

-Tributes to the Class of 2020-

Those who are up to date with girls soccer on Vashon and in the Nisqually League know who **Sydnee Adams** is. From playing varsity throughout high school, to being awarded league MVP to being voted team captain, Sydnee has succeeded in every aspect of the game. Her coach says; “Sydnee is an extraordinary athlete and the most pleasant of human beings, courteous off the field but incredibly competitive on it. She has speed, courage, determination, ability and above all leadership....” A scholarship from the Carroll Family for a female soccer athlete is perfectly suited for Sydnee as is The Extra Mile Award given to a student athlete commuted of outstanding character. Well done!

Aspen Anderson is proactive in addressing life’s demands. Her firm belief in being open to new experiences has boosted her confidence and given fresh insights as she looks to the future. Aspen is a disciplined student and ballet dancer whose commitment has led to excellence. A dance instructor who has known her for many years celebrates her poise, stellar technique and awards given in countless performances. Teachers admire Aspen’s growth mindset and note her generosity in mentoring others. They are certain she’ll apply her curiosity and resilience to her future in journalism. We commend Aspen for her accomplishments and have awarded the PTSA and VCSF “Through the Lens” Scholarships to help her realize her goals.

Homeschooling and outdoor education in his early years set the tone for **Finbarr Anderson**. That experience gave him a respect for our planet, ideals about sustainability and an openness to innovation. Fin is seen as an insightful communicator, kind, fun and smart. Not shy to make fun of himself and be honest with his feelings, Fin is a big, tall guy with an enormous and soft heart. His interests run the gamut from cooking and fashion to basketball and design. He writes, “I am a passionate person and thrive best when I have an emotional attachment to whatever I do.” Fin’s plans for the future include studying design and architecture in college. He will receive the Joel Veatch Memorial Scholarship.

Margot Armstrong is kind, confident and quirky. Her likeable personality translates into a valuable resource for other students. She is the student advocate to the School Board, a member of Teen Counsel, ASB Executive board, Sister Circle and a teaching assistant with the Health Clinic at VHS. Her health clinic supervisor says “she puts students at ease by being so open about her own struggles with an eating disorder”. In the classroom she helps make the experience comfortable and engaging. Next year Margot is planning to continue working while going to SSCC and then on to UW or Western. For Margot’s guidance and “sticking her neck out for what she believes” she has been awarded the Women’s Group Giraffe Award and the Bernice Black Memorial Scholarship.

Duncan Barlow takes great pride in being an older brother, an accomplished Boy Scout and - a dancer. He says he is passionate about what he does and who he cares about. Duncan has been dancing for the last twelve years. He was a member of the Vashon Center for Dance, attended summer dance intensives in Oregon, and was recently accepted to PNB's ballet school- a keystone accomplishment. Duncan's ballet teacher on Vashon notes his drive and devotion to dance, and his emergence as a leader amongst his peers. She says his move to the PNB school left a huge hole that cannot be filled. But he still visits his Vashon "team" at the studio, and volunteers at the performances. VCA's Art Hansen Scholarship and Open Space's Out Loud Award are encouragement to keep Duncan on his chosen path.

There is something deeper about **Maggie Battisti** beyond the fact that she is a straight A student, a reliable, hardworking teammate in sports and a committed, good natured and awesome cookie baker raising funds for community service. She has a hunger for knowledge and can think for herself. Maggie is one of those courageous people who won't lie if she doesn't know the answer and will stand up for what she believes in. Her integrity and self awareness, not to mention strength, are the reason she chose her own religious path and to come out to her family and friends. Maggie is deserving of The Quest Award, given to someone with strength and resilience and also the Vashon Island Pride Alliance Scholarship given to someone who greatly values diversity. Well done, Maggie.

Discovering your interests and learning life lessons happens outside of school as often as it does in school. As a pre-teen **Adriana Becerra** discovered her fascination with interior design after pouring over piles of textbooks and materials her mother gave her from her own studies. More recently Adriana has discovered how rewarding work can be. With trademark kindness, a desire to provide excellent customer service and by working cooperatively with others Adriana has developed confidence and pride as well as an appreciation for her emerging financial independence. The Women in the Arts group has chosen Adriana to receive the Mia McEldowney Scholarship to pursue a career in the arts. Joy to you in your studies and work life Adriana.

If someone is defined by what they love then **Cameron Bedard** is an outdoor loving athlete with a state championship for soccer and a Glacier Peak summit on his resume. Now add a deep love of all pets and spending quality time with his family and friends to round out the picture. If defined by what others think then listen to this compliment by his teacher: "Cam stands out ... as someone who comes from a family culture of peace, caring and generosity. His ability to display these traits so regularly and consistently makes him a student that other students want to be around." By any definition Cam lives fully and happily. The Thriftway Scholarship is given to exceptional graduates with a variety of interests and in this case it applies to Cam's interest in politics! The world needs your people skills, Cam. Congrats.

Jeremiah Bogaard is a natural leader. He's positive and works hard, is an excellent athlete and a well-liked teammate. Although a tough competitive player, he manages to set a relaxed tone for the team. He has served as team captain for his club soccer team, VHS basketball and tennis teams and led them to district and state level competitions. He applies these same qualities to balance his life. He has maintained an impressive GPA, is active in student government and has time for family and friends. Jeremiah is thinking about a future in sports medicine. For all around academic and athletic excellence, he has been awarded the Ryan Krug Memorial Scholarship, the Tennis Scholarship and the Garretson Family Scholarship.

Jackie Bostock is passionate about running. In describing herself she says she "doesn't give up easily". That trait and talent have taken her to the National Junior Olympics multiple times. She represented VHS in the State track 100- meter event and was part of the VHS relay team crowned "district champs". She applies this same enthusiasm to school leadership serving as ASB Treasurer, President of Honor Society and two years on the ASB executive board. She says that she likes to make people laugh. She wants to study video production at UC Santa Cruz or Occidental College. Jackie has been awarded the Amy Dubin Memorial, the Bill Burby Wellness and the Go the Extra Mile Scholarships!

According to one island employer there is a Clark Kent/Man of Steel in this senior class. This mild-mannered fellow plays on sports teams, displays Pirate pride, enjoys biking, his friends, family and music... and he really loves his dog. Although understated, he does stand out with his bright red hair. Yes, we're talking about **Connor Breen**. Connor's strength is evident in his consistent, calm pursuit of what is right; whether it's doing volunteer work, keeping a cool head when challenged or just knowing how to pitch in and get any job done. Connor is capable and confident. Congratulations Connor. You have been chosen to receive the Senior Center and Penny Farcy Scholarships for your community service and your plans to serve others in the future.

Two passions are lodged deeply in **Simon Clark's** core: an insatiable appetite to understand the world and other cultures and a love of exercise. Someday he might be one of those remarkable people who circumnavigate the globe - but probably not while walking. He seems more inclined to run. Simon has done a lot of that during the past four years on the track and cross- country teams and racked up accolades including being chosen team captain. The coach said Simon "created a winning and inclusive atmosphere on the team" with his capable leadership. The Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation is proud to present Simon Clark with the Venture Onward Award. Use it in your studies of International Relations or Communications. Just be sure to share your adventurous stories with all of us.

