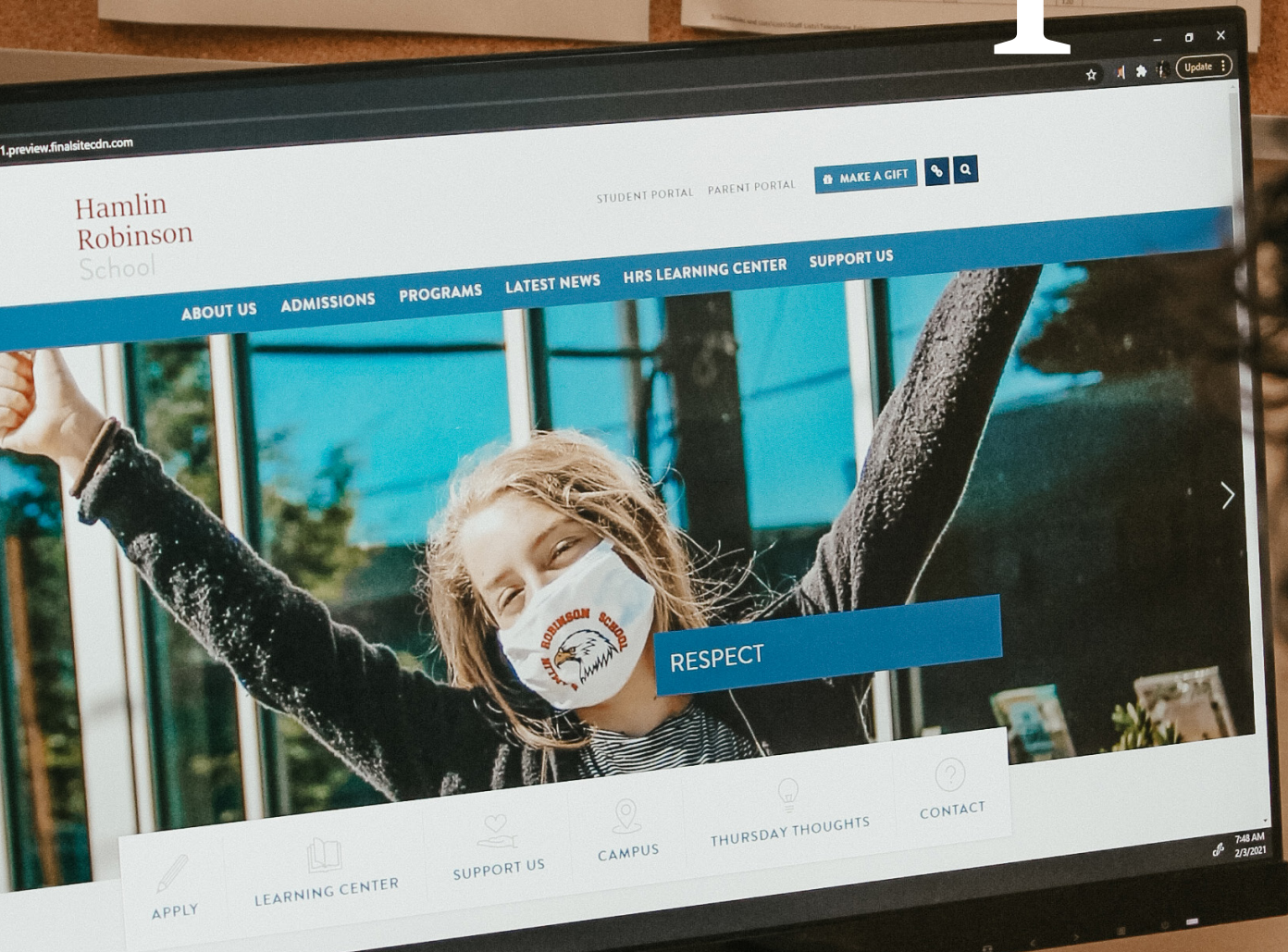


# Hamlin Robinson School Scoop



## WINTER 2021 NEWSLETTER

A publication for families and  
friends of Hamlin Robinson School





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**MISSION** *To ignite the academic and creative potential of students with dyslexia and other language-based learning differences.*

**VISION** *The world class educational program at HRS is a catalyst for students to discover the joy of learning within a rich, comprehensive school experience.*

## **CORE VALUES**

*Respect, Responsibility,  
Purpose, Perseverance*

*The Scoop* is a publication of the HRS Advancement Office and is mailed quarterly.



## Welcome to the second edition of *The Scoop*!

Winter Break offered the opportunity for me to reflect, rest, and find renewal after what has been an extraordinarily different year. It reminded me how important it is for our mental and emotional health to take a breath before jumping head-on into the new year. As a community, we are remarkably resilient, and I continue to be confident we will rise above whatever challenge comes our way in the year ahead, as long as we tackle it together.

