Interview with Ms. Amorocho

By Tyler Iraheta, Joe Gelin, Adam Henley, and Izai Mehciz

We as a BCCS community are very happy to welcome Ms. Amorocho, our new 5th grade science teacher and the advisor of our new advisory, Colombia, located in room 216. The newsletter decided to interview her to find out more about her. Here are her answers.

Q1. What was your job before BCCS?
I was student teaching at Somerville High School.

Q2. What inspired you to become a science teacher?
I loved being outside with nature.

Q3. Why did you move to America?
I came to America to get my masters at BC.

Q4. What was your experience in Colombia?
I loved dancing and biking.

Q5. Do you have any family in Boston?
I have a partner in Boston.

Q6. What is your favorite food?
My favorite foods are chocolate and ajiaco, a Colombian soup.

Q7. What part of Colombia are you from?
I am from Bogotá, the capital of Colombia.

Unfair School Policies

By Siena Elliffe, Alexa Grullón, Jason Mendez, and Matea Sellitto

This article will be about what school policies we want to change and other people's opinions. We interviewed one 6th grade student, Reilly Nee, one 5th grade student, Autumn Nelson, as well as Ms. Adam and Ms. JB. We asked them what they thought about our current school policies and what they would want to change. We think this is important because we want the school rules/policies to be more fair.

Q1: How do you feel about our current school policies?

Ms. JB: I like the uniform policy but I am happy that kids can wear sneakers everyday and I wouldn't mind if belts were not required. I also feel bad when kids get autos for no signatures but I understand why we have that rule.

Autumn: I agree with most of the school policies because I understand that they are rules to follow and not to break because a rule is a rule. I just don't understand why we have to wear a uniform.

Article continued on the next page → → →
Q2: If you had the power to change a current school policy which one would it be and why?

Ms. JB: Belts would not be required, we wouldn’t have to make up snow days, and the silent Do Now would be changed.

Ms. Adam: The auto for no signature on the report card. I want to change this because people’s families might not have enough time to check because of work, so I want to change it from one day to one week so families can see the report card and can sign it. Also if a family can't give it after a week the teachers check in with the family. Putting a kid in detention would not make getting things signed any better.

Autumn: I would like to change the rule that we have to wear a uniform. I would say that we don’t have to wear uniforms, but we can set a dress code.

Reilly: I would change the rule about clothes/uniform. I want to change the belt because people would forget because some people are forgetful. Also the shoes because people should be allowed to wear whatever shoes they want.

Secret Santa and December Days of Joy

By Maeve Flaherty, Nevaeh Leslie, and Aimy Tran Nguyen

Were you looking forward to Christmas? What about Secret Santa or December Days of Joy? Secret Santa is when you get a random person that you have to get a gift for and it’s a secret and you can’t tell ANYBODY! It usually occurs during December because it’s the Christmas month and it’s about gifts and joy.

Presents are especially crucial for Secret Santa because without presents the game wouldn’t be what it is. So basically the presents are only known to the Secret Santa and the person who receives the gift would have no idea what it is. Before giving the gifts out and starting the game, you would have to write down the names of everyone in the game on pieces of paper. Then place the names in a hat and let everyone pick out a piece. Whoever’s name was picked you would have to get a gift for.

Wait, we forgot about December Days of Joy! December Days of Joy is when every day of December leading up to Christmas, you do something fun or nice in 5th grade. For instance, at the BCCS lower school last year, we had a competition for the teachers. It was the ugly sweater competition, which occurs on one of the days of December Days of Joy.

Article continued on the next page → → →
Sounds pretty fun, isn’t it? Well it is fun, and December Days of Joy isn’t only for teachers, it can also be for students! Which means you can join too! Days such as wacky socks and bring in your stuffed animal are also a part of December Days of Joy from our school last year. The stuffies were so cute and soft. Some seemed as if they could’ve been anyone’s pillow for the night!

We had even better December Days of Joy at our school this year. We had a few days of which advisory can get the most stickers by the end of the day. We also had wacky socks again this year and it was fantastic! We also had the ugly sweater contest among the teachers and staff. It seems all of the sweaters looked amazing and so Ms. Smith probably had a really hard time choosing the winner. It wasn’t until the end of the talent show that she announced the winner.

First, she gave shout outs to some amazing sweaters and then she finally said who the winner is. It was Mr.Parker! His sweater looked like it really deserved it. That concluded the December Days of Joy at the BCCS Lower School this year.

Book Review

By Ava Kyne, Zahra McGill, and Isabel Sheppeck

The library at BCCS has so many new and amazing books that all of us love and enjoy! Some of our favorite new books from the library are Guts, Allies, and Ghost Boys. Make sure to check them out at the library if they sound interesting to you. We hope you like all the recommendations and summaries we have in store for you.

