



Headwaters Student Thread

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Brought to you by
Elliot Pearson '22,
Ananya Salem, '21 and
Arden Egerton '23

Online Costume Contest

First Place: Joe, Tatiana, Sloan '28, and Venkman Sokolik



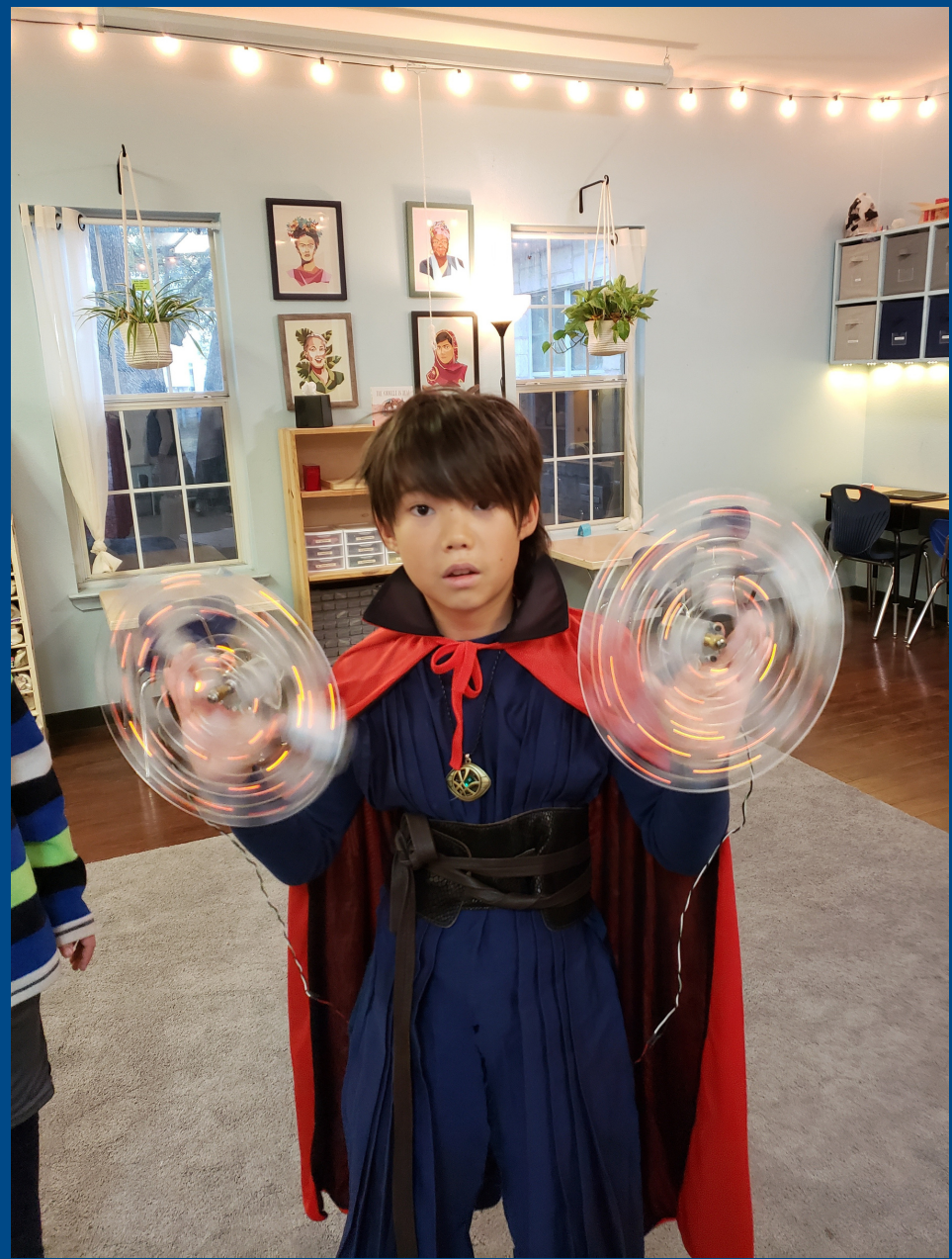
Second Place: Bee Jackson '23