It will be no surprise if **Connor Clarke** successfully completes an engineering degree in college. It seems to be in Connor's nature to analyze and solve problems with genuine curiosity, persistent hard work along with a good-natured attitude. You would also expect Connor to be very active given his participation in sports throughout school. But the question will be: what new edgy adventures has Connor added to the impressive Seattle to Portland bike ride he did two years ago? Connor and his friend set that goal, did the training and accomplished it not only in one day but were in the top ten percent of all finishers!..... Crazy awesome! You have a wonderful balance of mind and body Connor. Use the Aviation Technology Scholarship and the Extra Mile Awards with our best wishes.

Most likely **Adam Cooper** gets along well with anyone who loves sports and animals. Adam is a soccer player, referee and a sports fan who carefully follows statistics. He is probably pretty good at it since calculus is one of his favorite subjects. Adam and his family clearly have soft spots in their hearts for animals, having worked many volunteer hours at a horse rescue facility. That assumption could also be drawn from the many pet photos in Adam's scholarship notebook. Adam is part of a military family and knows well the meaning of service. He intends to follow in his father's footsteps. Congratulation on being awarded the Vashon Community PTSA Scholarship which is given to a senior who will pursue an active role of civic service.

One look at **Lia Crawford's** transcript and we wonder how she is able to excel academically while working at Thriftway, playing sports, and commuting to Running Start classes. A powerful drive to make life meaningful inspires Lia to embrace her workload as fuel for the journey. Though goal oriented, she does not consider her "driving mission" a trajectory to a certain degree or particular career, rather a pathway of living that will lead to fulfilling work and personal happiness. She credits her Mom for modeling a positive attitude and teaching by example the importance of setting goals and working hard to attain them. Lia is receiving the Vashon Engineers Award, the Science and Math Innovation Scholarship and the Vashon Tennis Club Scholarship.

In **Bella Crayton's** scholarship notebook you have the rare opportunity to read from a seasoned teacher how Bella's wordsmithing stands out as brilliant and unforgettable. Let me repeat that: unforgettable! In addition to having a truly gifted imagination, Bella is musical, artistic, active and brings the successful trait of persistence to all things. She has faced and conquered an eating disorder. And most unexpectedly, she had the scary experience of saving a young man's life when she might have chosen to run away. She didn't run. Bella's goals include a desire to help others find their purpose in life by learning about and practicing art therapy. The VCSF Academic Award and Vashon Education Association Scholarship will help with that goal.

Jack Cunningham is a well rounded young man.

He's athletic: 7 years baseball, 7 years wrestling, varsity football, elected team captain.

He's committed to serving his community: 3 years Explorers Program. He's independent and responsible: sought and was hired for carpentry work with Baron Construction summer of 2019.

He's a leader: his coach reports that junior and senior year he came into his own helping those younger and less experienced.

He's funny: just plain great to be around.

Put all these together and you have an undeniably bright and capable graduate ready to take on life's next challenges. For his athletic excellence and for being an exemplary young man he has been awarded the Vashon Youth Baseball Scholarship and the Robert N. Bennedsen Memorial Scholarship.

Lily Dakota has known, ever since she was a child, that she was special- because she has autism. She says it makes her inquisitive, funny and sensitive. A teacher points out that she is a remarkable and courageous young woman, who danced and sang nearly every day in class, and encouraged others to join in. She has loved animals since she was little – caring for her small zoo of animals at home, including chickens she raised from eggs, and volunteering as a dog walker for VIPP. Somewhere along the way, an interest in taxidermy found her. Lily sees taxidermy as a true art form, for the way it brings an animal back to life. She says, "I know some people think that taxidermy is strange but I don't care." A scholarship from Vashon Rotary will help Lily realize her future dreams of learning taxidermy in a formal school setting.

Gabriel Dawson's love of musical theater took root when, as a kid he was introduced to the wonders of the Seattle Children's Theater. Since then, it looks like he has been very busy working on his skills! He has been taking classes in a variety of dance styles, practicing vocal training, learning guitar and piano, and participating in so many shows. He says, "Musical theater is my life." Gabriel is the fourth of five kids, and he raises chickens and ducks with his family. To jump start his path to Broadway, he will receive awards from Drama Dock, Vashon Chorale and Thespians.

Madison Deck describes herself as fun and charismatic, as well as reserved. These traits will serve her well in her chosen profession of Musical Theatre. Madison has an enviable inner strength which has worked to her advantage while she navigated many emotional hurdles in her personal life. In her essay, Madison writes about helping a victim of a car accident on a snowy road, and how she kept calm in an emergency. Courage under pressure is a rare gift. While she has kept her focus on music and performance, she has grown in character with determination. Madison also enjoys playing guitar and ukulele, hiking and making art. Madison will be receiving the Thespian Award and the VCSF Onward and Upward Award honoring her accomplishments with the Spectrum Choral and her performance acumen. Good luck to Madison. We look forward to seeing you on stage or screen in the future.

Sedona Deck is passionate about performance. Some of her proudest accomplishments include participating in Musical Theatre productions here on Vashon. She was given free reign to both block and choreograph certain numbers when she was part of the Mary Poppins and Footloose shows. That opportunity really confirmed her love of musical theatre and performance. Sedona is looking forward to spending the summer with a team of young women who dress up as Disney princesses and tour the region performing their iconic songs. Sedona hopes to major in Musical Theatre and is excited about her future. Sedona will be receiving the Thespian Award and the VCFS Creative Spirit Award honoring her accomplishments in the performing arts.

Hunter Denall draws upon many experiences and influences he has had in his life in order to forge his own path. He considers his family the most important thing and he holds them “above all else”. While Hunter wants to help people in the future, right now he enjoys playing guitar, camping and working on cars. His letters of recommendation declare that he is courteous, he enacts positive change in any situation and tenaciously pursues his goal. Hunter plans to attend Seattle Central Community College to begin his journey, then looking towards a degree in mechanical engineering. Hunter is receiving the Jay Mathews Award and the Extra Mile Award for his determination and strong work ethic. Good Luck, Hunter.

Chad Dublin is described by both his teacher and his employer as a “leader”. Chad describes himself as kind, caring and helpful. In his essay he tells a story about helping a family successfully navigate a snow storm while skiing. Not only did he readily offer his assistance, but he went above and beyond by rescuing the family’s young son after he lost control of his skis and went into the trees. This event demonstrates Chad’s leadership and courage. Chad has worked at the Vashon Pharmacy for over a year and during that time he has developed an interest in working as a pharmacist. This career will meld nicely with his instincts to be of aid as well as his impressive problem-solving skills. Chad is a remarkable young man and we are very pleased to award him the Beardsley Foundation Scholarship.

Whether she is making your favorite drink at Pollard Coffee, working on a car or skating for a win in a Roller Derby competition, **Destiny Duncan** will have her signature smile and positive attitude ready. Destiny moved to Vashon just last year, from Texas, on the tails of Hurricane Harvey. In her essay she writes about participating in a speech competition, and winning 2nd place for the whole big state of Texas. But it was before getting the medal that her true character came through. She blanked in the middle of her speech, took a deep breath and managed to finish. At that point she pivoted, and “realized that I actually made it to state, and not a lot of people can say they went to state for preparing a speech.” With an award from Vashon Rotary, we look forward to seeing where Destiny’s destiny will take her.

