

# THE SWANSON ANCHOR



December brings myriad of activities and opportunities related to scholarship, spirit and service for our students and their families. As we move into the heart of the second quarter, please continue to support your child's scholarship endeavors. Teachers ensure their grades are updated every Tuesday by 9:00 AM, so please use the Parent VUE resource to track your child's progress. (A link to ParentVUE is posted on the Swanson website.) Ask your child about his or her challenges and successes in school. Once you have consulted your child, please feel free to email his or her teachers and counselors with any questions or concerns.

December offers several chances to strengthen your child's Swanson spirit. Kick off the holiday season by coming to one of our amazing performing ensembles' concerts. We've had several events this month, and you can still catch the instrumental music (Orchestra and Concert Band) concert is on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 and our vocal music ensembles perform on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. If hoops are more up your alley, our boys basketball team plays several games against our APS middle school rivals in December. On warm(ish?!) days, check out the girls soccer team as they demonstrate fortitude and skill through the first week of December. (Another way to express your Swanson spirit is to support us when you're doing your holiday shopping on Amazon. First click on this link:

<https://www.amazon.com/?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&linkCode=ur2&linkId=e8db1bd9d037b72c1edec6d6df9ba1ef&tag=swanmidschoe-20>

Swanson will receive a portion of the sales price for all items purchased automatically, with no work on your part or any extra fees. Thanks for your support!

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Finally, while Swanson's students and staff engage in service activities throughout the school year, the holiday season causes to renew our focus on supporting our neighbors in need. The SGA STAR is wrapping up its Pennies for Patients drive in early December, with a goal of collecting over \$1,200 to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (they did it!). Other STAR's and clubs are focusing on supporting families in need during the holiday season. In doing so, our students learn and appreciate the meaning of one component of the Swanson Statement, "connecting to one another, our community and to the world". I encourage you to talk with your child about the importance and benefits of service.

During this busy time, I hope you will find a quiet time to spend with your child and your family. Whether you spend that time reading together, listening to beautiful music, enjoying a sporting event or volunteering to help your neighbors far and wide, treasure these times together.

Enjoy the winter break, and all the best in the New Year.

- Bridget Loft, Principal

## Calendar

**December 12**  
High School  
Information Night

**December 13**  
PTA Meeting

**December 16**  
Ellis Island Day

**December 22 –  
January 2**  
Winter Break

**January 3**  
Classes Start

### Admirable Admirals

Congratulations to the following students who were nominated by staff members as Admirable Admirals for the first quarter:

Sophia Brodsky  
Max Furtig  
Peter George  
Rhianna Kibler  
Jack Leonard  
Will Martyn  
Lizandro Reyes  
Piero Sotelo  
Noah Sylvester

Admirable Admirals demonstrate one or more of the following character traits: respect, responsibility, citizenship, caring, fairness, or trustworthiness. Admirable Admirals pictures and write-ups are posted on the bulletin board outside of the Main Lobby door.

# SPECIAL EDUCATION CORNER

## Special Education Cycle

*The Eligibility Process for Your Child to Become Eligible to Receive Special Education Services*

"Before your child can become eligible to receive special education services, the school is required by law to determine your child's specific needs. The school determines these needs through a process consisting of many steps, often termed the "Special Education Cycle." When viewed as an ongoing cycle with several steps along the way, the special education process is easier to understand."

What are the next steps once my child has been referred to a **Student Study Committee**? The **Second step** of the Special Education cycle (**The Student Study Committee**):