What makes our resilience possible is the strong relationships HRS teachers and staff have with our families. This year, parent support has never been so critical for student success. We recognize and deeply appreciate our parents for their engagement and attentiveness to their student's academic journey, and to everyone's health and safety.

HRS remains committed to preparing our students with the academic, social, and leadership skills needed to learn how to be responsible citizens who make positive contributions to the community and beyond. Our Board, our staff, and our administrative team continues to model effective leadership to ensure collective change within our community. In this newsletter, our community will learn more about our work on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. We recognize and acknowledge the responsibility to establish DEI as a core value of the school. A newly formed task force will assess our current position and make recommendations about the optimal way forward to make sure we are adhering to this commitment as a community. Josh Phillips, Head of Middle School, will lead this Equity task force with representation from our community, and with it, the promise to continue meeting our obligation of improving all levels of the student experience and outcome at HRS.

We are excited to announce the launch of our new website. After months of hard work, we are delighted to introduce a website which will reflect our recent brand updates, will be easier to navigate, and more user-friendly for everyone. Our goal is to provide our web visitors with accurate, up-to-date information, share more about our school, while fostering communication and outreach. It is also fully responsive on mobile devices.

Finally, we hope you can join us for our 2021 Auction, Camp In! The Hamlin Robinson School auction will be a virtual event on Saturday, March 20 at 5pm. This year, you can support HRS from the safety of home! More details are included in this newsletter.

With 2020 in the review mirror, 2021 offers renewed hope and opportunity. I look forward to the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stacy Turner'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Stacy' and last name 'Turner' clearly distinguishable.

Sincerely,  
Stacy Turner  
Head of School



## A Serendipitous Afternoon and an HRS Sweatshirt

HRS ALUMNI KEENAN HAACK '06

**On a sunny, fall afternoon**, Joan Beauregard, former head of school, made a trip to the Mercer Island farmers market to purchase flowers. While wearing her HRS sweatshirt, she approached one of the flower stands and the friendly vendors were delighted to tell her their son attended the school named on Joan's sweatshirt! In this encounter, Joan met Katie and Jim Haack, whose son, Keenan, was a Hamlin Robinson School student in the mid-2000's.

Joan left the farmers market that afternoon with the Haack's contact information. We were thrilled to receive a call from Keenan a few weeks later.

After graduating from HRS in 2006, Keenan attended Cedarcrest High School in Duvall. He spent time at Bellevue College before deciding to pursue a career in the medical field. Keenan went on to Seattle Pacific University and after receiving a minor in Psychology, he began pursuing a nursing degree and is currently enrolled in the nursing program at SPU. Keenan attends class during the week and works weekends in the Burn & Pediatric ICU at Harborview Medical Center where he is a nursing assistant. Although working in this unit is hard, Keenan says it is incredibly rewarding. He loves helping people and as he watches their progress, he is inspired. Those being treated have likely just been through the hardest experience of their lives, but they are resilient. He says it teaches him to value life and never take anything for granted. Keenan is confident he found his calling and will graduate with a degree in nursing next year.

### When you think of HRS, what comes to mind?

HRS helped me develop many of the skills I use today. Words that come to mind when I think of HRS: dedication, understanding, hope, reassurance, and acceptance. My school years prior to HRS were a struggle, but HRS allowed me to learn to love myself. The teachers taught me what dyslexia was and helped me understand how I learn. I just needed to develop the right skills and strategies. It was such a relief when I discovered I wasn't alone. HRS gave me the confidence to excel in anything I strive to do in life.

### What is one thing you do just because you love it?

I absolutely love working in the healthcare field. The opportunities are endless. I have the ability to help so many people. The feeling of seeing someone get better over time and eventually come back to visit to let you know how much impact you've had on their life is something you never forget. It's one of the biggest driving factors in my decision to become a nurse. I have the opportunity to care for those who need help.

### What motivates you in daily life?

My parents, Jim and Katie, have the biggest impact on my ability to dream big and go after my goals. They motivate me to stay true to myself, show love and compassion towards others, and remain positive and excited about life. My dad told me two things as I was starting my path towards nursing school. Firstly, nothing in life you truly love comes easy, but hard work and passion for the journey bring happiness. Secondly, it doesn't matter if it's small or big, but learn something new every day. I think about this a lot, and it helps keep me going. I am also motivated by my patients and co-workers in the Burn & Pediatric ICU at Harborview. Watching them helps me get through nursing school and inspires me to continue providing the best care for my patients. »



## What is one piece of advice you would share with others about dyslexia?

Dyslexia isn't something to hide, but something to embrace. Love yourself for who you are. When I was younger, I felt embarrassed about my dyslexia and resented having to use my accommodations in high school. I also neglected to use the accommodations and resources I was approved for when I first started college and as a result, my grades suffered.

