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# INSIGHT

*A Newsletter from Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys*

WINTER | 2018

EDUCATION IS THE DOOR TO OPPORTUNITY

BISHOPWALKERSCHOOL.ORG

## Introducing the New Bishop Walker School Principal **Stephanie Borges Folarin!**



### *Where did you get your start in education?*

I was bitten by the teaching bug in 7th grade when I began supporting the Youth Sunday School

Program at my home

church in Bridgeport, Connecticut. I continued teaching there through high school and taught Youth Bible Study classes as well. I became a certified American Red Cross CPR and First Aid Instructor during my junior year, and when I began teaching adults how to save lives, I knew I'd found my calling. Either I was going to be a pastor or an educator. I pray that I'm able to be both in my lifetime.

### *Where were you before BWS?*

I was the Lower School Director/ Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Sheridan School in NW DC for three years. Before that, I was the Director of Academic and Student Support at Burgundy Farm Country Day School in Alexandria, VA for three years. And the job that brought me to DC was the Learning

Specialist position at the Maret School, where I spent four years. While obtaining my masters in Special Education at Johns Hopkins, I taught high school in the Baltimore Public School System where one of my tasks was to convert general education curricula to special education curricula.

### *What made you choose BWS?*

Once I read the mission and vision of the Bishop Walker School I was sold. I mean, how could anyone read those words and not want to be a part of this work? This is God's work.

### *What has been your favorite moment with the boys since you have been at BWS?*

Honestly, my favorite moments are the unexpected ones. When I witness the older scholars helping the younger ones tie their shoes or straighten their ties I can't help but smile. When I overhear the boys talking about concepts they are learning and debating one another about the details, I am so delighted. The small moments and community make all the hard work and sleepless nights worth it.



### *What are you looking forward to most?*

I've spent my first 90 days meeting with all the BWS families. I've learned so much about the different parenting styles and family goals. I've been able to integrate family wishes, hopes, and dreams into the culture and curriculum here. This year I look forward to uniting my mind, heart, and soul with this community.

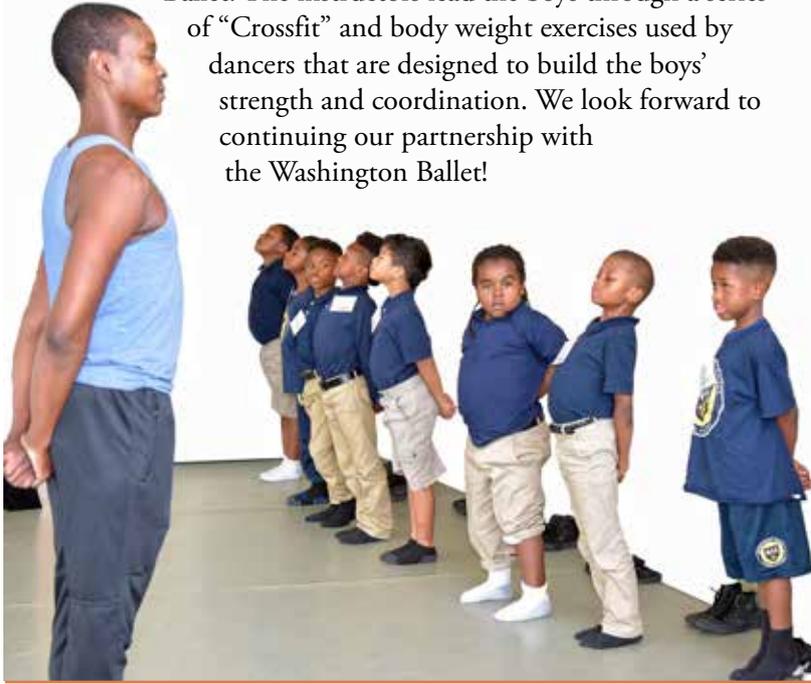
### *Is there anything you would like to share with the BWS Community?*

My husband, Tope Folarin, and my daughter, Funmi, both know that I now have over 80 sons. They have embraced this community and love it as much as I do. I'm excited to be a part of a team that is dedicated to changing generations for the better. In the Folarin household, we believe in excellence and I plan on bringing that same mentality to the BWS community. While we may not be perfect individually, we can be exceptional as a collective. Amen.