The word that surfaces to describe **Keegan Edwards** again and again is “creative”. He is appreciated for being genuine and kind, a patient older brother and for his positive attitude and playful spirit. He recognizes that he is quiet and shy but points out his brave and adventurous side- that he loves to try new things. Keegan writes about how participating in online games with friends helped him to discover his problem solving abilities- and how he put them to use in real life. He has been in school performances, and had a great experience volunteering with a theater production company as part of the backstage crew. He enjoys biking around Vashon and plans to attend college to study either engineering, psychology or social studies. Well done, Keegan. We are pleased to award you the Thespian Scholarship and the VCSF Onward and Upward Award in support of your future adventures.

Amber Fairbanks considers herself to be organized and detail oriented. She likes to keep things neat and get things done. These traits will serve her well in her goal of becoming a nurse. With the current climate of the country, this is a noble and ambitious goal. Between balancing a life lived in two different communities, Seattle and Vashon, and her participation in both Vashon sports as well as a traveling hockey team, Amber has learned to manage her time and still retain her sense of self. A coach describes her as someone who truly takes pleasure in seeing the success of others, is disciplined, dependable and resilient. And, she enjoys baking! Amber has been awarded the Granny’s Attic Scholarship and we are very pleased to help her begin her journey.

Zander Feveyear has a defining passion in his life: to become a farmer specializing in poultry and cattle breeding. Zander has followed his passion by working at local farms, raising and showing chickens, and drawing up a business plan for his future ranch. A proud brother to his younger sister Lily, Zander also enjoys sewing, drawing, writing and making webcomics. The VCSF Humanitarian Award will be in good hands.

Gabe Flanagin is a combination of outdoor enthusiast and math/science aficionado. Not only did Gabe skip 7th and 8th grade math to go straight into high school algebra, but he has operated as a mountaineering trip leader with the Cascade Leadership Challenge program. Gabe told a very moving story in his essay about learning a valuable lesson in leadership – that to be a strong leader, you must recognize your team, listen well, and adjust your expectations while at the same time be encouraging. Gabe enjoys math, rock climbing, biking and skiing and has a quick sense of humor. He plans to study a STEM related field in college. With his strong leadership skills, Gabe will go very far in this life. Gabe is receiving the VCSF Reaching High Award.

Elliot French knows where he's headed: to Montana State University to study sustainable agriculture. He's been headed that direction since he was a youngster, when he became fascinated with a book he found in his Oma's house that was all about traditional skills-building a log cabin, raising animals, growing and preserving food. He was a mere 6th grader when he started a non-profit, growing vegetables in alleyways in Rainier Valley and donating the produce to food banks. His family moved to Vashon when he was a teenager. In no time, Elliot had started a vegetable garden, built a chicken coop and soon had a little business selling rare breeds. He writes, "With every new piece of knowledge, I felt more connected to the earth's rhythms and what I hope to be my work in the world." Elliot will head off to Montana with awards from Kay White Garden Club and Vashon Rotary.

Silas Gardener is a young man who loves to experience wild and sacred places: standing on the shoulder of Mt. Rainier, biking at dusk toward a chain of pink and purple mountains, riding horseback along a cliff above the sea, traveling with a friend to Stonehenge and beyond. While traveling on his own, Silas discovered the meaning of "agency" – that he could push himself past previous limitations and thus make his life more interesting and meaningful. Silas is described as "positive, calm, and self-assured". As someone who values solitude, it is no surprise that he is an avid reader. Mr. Rees says, "The fact that Silas is out in the world spreading the word about words makes me smile." These three scholarships celebrate your passion for reading, thinking and being: The Garretson-Helsby award, the Living Your Story Award, and the Sierra Marie Pedrin Linden Memorial Scholarship.

It has been only a little over a year since **Miriam Garduno** moved to Vashon from Mexico City, where she left behind family, friends and everything familiar. After her first day at Vashon High School she went home and told her dad she wanted to go back to Mexico. But this was their new home and they were here to stay. Since that time, Miriam has made friends, learned English, done well in her studies, participated in community groups and events like Comunidad Latina de Vashon and Baile de Nidia at VCA and she has a job at Casa Bonita. It took some work, but now Miriam likes being here. She considers the move from Mexico to the US an accomplishment she is very proud of. Miriam would like to go to flight attendant school so that she can continue to travel and meet new people. The Vashon Rotary Scholarship will help her on her way. Miriam, we wish you all the best!

Catherine Ghigleri is known for her wit -- always ready to crack a joke and willing to help a friend. Moving to Vashon offered friendship and support. She credits the high school community for teaching her to trust, to question and to grow. *Before moving here, I didn't think for myself, really. But Vashon High School gave me a new point of view, a new rhetoric to challenge the only one I had.* Catherine plans to pursue a career as a commercial airline pilot or an EMT. (She is currently a lifeguard in addition to juggling work, sports and school.) This generous Jerry and Sarah Mathews Scholarship will help support Catherine's future goals.

The ability to perceive opportunities where others might see obstacles is one of **Rain Giles'** greatest strengths. Challenging life experiences have inspired his resolve to help others and to serve as an EMT volunteer. The more he tests his abilities to multitask and lead, the more he grows. Rain's Explorer instructor praises Rain's ability to assess problems and their complex solutions. He has come to view this young volunteer as "a fellow protector of those in need." Rain is not afraid to engage in high-pressure situations and aspires to become a first responder. The Jaralene Spring, Beardsley and Truselo Family Scholarships will help him to acquire the foundational skills to perform this vital work in his community.

Chick Green has been *playing* music most of his life. But when he went to percussion camp one summer during middle school, he fell in love with *making* music. From that point on, he dove in to practicing and learning. Chick currently performs in 7 different bands! That is quite an accomplishment for anyone, let alone an 18 year old high school senior. Chick is proficient in piano, drums and bass guitar. His plans for the future include studying music in college and playing drums in a band. Chick is also an active volunteer, a leader and an Eagle Scout. We are proud to award Chick with two scholarships this year – the Ryan Krug Memorial Scholarship and the Peter Bruchas Scholarship. We wish Chick luck in following his chosen path.

Keeley Green learned many useful things during the seven summers she spent at Camp Orkila on Orcas Island. But the most valuable lesson she absorbed from that magical place is simply knowing who she is. Keeley is extremely empathetic and outgoing. Her future plans include studying psychology at a university. She wants to learn more about the mind, body and soul of humans, so that she can be of help when people are in need. She loves her family and friends, and enjoys all types of art, being out in nature, and poetry. You can often find her sitting outside in the grass, barefoot, writing about life. Not a bad place to be! Keeley is appropriately awarded the VCSF Humanitarian Scholarship.