## Highlight some of your most valued achievements:

1. Although I didn't think of it at the time, attending HRS and learning the tools I needed to succeed in school was my first achievement.
2. Graduating high school with a top GPA and top of my class was definitely the point in my life when I knew I had what it takes.
3. If you want to excel and do your best in school, remember to advocate for yourself and ask for academic support.

4. I spent three years applying to nursing programs and in 2019, I received an acceptance letter from Seattle Pacific University. This was a huge achievement. It took endless amounts of work, dedication and passion to get to this point. As a nursing student, I've maintained nearly a 4.0 GPA for the last two quarters and am honored to have been named to the dean's list for academic achievements.

5. I look forward to graduating nursing school in 2022 and hope to start working in Harborview's Burn & Pediatric ICU. Because of my love and passion for education and my desire to keep learning, I hope to return to school to earn my DNP as a nurse anesthetist.

**For my parents:** What made a big difference for me as an individual with dyslexia was having parents who showed me endless love and support. They were always there to talk when things got tough, and reassured me I could do anything I put my mind to. Dyslexia doesn't just go away, but having the support of loving parents who care and the opportunity to attend a school like HRS, gave me the tools to navigate through life so I can excel. •

## About Wild Canary Farm

Katie and Jim Haack own Wild Canary Farm, a small family farm located in the lush Snoqualmie Valley. In 2004, the Haack's decided to follow their dream of owning their own farm and relocated their family to the picturesque region 30 miles east of Seattle. The farm is in an area with amazing mineral soil, abundant wildlife and a beautiful river that flows through the property. They specialize in exceptional quality grass-fed beef and cut flower fields bursting with countless varieties of seasonal blooms. To find out more about Wild Canary Farm, visit: [www.WildCanaryFarm.com](http://www.WildCanaryFarm.com)



## Where are they now?

### LEXI WRIGHT '16

Lexi is a freshman at Boise State University and is studying special education. We asked Lexi if she had any highlights, favorite places or things she loved about Boise or Boise State University.

"I love going to Younglife and meeting new friends." Although there hasn't been as many opportunities to attend campus athletic or social events due to Covid, Lexi says there are still things to do. And we're happy to report that Boise State isn't strictly offering online classes. "I have 3 in-person classes, which is amazing!"



We would love to hear more about what our alumni are up to!  
Visit [www.hamlinrobinson.org/alumni](http://www.hamlinrobinson.org/alumni)

# Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at HRS

By Josh Phillips, Head of Middle School

There's a saying around the halls of HRS. We often repeat it when telling neighbors and visitors about our students.

**"If you've met one student with dyslexia... you've met one student with dyslexia."**

This redundant saying expresses a core HRS belief and flips a common refrain on its head (think: if you've met one Seattle resident, you've met them all – clearly not so). Although dyslexia and difficulty with reading and writing may be the most overt identifier uniting our students and mission, we insist on treating each student's experience with dyslexia as unique – because it is.

Celebrating our commonality while acknowledging what makes us distinct is a predominant focus at HRS. We regularly find reasons to recognize shared experiences and identities, and we also appreciate the diversity in how we each see and interact with the world.

Embracing individual student experience and fostering a community with diversity and equity is a strategic goal. This includes challenging ourselves and our community to continually engage in reflection, discussion, studying multiple perspectives, and taking action. We model for our students a commitment to examine our own practices in pursuit of ways to celebrate diversity, build equity, and promote belonging.

Last summer, HRS retained the services of Nishant Mehta as the school's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) consultant. Nishant is a former head of school from the Atlanta area who now works



with schools across the country as the head of independent school practice for Storbeck Search. He co-chaired the NAIS People of Color Conference twice and served



on numerous boards dedicated to developing leaders and promoting diversity within schools.

Nishant guided faculty workshops to develop increased understanding of how issues of equity and

belonging impact schools. He met with our administrative team and board of trustees to help school leadership deepen our knowledge and awareness as we work to make HRS a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive community.

As a next step, a task force to further this foundation will be created. I am honored to facilitate this group of parents, teachers, board and community members.

We are excited to continue celebrating the commonality and difference in our student's lives and how those individual traits enrich our school.

I look forward to helping ensure HRS remains a place where all students with language learning differences; of different races, genders, sexualities and identities, belong. •



## Questions?

Contact Josh Phillips  
Head of Middle School  
[jphillips@hamlinrobinson.org](mailto:jphillips@hamlinrobinson.org)



# A Note from the Board President



Over the course of the 2020-21 school year, Nishant Mehta is providing guidance as HRS strengthens a whole-school culture that recognizes and practices equity and inclusion. Nishant led our annual board retreat (online this year) focused exclusively on this topic.