## Getting Fit at the Washington Ballet

Through a partnership with **Washington Ballet**, our second grade students are having one Movement class per week at THEARC East taught by instructors from the Washington Ballet. The instructors lead the boys through a series of "Crossfit" and body weight exercises used by dancers that are designed to build the boys' strength and coordination. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Washington Ballet!



## KICKING OFF MOVEMENT CLASS

After spending the month of September teaching kickball in Movement Class, **Mr. Brown** organized a tournament. The boys were divided into mixed-grade teams, each led by a teacher or member of the BWS staff. Each month, Mr. Brown will focus on one sport or activity, culminating in a school-wide athletic celebration. Boys will keep the same roster throughout the year, helping build community and brotherhood throughout the school.



## Building Dedication

On October 13, 2018, the Bishop Walker School and its closest friends and supporters gathered to celebrate its new home at THEARC with a Dedication Ceremony. The dedication was led by **Bishop Mariann Budde**, who reminded us of the the incredible dreams of the school's founders and the blessings of our incredible school community, and the BWS Chorus sang two songs. To read Bishop Budde's inspiring words about the Building Dedication, please visit [bishopwalkerschool.org/BuildingDedication](http://bishopwalkerschool.org/BuildingDedication).

SAVE THE DATE!

## *Annual Dinner*

Wednesday, **February 27, 2019** at Washington National Cathedral. For more information, please visit [bishopwalkerschool.org/annualdinner](http://bishopwalkerschool.org/annualdinner).



## Big Sisters from Our Sister School at THEARC

This year, we have partnered with the **Washington School for Girls' (WSG)** Big Sisters Club. Once a month, a group of WSG 7th and 8th grade girls visit the BWS kindergarten class to read, color, play games, and more. We look forward to getting to know the girls of the Big Sisters Club and to the growing relationship between our two schools at THEARC!

# James Woody Announces Retirement from Bishop Walker School



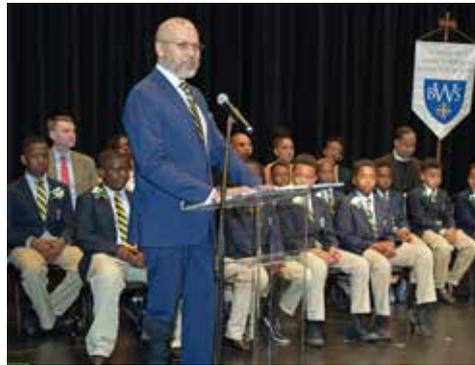
## *A Letter from Governing Board President, Peter M. Lee*

After more than 10 years of extraordinary service, **James R. Woody**, our President and Executive Director, will retire as of June 30, 2020. A Founding Board member, James shepherded the growth of BWS from our first Junior-Kindergarten class in the basement of Anacostia's St. Philip's Episcopal Church in 2008, through today's Kindergarten–5th grade elementary school, located in its new building on the beautiful campus of THEARC. James' leadership and vision in this critical first decade have truly been a gift. We are blessed that he will continue to serve in his position for the next two academic years. James will be leaving us with a school that is stronger than it has ever been—one that could not be better positioned for this transition.

The Governing Board has already started work to identify a new Head of School. Current Board members Chip Molster and Jalene Spain Thomas have graciously agreed to co-chair the 11-member Search Committee. This

will be a big step for BWS, and we are grateful to have so much time to complete this important and exciting process.

The search formally launches in January. We have retained the assistance of **The Education Group** (TEG), a top-tier national private and independent school search and placement firm. BWS and TEG are both members of the National Association of Episcopal Schools, and several of TEG's consultants are former heads of Episcopal schools. Consultants have already visited to assist us in developing and articulating a description of the position to be used during the search. We will continue to update the community about the search process through newsletters and on the BWS website, and we plan to reach out to the greater BWS community with opportunities for input and dialog.