Student Study Committee (SCC)	
What:	The SSC committee reviews the "Referral to a Student Study Committee," and discusses the information in the referral.
Who:	The SSC is made up of at least three people, including the principal or designee, teacher(s), other staff who have observed or worked with your child, and the person who made the referral. The school can hold the Student Study Committee meeting without your permission but must invite you to attend and will notify you of the date and time of the meeting. Though your attendance is not required, you should attend, if possible, because you have important information about your child to share with school staff.
When:	Within 10 business days of receipt of the referral
What Happens Next:	<p>After reviewing all the information presented, the committee discusses the child's needs and makes one of the following three recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The child should stay in a general education class. Sometimes specific ideas for classroom modifications and alternative teaching techniques are suggested to the child's regular education teacher. Sometimes arrangements are made for a child to work with other professionals, such as the reading specialist or school counselor.</li> <li>b. The child should be given certain tests to find out whether he or she may be eligible for special education and related services. Testing cannot begin until you give your permission. This is done by signing the form called "Request for Parental Permission to Conduct Evaluations for Consideration for Eligibility for Special Education." Please read it carefully. You will receive this statement of rights at each step as your child proceeds through the cycle.</li> <li>c. The committee feels they need to gather more information before a decision can be made. In</li> <li>d. this case, the committee obtains additional information and meets again within a specified time period.</li> </ol>

Please read future issues that will detail the step-by-step process for determining eligibility. You can also view this information in full on the APS Special Education website: <https://www.apsva.us/student-services-special-education/special-education-office-of/>

# COUNSELING CORNER

## Reminder! High School Information Sessions

Arlington high schools will hold information sessions to discuss admission for the 2017-18 school year. These sessions give families the opportunity to visit the schools, meet the principals, tour the buildings, and get a general sense of the personalities of each of the schools.

Below are the dates for these sessions. Questions? Contact Gladis Bourdouane, Communications Coordinator at [Gladis.Bourdouane@apsva.us](mailto:Gladis.Bourdouane@apsva.us) or 703-228-7667

	Daytime Sessions	Evening Sessions
<b>All APS High Schools</b>		December 12, 2016, 7-9 p.m. at Washington Lee
<b>Arlington Tech</b>	Jan. 9, 2017, 2 p.m.	
<b>H-B Woodlawn</b>	Jan. 9, 2017, 3 p.m.	
<b>Wakefield</b>	Jan. 9, 2017, 10 a.m.	Dec. 15, 2016, 7 p.m. (Immersion Information Night)  Jan. 11, 2017, 7 p.m. (AP Network Information Night)
<b>Washington-Lee</b>	Jan. 9, 2017, 8:30 a.m.	Dec. 7, 2016, 7 p.m. (IB Information Night)
<b>Yorktown</b>	Jan. 9, 2017, 11 a.m.	

## Academic Planning

These sessions provide an opportunity for you to meet the counseling staff at your child's high school and get important information about course selection.

**Yorktown** January 12, 7 p.m.

**Wakefield** January 17, 7 p.m.

**Washington-Lee** January 31, 7 p.m.

## Important High School Application Deadlines

Deadline for IB applications, due to W-L's office, room 1030 January 31, 4 p.m.

Deadline for all transfer applications (including Arlington Tech) January 31

## FYI: Important Swanson Contacts & Numbers

### Administration

#### Principal

Bridget Loft

#### Assistant Principals

Scott McKeown

Meghan Henning

Shannan Ellis

### Numbers

#### Main Office Hours

7:30 A.M. – 4:40 P.M.

#### Main Office

703.228.5500

#### Attendance Line (call by 8 A.M.)

703.228.5506

#### Homework Line

703.228.2003

(If student is out for two or more consecutive days)

#### Counseling Services

703.228.5508

#### Clinic

703.228.5515

#### Activities Office

703.228.5510

#### Check In

703.228.5497

### **E.G.N.O.G to the Rescue!**

Helping your child deal with challenging experiences and negative emotions is an important part of parenting. However, some parents whose children routinely come home from school upset, sad, or angry may begin to feel frustrated and helpless. Cathi Cohen, Director of InStep (<http://www.insteppc.com>), has developed the E.G.N.O.G. model to help parents work with their children to develop the skills to solve their own problems. Being able to independently problem solve is an integral part of healthy development and will become extremely important as children grow into teens and young adults.

Below are the steps of the process, including suggested language that you can use:

**Empathize** – Let your child know that you are listening to what they are saying and that you understand what they are feeling. Ex: “That sounds really hard,” or “That sounds like it would be very upsetting.”

