

## How Much Do You Know About WCC's Student Support Services?

by Daniel Charles



Tamica Nelson (left) and Sophia Piñeiro (right)  
Photo by Daniel Charles

The vast majority of WCC's student body desire an affordable college experience, but not many students seem to be aware of the many programs offered on campus to make that dream a reality. Is it due to the unfortunate stigma about asking for financial help in our society? The good news is that WCC has alleviated much of that concern by providing students with a group of courteous, professional, and discreet staff members who are ready to offer assistance in a wide variety of circumstances. That team is called Student Support Services and their office can be found on the lower level of the Student Center in room 013.

Sophia Piñeiro, Assistant Director of Student Support Services, describes her department as "the basic needs hub of the college." The staff is here to tackle any obstacle outside of the classroom that impedes the academic success of a student. For example, they have access to an Emergency Metro Pass Fund which allows prepaid Metro cards to be given out to qualifying students. The passes can be used for a day, week, or month depending on the need. According to Piñeiro, the requirements to enroll in this program are that the person must be a registered student (either part-time or full-time) and must either "have their college tuition balance completely

paid by the Bursar's office or have a payment plan set up." The program evolved during COVID to cover commuter bus fares for students through Pay Pal since physical Metro cards could not be handed out. This Pay Pal program's creation has led to the genesis of another program which covers gas money for students. This program is limited and temporary, but is still operational as of this writing.

Any student who makes the decision to utilize Student Support Services will first meet with Tamica Nelson, the Adjunct Counselor of the department. Nelson describes her role in the department as follows: "I assess the needs of a student in order to make a decision on whether they get different types of funding." This financial assistance is used to alleviate any acute economic stressors that a student is facing, and if those circumstances persist, an action plan is created to figure out how the student can reach a place of financial security and independence for the future.

Student Support Services also offers a food pantry, snack bar, and hygiene station which can be used inconspicuously. The department provides application assistance with SNAP benefits (food stamps) for registered students who meet income requirements, as well as WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) benefits to support student parents. Gerstner Emergency Aid is a grant provided by the department that offers up to \$2,000 to students who meet the acute emergency requirement, possess a 2.0 GPA or higher, and are taking at least 6 credits. The funds are sent to the third-party requesting them, such as a student's landlord.

To begin taking advantage of SSS, call their office at 914-606-7854.

## Rock on, Pink Puff: *Kirby and the Forgotten Land*

by Lucas Werner

Following the success of Kirby Star Allies in 2018, Kirby and the Forgotten Land, Nintendo's new platform video game for Switch, gives us Kirby's first adventure in 3D, and it is certainly a sight to behold. The action, playstyles, and variety of enemies will definitely provide a good time to Kirby's many fans.

Kirby's moves in Forgotten Land took me back to my first delightful playthrough of a Kirby game: Planet Robobot (2016). As Kirby jumped, inhaled, and hovered his way around in a 3-dimensional format—not just moving left to right in a side-scroller format—it brought that great feeling back to me. Being able to run around in a circle and just unleash a world of hurt on any enemy I came across in this 3D platform, I felt like I was on top of the world.

Here's a summary of the story: One day, a strange vortex opens up in the sky above Planet Popstar, sucking up Kirby, Bandana Waddle Dee and the regular Waddle Dees into a post-apocalyptic world where nature has overgrown civilization. After saving a little mouse-like creature named Elfilin from a mysterious Beast Pack, Kirby learns that the normal Waddle Dees have been captured by the Beast Pack. Now it's up to the "Super

Tough Pink Puff" to save the day yet again.

Aside from the story, there are some new technical additions to the standard Kirby formula in this installation, making it a cut above the rest among modern games:

- Evolving copy abilities using special blueprints found throughout the game (similar to how Pokémon evolves), along with using new copy abilities of the older Drill and Ranger capabilities to beat down the bad guys
- Unique challenges in each level that allow you to obtain Waddle Dees to use for various purposes
- The fun option to develop "Waddle Dee Town" using the Waddle Dees you rescue

There are features from other Nintendo games such as the aforementioned copy ability evolution (Pokémon), 3D playing style (Super Mario 3D World) and the ability to develop Waddle Dee Town (Animal Crossing). These game franchises definitely have made their mark on the digital world.

If there were some improvements I could hope for, I wish that some of the level challenges were a little bit easier to do, and that it would be possible to combine copy abilities, because the possibilities would be endless, such as "Bomb Tornado" or "Volcano Drill." But those reservations aside, I definitely recommend Kirby and the Forgotten Land and I give it a 9/10 rating.



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