Allies by Alan Gratz is a historical fiction novel about D-Day. It is an inspiring story about making a difference in World War II. It tells the story of many war heroes that did their part on this historic day. The main characters each have different roles they must fulfill in order to successfully complete their missions. One character is a young soldier named Dee, who has to hide his true identity while he fights for America and gets revenge on the Nazis for what they did to his family. Another character named Samira loses her mother while on her way to meet the French Resistance and she has to decide between saving her mother from the Germans or delivering the French Resistance an important message. Right alongside these two heroes is James, a paratrooper, who fights against the Nazis to prove once and for all to himself and everyone else that he is worthwhile and anything more than just plain, old, average. Lastly, because of Henry, a medic serving at D-Day, many soldiers lives were saved.

Article continued on the next page → → →
Guts by Raina Telgemeier is a graphic novel that is very personal to the author. It is the most personal of all her books. It is a true story about her fourth and fifth grade years. It teaches a lesson about conquering your fears and being yourself in the face of adversity. The main character, Raina, has tons of things going on in her life such as friend drama, tummy trouble, and anxiety. Raina gets so stressed out that she starts going to therapy. Eventually, by the end of the book, Raina finds out that many people in her life are dealing with the same thing and it makes it easier for her to get through all the stressful moments. Be sure to read Guts and all of the other Raina Telgemeier books.

The book Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes spreads awareness about police brutality and racism. Jewell Parker Rhodes has written many award winning books and this story in particular is very moving and empowering. It is about the history of Emmett Till and how he died. The story is a historical fiction novel about a 12 year old boy named Jerome who is shot by a white police officer, who mistakes his toy gun for a real one. The story dynamic is filled with twists and turns and tells an incredible story that educates and uplifts its readers.

There are also many other amazing books in the BCCS lower school library! For all the 6th graders who don’t feel like going down stairs Ms. Hafferkamp brings up the mobile library every Thursday!
Boston Celtics

By Aidan Hegarty, Zuzanna Kowalska, Jorge Orellana, and Erin Tracey

If you don’t know the Boston Celtics, hopefully you will learn more about Boston’s basketball team! Did you know that the Boston Celtics were formed on June 6, 1946, and they have the most NBA championships with 17? How do you feel about the Celtics?

Players History

Kemba Walker got drafted to the Charlotte Hornets and this summer he got traded to the Boston Celtics. He played college basketball at the University of Connecticut. While he was playing on the Charlotte Hornets his number was 15, and when he went to the Celtics his number changed to 8. He grew up in the Bronx, New York. His height is 6’1. He is 29 years old and his birthday is May 8, 1990. He also plays for Team USA, and he is number 15 on the USA team.

Gordon Hayward got drafted first to the Utah Jazz before he got signed in free agency to the Boston Celtics. He played 2 seasons of college basketball for Butler University. His birthday is March 23, 1990. He is 6’8, and since 2017 he makes 29.73 million USD.

Tacko Fall

If you don’t know, Celtics player #99 Tacko Fall is the biggest NBA player in the league so far at 7’5 310 lbs. He is also known for being the first international player drafted at the 1st pick of the draft who didn’t play at a US college. The biggest nba players were Manute Bol and Gheorge Muresan, at 7’7.

Have you ever thought why are the Boston Celtics are called the Celtics?

They were called Celtics because Howie McHugh, a publicist for the team, had just returned from a trip from Ireland and, knowing the strong Irish heritage in the Boston area, suggested the name Celtics, which came from an original Celtics team in New York in the 1920s. Another story is that Walter Brown, the head of the Boston Garden Arena Corporation, named the new basketball team. Various other nicknames were tried out, including Whirlwinds, Olympians, and Unicorns.

So far in the 2019-2020 NBA season:

So far in the 2019-2020 NBA season, the Celtics are 3rd in the Eastern Conference behind the 1st seed Milwaukee Bucks with Giannis Antetokounmpo and behind the 2nd seed Miami Heat with Jimmy Butler, with such teams as the Toronto Raptors, Philadelphia 76ers, Indiana Pacers, and Brooklyn Nets behind them.

Celtics 2019-2020 roster as of writing this:
Starting lineup: Point Guard: Kemba Walker; Shooting Guard: Jaylen Brown; Small Forward: Gordon Hayward; Power Forward: Jayson Tatum; Center: Daniel Theis

Reserves: Enes Kanter, Marcus Smart, Robert Williams, Brad Wanamaker, Rj Hunter, Semi Ojeleye

Rookies: Carsen Edwards, Tacko Fall, Javonte Green, Romeo Langford, Vincent Poirier, Tremont Waters, Grant Williams
Choose Your Own Adventure!

