49th Annual Superintendent’s High School Art Show, a statewide competition set on recognizing students and their artwork. In that same month, another one of her art pieces, titled Double-layered, was selected as the Second District winner of the 2022 Congressional Art Competition. As a result, her painting has been put up in the House of Representatives and will remain there until May 2023, truly an incredible honor for any artist!

KOREAN AMERICAN APPRECIATION DAY

Last summer, on Saturday, August 16th, Kamiak High hosted Mukilteo’s first Korean American Appreciation Day. Kamiak, with its near-15% Korean American population, was chosen as the venue, and the event was led by the (newly formed) Mukilteo Korean Community Association.

In honor of the Restoration of Light Day, a Korean holiday meant to commemorate freedom after thirty-five years of Japanese rule, held the day prior on August 15th, the event invited all of Mukilteo to hear from speakers, enjoy traditional Korean cuisine, and watch great performances, from dance to live martial arts. We hope the event continues to make an annual occurrence!

Overall, it’s been a wonderful year at Kamiak, full of new experiences, opportunities, and achievements. We can’t wait to see what the future holds for our students and staff as they continue to grow and succeed!

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2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

ATHLETICS

By **ESAW ADHANA**

MUKILTEO—Last June, Kamiak hosted their annual Seniors versus Staff Basketball Game – seniors in black and staff in white. The Kamiak staff won this time, but the seniors this year are looking for redemption! With the hilarious yet light-hearted “smack talk,” a great promotional video, and well-fought game, it makes us excited for next June!

Kamiak held its Homecoming Football Game back in November, and despite the rainy weather and loss to the Lake Stevens Vikings, with such a high fan turnout, the Knights kept their pride throughout the evening. Truly a memorable way to kick off the homecoming weekend!

On November 15, Kamiak hosted Interhigh, a leadership event that invited local WESCO schools and their students to learn about “Leading to Love” and “Loving to Lead.” The event featured guest speakers and activities centered around inclusivity, and students were encouraged to embrace the motto of “BE LOUD. BE PROUD. BE POSITIVE.” This mantra helps students stay active and engaged with athletics while also reminding them to be positive and kind in all aspects, whether that be on the field, court, or cheering in the stands.

In December, the Kamiak Girls’ Varsity team held its Silent Knight game against the La Conner Braves, a traditional basketball game where Kamiak fans would stay completely silent until the Knights’ first ten-point score. With a packed arena filled with wacky costumes and lots of school cheer from both teams, La Conner managed the win with a final score of 45-68.

Congratulations to Bella Hasan for scoring the tenth point and thank you to the Braves for a great game!

Throughout 2022, the Kamiak Knights enjoyed a busy and exciting athletic season. Our



2022 FALL SPORTS ALL-WESCO HONORS

Congratulations to our 2022 Fall All Conference Team Members:

Boys Cross Country

- 1st Team: Will Lesyna & Jaedyn Chase
- 2nd Team: Mason Hammons, Reece Raaum, & Zachary Altmyer
- Honorable Mention: Cole Henriksen, Matthew Gatherum, & Luke Garcia

Girls Cross Country

- 2nd Team: Jaxin Holloway & Bella Hasan
- Honorable Mention: Madeline Graves & Molly Lesyna

Football

- 1st Team Defense: Jay Scott
- 1st Team Offense: T’Andre Waverly
- 1st Team Special Teams: AJ Winsor
- 2nd Team Offense: Lessa Notoa, Max Rust, Jay Scott, Tupu Notoa, & Miles Moffett
- Honorable Mention: Ashton Smiles, Michael Barton, Ben’tre Worthy, Zachary Garmire, & Chance Loudonback

Girls Soccer

- 1st Team: Mariyah McCrae
- 2nd Team: Taylor Beirne, Elysa Morse, Bailey Gourdine, Payton Wotipka, Aliya Boonsripisal, & Emma Barrett

Girls Swim & Dive

- 1st Team 100 Butterfly: Claire Smith
- 1st Team 500 Freestyle: Janey Ryu
- 1st Team 100 Breaststroke: Claire Smith
- 2nd Team 200 Medley Relay: Julia Lorenzo, Janey Ryu, Claire Smith, & Iris Cho
- 2nd Team 500 Freestyle: Aida Park
- 2nd Team 100 Backstroke: Julia Lorenzo
- 2nd Team 400 Freestyle Relay: Iris Cho, Julia Lorenzo, Janey Ryu, & Claire Smith

Boys Tennis

- 1st Team Doubles: Zion An & Anthony Madson

Volleyball

- 2nd Team: Nayella George, Hannah Drought, & Sasha Ponzo
- Honorable Mention: Kennedy Horne, Ella Kunz, & Delaney Cooper

athletic pride shows itself not just through wins and successes at state, but also through school spirit, cheer, and students’ dedication to athletics, bringing us all together.

Stay tuned for the upcoming Stinky Shoe game on January 27 where the Mariner Marauders will seek to reclaim the trophy from the Knights!

2022 KAMIAK ATHLETICS STANDINGS

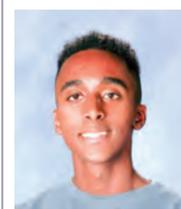
FALL (wins-losses)

- Varsity Boys’ Football: 3 – 7
- Varsity Boys’ Tennis: 10 – 4
- Varsity Girls’ Soccer: 9 – 8
- Varsity Girls’ Swim & Dive: 7 – 2
- Varsity Girls’ Volleyball: 6 – 10

WINTER (wins-losses)

- Varsity Boys’ Basketball: 4 – 8
- Varsity Boys’ Wrestling: 1 – 5
- Varsity Girls’ Basketball: 4 – 9
- SPRING (wins-losses)
- Varsity Boys’ Baseball: 12 – 8
- Varsity Boys’ Soccer: 11 – 7 – 3 (wins-losses-ties)
- Varsity Girls’ Softball (Fastpitch): 12 – 10
- Varsity Girls’ Tennis: 11 – 3

Publication Editor & Writer



All article in this special publication were written by Kamiak High School student reporter Esaw Adhana (he/him), courtesy of the Mukilteo Community Grant Program. Adhana is senior at Kamiak High School who wrote for the Kamiak Gauntlet and The Camden Pulse. Journalism allows him to share news and experiences, helping keep everyone up-to-date on past and present events. He looks forward to what 2023 brings!

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