Third Place: John Mulvany



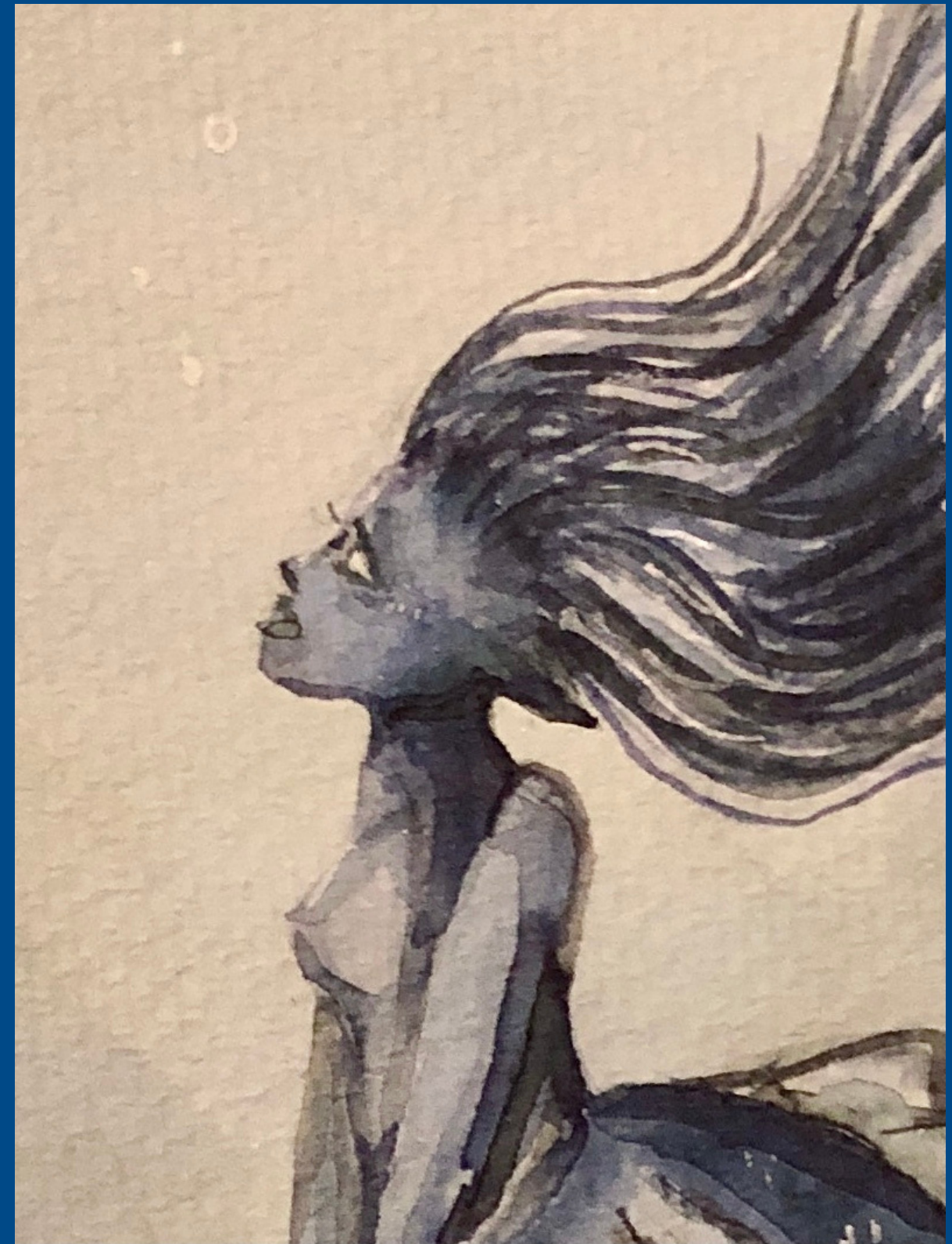
Honorable Mentions:



Pictured: Logan Poulson '26, Makai Nguyen '27, Dixie Baronofsky '22, Eila Gilkison '25, Graydon Gorra, '23 Jay Catlin '25, Shawn and Gus, Laura Gordon, Sarah Youree, Hilda Reilly, Terra Lynch, Yi-Wen Su

