

# THE MLWGS Jabberwock

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## Short-Fused Students

By Tyler Walker ('15)

On Wednesday, September 19, Mr. Tharp, Assistant Director, announced over the school PA that "If more than 10 girls wear short shorts tomorrow, shorts will be banned for all girls on Friday."

In objection to what some considered sexist, gender specific, comments, a large group of boys arrived to school that Thursday sporting shorts far above the recommended fingertip length, while girls dressed in some of the most conservative wear they had.

The high level of student involvement, and disturbingly high levels of exposed male skin, prompted Mr. Tharp to make a second comment after eighth period that following Thursday, clarifying that he had no intentions to offend any students, while still asking the student body to follow the current dress code. Mr. Tharp also said that a committee would be appointed to revise the dress code with student input.

Ellie Palazzolo ('15), SCA Co-President, said "The SCA will be discussing the issue this week and will later open up for a public forum. Eventually, we want to pass legislation that limits gender specific wording in the dress code through the newly elected SCA Congress."

**"I think that sexism, even if unintentional, can't go ignored."**

After the day of protest ended, students were left with different interpretations of what the protest truly meant.

"I felt empowered just to show my thighs and be who I am," said Scott Miller ('15), a participant in the demonstration.

Brandon Shaw ('15) added, "I felt



**Mr. Tharp and William DeFilippo ('15) have an exchange. Photo courtesy of Ben Rhoades.**

like I was part of something bigger. Like I was helping out the women of this school."

Mairead Guy ('17), one of the student leaders of the movement, remarked, "I think that sexism, even if unintentional, can't go ignored. Our freedom and the respect we get at MLWGS is really what sets us apart from other schools, and this kind of civil disobedience is what makes the student body great."

Ben Rhoades ('16) said he "was incredibly proud that the MLWGS community could come together to respectfully bring issues to administration."

However students like Matt Moore ('15), who did not participate in wearing short shorts, were more sympathetic with administration.

"I think the announcement was worded in a way that could have been misinterpreted by students. Mr. Tharp was only trying to enforce the dress code," said Moore.

Eliza Bellamy ('15) was also supportive of Mr. Tharp. "I don't think what Mr. Tharp said is sexist at all. I think there's a legitimate reason to address girls. If there wasn't a dress code, I would probably wear shorter shorts than what the guys wore on Thursday."

English teacher Mrs. Lisa Williams added that, "You've got to understand the purpose and context [of Mr. Tharp's comments]. Sure, you can focus on the gender specific words he used, but that wasn't his message. We all have to follow a dress code, us teachers included. If guys were constantly getting in trouble for wearing wifebeaters, then Mr. Tharp would've singled them out."

Even though the student body remains divided about the movement, administration's promise of a renewed discussion of the dress code has enthused even non-supporters of the short shorts protest.

"I'm happy they are considering changing the dress code. To me, the real issue is whether leggings will be allowed," commented Laura Fuhr ('15).

This, and other concerns from both boys and girls, will be voiced by the student body in the coming weeks as revisions to the dress code are submitted to the SCA Congress of first period representatives.

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# A School of Activists

**T**here have been times (usually between the hours of midnight and 3am) when I've regretted my decision to choose Maggie Walker, a sentiment I'm sure many of my classmates can relate to. But there have been countless more times when I've felt incredibly proud of and thankful for our school, our faculty and staff, our culture, and, of course, our students.

Whenever I see the student body coming together for a good cause or to fight for something we believe in, I know without any hint of doubt that my naive eighth-grade self 110% made the right decision to choose Maggie Walker.

As a senior, I've seen several of what I'd like to call "MLWGS Movements" over the years. My sophomore year, the school had to undergo several hefty budget cuts that resulted in many popular classes being cut from the course offerings and teachers being let go. In response, Maggie Walker students wrote letters, talked to administration, and even spoke at Board meetings about our disappointment with the situation. As a junior, heavy snow kept students out of school for several days right around midterm time; we felt unprepared for exams and had already missed too many

days, so the students wrote emails, talked with teachers, and raised awareness about the issue amongst parents and peers. Ultimately, the midterms were made optional by administration.