By Shannon Durant, Kate Hagenbuch, and Aziah Perreira

What’cha have to know first . . .
It’s the first day of January and it’s snowing lightly. You are still on winter vacation which means there is so much you can do. Your first choice is a sledding trip (paragraph 6 - flip ahead a few pages!) or a winter war (paragraph 1 - starts below). Choose wisely!

Winter war

1: It’s that time of year, when icicles form, snow starts to fall and the Boston’s annual Winter Wonderland is here! You and your family are so excited! All of the different neighborhoods of Boston are going against each other in an annual ice skating event. There are kids from Dorchester, Southie, Westie, Hyde Park, Rozzie, Roxbury, Mattapan, Brighton, J.P., and Charlestown. You are looking online for snow suits, gloves, hats, scarves, jackets, a motorized sled, and a snowball shooter. However, all of the stuff came up to a total of $237. Your parents say it’s too much money and you have to choose between the sled and the snowball shooter. Go to paragraph 3 (next page) if you want the snowball shooter. Go to paragraph 2 if you want the motorized sled.

2: You told your parents you wanted the motorized sled because it has 5 speeds and it looks really cool. On Amazon you can choose the color. You choose red because it has cool-looking flames.

The next 2 days passed, full of planning on how to beat the other teams in ice-skating. The day has come. Luckily the annual ice skating competition is only across the street, so not much walking. You and your sister are running across the street with your skates in hand. You reached the front desk to see an old woman. She looks really creepy, but you just go with it because you really want to ice skate. You fill out some papers, so you and your sister are able to ice skate.

You and your sister get your skates and head on to the outdoor rink. Snow covers the floor, your sister slips on black ice, you laugh at her, then you put on your skates and go to the rink. You both start ice skating happily UNTIL the annoying popular kids at your school show up. They see you and you know you’re in trouble. However you and your sister immediately put up your hands, you’re almost asking to fight. You punch the biggest kid. He looks down at you and growls, then swings back. You now have a black eye. You’re on your back on the floor. You want to fight back but can’t get up. You stretch your hand out and notice the snow on the back of your hand. You pick it up and throw it at the big kid that just punched you. He’s even more mad now, but he stops and pauses then whispers to all the other kids. They all have suspicious grins on their faces. They all crouch down and pick up snow.

Story continued on the next page → →
“Aim...FIRE!” they all yell as they start to throw snowballs at you. You and your sister fight back while you put some snow on your eye to numb the pain.

Then you get up in anger and you spot a huge block of ice. You throw it at all of them because the enemies are in the same place. They turn around. You and your sister run to the motorized sled as fast as you can. You're safe for now. You turn the sled to the fastest setting because the enemies are on your tail. You're getting away just fine until you see the sled's on low battery because you were too anxious to fully charge it. The sled stops.

You and your sister hop out and make a run for it. You keep running faster and faster every second and getting colder every minute. You pause, at this point your fingers are numb and your legs are tired. They're right behind you! You see their shadow directly behind you. The shadow raises its arm with a ball in hand. “It's the end” you say to yourself. Then, you see another shadow with a hunched back and pen in hand. The figure throws something. It looks like a pencil or a marker or a pen. All of the bullies fall. You turn around confused of who saved you. It was the front desk lady. She threw freshly sharpened pencils at the bullies. You thank her and then walk home. You feel safe at last. You won!!!!! (sort of)

3. You said to your parents that you were totally going for the snowball shooter because you will never know when you might need one (little did you know that you would actually have to use it). Before you knew it, the day of the winter event has come! You start to walk across the street and you already can see the man-made ice rink inside your head. You sign in at a desk with skates in hand when the grumpy woman finally looks up at you.

“Oh, sorry there is no ice skating this year... they didn't have time to build it,” the woman says in the raspiest voice you have ever heard!

“Well, what are we going to do?” you say in a panic.

“Something about snowballs? Wars? Hey how am I supposed to know?”

You sigh and start to walk home and you think you might as well drop off your skates at home and come back to the “ice skating” event.

“On the bright side,” you think, “I get to hang out with my friends from school.”

You come back to the ice rink and find your friends and just start to talk. You notice some of the bullies from your school in the corner start to walk over to you. You're petrified, worried about what is going to happen next.

“Yo,” the leaders of the bullies say. “We are going to have a big snowball fight and we want you losers to be a part of it only because it will be funny watching you lose. It’s going to be all of the different neighborhoods against each other. If you get hit with a snowball, you’re out.”