**Get Neutral** – Listen to the details of what happened without judgment. Be careful to maintain a neutral expression and tone and use your body language to show you are actively listening. Ex: “Tell me about what happened.” “I hear what you’re saying.”

**Narrow** – Try to get your child to explain, as specific as possible, what the nature of the problem is. Ex: “Which part of this is upsetting you the most?” “It sounds like this has been going on for a while. What is the thing that made you angry today?”

**Optimize** – Help your child brainstorm specific solutions to the problem. Remind your child that there are multiple solutions to every problem. “Can you think of ways to try to fix this?” “What are other ways of looking at this problem?” “What is a small thing you can do to make it better?”

**Get Moving** – Once you have identified solutions, make a specific plan and a timeline for putting it into action. After a plan is created, move on. Help your child shift their focus by engaging in a different activity, like a walk with the dog or helping with dinner. Ex. “It sounds like we have a plan.” “Let’s talk about how the plan went tomorrow when you get home from school.”

After implementing E.G.N.O.G., look for small signs of growth in your child’s ability to problem solve and praise the process!

## Hour of Code At Swanson

Swanson Middle School computer science students have been actively preparing for this week's Hour of Code. Students have already begun "pushing in" to individual teachers' classrooms to show other students how they can use coding concepts in their classes.

The weeklong Hour of Code will feature Swanson computer science students actively engaged in the following:

1. Students will be "pushing in" to several Math classrooms in addition to CTE classrooms to demonstrate their coding skills.
2. Students will be "pushing in" to Art classrooms to show students how to create digital art projects using coding concepts.
3. Students will be hosting coding events in the library and in the cafeteria during lunch. Students will be highlighting html, Swift Playground, and Code.org activities.
4. Selected students will be showcasing their websites on the morning announcements.
5. Students will be volunteering in the APS CODES event scheduled for Monday, December 5, at Arlington Tech.
6. Students will have the opportunity to earn extra credit points by showing their family members how to code at home using Code.org activities.



### **About Code.org**

Code.org® is a non-profit dedicated to expanding access to computer science, and increasing participation by women and underrepresented minorities. Our vision is that every student in every school should have the opportunity to learn computer science, just like biology, chemistry or algebra. Code.org organizes the annual Hour of Code campaign which has engaged 10% of all students in the world, and provides the leading curriculum for K-12 computer science in the largest school districts in the United States. Code.org is supported by generous donors including Microsoft, Facebook, the Infosys Foundation, Google, Omidyar Network, and many more.

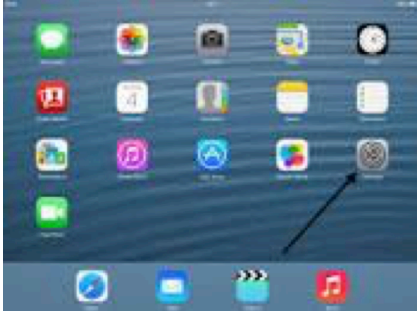
Code.org increases diversity in computer science by reaching students of all backgrounds where they are — at their skill-level, in their schools, and in ways that inspire them to keep learning. Read about our efforts to increase diversity in computer science.

## Tech-Knowledge - Setting up Google Safe Search

APS' Department of Information Services provides a filter for the iPad everywhere even at home. However, if you would like to provide additional assurance that your child is not able to access elicited material please check to make sure your student's Safe Search is on.

### Directions for Safe Search

1. Locate and tap/open the "Settings" app on the iPad



2. Under the "Settings" menu
3. Scroll to down and tap the "Safari" browser icon
4. Tap "Search Engine" link under the "Safari" menu in the right column
5. Tap the Google search engine



6. Now go to and tap the "Safari" browser app
7. Type google.com.us.preferences in the address bar
8. Click the 1<sup>st</sup> link appearing on the page "Search settings – Google"
9. Under the Search settings page select "Filter explicit results" then tap "Save" and you are done.