Now, seeing the student body come together once again for gender equality and discrimination and protesting our dissatisfaction with the dress code, I am speechless at the courage and will we have to stand up for what we believe in. Additionally, I'm extremely thankful to administration for considering students' opinions and allowing us to voice them openly -- there are high schools where students are prohibited from printing any material that openly criticizes school policy and procedure, and I am glad I am not at one of them.

This wasn't the first time, and I'm sure it won't be the last. As long as Maggie Walker continues to foster an unrestricted and diverse environment for its students, we will continue to raise our voices and be the change.

-SM

Have an opinion?

WRITE A LETTER TO  
THE EDITOR

[themlwgsjabberwock@gmail.com](mailto:themlwgsjabberwock@gmail.com)



## THE MLWGS Jabberwock

### Editorial Policy:

The MLWGS Jabberwock covers news events related to the school community and provides a forum for students to share their ideas. Statements expressed by columnists or in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff. However, all editorials are the combined work of both the Editor-in-Chief and her staff.

All members of the MLWGS community are invited to submit letters to the editor on any topic, although the publication of all letters is not guaranteed. The newspaper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, language and length. Please e-mail letters to [themlwgsjabberwock@gmail.com](mailto:themlwgsjabberwock@gmail.com).

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# Cancer's Cookie Crumbles

By Maddie Coder ('15)

On September 6th, 13 MLWGS volunteers led by Samantha McCoy ('15) decked out in orange and met at Pleasants Hardware on Broad Street to sell cookies on behalf of late Maggie Walker Student Katie Anderson ('15).

The nation-wide bake sale "Cookies for Kids' Cancer" was founded by Wendy Martin here in RVA five years ago, when she started a bake sale in Carytown for her son, Liam. He was battling neuroblastoma and was struggling to find the money to receive a potentially life-altering treatment.

After Liam's passing, the events in Richmond and around the nation have only grown.

Volunteers arrived at 8 A.M. to set up and began selling cookies at 9 in the smoldering summer heat. But the Dragons' dedication didn't stop there. Every volunteer offered to stand on the street corners with signs to get donations and sell cookies to people waiting at stop-



Thirteen Maggie Walker students volunteered one Sunday to raise money and awareness for cancer research by selling cookies at a local hardware store. *Photo courtesy of Sam McCoy.*

lights.

McCoy said, "The volunteers were so energetic and I could not be any more proud to be a dragon!"

Reki Everett ('15) was surprised at the high level of participation from the RVA community. "Megan Keck ('15) and I were standing on the street with our signs when a lady approached us. We didn't even realize

how much money she had given us until a few minutes later, the lady had given us a 50 dollar bill instead of the usual 1 or 5 that most people gave us."

Once the volunteers told donors about Katie's valiant battle with leukemia, they were quick to fill the donation bucket with whatever they were able to give.

"We were not selling the cookies. We were pretty much giving them away and welcoming donations for those who would give," says McCoy.

The Katie's Company booth was one of the most successful bake sales out of the 10 sites dispersed through the Metropolitan area. Dragons felt a sense of community at the bake sale, as students from all grade levels came together to volunteer. "I got to hang out with seniors!" said Aamina Palmer ('16).

"Getting MLWGS stu-

dents together who knew Katie, is one thing. Of course we want to spread her memory. But when students who never met Katie volunteer and are just as excited and motivated to help, it makes me feel like we can really make a difference," says McCoy.

**"We were pretty much giving them away and welcoming donations for those who would give"**

The Dragons raised \$2596 in Katie's name. McCoy and the Class of 2015 intend to provide more community service opportunities benefiting cancer research in honor of Katie Anderson in the upcoming year.



A national event, Cookies for Cancer raises money for cancer research. *Photo courtesy of Sam McCoy.*

# Bigger Equals Better... or Bender?

By Asha Iyer ('16)

Apple sure made a big splash with its big launch of the highly anticipated iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus. It was big. At 5.5 inches, the iPhone 6 Plus was too big for me to actually hold in one hand. Yet, according to the technology giant, they sold a record 10+ million phones in the first weekend following the release.