River Gregorich goes in pursuit of a creative life: she dreams of owning a thrift store with a gallery attached. And already she is making this happen- with AP studio art classes, interning for a local artist and selling her art at venues on Vashon. But her creativity doesn't stop at the art studio door. River is described as a committed leader, a thoughtful contributor and a daring thinker. She has given her time and her heart to Guide Dogs and to Sister Circle. River is honored with awards from the Truselo Family, Vashon Island Visual Artists-VIVA, and the Mia McEldowney Award- given in memory of an artist and gallery owner. Jazz musician, actor, robotics teammate and mathematician extraordinaire,

Alex Guthery delivers with brilliance, humility and kindness. Humble excellence is how his math teacher describes his role in the classroom. Alex's kind and patient manner allows students he is helping to share their thoughts and feel comfortable learning together. Claiming shyness, he says the creative outlets – jazz band and VHS theatre - help him express himself more effectively. Alex's next step is a university and studying electrical engineering. You can count on there being music or theatre somewhere along the way! Alex has been awarded the Thespians Award, the Science and Math Innovation Scholarship and for his interest in environmental engineering, the PSCCU Sustainability Scholarship.

Throughout high school **Grace Hall** has participated in cheer and theatre productions, but it was traditional highland dancing that appealed most to Grace. Fourteen years of practice prepared her for award winning performances at the national level. A teacher writes, "Her success is the result of committed training, but also of her joy and love for this cultural heritage." Grace is equally committed to the guide dog program, which enables her to combine her passion for animals with her desire to help others. She is a dependable source of help and encouragement to many. Tonight she is honored with the VESP Scholarship, a Truselo Family Scholarship and a Thespian Award – all to support her interest in becoming a vet tech.

One thing you notice right away about **Jake Harrah** is that he's not afraid to embrace what is difficult. He acknowledges he is good at math, but really likes English in spite of not being very good at it. He is athletic and enjoys a diverse range of activities including cross country, basketball, snowboarding and golf. He captained the Pirate golf team his junior and senior year and thrived, earning high praise as a hardworking and empathetic leader. Both are traits that will serve him well as he pursues studies in either oceanography or finance with the VCSF Pirate Scholarship to help send him on his way.

Maya Harrison is an accomplished leader whose organizational and communication skills have flourished as ASB secretary and Cheer captain. Living in several untraditional housing arrangements endowed Maya with respect and gratitude for the true meaning of home and the power of family. She writes: *I believe you can have a house that isn't a home, and a home that isn't a typical house. I believe everyone deserves to find the feeling of home.* Maya can be both light-hearted and serious. She is outgoing, adventurous and dependable. Maya's goal to manage her own business will be supported by the very generous Jerry and Sarah Mathews Scholarship.

Exceptionally strong family ties bind **Jenna Harrold**, and she brings that love of family to all her friends. She is the self-described "Mom" of her friend group, and it is a role she relishes. Not only is she funny, bubbly and a compulsive "helper," she possesses a generosity of character and good-hearted leadership skills. These are on full display as she helps fellow students at the school based Neighborcare Clinic. Her caring and nurturing personality will carry her far as she explores studies in psychology and social work at South Seattle Community College and Western Washington University. The VCSF Humanitarian Award is tailor made for Jenna.

Quiet and reserved under most circumstances, **Spencer Hartley** transforms when he's onstage. A neighbor describes having seen Spencer in a VHS performance: "I was blown away by his stage presence." In a video production class at VHS, Spencer discovered that he enjoys acting in front of a camera... maybe even more than onstage. He is equally fascinated with the experiences of being behind the camera. That small taste of filming and editing was enough to get him thinking about pursuing a future in filmmaking. Spencer's interests are encouraged with awards from LDM Worldwide, and Thespians.

Sports are important to **Riley Heryford**. He played football and baseball throughout high school, moving from bench warmer to team captain. He loves biking, skateboarding and especially snowboarding, which he teaches at Alpentel. Riley is known for his loyalty and dry sense of humor. One teacher wrote, "*besides being funny as hell, Riley is confident, savvy and compassionate.*" Riley cares about others; that's why everyone loves him. Academia has never come easily, but the challenges only increased when his family suddenly moved to Mexico. Riley scrambled to learn Spanish and carve out a life for himself there. The Aspiri Family Scholarship will help him on the road ahead!

Logan Higuera seeks challenges that shape his character. Paddling tribal canoes with Coast Salish peoples has enlightened his knowledge of his own cultural heritage. Logan plans to carry on the traditions of his ancestors by stepping into a new role, that of teaching others on these traditional adventures. He likes to spread his positive energy and writes, "I am good at finding light in the dark." Self-directed and engaged, Logan shares his belief that interconnectedness is essential to any endeavor. In addition to Salish paddling, his future pursuits might include studies in business. A Vashon Rotary Scholarship celebrates Logan's singular determination and generosity of spirit.

Alex Hitchcock is keenly interested in technology and the development and use of new applications for it in a business environment. He is athletically talented with baseball and tennis being an important part of his life. A member of both varsity teams all four years of high school, he was selected to baseball's First Team All Nisqually League as a junior. He volunteers as a youth baseball coach serving as a mentor and role model to young players. Alex's math teacher sums up his traits concisely: He has confidence, diplomacy, humility and intelligence. He will continue to use these as he studies business in college with scholarships from Thriftway and Vashon Youth Baseball & Softball.

Political studies are an important part of **Robert Iwamoto's** life and he plans to have an involvement in local politics. Robert also has strong computer coding skills and plans to get a degree in Computer Science, following that up with a career at a major tech company. In addition to his academic interests, he enjoys outdoor activities including camping, hiking and biking. Robert's volunteer work at the West Seattle Food Bank provided him an opportunity to give back to his community and was a meaningful experience for him. Robert's generous and creative spirit is rewarded with an Onward & Upward Scholarship.

Commitment and dedication are continuing themes in everything that **Bryce Joanis** sets out to do. Like a renaissance man, he is well-rounded and accomplished. He enjoys family activities like hunting, camping and fishing. He is an active athlete, participating in football, track and soccer, and he has taught himself to play the guitar, ukulele and piano. He works on cars, and has a keen interest in graffiti and street art. All of these diverse interests and activities, as well as his organizational abilities, will provide a solid base for a successful career as he continues his studies with the help of a Thriftway Scholarship.

Mari Kanagy is a brilliant wordsmith who loves the beauty and the power of the written word. Since childhood Mari has wanted to be a journalist. She found an outlet for her voice during her three-year tenure with The Riptide. Her teacher explains, “Mari is an exceptional leader among writers; her humility and encouragement create a safe space for fellow writers.” In fact, she blazed the editorial conference process for the VHS journalism program. Her interests extend to bagpipes, lacrosse, paddle boarding and soccer, where she is constantly uplifting her teammates with her positive presence. Mari possesses intellectual courage and wrestles with the big questions in life with curiosity and candor. No wonder she is receiving the Sara Bremner Memorial Scholarship. In Sara, Mari would have recognized a kindred spirit.

Rowing has been **Kate Kelley’s** ticket to see the world! Through determination, hard work and more than a little bit of talent she qualified for the US Junior National team. She has traveled to Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Canada and, last summer, Japan to compete with the best teams in the world. Rowing doesn’t solely define Kelly though. She is a national honor society student, active in ASB, an award-winning journalist, cellist and sponsor of school girls in Kenya through Girls to Girls. Kate will be attending the University of Virginia where she will row and pursue a major in the STEM field, possibly biochemistry. She is receiving the Sawbones Math and Science Scholarship and the VCSF Academic Award.