You agree and say, “May the best kid win”. However, the bully tries to cheat. He reaches out his hand. You reach out prepared to shake on it, but he throws a snowball in your way. You're scared out of your mind until your best friend comes out of nowhere! You were so surprised because you thought he wasn't going to come. He jumped in front of you, getting hit with a snowball that was originally aimed at you. You try helping him up but as you get down, you notice another snowball coming your way.

Story continued on the next page → →
You jump out of the way just in time and whisper that you’re sorry to your best friend. Do you come back and take him to the Halfway Cafe to get something to eat or try to win the war? If you choose the cafe, go to paragraph 5. If you choose winning the war, go to paragraph 4.

Paragraphs 4-12 continued on the next pages!

4. With that, you run off, knowing that you have to win this war for him. You find a cozy-looking cave in the rocks and hide for the next half hour. You finally decide to come out of the cave and look around to see how many kids were left around you. You see three kids standing, all three of them are armed with snowballs. You start to form your own ammo and come up with a strategy. You climb the rocks until you reach a ledge. From there, you start throwing the snowballs downward and within five shots, you’ve officially won the war!

5. You and your friend, Casper, walk into the Halfway Cafe and immediately get a warm gust of air from the heater. You sit down and both of you order mugs of hot chocolate with whipped cream and a freshly baked cookie. Then, you both talk about how it would have been cool if you won the snowball fight. However, deep down you know that you didn’t need to win the war, you had your friend and this great food. You especially love the hot chocolate latte.

Sledding Trip

6. You are taking a family vacation! Your family and some of your friends decide to rent a cabin in the outer edges of Quebec City, and are going tobogganing (sledding)! Your friends are stuck between two places to go sledding: a really steep hill or a pretty, secluded forest. They tie, and you are the deciding vote. Do you choose the hill or the woods? If you choose the hill, go to paragraph 7. If you choose the forest, go to paragraph 8.

7. You go to the hill, and the ride down is amazing! The only problem is that the hike up is reeeally long. On your second ride down, your sled goes off the trail you made on the first time. You careen away from your friends and the hill, and at first it seems awesome, but soon you come to the bottom of the slope and crash into a fence. What do you do? If you get up and find your friends, go to paragraph 11 (next page). If you lie in the snow, waiting for someone to find you, go to paragraph 12 (next page).

8. Everyone, some grudgingly, go to the woods. You all decide to take different paths and meet up at the entrance at sunset. Your path is very pretty, and you lose track of time. After a very long time, though it feels like nothing to you, you see the sky starting to dim, and you start getting colder. You reluctantly trudge back to the entrance of the park, but, suddenly, a huge, icy yeti jumps into your path. It doesn’t growl or roar, but looks very intimidating. What do you do? If you run for help, go to paragraph 9 (next page). If you try to make friends with the yeti, go to paragraph 10 (next page).

Story continued on the next page → →
9. The yeti runs after you, tackles you, and, surprisingly, asks if you have any jams. You’re stunned. The yeti, apparently, really likes jams, and you, shakily, give him a jar you had for your lunch. He takes it, and happily skips away! You go and find your friends, but none of them believe your story.

10. The yeti is very hospitable, and asks you if you would like tea. You spend the rest of the evening having tea and cookies and chatting with the yeti.

11. You painfully walk over to find them, even though it takes a while. They take you to the ER, and after a longggg wait, you finally get an x-ray. You end up needing a cast, but not for that long. After this exasperating day, you get a nice dinner at a cozy Italian restaurant. The pasta and warm chocolate cake really help. You spend the rest of the trip reading with hot chocolate in your cabin, and are afraid of sledding for the rest of your life.

12. You lie there, and, after a long time, a marvelous, coffee brown deer comes up to you. It nuzzles you, just to check you’re alive, and then runs off. You think that no one will ever find you, but in a while, the deer comes back with a young girl, who seems to be made of snow. She gently picks you up with surprising ease and gets on the deer. The deer gallops towards the forest, with you on it, and you disappear into the woods. Your friends never see you again, for you have morphed into the next child of the snow.

THE END OF THE ADVENTURE!

Meet our new 5th grade reporters!

Did you know…Maeve Flaherty has an older sister in her 20s?

Did you know…Tyler Iraheta has a 20-year-old cousin who serves in the military?

Did you know…Dylan Kelly has a dog named Bruin and Bruin’s birthday was last Friday?

Did you know…Ava Kyne is on a competitive swim team?

Did you know…Siena Elliffe was born in Ireland?

Did you know…Matea Sellitto’s cousin is a police officer in Maine?

Did you know…Zuzanna Kowalska was born in Poland?

Did you know…Joe Gelin plays basketball?

Did you know…Adam Henley has been to Canada?

Did you know…Eddie Rice doesn’t like swimming in the ocean?