The rising popularity of over-sized phones continues to baffle me. What is it about gigantic phones that is so appealing to millions of people? They are bulky, impractical, and barely fit in pockets. These mighty devices have even been known to bend inside said pockets.

Several theories have emerged to answer this question. For example, according to PCworld.com, manufacturers have always wanted to make bigger phones; technology simply hasn't allowed it until recently. This could be true, to some extent.

“Phones are being increasingly used as mobile display devices, making bigger sizes more attractive.”

When the first iPhone came out in 2007, both pixels and battery life came with a considerable price. Today, however, high resolution and long battery life are expected with every mobile device. Another theory is that the whole over-sized phone deal



A comparison of the iPhone 5S, iPhone 6, and iPhone 6 Plus. Photo courtesy of <http://www.techradar.com/>

is just a really drawn out marketing gambit. According to the Wall Street Journal, a phone can have all the best software, but it's the hardware that grabs the customer's attention. Gradually increasing the size of phones gives the eyes something to see and appreciate.

I believe there is a broader phenomenon at work here. People are increasingly using their phones as mobile display devices, to view photos and videos, and not as much to actually talk to other people. So the emphasis on viewing capability is greater than how easy or inconvenient it is to hold to one's ear and have a conversation.

The bigger phones clearly have rich Retina HD display and a lot of screen space to make it a more enjoyable experience. The high resolution pixels deliver great colors as well. On the other hand, navigating the entire screen with your thumb can be a challenge.

There is nothing revolutionary on the color front either — it has the staple set of black, gold and silver color models, exactly like the iPhone 5S. On the memory front, Apple has certainly delivered more capacity through the 16GB, 64GB and 128GB models, again reinforcing the phone's use as a storage device for photos, music and videos.

Along with the iPhone 6 and the iPhone 6 Plus, Apple also released their newest software: iOS 8. Also known as “the biggest iOS release ever.” iOS 8 introduced a new family sharing system and updates to most of the regular apps. I downloaded iOS 8 onto my iPhone 5s the day it released and was sorely disappointed. Instead of creating the most “natural, most useful experience,” iOS 8 crashed my phone and froze my keyboard for a while. However, the new options on the camera and the possibility of Swype

made up for that somewhat.

All this being said, the iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus have proven to be popular even within our own Dragon community. Jessica Kong ('17), who has the iPhone 6, claims that the camera quality is “crazy good”, the phone itself is “super-duper light”, and its “more scratch and smear resistant.” Similarly, Dana Slayton ('17) believes “bigger is better” and that “Siri will work better if you believe and stress your consonants!”

Overall, the iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus are, while quite large, popular with most people. Apple continues to hold its name as probably the best technology company in the world. All is well.

New iPhones Rating:



## Scoreboard

### Girls Volleyball

 Walker 25 25 25

 Tucker 14 15 18

 Walker 25 14 25 25

 Hermitage 18 25 23 11

Darby Anderson ('16) led the Dragons to a victory over Tucker with 6 aces and 22 assists. Carley Leckie ('15) added 7 kills and 21 digs for Walker.

The Dragons edged out Hermitage to improve their record to 3-5. Galen Green ('15) had 3 aces and 6 kills, and Carley Leckie ('15) had 8 aces and 9 digs.

### Boys Volleyball

 Walker 25 14 25 25

 Tucker 8 25 20 22

With a 3-1 victory over J.R. Tucker, the boys' volleyball team recorded their first win for the season. Zachary Jacobs ('16) led the team with 12 kills and 2 blocks, and Brennan Adams ('17) had 5 aces and 25 assists.

### Field Hockey

 Walker 3 1 — 4

 J. River 0 0 — 0

Marissa Raper ('15) scored twice, Laura Fuhr ('15) and Claire Mendelson ('16) found the back of the cage once each and the Lady Dragons improved their record to 7-0 over a tough Deep Run team.

 Walker 4 2 — 6

 Hanover 0 0 — 0

The field hockey team took down Hanover in slaughter rule to improve their record to 8-0.