Griffin Kingmann is a scholar of history, folklore and mythology, and the ways in which they intersect. From an early age, he steeped himself in these disciplines, seeking to understand their influence on world cultures. His teacher describes Griffin’s discerning mind as that of an academic researcher, with a passion for understanding our complex cultural history. In several years’ time, he wrote his own world history textbook, bringing new insights and shaping his own ideas and values. Griffin is quite certain that these studies will become a bridge to his future career as a writer and scholar. The Truselo Family Scholarship celebrates his quest for knowledge and love of learning.

Gillian Kirkpatrick loves the unlimited potential of studying scientific fields, especially chemistry and biology. Her desire to stretch herself by asking complicated questions is admired and encouraged by her teachers. This trait is evidenced by Gillian's outreach and advocacy for others, as well. It is noted that her positive energies have acted as a catalyst in creating ongoing change in school related projects, helping to lay the groundwork for fellow students to thrive. Gillian looks forward to a career in scientific disciplines; her love of learning, creative thinking and collaborative spirit are certain to help her achieve her goals. Congratulations Gillian! You are the recipient of the Fair Isle, Thespians and VCSF Academic Scholarships.

Kasey Kirschling is a very focused and dedicated young man. He was a swimmer for the Vashon Seals for 10 years and a US Naval Sea Cadet during high school. Through swim team and Sea Cadets he garnered countless awards. In swimming, he earned medals at the regional and state levels. In Sea Cadets, Kasey was designated Cadet of the Year. He embodies the idea of a "coach's choice" and a "rising star" - two of his other awards. Kasey has spent many hours giving back to his community in many ways: trail building, doing bridge repairs on the Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad, engine repair for the Virginia V steamship and participating in the "Cover Our Pool" initiative here on Vashon. Kasey plans to enter the ROTC program at WSU and major in mechanical engineering. For his well-rounded achievement and service, Kasey has been awarded the Harbor School Board of Trustees Scholarship and the Making a Difference Now Scholarship.

Being active in the great outdoors is a priority for **Marley Kott**. He is an avid road and mountain biker, successfully completing the island's grueling Passport to Pain race. Soccer and tennis are Marley's other passions and he was a member of Vashon's 2019 state championship soccer team. He acknowledges that moving to Vashon from Oregon in the middle of his sophomore year was difficult but shaped him into a more self-assured person. His academic areas of interest include engineering, chemistry and biology. Marley's innate curiosity and joyful nature will serve him well as he continues his studies with help from the Sawbones Math and Science Scholarship and the Vashon Soccer Club Award.

Adventurous, dedicated and self-confident is how **Nicholas Kraabel** is described by his cross country coach. While taking classes at South Seattle Community College he left a lasting impression on his math teacher who is effusive in her praise of both his analytical abilities and his role as a class leader. Nick's academic achievements are lengthy and impressive, and he is also an accomplished soccer player. He has traveled and studied abroad in prestigious technology and engineering programs. Nick plans to attend Washington State University getting an undergraduate degree in economics or programming and continuing on with more advanced schooling en route to a Ph.D. He is the recipient of a Thriftway Scholarship as well as a Focus on the Future Award.

Luca Kuzma has a well-rounded list of interests: traveling and trying new foods, learning about history and philosophy, making art, watching movies and stand-up comedy, running, hiking and camping with his family. But without a doubt, learning languages is his passion. At one point in time, he became so frustrated by listening to people speak in Spanish, and not being able to understand, even though he had already been taking Spanish for two years. So, he took it upon himself to change that. Naturally, he started with Italian, because he's Italian. Within two years of using the language app, Duolingo, he was conversationally fluent. And that was just the beginning. He is now working on French, Spanish and Italian. Luca intends to spend the year after high school studying abroad in Italy, before attending a university with language programs. His passion for language and curiosity for life are being recognized with the Susan Garlick Award.

When **Mia Giovanna Kuzma** enters the dance studio, when her pointe shoes are tied and her hair is secured, the rest of the world is forgotten. Mia has been fascinated by ballet since she was very young and intends to pursue a career as a professional dancer. She describes the experience of going on stage to perform, her ritual of taking three deep breaths to stay focused, listening for her music, then letting it fill her body with sound and movement. She writes, "When I am dancing, the room is bare and all I see is space to fill." Mia leaves quite an impression. Her focus and determination have earned her great respect from her dance peers at VCA, her teachers and the artist community. At Student Link, she created classes in dance psychology, and anatomy and physiology, steadily working towards her goal. Mia Giovanna Kuzma will receive VCA's Art Hansen Scholarship as well as the En Pointe Award, in support of her future in dance. Merde!

Elizabeth Lande describes herself as "*an individualistic person who strives to excel in academics and personal interests.*" And she does: valedictorian, Riptide manager, lacrosse player, varsity runner, and Thriftway employee. In addition, Ellie is involved in church activities, watches the occasional classic movie, and co-leads a non-profit group that helps Kenyan girls attend school, generating 200 scholarships in the last 5 years. Her goal is to run the race of life with confidence and compassion. Besides being creative and insightful, Ellie takes chances and always puts in the extra work – that extra something that sets her apart. This good natured, accomplished young woman is receiving the Nuovo Corso Award, the Windermere Award as well as the Thriftway Award.

Trucks, movies, trap shooting, hard work and the ability to fix stuff are themes that pop up in **Joe LaVigueur's** scholarship notebook - along with helping neighbors after the disaster of Hurricane Harvey. Joe is known to get things done with a good attitude, flexibility and always by working hard. He has done so as life has unfolded for him in many different locations across the nation and in at least one foreign country. The Vashon Engineers Award is perfectly matched with Joe's desire to study mechanical engineering and the Patricia Britz Scholarship pays homage to curiosity and figuring out how to solve problems. Joe can do it!

One story about **Olivia London-Chambers** really needs to be enjoyed by all. Her math teacher put it this way in his recommendation letter. *“Olivia wrote a brilliant parody of Carly Rae Jepsen’s ‘Call Me Maybe’, which included a full music video and complete lyrical rewrite. ‘Graph It Maybe’ was an instant hit across the VHS campus and Olivia stole the show as the group’s lead singer.”* This equation of Olivia’s musical, comedic and organizational skills is not complete without mentioning her long standing devotion to soccer and anything in the outdoors. Olivia, your creativity, energy and character are honored today by the Vashon Island Soccer Club and Jay Mathews Memorial Scholarships.

Baseball seems to define **Aidan McCann**. He is devoted to the sport and his teammates, and he continually improves because of his physical and mental discipline. Aidan contributes balance and support to his fellow players with his emotional maturity. The athletic and academic awards and friendships he has made through baseball are well earned treasures. No matter where he winds up Aidan is going to be a hit because he has a good head on his shoulders, a great sense of humor, remarkable commitment and a deep sense of social justice. Aidan, you have gone the Extra Mile as a student athlete and will receive that award as well as a new scholarship called “Out of the Park”. Well done.