### An Additional Option - To set filter for Safari

1. Go to "Settings" app > tap "General" tap "Restrictions" in the right column
2. Set a password to enable restrictions.
3. Scroll down to the "Websites" link under the "Restrictions" menu
4. Tap it and set Allowed Websites to "Limit Adult Content". *You must exit out of the menu to save your settings.* Then exit settings. If you use this setting be sure to also enable google Safe Search, as the "Limit Adult Content" setting by itself may not restrict all Google image content.

Should you have additional questions regarding APS filters please contact Terance Proctor at Information Services. His email is [Terance.Proctor@apsva.us](mailto:Terance.Proctor@apsva.us). Meghan Henning, Assistant Principal is the Supervisor of Technology and Larry Seals is our ITC.

## Career Shadowing Day

As part of Swanson's Career Exploration focus, seventh grade students were given the opportunity to shadow a person for one full day of work. The activity enabled students to experience the realities of work for one day.

Four Swanson seventh graders – Brynn Baskin, JJ Foti, Dani Meiners, and Guy Shoji – shared a bit of their days.

Thanks to all of the Swanson community members who helped Swanson students!



### **Brynn Baskin – Pre-School Teacher**

#### **Why you chose this job to shadow?**

I chose to shadow a preschool teacher because I love to play with little kids and I love to have fun! I wanted to find a person who had a job with both of those qualities so I decided to shadow Mrs. Foti.

**What you found most interesting about the job**

I thought it was interesting that the teachers have a big closet filled with toys and art supplies and in the morning all the teachers just go in and grab what they need for the day.

#### **What was most surprising about the job?**

I found it surprising that even though the kids were only two years old they didn't cry very much at all and they basically listened to their teachers most of the time. I also thought it was surprising how even though these kids were mostly all the same age, they were still at different learning speeds and some needed more help than others did.

#### **What you learned.**

I learned that being a preschool teacher can be hard at times if a child is screaming, crying, or not listening but the job can also be really fun! You get to watch kids grow and play and your job is basically to take care of the kids and teach them the best you can.





### Dani Meiners – Interior Designer

#### Why you chose this job to shadow?

I chose to shadow an interior designer because I love the idea of helping people design their dream home. I like looking at the outline and sketches of houses and looking at the different types of fabrics and granites for the house and the layout of where everything should go. I also like looking at the different paint colors and designs for different rooms, walls and flooring, like wood or tile.

#### What you found most interesting and surprising about the job?

I thought it was really interesting that you are your own boss and you have a lot of freedom with your ideas about the house. I was surprised to learn how many little facts you need to know when laying out a house. For example, if you want to have an island in your kitchen with bar stools, the countertop has to come off the island at least 25 inches. where the bar stools are going to be so your knees don't hit the island or get squished. It is important to know that or it won't work.

#### What you learned.

I learned that interior designers need to know a lot things like paint colors and patterns and what fabrics and colors go well together. Also, they have to collaborate a lot with architect and home owner to make the house the best it can be with the homeowner's style added into it. I also learned that when they have a small budget they need to compromise and come up with ideas that save money and space.

### JJ Foti (with Guy Shoji) – Orthopedic Surgeon

#### Why you chose this job to shadow?

I chose this job to shadow because I thought it would be very interesting.

#### What you found most interesting and surprising about the job?

The most interesting part was seeing real patients and real scenarios. While the most surprising patient was a man who had chopped part of his thumb off carving a turkey. The amount of blood and the fact that they didn't find the other piece of the finger was surprising.

#### What you learned.

I learned that there are a lot of steps to becoming an orthopedic surgeon and I thought it was very fun. And Dr. Croog is really funny.

## The Swanson Beautification Project

Swanson beautification efforts are underway! Art teacher Cecily Corcoran's seventh grade students recently designed and painted beautiful artwork for the Seven Seas. They created 30 murals now hanging inside the trailers and are putting the finishing touches on five 4x7 foot panels and two 4x5 foot panels that will be hung on the railings leading into the trailers. They also painted a sea life scene on the back of the structure housing the electrical boxes as you enter the Seven Seas. This spring, the beautification committee would also like to paint a blacktop mural in the "courtyard" area of the Seven Seas and clean up and improve the landscaping in Swanson's front yard. If you are interested in helping with these and other beautification projects, please contact: Lori Wright at [loriwright1968@yahoo.com](mailto:loriwright1968@yahoo.com).