Goals came from Rachel Thoms ('15), Marissa Raper ('15), Eliza Bellamy ('15), Margaret Jewett ('15), Laura Fuhr ('15), and Claire Mendelson ('16).

 Walker 2 2 — 4

 Freeman 0 1 — 1

Marissa Raper ('15) recorded three goals and Rachel Thoms ('15) scored once to lead the dragons to a 4-1 victory over a competitive Freeman team. Freeman is the only team this season to score against the Dragons.



**Marissa Raper ('15) advances the ball towards the goal. Photo courtesy of Ed Fuhr.**

## Cross Country Champions

The boys remain undefeated through 3 invitationals. At the Maymont Invitational on September 27, the boys' team took another first place finish. The varsity team was led by Ryan Buscaglia ('17), Justin Wilck ('15), Patrick Wachter ('15), Joseph Boyle ('15), and Evan Fisher ('16).

Despite running in this elite invitational without 2 of the original top 7 runners, the girls' cross country team took a fifth place finish at the Maymont meet. The girls were led by Emma Call ('16), Archan Shekharan ('17), Katie Pokorny ('16), Josie Martin ('18), and Lucy Grinnan ('15).

Both the girls' and boys' cross country teams placed first in the Varsity district tournament, racing against teams including Deep Run and Godwin. Khloe Pointer ('17) won the whole race for the girls, and was followed by Emma Call ('16), Archan Shekharan ('17), Celia Wilson ('16), and Katie Pokorny ('16) to propel the team to victory.

The boys were led by Ryan Buscaglia ('17), Joseph Boyle ('15), Evan Fisher ('16), Patrick Wachter ('15), and Justin Wilck ('15), all of whom finished in the top 10.

## Golf Team Makes History



**The Walker golf team poses for a picture after winning the Conference 33 tournament over King William by 1 stroke. Photo courtesy of Tommy Snead.**

Rain shortened the tournament to 9 holes, but despite inclement weather the Maggie Walker golf team won the Conference 33 tournament by 1 stroke over King William, 179-180. Ben McGuigan ('17) and Tommy Snead ('16) led the team with the lowest scores.

This is the golf team's first ever back-to-back conference titles win. The team will head to the regional tournament in Harrisonburg on October 6 and challenge other competitive golf teams for a spot at the state tournament.

# Painting Nails, Sharing Culture

By Reshini Premaratne ('16)

It was just like any other Saturday night in July – we were eating some brownies and painting our nails. I felt at home – and I should have, I was at home. But, my newly found friends were not. Wakaha and Chirin traveled to the United States from Japan only five days prior.

Wakaha was telling me just how restrictive the dress code was at her school back home. It was unbelievable to me that Japanese girls are forbidden from painting their nails during the school year and that if their hair grows past a certain length, the girls must wear it in braids. Even more surprisingly, Wakaha actually likes the uniformity that her school provides. However, she

was still enraptured by the wide array of store-bought nail polish I kept underneath my desk.

Chirin, on the other hand, was from Hokkaido, or the countryside. Despite some of the language barriers between Chirin and myself, I had already fallen in love with her because she did not shy away from the challenge that English presented, rather she pushed me to correct her whenever she was mistaken and to ask her questions often so that she could practice her speaking. Chirin had never had access to such frivolities as nail polish and was consequently gawking at just how fast my gold and sparkly “Sally Hansen” nail polish dried on her toes.

The AIU High School Diplomats Program gave me this life-changing ex-

perience of cultural sharing at no cost whatsoever. Every year, they choose 40 students, 20 boys and 20 girls, from all around the United States to commit to becoming diplomatic ambassadors for two weeks at Princeton University in July. During these two weeks, the 40 American students and the 40 Japanese students participate in social and educational activities together. Students from Virginia, also have the additional opportunity of participating in HomeStay with up to two Japanese students for a weekend. Apply to this program if you are globally minded, curious about different cultures, and looking to experience the absolute best ten days of your life!

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# Comics

By Sid Ajith ('15)