When asked to describe himself to a stranger, **Alex McVeigh** wrote about his compassion for others and his listening skills. He also says, “I like manga, ballet, and the color turquoise.” When Alex is interested in something, he dives in. He took three years of Japanese, and was a member of the Japanese Club. He has begun studying Korean and Chinese as well. Alex has made art since middle school, and found a way to share this joy by volunteering at the Vashon Library. The Library program director noted the value of his input in building their collection of art supplies, and most importantly, his ability to make his fellow teen participants feel welcomed. In the future, Alex would like to study art, travel to Asia, create graphic novels and teach English to students in Japan. He will get some help for this with an award from Vashon Island Visual Artists and the Truselo Family Scholarship.

Georgia Mechura attests to the invaluable life lessons gained by being a dedicated equestrienne. Among those she values most are the gifts of perseverance, self-confidence and empathy. Georgia writes of her experience, “Riding has given me a strong work ethic, the opportunity to gain patience and has made me a better person.” A teacher adds that Georgia grounds herself in values that last: honesty, hard work and generosity. As a member of her Pony Club team, Georgia has worked hard to focus on her own as well as others’ complementary strengths, bringing personal fulfillment and adding to the accomplishments of her club. She believes in doing her best every day and as a result, doors open. With a strong sense of direction, Georgia will follow her passion and major in equine studies during college. The Truselo Family Scholarship celebrates this goal.

During the last four years **Dominick Nagle's** contributions to the VHS lacrosse team have demonstrated his athletic gifts, his work ethic and a sterling character that is thoughtful and caring. Dominick has studied and respected the game and shared his knowledge and encouragement with younger players. Consistent, positive support of his teammates exemplifies Dominick's personality. Similar qualities were noted by his English teacher who added that Dominick has academic courage. He is willing to take a risk to learn and pushes through difficult assignments with quiet but engaged common sense. Your future looks strong, Dominick, with such skills and traits and we know the Truselo Family Scholarship will help with your college plans.

Travel and technology as well as strong family bonds and hard work loom large in **Isabella Nuxoll's** life. In addition to being described as "truly, a gifted math thinker" Isabella is also described as "very warm" and "easy going". This combination will serve her well in the Information Technology field and is demonstrated in dual accomplishments when she receives both her Vashon High School Diploma AND her Associates of Computer Science Degree from Tacoma Community College. Isabella says "I enjoy laughing my way through life while also remembering to take things seriously here and there". As she continues her education the VCSF board would like to support her with our prestigious Past Presidents' Award for her outstanding academic excellence.

Mitchell Nye is described as competitive, yet kind and focused, with a wonderful sense of humor. He has demonstrated leadership, teamwork and self-discipline, skills that have evolved over the years as he participated in sports and classroom activities. Mitchell says "I try and pick people up around me whether it's my teammates or classmates". He plans to attend college to pursue a career in either journalism or video game development and we would like to support him in this endeavor with the VCSF Venture Onward Award. Congratulations Mitchell and Good Luck!

Renz O'Meara has been through some rough times. He changed schools four times in a year before starting school on Vashon. Through it all, he has maintained a resiliency. He has a gift for connecting with others. A hardworking rower for three years, he was voted in as captain of his team. His coach says, "The needs of others are a priority for him. Moms do this for their children, Renz does this for his peers. The team will suffer his absence next year, but the rest of the world is lucky to finally get a piece of Renz." Renz donates blood regularly, volunteers at the Senior Center and with rowing club events. He enjoys the mythology of Ireland, politics, cooking and baking. Swedish meatballs are his specialty! To support his athleticism and his goal of becoming an airline pilot, Renz will receive the Extra Mile Award, the Vashon Island Rowing Club Scholarship and the Scout Award.

Brigit O'Rourke, you are passionate about life, its challenges and opportunities. We respect your commitment to doing your very best. In your experience with crew a few years back, you earned the opportunity to go to nationals, and you learned that when you set a goal and focus on it, hard work really does pay off. Take that understanding with you, apply it to whatever you choose and you will always do well. We thank you for giving back, whether teaching young kids how to swim, or spending a couple of months in Costa Rica with the Amigos program. We know you will continue to find ways to contribute to our world as you move forward on your own journey. You've learned that your past experiences will always help shape your future. We admire your goals of heading to the University of Washington and then to med school, become a surgeon and ultimately serve our country in a branch of the military. We certainly don't have to look far today to see the remarkable contribution of our medical community, and we are humbled by your desire to join them. With the Katie Chale Memorial Scholarship, we wish you all the best in your future.

When **Isaac Patchen** began participating in Competitive Sports, he saw them as a source of torture. As he continued on his journey through high school, however, he was able to turn that torture into a basis for self-realization, commitment, personal motivation and fulfillment. Isaac refined these remarkable traits in the classroom as well. His playfulness and creative sides were demonstrated in the very popular YouTube sensation "Kiss My Cosine Graph". If you get a chance to see it, it's quite entertaining and remarkably educational. We are happy to support Isaac in his education after high school with the VCSF Creative Spirit Scholarship.

Congratulations Isaac, you will be fun to watch!

How do you describe a student who has such divergent interests as politics, music, blacksmithing, weight- lifting, track and video production with an eye to earning a mechanical engineering degree? This same student is academically impressive and shows great initiative. I guess we will just describe him as **Omar Peck**. Omar also loves exploring the outdoors and participated in the now famous "Kiss My Cosine Graph" video with fellow student, Isaac.

Again, if you get a chance to see it, it's worth the time. To support him on his path to becoming an automotive engineer, Omar is receiving the generous Windermere Scholarship.

Congratulations Omar!

Aislin Pinckney once thought of herself as a shy introvert but had the courage to venture out of her assumed role to realize that she has the power to make connections, engage and tap into her inner strengths. As a result, Aislin is trusted and respected by her fellow students and as stated by one of her peers "She has always been willing to answer each of my various questions with kindness and patience. "One of Aislin's teachers writes "...Aislin really stands out. She is brilliant, humble, hardworking and inclusive". To support Aislin's goals of a career in the medical field she will be receiving the Molar Award and the VCSF Academic Award.

Sam Profit made a profound life- time realization when he was pretty young. As an avid baseball player he realized that “failure is more frequent than success” and it is important to “do your best, keep working at it, and forgive yourself and your teammates when errors are made”. According to his teachers and mentors, Sam exemplifies these attributes in everything he does, all while excelling in his studies and leadership skills. Sam hopes to pursue engineering or medicine after high school and will be receiving the Barbara L. Drinkwater Award in addition to the Vashon Youth Baseball Award as he advances toward his goals.

How can you not love a student whose happiest memory is dressing up as Dasher, one of Santa’s reindeer? The selfless and giving spirit that can don a “sweaty hot costume for hours, several years in a row just to bring joy to the children of our Island is just one gift that **Logan Prouse** brings to those in his community. In addition to being an excellent student, he is known for his imagination, creativity and ability to work well with others. Logan plans to attend WSU in the fall and will receive the Deanna H. Hansen Memorial Scholarship and a Vashon Youth Baseball Award.

Beckett Reid has been busy these last four years. He’s been a very successful student, an all-around athlete- in and out of school, he has donated his time to community service, and worked during the summers- including an auto detailing business he ran on his own. He enjoys lifting weights and the patience it has taught him. He is totally obsessed with cars, and spends hours with friends, rebuilding engines and doing body restoration. Beckett’s willingness to work hard, and his interest in hands on work send him in pursuit of a degree in Mechanical Engineering. I’m sure we’ll see Beckett figure out how to make it work with awards from Vashon Rotary and a VCSF Academic Award.