# MATH UPDATE



## Continental Math League Contest

Swanson students participated in the first Continental Math League contest of the school year on November 3rd. Students were given 6 questions to answer in 30 minutes without the use of the calculator. The questions could be solved by utilizing different problem solving strategies. It's a challenging contest as many of the problems require careful reading and multiple steps to solve, with the added pressure of a time limit.

Students at Swanson performed very well on the challenging contest. The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders earned the top team score by having at least 6 students in the grade level score a perfect 6 on the contest. Here are the students who correctly answered all questions on the first CML contest:

### 6<sup>th</sup> Graders Perfect Score of 6:

Marco Aleman, David Bannon, David Bruce, Julia Carey, Natalie Cecil, Karan Dholakia, Madison Goeke, Owen Haga, Zhuoyan Han, Rose Haron, Miles Zaden Linde, Charlotte Maleski, Bradley McMullin, Oliver Meek, Liam Miller, Max Morrison, Luke Mucchetti, Evan Obenberger, Miles Porto, Ellie Potts, Michael Robertson, Katy Rynes, Cedric Scheu, Lydia Schumann, Emily Stafford, Ethan VanSice, and Taimoore Yousaf.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grader Perfect Score of 6:

Camila Anderson, Andy Arabshahi, Olivia Baptiste, Campbell Gilmour, Josh Golden, Timothy Jacob, Ryan Lee, Michael LesStrang, Nick Moir, Rachel Mulvaney, Lily Odenwelder, Nathan Pease, Mary Superata, Kristin Trapanese, Irene Williams, and Owen Williams.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Graders Perfect Score of 6:

Braxton Breed, Joel Brown, Deirdre Liddle, Alyssa Obenberger, and Matteo Roman.

The next contest was held in early December and will be reported in the January Anchor.

Laura Partridge, Math Coach

# WORLD LANGUAGES

## The Latest in Latin

Swanson's Latin students had a fantastic start to the year's extra-curricular events with lots of opportunities to sport our "Perfer et Obdura" (Persevere and Endure) Latin T-shirts and hoodies.

The last weekend of October, five teams attended the Virginia Junior Classical League's Kick-off Certamen (certamen is a quiz-bowl-style competition with questions on all things classical, from language to history and mythology).

One of the teams from Latin II was asked to play up a division, to help out with pitting distributions, which they nobly did. They performed very respectably against teams with more Latin experience, ending up in the middle of the field. The other two Latin II teams placed 3rd and 4th in their division, and our two Latin I teams placed third and first in the level 1 division, beating teams from TJHSST, Flint Hill, and Classical Cottage! This was a first for Swanson at the opening certamen of the season, and was a tremendous result.

Then, November 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, thirty-eight Swanson Latin students attended the annual convention of the Virginia Junior Classical League in Richmond, where they joined nearly 2000 students from 96 schools all over VA. Among a host of other activities and events, students participated in a number of academic contests, as well as competitions in arts and crafts, Latin oratory and sight-reading, and costumes. Swanson students came home with a record number of ribbons for placing 5<sup>th</sup> through 1<sup>st</sup> place in these events; we had 10 fifth place, 16 fourth place, 12 third place, 23 second place, and 7 first place ribbons—68 in all! A list of our first through fifth-placed students is below. With an average of 250 entries at each level in each category, these were really impressive results.

Special congratulations to our first-place winners: Emily Mucchetti won first prize for her extraordinarily detailed model of a Roman villa; Kieran Hizon won first place in the level 1 Latin Derivatives test, while Natalie Martin placed first for Latin 2; Alex Fall won two first place ribbons, one in the Roman Life and Customs exam and one tied first place with Nathan Gehrke in Mythology level 1; and finally Savvy Thompson placed first in the Pentathlon exam (which is a mixture of all subjects). Finally, three Swanson students placed in the "sweepstakes" for students with the most success in the most categories. Reese Feldmeier placed third among all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in attendance, Emily Mucchetti placed fourth and Alex Fall placed ninth.

