

# BELLE MEADE



School | Farm | Day Camp | B & B



## Here we come a Wassailing

As with every year, the Belle Meade School went parading through Little Washington, singing and carrying on. We had learned three songs and written one of our own, The Twelve Days of Belle Meade. It's always really fun to see the floats and flocks of people doing their own celebration. This year, we were behind The Wizard of Oz float and got to listen to them singing the songs from the performance.

I always enjoy the Christmas Parade, love both to perform and sing, and to see others do the same. It's a great show of holiday enthusiasm and gusto.

Leif Kvarnes

## Music

Music is passion. Music played without passion is not true music. Music is work, but that work is one of the most rewording kinds. If you can play a song and say to yourself, I know that song, I know what that song is. Now that is a great feeling. If you think that you can just learn a few songs to make yourself cool or more popular, then you are wrong. None of that is music. Music is a way to create strong new friendships and strengthen old ones. Music is love.

Oliver Herron

## Guys in Guise, Folk in Cloak



In the World History class, which is taught by John, we often do research papers or similar work. However, John gave us a new homework assignment that we jumped on. The idea was to pick a person who lived between the years of 1490-1890, and to learn as much about his/her life as possible. Then, we would come to class, in character as that person, and interact with other people who were in character. Everyone had a fun time guessing the others were, and at the end we all compared our notes to figure out who was who.

Ava-Marie Antoinette, McKayla- Benedict Arnold, Leif- Lorenzo Romano Amedeo Carlo Avogadro di Quaregna e di Cerreto, Lauren-Andrew Carnegie, James-John H Reagan, Ethan-Grenville Jackson, Alex- Elizabeth I of England, John-Yi Sun Shin, Lasse-Montezuma

Leif Kvarnes

## Addam's Family

We have been working on the play for a couple months now. We are brainstorming, and we have come up with a lot of great ideas. For example, we have thought about doing an interactive theater and making the whole music room the "stage". Ana and Ava have been costume shopping and have gotten a lot of costumes. We have been practicing lines and editing the script. David or "Pops" has been a major help in selecting songs and adding or scratching things where need be. We are all working very hard and having fun while doing it!

McKayla Colgan



## Thanksgiving in New York City

I spent my first, ever experienced Thanksgiving traveling to New York City and Connecticut with Alex and Noah.

We started our trip on the 25th of November and drove to New York City which took about 5 hours.

When we arrived, we took a short trip to Times Square and Broadway. On our second and third day we went sightseeing and saw the World Trade Center, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMa), the Statue of Liberty and much more. After that we went to Connecticut to celebrate Thanksgiving with Alex and her family. I think Thanksgiving is a very nice holiday; it's good to spend time with family and loved ones and important to remember the American history. This week was a lot of fun, and I will always remember Thanksgiving as an awesome and exciting part of my exchange year.

Lasse Naumann

## The Trimester Dinner

On November 20th, Belle Meade School had our first trimester dinner. The theme this time was renaissance; so, to celebrate the theme, we dressed up in renaissance-y clothing, served medieval themed foods and played renaissance era songs. We had started cleaning and setting up tables the day before, but we were still frantically cleaning until about 4:00. We then changed into our costumes, and the night began. The first order of business that night was greeting guests and just generally milling around. That was quite nice; we were all able to just relax and have fun. Soon after the families arrived, dinner was served. It was buffet style; we had roasted vegetables, pot pie, breads, fruits, cheeses and assorted warm, comfort foods perfect for a renaissance style dinner. After dinner, came the entertainment. Our first song that night was Try to Remember by Tom Jones. Our strings class (Kimber, Leif, Lasse, Noah, Oliver and Gabe) played various instruments while Lauren, Ana, McKayla, Ava, Ethan, Odie and Leif sung. After Try to Remember came various renaissance-style tavern songs and an Irish dance which was loads of fun. After dancing and playing came the final bows, then the music was over. After the music we started to clean up the mess, not too much fun, but ah well. The night ended at about 10:00. It was a really enjoyable time, and I can't wait for the next trimester dinner!