Sean Robertson has been fascinated by both math and science for as long as he can remember. But he also has a passion for political science and law creating an interesting intersection of technology and politics. Sean has excelled in track and cross country as well as robotics and technical production. As a result of his well- rounded interests Sean plans to pursue a dual degree in engineering and political science and he will no doubt succeed in any course he chooses. Congratulations Sean, you are awarded a Beardsley Family Foundation Scholarship to advance you in your pursuits.

On the high school checklist of great attributes and accomplishments, **Hank Rogers** frankly rates five stars on every conceivable item. Each of Hank’s academic and athletic successes, not to mention his lesser known musical skills, tell a story of a gifted individual with an extraordinary work ethic. Hank’s talent and drive get results delivered with seeming ease while showing genuine appreciation for his peers and instructors. Hank would tell you his greatest experiences are found in the natural world when he is flying up, down and around a ski slope or a mountain bike track – suspended in blissful freedom. Congratulations on being awarded the Sarah Bremner Scholarship, Hank, which celebrates excellence and living fully as well as the Vashon Tennis Club Scholarship.

Cord Roush describes herself as a perfectionist: “artistic and kooky.” For as long as she can remember, Cord has been busy improving her drawings, often to illustrate her own stories. She finds inspiration in the art and music of Jamie Hewlitt and so many others. Beyond the world of creative art, Cord is – like most of us – trying to understand the political landscape. “There’s just so much going on recently in politics, in the country and around the world... I think it would be good to have a deeper understanding so I might study political science. In my 18 years of life, I feel like I haven’t learned enough – or done – enough.” The Terri Colello and Burton Church Scholarships will help to broaden your understanding of the world and your place in it.

In **Kale Scheer’s** notebook, he stated “I embrace new challenges and I always strive for positive change.” Kale’s interests, endeavors, and accomplishments, throughout his high school years are vast and varied. Kale has played tennis, run track, taught himself more instruments than we have time to list, he skis, he hikes, he draws and paints. The list just goes on. Teachers and friends describe Kale as “hard working, creative, intelligent, athletic, kind, and funny”. I am happy to announce that Kale is receiving the Voice of Vashon Scholarship and the VCSF Creative Spirit Scholarship as he pursues a career in Sound Engineering or Business and Music Management.

Djuna Schuerholz-Wright *finds inspiration in people who take action to make the world a better place.*” Djuna wants to find her own place in the quest for social and environmental justice. Indeed, she has proven her ability to organize students around the urgent issues facing her generation. Her teachers attest to her ambition and courage as well as her consistent kindness and ability to inspire her peers. Djuna is mindful of community – wise and patient beyond her years – witty and fun and in love with life. Who you are and how you choose to live your life resonates with our donors. You have been selected as the worthy recipient of four scholarships: The Audubon Award, the Peace Award, Zero Waste Award as well as the Bound to Make a Difference Scholarship. Altogether they celebrate your optimism and your thoughtful leadership.

Emmett Sherman has earned the respect of his boss of 4 years: “*Emmett puts equal amount of pride and effort into his personal life as he does his work life... his skills are intrinsic, the kind one shows up with.*” Emmett is a self-starter who enjoys hands-on work. His carpentry teacher puts it this way: “*Some of us find our genius in the application of the hand and mind to the physics of everyday life*”. Emmett writes about the satisfaction of gutting a deer in the pouring rain with the same clarity as he describes how feeding those less fortunate influenced his outlook on life. For his integrity and dedication, Emmett is receiving the Truselo Family Scholarship, the Vornbrock Award and the Adam Smith Scholarship.

Emily Singer is described as empathetic, hard-working, responsible, and a “pleasure to know”. Family and personal integrity are very important to her and she credits her mom’s positive influence for all of these wonderful traits. Emily has an artistic side as well. She enjoys drawing and painting, and would like to travel the world someday. It’s not surprising that she hopes to further her education in the fields of social justice or perhaps early childhood development. To advance Emily’s educational goals she is receiving the VCSF Focus on the Future Award. Congratulations Emily!

The Penny Farcy Memorial Scholarship is given each year to a student who exemplifies dedication to their community in the form of community service. **Cara Snodgrass** has hit the mark for this in countless activities and actions. Her quality of work and conscientiousness as well as a genuine desire to learn and expand shines through in everything she does from counseling students at Camp Waskowitz to boxing groceries at Thriftway. Cara is caring and focused and will undoubtedly continue to contribute to any community that is lucky enough to have her.

Isabelle Spence says that being elected Editor in Chief of the Riptide was the first time she felt a real challenge and knew she couldn’t “coast” her way through. So she took the job on with what her teacher describes as “focus, sky-high expectations of herself and inspired leadership”. Besides the Riptide, Isabelle maintains a 3.99 GPA and volunteers in the community with the Vashon Opera, the Chautauqua Youth Center, the Olympia Page Program and as a teaching assistant at L’Oulistitti, the French preschool. Isabelle would like to someday work in government focusing on social justice reform. She is being awarded the Vashon Heritage Museum Scholarship and the Making a Difference Now Scholarship.

Hannah Spranger is a passionate, hardworking and joyful person. Her love of adventure is fueled by family and close friends. She excels academically, graduating from VHS with an impressive 4.0 GPA. As co-content editor for the Riptide she honed her writing skills and developed an interest in journalism. Her passions include dance and soccer, participating in both for many years. With her kind spirit and warm personality she has become an exceptional role model to the young dancers she helps teach. Hannah plans to continue her studies in college with an interest in journalism, chemistry and choreography. The PEO and En Pointe Scholarships she is receiving will help start her on her way.

As ASB president and cheer captain, **Talia Spurlock’s** leadership skills shine. She embodies school spirit and values community involvement. Talia is interested in health-related science and finds meaning in solving real life problems. Talia’s devotion to medical care began with her beloved grandmother’s struggle with leukemia. As Talia helped with her care she learned the power and limitations of medicine. She currently works at our island pharmacy where she is known for her initiative and empathy. The Aspiri Family Scholarship celebrates Talia Spurlock’s independent spirit, her work ethic and her commitment to helping others.

Shira Stahl savors adventures in the out-of-doors and the chance to discover new places. Her natural curiosity about the world and love of people strengthen her belief that the more we are exposed to different cultural experiences, the more we grow. Shira is grateful for the opportunity to attend a Jewish summer camp, an immersion that was deeply meaningful to her. Learning about her own cultural heritage and making personal connections brought new insights and the resolve to carry them forward. One teacher admires Shira's buoyancy of spirit and her fearlessness to ask questions. Shira writes, "Whether it be through acceptance of those different than me, small acts of kindness, or social and environmental action, I feel mandated to do all I can to make this world a better place." It is an honor to present Shira with the 2020 Dr. Gary Koch Scholarship.

Evan Stephanick is quiet but confident. He says he's developed the ability to "stick with something" and do the hard work to realize success. An example is Evan's commitment to the track team in his freshman year that led to a sophomore year of competing at State on VHS's 100 meter relay team. He also credits his experiences in track for providing growth and resilience. Evan endured an injury in his junior year that took all he could give to overcome it and regain competitiveness. While healing, he attended every practice and assisted teammates when he could. He found that helping others and working on your own problems are not mutually exclusive. For his persistence and dedication, Evan is being awarded the VCSF Inspiration Award.