This is an exciting, prayerful, and important time in the history of BWS. Over the coming months, we will have opportunities to celebrate James' enormous contributions to BWS and to honor him for his tireless leadership. I hope that each of you will join in these festivities. I look forward to engaging with you as we select our new Head of School, and celebrate James' many accomplishments.

You can read James' retirement announcement letter at:  
[BISHOPWALKERSCHOOL.ORG/HEADOF-SCHOOLSEARCH](http://BISHOPWALKERSCHOOL.ORG/HEADOF-SCHOOLSEARCH).

*Peter M. Lee, Governing Board President*



## *Celebrating Birthdays the BWS Way!*

To celebrate our BWS scholars' September birthdays, Mrs. Folarin hosted an ice cream party for the boys and their teachers during Community Gathering. Once a month, the entire school will gather for a special treat—like an ice cream party or a special movie—to celebrate all the boys who were born that month. We look forward to the next birthday celebration!

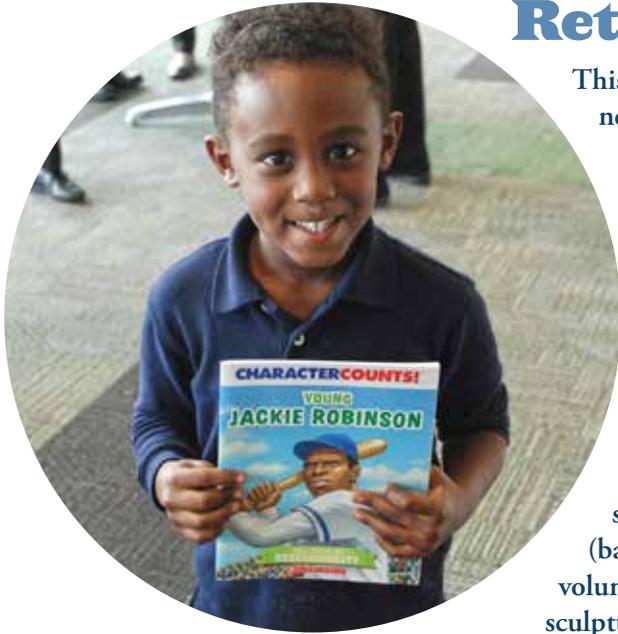


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## HARMONY BETWEEN TWO CHORUSES

On October 23rd, the BWS Chorus sang with boys from **St. Albans School**, who are also members of the **Washington National Cathedral Boys Chorister**, at our Annual Service of Evensong Prayer. They sang a variety of songs, including *In His Image*, an adaption of the BWS's Honor Code. All the boys had a fantastic time before rehearsals, where they shared a pizza lunch and played basketball and on the playground. Thank you to the Cathedral Boys Choristers for joining our Chorus, and well done on your performance!

# Reading is Fundamental Returns to BWS!



This October, our long-time partners—**Reading is Fundamental (RIF)** and **St. Columba's Episcopal Church**—visited kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades for a reading celebration about South America. In conjunction with our volunteer librarians' curriculum, RIF read books to the boys about the animals, people, and culture of South America. After reading, the boys ate a snack of foods from South America (bananas and chocolate), and the RIF volunteers helped the boys make clay sculptures of South American animals.

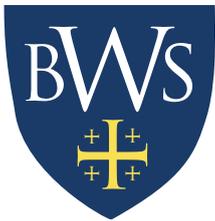
At the end of each RIF visit, each boy takes home one book for their home libraries. Thank you to Reading is Fundamental and the parishioners of St. Columba's for visiting our students each year!



*If you would like to read stories and see more pictures like these, please follow us on*



or visit: [www.bishopwalkerschool.org](http://www.bishopwalkerschool.org)



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