Student Work

By: Kate Medlock '21



By: Paulina Espinosa '22

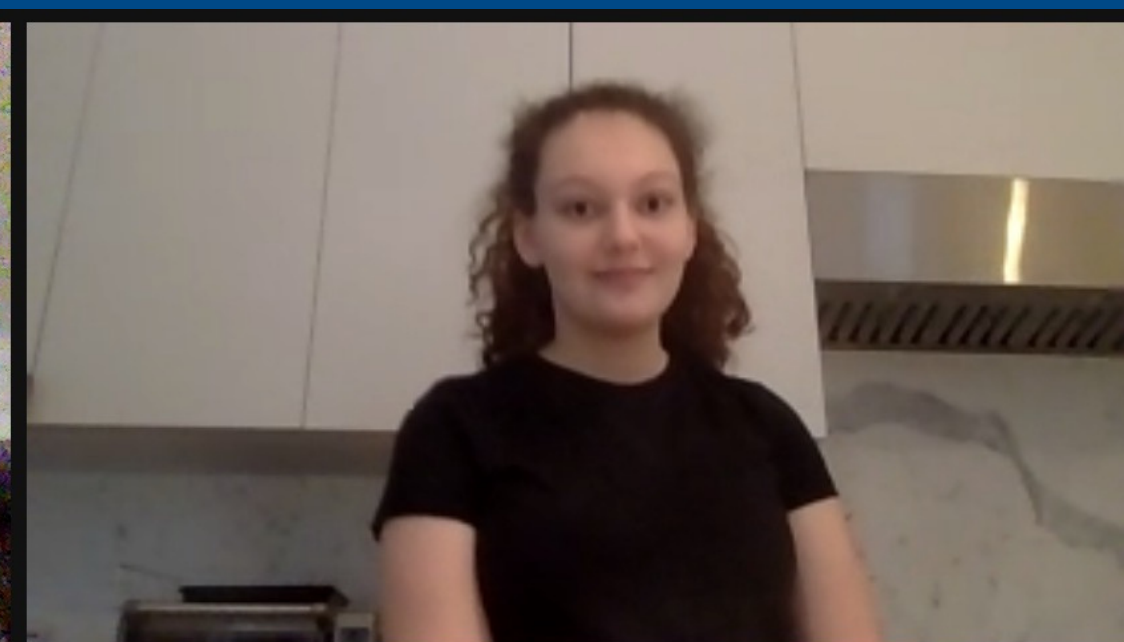
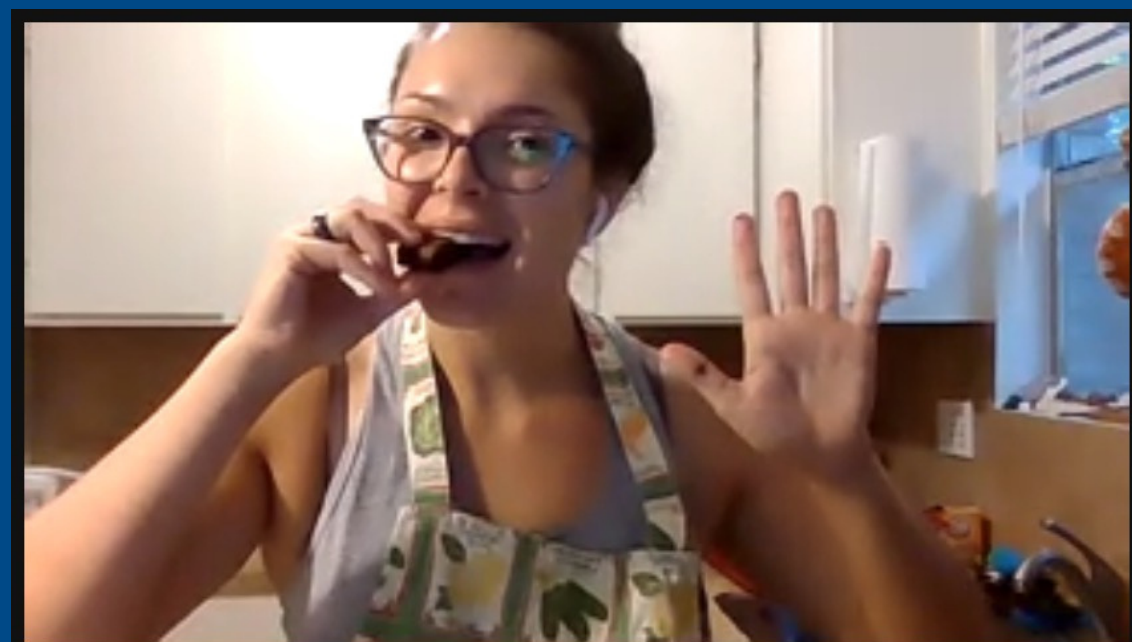


Extracurriculars



Cooking with Chemistry Club

So far this semester, the Cooking Club has made caramels, shortbread, mac and cheese, chocolate chip cookies, fried rice, and brownies. Email Caitlin McDermott-Dephino (c.mcdermott@headwaters.org) to join!



Model U.N. Conferences

The Headwaters Model U.N. delegation has attended two virtual conferences this year: AUSMUN (hosted by Austin High School), and CTMUN (hosted by UT Austin). At AUSMUN, Paulina Espinosa '22 and Sam Jeffe '21 received Best Delegate awards and Rafe Price '22 received Honorable Delegate.