**Fifth place prizes:** Camila Anderson and Ainsley McCabe (Reading Comprehension); Savvy Thompson (Mottoes); Toby Jaramillo (Grammar); Sierra Janes and Annabel Vernia (Roman Life); Kieran Hizon (Vocab); Luke Chalfont (Pentathlon); Natalie Martin (Latin Oratory); Luke Chalfont (Latin Sight Reading) **Fourth place prizes:** Luke Chalfont and Emily Mucchetti (History); Emily Mucchetti (Reading Comprehension); Natalie Martin (Mottoes); Reese Feldmeier (Grammar); Caroline Coleman (Geography); Camila Anderson and Emily Mucchetti (Derivatives); Luke Chalfont (Roman Life); Patrick Wheelock (Mythology); Luella Wallander (Vocab); Emily Mucchetti (Pentathlon); Lara Schneidawind, Sofia Brodsky, Luck Chalfont (Art competitions); Sofia Brodsky (Latin Sight Reading) **Third place prizes:** Caroline Coleman (History); Kieran Hizon, Reese Feldmeier, Natalie Martin, Lara Schneidawind, Luella Wallander (Reading Comprehension); Thomas Sharpe (Geography); Nate Gehrke (Derivatives); Kieran Hizon, Lara Schneidawind (Roman Life); Alex Fall (Vocabulary); Emily Mucchetti (Sight Reading) **Second place prizes:** Emily Mucchetti (Mottoes); Emmett Weiss (Geography); Emily Mucchetti (Grammar); Alex Fall, Savvy Thompson, Reese Feldmeier (Derivatives); Caroline la Piana, Caroline Coleman (Roman Life); Savvy Thompson, Reese Feldmeier (Mythology); Toby Jaramillo, Reese Feldmeier (Vocab); Alex Fall, Nate Gehrke, Reese Feldmeier (Pentathlon); Caroline Coleman (Latin Oratory); Isabella Lazarte, Caroline la Piana, Annabel Vernia, Luella Wallander, Isabelle Obey (Art competitions); Reese Feldmeier (Sight Reading)



Quite apart from all the ribbons and prizes, Swanson students behaved impeccably throughout the very busy event--well done to all of them, and thank you to our wonderful chaperones!

Melanie Stowell and Paul Perrot

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## French Update

Recently the 7th and 8th grade French students of Mme. Rauseo and Mme. Fitzgerald enjoyed an excursion to the French Embassy in Washington DC. While there, the students were able to view *Le Roi et L'Oiseau*, an animated feature film directed by Paul Grimault. The film was based loosely on a Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, *The Shepherdess and the Chimney Sweep* and was originally released in 1953. The students enjoyed the entertaining film in French and the field trip!

## Admirals Meet Authors!

Bringing authors face-to-face with students generates genuine excitement about the written word and provides many benefits to both students and staff. Swanson students have had many exciting opportunities to meet authors this fall through the Swanson Writers Project.

The Swanson Writers Project is Swanson's effort to cultivate kids' curiosity, creativity, and academic achievement by regularly bringing acclaimed authors and writers from all walks of life for school and classroom visits. Since the project launched in September with a visit from Gene Luen Yang, National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, we've connected kids virtually and in person with:

- **Stuart Gibbs**, best-selling author of the middle grade novels *Belly Up*, *Poached*, the *Spy School* series, and the *Last Musketeer* series, who chatted with select 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders about where he gets his ideas for the books and movies he writes.
- **Tom Angleberger**, best known for the *Origami Yoda* series, Skyped with about 100 6<sup>th</sup> graders and gathered book recommendations from students which he turned into an original story before teaching everyone how to fold their own origami Yoda.
- **Dan Gemeinhart**, author of *The Honest Truth*, paid a Skype visit to a group of 20+ 6th graders who had been gathering each Tuesday and Thursday in October to share lunch and insights about his book as part of the Swanson Sixth Grade Book Club.
- **Ali Benjamin**, author of the National Book Award Finalist and Green Earth Book Award Winner *The Thing about Jellyfish*, met with Swanson TAB members and seventh grade science students to talk about how a trip to the aquarium took her from never deeply wondering about the oceans and jellyfish to having great curiosity about them and how she turned her discoveries into a book. Ms. Benjamin's special visit was sponsored by The Nature Generation.
- **Joshua Khan**, author of *Shadow Magic*, the first book in a spectacular new fantasy series for middle grade readers, was greeted by two characters from his book before spending the day talking with groups of 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders about the characteristics of villains and heroes. Joshua Khan lives in London and thanks to Disney-Hyperion, Swanson Middle School was his only stop in the DC area.
- **Betsy Cornwell**, a *New York Times* bestselling author living in west Ireland, Skyped with TAB members, the Harry Potter STAR, and Ms. Metz's STAR, to talk about *Mechanica*, Cornwell's retelling of Cinderella which features the heroine as an engineer.



Folding fun with Origami Yoda author Tom Angleberger



Ali Benjamin told Swanson Admirals how important it is to ask questions and be curious.



"Lilly" from *Shadow Magic* ready to welcome Joshua Khan

In the upcoming months, students can look forward to visits with Jacqueline Wilson, (via Skype), L.M. Elliott, Madelyn Rosenberg, Erica Perl, and Eric Dinerstein. The Swanson Writers Project is also asking students which authors they want to meet and how they'd like to celebrate reading. We're looking to make direct connections to the ELA curriculum, but also to connect to other curricular areas with a focus on research, speech writing, science writing, history, connecting stories and pictures, and more.

We know there are many wonderful writers in our community. Let us hear from you about authors you and your students know and love. Share recommendations or get involved by contacting Rachael Walker, Swanson Writers Project Coordinator at [rachael.walker@apsva.us](mailto:rachael.walker@apsva.us).

# SWANSON PTA

## PTA Executive Committee

Madelon Brennan – President  
[president@swansonpta.org](mailto:president@swansonpta.org)

Zoe O'Neil – Vice President  
[vp@swansonpta.org](mailto:vp@swansonpta.org)

Poppy McDonald – Secretary  
[secretary@swansonpta.org](mailto:secretary@swansonpta.org)

Anne Henrich – Treasurer  
[treasurer@swansonpta.org](mailto:treasurer@swansonpta.org)

Carri Berenson – Fundraising  
[fundraising@swansonpta.org](mailto:fundraising@swansonpta.org)

If you are interested in volunteering for a specific event or would like more information on how to be involved, contact Carri Berenson at [volunteer@swansonpta.org](mailto:volunteer@swansonpta.org)

### Enrichment

The Winter Session of enrichment will provide even more exciting classes through Enrichment Matters! Classes will be held for approximately an hour on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will offer Advanced Debate, Creating Comics, Improv Comedy Troupe, Minecraft Modding, Budding Entrepreneurs, Filmmaking and Guitar Fundamentals. Registration will open on November 30th and runs through December 9th...we encourage you to register early in case your favorite classes fill up.

<https://em-swanson.jumbula.com/#/winter-2017>

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### Swanson Night at Lebanese Taverna

Looking to support Swanson and have a great meal at the same time? Swanson is holding a fundraiser at Lebanese Taverna on December 13th, all day! Bring in the flyer linked on the front page of the website and 20% of your check will go to support Swanson! Can't make it? No worries, you can also apply the code Swanson16 to gift cards and e-certificates to use at a later date!

*Support us when you  
shop this holiday*

Amazon donates when you  
shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).

**amazon**smile



The Swanson Anchor is a monthly newsletter for the Swanson community. The content for The Swanson Anchor is provided by Swanson teachers, staff, and the Swanson PTA. If you have questions or comments, or would like to see something included, please feel free to reach out to Gillyn Croog at: <mailto:gillyn.croog@gmail.com>.