For those working in education, one essential question we must ask is: should we prepare our students for the world as it is, or as it could be?

Our society is reckoning with deep-rooted, systemic inequities in existence for centuries, and recently laid bare again by COVID-19 and protests against racial injustice. These historic and imminent realities underscore the importance of helping our students understand the world we live in today, while preparing them to contribute to a future free from inequity.

As a Board of Trustees supporting a group of educators, and especially as educators serving a population of diverse learners, we know academic, social, and emotional development are inseparably linked, and the quality of learning environment, experiences, and access to opportunity, determines developmental and academic outcomes. Additionally, the valuable conversations and the work toward effecting change, reinforces the

necessity of reimagining education, because equitable schools and classrooms are the foundation of equitable societies.

Diversity matters. Diversity in the classroom leads to students increased cultural understanding, stronger critical thinking skills, and enhanced creativity. Diverse schools feature differences in ethnicity, socioeconomic class, religion, academic ability, background, gender, personality, and so much more. Diversity, equity, and inclusion encourages teachers to value the unique aspects of what

the optimal way forward to make sure we are adhering to this commitment as a community. Josh Phillips, Head of Middle School, will lead this Equity task force with representation from our community, and with it, the promise to continue meeting our obligation of improving all levels of the student experience and outcome at HRS.

Different and divergent perspectives create positive learning outcomes. Those outcomes have benefits that reflect well beyond graduation. Later in life when students enter the professional

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**"Our work in this area doesn't have a start and finish. It is a long-term commitment to ongoing conversation, development, and hard work."**

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makes each student different, and helps them embrace those differences in the classroom.

At Hamlin Robinson School, supporting our students with language-based learning differences is important. The next essential question is - can we do this important work to its fullest potential without reflecting the community that surrounds us?

The Board of Trustees is firmly committed to ensuring HRS is inclusive, diverse, and equitable for all employees and students. In addition, we recognize and acknowledge the responsibility to establish DEI as a core value of the school. As a next step, we have decided to form a task force to assess our current position and make recommendations about

world, they join a vast and diverse workforce, and our efforts now will ensure they thrive later.

Our work in this area doesn't have a start and finish. It is a long-term commitment to ongoing conversation, development, and hard work. And it is deeply important to all of us. As we move forward, let us do so with care and regard, not only for our work, but for each other.

**Susan Griesse**  
President  
HRS Board of Trustees



# The New HRS Website!

WWW.HAMLINROBINSON.ORG

We are excited to share our newly designed website for Hamlin Robinson School. The new site, which officially launched on February 17, offers improved navigation, a more modern design, and integrated social media feeds. One of the overarching goals is to improve interaction and outreach with our community, while also making the site easy to navigate and an effective resource for information.

As an important communications tool, the website will provide more opportunities to engage parents, prospective parents, alumni, and the wider community. The design reflects our brand, but also offers refreshed images, a new homepage video, quicklinks to the portals, and other updated navigation tools. We hope you enjoy exploring it and find it offers an improved user experience. We are always happy to receive feedback. *Visit the website at [www.hamlinrobinson.org](http://www.hamlinrobinson.org).*



Register online and personalize your camp-in experience!

1. Purchase tickets
2. Select a camper box full of surprise items and activity packets used during the livestreaming event
3. Select a meal

Join us on March 20 at 5pm!

[www.hamlinrobinson.org/auction](http://www.hamlinrobinson.org/auction)



## CAMP HRS Raffle

HRS Auction raffle tickets can only be purchased with this form (not available online). Form should be returned to HRS by mail or drop-off.

### 50/50 Split Raffle Tickets

- 1 Ticket: \$25
- 5 Tickets: \$100

The winner will be chosen live during the auction on March 20. If your ticket is chosen, you win 50% of raffle ticket sales! The other 50% goes to HRS to support our mission.

### Live Auction Golden Raffle Tickets

- 1 Ticket: \$100
- 3 Tickets: \$250

The winner will be chosen at the beginning of the live auction on March 20. The winning ticket holder chooses ANY live auction item! *Winner must be logged on during livestreaming event.*



# Hamlin Robinson School

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206.763.1167  
www.hamlinrobinson.org



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## Raffle Ticket Registration Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Payment Method

☐ Enclosed check or money order for: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Cash to be delivered to HRS: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Credit Card: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 20, 2021  
Camp-In Auction

April 1, 2021  
STEM Night

May 13, 2021  
Arts Fest

June 15, 2021  
Graduation

**Return this card to HRS  
by mail or drop-off before  
March 15, 2021.**