Celebrating Founding Day: An Interview with Lisa Dubuque

You have been here longer than most of us have been alive. What has kept you here for 20 years?

20 years, already? Whew! What keeps me here and always has is the community. I love being able to work closely with our students and parents, especially in their last two years of high school. I have the ability to really get to know each student well, which was something I really found missing when I worked in larger schools in the past. I also really appreciate the different relationships I have had with Headwaters parents over the years and all that so many of them have given to the school. They have offered me advice, helped develop programs, volunteered on the PVC, subbed a class, volunteered at the front desk, emailed me to check in when they noticed I was in need of some moral support, built a process darkroom on our campus, and helped me set up/clean up after prom to name a few. I feel like I have a really beautiful extended family at Headwaters who are all really committed to the success of our school.

Can you share any dream projects/initiatives you have for the school?

DREAMS! I love big dreaming! I would love it if we could somehow manage to scoop up a few more buildings. The one behind Buildings 1 & 2 would be a great middle school building which would then allow us to grow the high school by another section per grade. I'd love the building on the corner next to the Studio to be our new Studio so the current Studio could be a full arts complex. I'd also love the building behind the mansion at 7th and Rio that faces 7th to be an IB Humanities Building. Then I would move my office to the attic and serve as the crazy old college counselor lady that keeps her eye on everyone's hopes and dreams from her eagle eye view of the entire Headwaters empire. For years I have been trying to talk Ted into building a parking garage, but not for parking, only for skateboarding. But that clearly is not going to happen.

What are you most proud of that you have personally brought to the school?

I would have to say Project Week and the Forward are two cornerstone programs I developed for the school that makes me the most proud. Project Week was in direct response to me noticing we had students who still did not know what they were passionate about by 11th grade. I was really surprised by this, so I figured the best way to address it was by requiring students to get creative and learn how to take an idea to a reality at the same time. My hope is that all students explore their passions extracurricularly, but at the very least, Project Week has them engaging once per year.

The Forward came about from attending my oldest nephew's 8th grade graduation ceremony. I was sitting in a really sweaty gym in Minnetonka, Minnesota and much like everyone else in the space was thoroughly bored. When the program included a video slideshow of their camping trip literally EVERY 8th grader jumped up and started cheering. The energy in the air was palpable and the hair literally stood up on my arms. I looked over at my parents and said, "I need to make this happen at our school." I took the idea and ran with it, getting feedback and buy-in from admin, students, and staff. These days the Forward has taken on a life of its own and is mainly planned and run by our CLs, which is really rewarding to see.

Will you share a favorite Headwaters memory?

The first thing that comes to mind are two memories I have about Headwaters alum, Brooklyn Jones. One was from her senior year Forward. I always let the seniors stay up really late and a handful of us were laying on the dock by the river listening to the sounds of nature roll by and getting entranced by the stars. Brooklyn and I had a really good talk that night about [both of] our well being and hopes and dreams. It was a very quintessential Headwaters outside of the classroom experience. FYI, these types of things happen here more than one might realize. The other was being an audience member when Brooklyn was the opening speaker at the first Senior Colloquium. She presented her research about existentialism in the Netflix animated series *Bojack Horseman* and immediately had the audience in the palm of her hand. She was so enthusiastic, prepared, well-researched, and clearly in her element. She was glowing and I was so proud. I will never forget either of these moments.

What's your favorite Headwaters tradition?

Our birthday/costume contest on Halloween. It is pretty uniquely Headwaters that our first official day of school coincides with one of the most fun holidays of the year.

What's something you love about Headwaters that hasn't changed since you've been here/you hope will never change?

Hands down, the culture. We have a very strong community minded culture at Headwaters. Students feel safe taking risks, whether that is speaking up in class for the first time, performing at a Pitso, sharing ideas for how the school could improve or giving really honest feedback to a guide during debrief. The students feel their voice matters and it does. I love being in partnership with them.

What different jobs have you had at Headwaters? This includes different classes you've taught.

I should dig out my employee file and see what it looks like! I will give it my best shot. I taught all English classes 6-12th grade for many years. I also taught several social studies courses way back in the day before we moved downtown. I have served as the Director of Operations (really just a fancy title for running the command center at the front desk when it was in the lobby of Building 1), been an Advisor, a Lead Advisor, Director of Student Life, Dean of Students, Registrar, High School Director (for one terrifying year, so many props to all those who came before me in this role and all who have come after!), and now I am in my favorite of all positions, College Counselor. I love that I was able to build the program from the ground up and that I have tied in so many ways for me to really work closely with seniors and their parents.

Have a great Thanksgiving everyone!

[Click this link to submit to the next Student Thread!](#)