Ava Hession-Landman



## The Windy Day

The day was freezing while I walked to the pigs. The wind was athletic, blowing us around like bird without any wings. The feed was there, and the water was frozen. They screamed at us from far away calling to us like slaves. We feed; they eat without a care in the world. I



hugged big Omni, stretched Cherokee, and then ran back to school. It's warm in the school, but it's so windy that it feels like it's going to be ripped off its hinges. The day was fun, but the only thing I dread is the long work that comes after.

Odie Keefer-Sherman

## Garden News

The garden is doing well; Lenna and Wendy have been working hard in the garden. They have been covering the plants due to the winter which is already here basically because we have a big cold front at the moment. Wendy has been working in the greenhouse with the plants and spreading them out and planting new plants. There has also been work in the outside beds and planting crops that are able to take the freezing cold and the harsh winds. Over all the garden has not really changed since the last garden news letter just old plants are leaving and new plants are entering the garden beds.

James Robert Hensley

## The Multimedia Elective

We have now changed electives and introduced "Multimedia" into our biweekly schedule. In Media, we are focusing on the development of a comprehensive marketing plan, this includes our Facebook page, web site, and now a blog which you can visit on Belle Meade's webpage under "Home". If you haven't already visited Belle Meade School's Facebook page, please do. It has grown considerably in the past months, and you can really get a feel for all the things we have been up to in the day to day happenings. We want to step up our advertising efforts and bring attention to our school! Multimedia is also in charge of putting together this year's yearbook. Though we are in the very early design stages, collecting pictures and adjusting the layout are going well, and we are making fair progress. I'd appreciate anyone with photos from events or of students (whether they are at school or not) that you would like to see included in yearbook that you kindly email them to us at [bellemeadeyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:bellemeadeyearbook@gmail.com).

We have a large supply of photos of every student due to my own reserves of pictures, but the more options we have, the better! In addition to pictures, if you have any marketing suggestions, we would love to hear them as well, they can be sent to the above email address as well.

Lauren Hammer

## Christmas at Belle Meade

On Thursday, December 4, we went to Susan and Mike's friend's farm to pick a Christmas tree for the school. When we got there, we walked around the forest and looked around for the perfect tree. And we found one! Mike and Ethan cut it down and put it in the truck. When we took it back to the schoolhouse we decorated it. There were a lot of pine needles to clean up. But we cleaned them up! I hope you have a great Christmas tree too. Merry Christmas!

Ryan Raiford



## Strings

Strings is an afternoon elective that provides students with a chance to learn and improve their skills on the guitar, mandolin and bass. The strings elective is led by Belle Meade's math and physics teacher Kimber Herron; the elective is held in Kimber's classroom. Strings is a very free experience where students choose from songs they would like to learn and create a set list. The students primarily enjoy playing Irish folk tunes, alternative and hard rock.

Students in strings also learn from each other. Cooperative learning is one of the most important parts of strings. It allows students to form new friendships and further increase their ability to play/perform together as a group. An example of this is Belle Meade's two mandolin players, Oliver Herron and Leif Kvarnes

Last Trimester the strings students performed at the trimester dinner and are planning to perform at future school events. Performing in front of an audience is a good experience for any musician. Playing in a pressured environment can provide students with the confidence and motivation to continue practicing and enjoying their instrument. Strings is a very important part of several students day and is one of the things that sets Belle Meade apart from other schools.

Noah Waller

## New Student



I am enjoying Belle Meade School. The horse that I ride in riding class is a big draft horse. Yesterday in riding I jumped for the first time on Omni. He is a good horse and sometimes a brat, but I love him. The other horses are good too. My other favorite horses are Amethyst, Iceling, Dakota, and Kodiak.

My classes are lot of fun. Alex and John are nice. We are reading War Horse in Alex's class, and I like the book. Latin is fun too. Susan and Henry are nice. My Spanish class is more work than my old school. Johnny and Alex are great teachers. Mango, the cat, and Pacha are in her class most of the time. My dog Buddy comes to school with me.

Sofie Garcia

## Skiing

Every year we go skiing at Massanutten for 6 weeks on Thursdays, and we do skiing lessons. Some people don't like it: some do like it. We learn how to ski and snow board down steep hills and stop correctly without hurting yourself. Then at the last two times you ski you have free ski, no lessons unless needed. You can still ski after the Belle Meade school ski. You have a free pass for a day to ski when you are all done skiing.

Ethan Cole

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