

Belle Meade School

January 2014 Newsletter



It's the most "coldest" time of the year.

Now that it is the dead of winter, and cold creeps around every corner, one thing that brightens the school week is skiing. Every Thursday, we eat a quick lunch, hop into the van, and take the drive over the mountains to ski. We get there, don our gear, and enjoy an hour of skiing before lessons. Then we learn, improve, and refine our technique with an instructor, all while having a great time! We have about fifteen minutes after our lesson is over and time to turn in your gear. We spend time with our friends, have a great time, and all while sliding downhill! Then we all get back into the van and drive home. It's one of the great times of the year, and I love when it comes around again. Leif

"Winter Life on The Farm"

Winter life on the Belle Meade Farm is anything but easy when the temperatures begin to drop. These temperatures have caused their fair share of issues, namely frozen hoses and pipelines. Everyone must carry water to thirsty animals due to an unavailability of running water. Though on a brighter note, Belle Meade students have made a fun situation out of a difficult one. Our snowball fights are becoming legendary and are taken very seriously! We even hiked out to the pond on a particularly cold day for some ice skating! We all have been making the best of the cold for sure, and a few days off have certainly helped to keep spirits bright. Lauren



SKIING

We go skiing every Thursday. We have been skiing three times this season; tomorrow is our fourth time. We leave around lunch time and arrive at Massanutten about 2:00. We have about an hour to ski before the lessons start. The lessons start at 3:30 and end at 5:00, which gives us about two and a half hours total.

Ethan Cole, and I. I have really enjoyed skiing this year. It's a lot of fun with all the new students being involved. Celeste



Snowboarding

Snowboarding! For the past couple of Thursdays I have been taking snowboard lessons. I'd never thought that snowboarding was so complex, but I have enjoyed every second of the challenge it brings. The first two classes were two of the most difficult classes; there was a lot of falling on my face. But what I have learned from snowboarding is that I must be full of confidence and tell myself that you I do it. But once you have down your basic moves, it gets easier every time. Throughout my lessons I have learned my two basic stops, ollies, s-turns, and flat 360s. Having lessons I think really boosts my confidence, because my instructor is focusing on every detail and helping me through it. The past couple of Thursdays have been amazing, and now I have fallen in love with a new sport. Emily

Preparing the garden for the spring

Right now in the garden even though the winds may blow and the snow falls in many layers, we are preparing for the spring. We are reworking the beds and taking out the stray weeds as well. Also we are putting the mulch in the paths so there will be less mowing in the summer. This time of year is the planning time for the garden. The biodynamic calendar tells the best time to plant each type of plant, each type of vegetable, the best time to weed and to pick so our garden can be healthy. New seeds will sprout soon; some are niche also known as corn salad and chine's greens. That is what's going on in the garden in the middle of winter.

Amelia from interviewing Lenna

Spring Musical — *Oklahoma*

On March 13th, 14th, and 15th we, the students, are doing to the production of *Oklahoma*. Music rehearsal started way back in the beginning of the first trimester. Soon after, we realized that this play just wouldn't be complete without some dance routines of our own. From *O, h What a Beautiful Morning* to *Oklahoma* the song all of the dances will be unique and of our own volition. We started rehearsal of the acting later by about a month. Fortunately though, we here at Belle Meade are natural born actors so that is not of much concern for us. Come to Belle Meade mid March to see what your students have been preparing so diligently for. David



New Student

Since Monday, January 13 we have a new student at Belle Meade School. His name is James. He is fifteen years old and born in America. James lived in Shanghai, Nanning, Toronto, Hong Kong and Japan and speaks Putonghua, Cantonese and some Japanese. He is adjusting well and has integrated into our school community. I say, welcome to Belle Meade. Pascal

I think that all Belle Meade students are the best students ever. Belle Meade School is the best school ever. I have more friends than I have ever had. James



Horses

A while ago maybe in December Dakota hurt his leg very badly. I won't go into details, because it was very gruesome, but it was very bad. He is much better now, thanks to the help of all the people who sprayed water, put salve on, held him steady and just generally helped him feel better. He has not yet completely healed; we are still putting on a salve along with other small treatments, but he is definitely going to be all right. Riding has been progressing and so has been (naturally) going very well. Omni has been doing well and still looks like a unicorn. Aisling has also been doing well although a little grumpy at times. Amethyst is her same kind, introverted self. Cherokee has just been ridden for the first time in a while. It was successful, even though problematic at times for she was feeling rather mischievous that day. So, all in all, the horses have been good, riding has been great and Dakota is getting better.

Ava



Ancient Civilization

Currently in Ancient Civilization we are studying India. The Indian culture believes strongly in their religion Hinduism. They are strictly vegetarian and do not even believe in killing anything, even insects. Many of their rituals are the same as they were several hundred years ago. Teresa is a great teacher. We have also studied ancient Rome and ancient Greece. Ethan

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