Here is an ingredient list for **Alexia Taisey**:

Start with a large helping of volleyball.

Add equal parts schoolwork, ASB and commuting.

Mix with a big and beautiful dose of family.

Now add the secret ingredients: hard work, positivity, organizational skills and genuine kindness.

Stir it all together. Wait 4 years and you get a highly respected team captain, ASB president and young woman who finds deep joy and connection with her family and her community.

Note: This is a recipe that never fails.

Congratulations Alexia, the Granny's Attic Scholarship will help you pursue your interest in physical therapy and you clearly have earned the Extra Mile Award.

Compassionate and self-aware, with a wry sense of humor is the essence of

Griffin Towns. Add in a profound love of animals and an appreciation for the arts and we have all the components of a sound base for a wonderful and successful life. Griffin also enjoys travel. He was touched by the school trip to Japan, and is eagerly awaiting the chance to return to the country and his host family. Griffin's list of future plans includes: visiting and working in Finland; learning to pilot small aircraft; studying art and animation, as well as biology and animals. The well-deserved Creative Spirit Award will help achieve those goals.

A natural extrovert, **Gwynne Valencia** always seeks out chances to perform and entertain. She has been a Pirate cheerleader for four years and enjoys the camaraderie of the team and choreographing routines. An accomplished dancer, Gwynne has been involved in dance performances for ten years, and was cast as Dorothy in the troupe's production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Easygoing, optimistic and determined are the words she uses to describe herself and they are traits that will serve her well as she takes the next step in her educational journey studying communications and public relations. Gwynne is the recipient of a VCSF Academic Scholarship.

Jules Vanselow is her “own person” who takes the “road less traveled” without apology. *I have always been determined to make those around me understand and consider my opinions.* The constant struggle to understand her personal truth has defined her school experience, all the while developing empathy for others and reaching out to make a positive difference in their lives. Forging friendships in Seattle expanded her social circle, clarified her personal identity and rekindled a childlike sense of confidence and trust in the world. Le Bon Mot Scholarship honors Jules for her gifts of intuition and her courage to speak her convictions. Jules, you are an intriguing, creative, artistic young woman who is also receiving the Vashon Island Visual Artists Award and the Beauty Nook award.

Lucas Vasquez never wavers in his commitment to family. He is kind, honest and always willing to lend a hand. Lucas has described himself as a good listener, funny, a friend to many and a hard worker. He lived in Mexico for a time as a child and has fond memories of getting to know his relatives there. Lucas has moved many times in his life but he writes that change always felt comfortable to him because he’s never been without family. He explains that one of the most significant experiences of his life has been volunteering in the Vashon Island Explorer’s Program, as it reinforces his natural desire to contribute to the well-being of others. For his generous spirit and his resilience, Lucas is recognized today as a recipient of the Truselo Family Scholarship.

Ella Wheeler, you are receiving the Katie Chale and Ryan Krug Memorial Scholarships. Basketball, soccer, lacrosse- team captain in all of them. Mr. Callender said you consistently perform well both as a student and an athlete, and that you do so with grace and humility. Your lacrosse coach described you as a steadfast young woman of unrivaled compassion, intelligence and substance. You... are... a competitor.....with an extraordinary heart and a mind that will take you anywhere you want to go. When you weren’t on the court, the pitch, or the field, you found time to be a counselor at Camp Waskowitz, participate in Girls to Girls, and volunteer with the Vashon Kids afterschool program. We wish you happiness and success as you pursue your degree in Sociology with a concentration in criminal justice.

Spencer Wheeler is honest and big hearted. He enjoys working hard and is proud of his entrepreneurial endeavor to start a successful lawn care business. Spencer possesses a deep love of nature, animals and the out of doors; he would like to turn his passion for working outside into a career. As a self-proclaimed steward of the planet, he's interested in future projects that will raise awareness of environmental issues facing us all. Helping to build affordable, eco-friendly communities and leaving things better than he found them are Spencer's ultimate goals. He wishes to be remembered as a builder, and in this spirit, Spencer is being honored as recipient of the Adam Smith, Patricia Britz and Truselo Scholarships.

Bronwyn White believes in turning challenges into opportunities. With resiliency of spirit and sheer determination, she has built a mindset of endurance that led to success in academics and athletics. Bronwyn possesses the unique ability to be simultaneously humorous and serious, a trait appreciated by those who know her best. Her strong, empathic spirit allows her to stretch herself and to forge strong, lasting friendships. As Bronwyn looks to the future and her interest in the field of epidemiology, she writes of plans to steer a course that will help alleviate human suffering wherever she finds it. Bronwyn, we celebrate your exceptional initiative and courage! You're the recipient of the Granny's Attic Scholarship.

Olivia White goes the extra mile because she finds intrinsic value in creating something unique and beautiful. Her artistic skills have been put to work illustrating a short novel as well as creating memorable class projects in geometry and pre-calculus. She has achieved great academic success, and is an accomplished rower. While understanding the value of being part of a team, she brings a strong work ethic and sense of humor to her jobs. Olivia plans to attend school on the east coast and pursue a career as a forensic pathologist. Congratulations on receiving a Vashon Pharmacy Scholarship as well as a VCSF Academic Award.

Jamie Wiegner excels in the arts and the sciences. He described himself as an actor, a scholar and a comedian. "*I can make you laugh, break your heart, and help you challenge your worldview.*" Jamie is wise beyond his years. He enjoys learning; in fact, he loves learning... He gives a long list of his favorite high school classes, and he earns top grades in all of them. When Greta Thurnburg was calling out governments for their unwillingness to address climate change, Jamie was listening. She inspired him to squeeze more math and science courses into his schedule; he will be well prepared to succeed in environmental engineering. To that end, Jamie's aspirations will be supported by 4 scholarships: the Rachel Munger, the Zero Waste, the Thespian and the Losornio Awards.

It is no surprise that **Simon Wilke** has chosen a non-traditional high school pathway. He is a “hands-on” learner who sets high goals and works hard to accomplish them. A maverick in his own right, Simon meets challenges with determination and confidence. He has worked 2 years at a clothing store, gaining experience with a range of manufacturing, marketing and teaching skills. Simon is known for his skateboard expertise. He has been a leader in the evolution of our Vashon skate park and has earned his bones in the Seattle skateboard community as well. His classes at SSCC are preparing him for a career in welding. The Beardsley Family Scholarship celebrates Simon’s independent spirit and eagerness to learn.

While you may have enjoyed excellent service from **Samantha Zeigler** when you visited May’s Kitchen, you may not have realized what a multi-faceted young woman just crossed your path. In her essay, Samantha writes about finding her way through loss, and her appreciation of family. She is the youngest of three girls. Samantha values the friendships she has made at VHS as one of her most meaningful accomplishments. As an athlete, she added her personal spark to the Lacrosse and Crew teams. On a list of her Top Ten for 2020, she includes “The Godfather”, coffee, and adequate sleep. An award from Granny’s Attic and a VCSF Academic Award will help Samantha on her future path!

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