

BELLE MEADE



School | Farm | Day Camp | B & B



Open House

On March 8th we had an open house. Students and teachers gave tours of the school and farm while answering questions and informing guests about Belle Meade. The biology students gave a presentation on their Kilby Run Stream project and a couple strings students played songs. We had a great turn out; about 15 people attended in all. We also have some guests visiting in the next few weeks. Many guests asked questions and seemed very interested about Belle Meade School and farm. It was a beautiful day and everyone involved had a wonderful day!

McKayla



Addams Family

Now that the play is over, and the tension has left the air, we can all look back and see how much fun it was. Not only did it turn out fantastically, but we all learned a lot. Both about how to run a play, and how to use other peoples' ideas to make the whole play stronger as a whole. We all fell in love with our characters and really sank into them. Not only was it so much fun to do such a different play, but to interact with each other in character made everything better.

We all had a great time with the play, and I know some of us wish we could have done it more!

Leif



S.T.E.A.M. Project

In biology we are doing a STEAM project to monitor the impact Belle Meade might have on the Kilby run stream. We are measuring three sites. One above the property, one in the property, and one below the property. We are using a dissolved oxygen meter, a Ph meter, a kick net, and a thermometer. The dissolved oxygen meter tells us how much oxygen is in the water. The Ph meter tells us if the stream is too base or not. We use the kick net to look for water bugs.

Oliver

Hola!!

Ciento mucho que esta tan frio en Rappahannock. Aquí en el Grand Canyon el clima esta fabuloso. Espero que todos estén bien de salud y les deseo que en un poco tiempo cambie el clima y regresen al fabuloso clima que Rappahannock normalmente tiene.

Señor Garcia



Horses

We have not been riding a lot this winter. Odie and I have been lunging the horses a few days a week. It is a lot of fun. Amethyst and Aisling are the best at lunging. The others do know what they are doing, but they get a little frisky especially Dakota. They have a lot of fun getting lunged. We are having a spring trail ride April 12 from 10:00 to noon.
Sofie



Canaan Trip

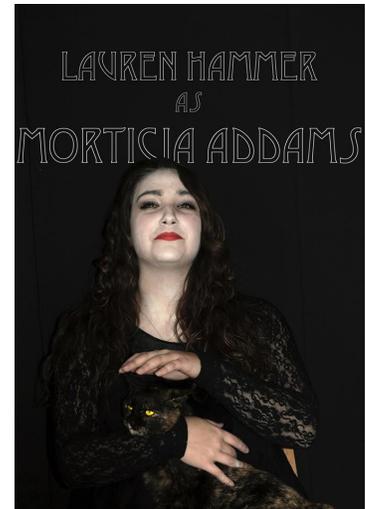
On February 27th we packed the cars at Belle Meade and started our three hour trip to Canaan Valley Ski Resort with Lauren, Ana, me (Ava), Ethan, Daniel, Oliver, Leif and Alex, Dewey and Monica as chaperones. We had been planning this trip for quite a long time now; so finally going was extremely exciting. Once we got to our ski resort we unpacked the cars (which turned out to be an adventure itself when we encountered the ice) and found our rooms. Since this took such a short time, we headed down to the inside pool for about an hour, where we greatly enjoyed the hot-tub and sauna that was also in the pool. After an extreme game of marco-polo, we went back upstairs and generally did nothing until bed. The next day we had breakfast and immediately headed down to the ski slopes. Canaan was absolutely beautiful; we all remarked how it looked like Narnia, and the view on top of the mountain was breathtaking. We skied for about three or four hours before going down for lunch; then for another four hours before calling it quits and going back to other resort. By that time we were all exhausted, but we still had some energy left for ice-skating. Most of us fell on our butts, but Daniel, Lauren, and Oliver obviously knew what they were doing. After ice-skating (or just falling a lot) we went back inside and ordered pizza. This took quite a while, so we were all the more grateful when it arrived. After pizza we played cards then went to bed. The next day we had breakfast then skied for about three hours then turned in our ski equipment and headed home. The entire trip was a subdued trip, but absolutely worth it.
Ava



College

I'm so excited to announce that I have been accepted and now committed to my #1 school, Roanoke College in Salem Virginia. I also have been awarded Roanoke's \$20k academic "Dean's Scholarship" that is renewable each year I am enrolled! I must first say how relieved I am to have completed and the process of college applications, college visits, sorting through the millions of college recruitment emails, and the overall stress that comes along with making this important decision.

I fell in love with Noke the first time I set foot on campus; it is utterly beautiful. Roanoke reminds me so much of the crisp Belle Meade atmosphere with the towering mountains within clear view and the friendly, casual nature of the students/staff. I'm excited to be close to nature while I'm away, I think and am hoping the transition to college life will be smooth and as painless as possible because of this.



I'd like to give out a bit of advice to those approaching high school graduation since I've now completed the application process successfully.

1. Start looking at colleges NOW. It is NEVER too early to be visiting and googling. Please do not wait until your senior year to visit, research, and begin to learn the application process.
2. Application deadlines come up extremely quickly, take advantage of "early decision" opportunities, just applying costs money (sometimes \$50-100) simply to review your application. Often colleges will waive this fee if you apply early. Do it!
3. Go to college fairs and expos: there are plenty in our area and they will give you a great idea of what colleges you are even remotely interested in. You an opportunity to interact with representatives and hear from students about why they think their college is so great!
4. Stay calm and don't stress too much. It's a hectic time and it's ok to be nervous; college is a big deal and some tough decisions accompany the whole process. Be proactive and occasionally to set aside a day for working solely on applications.
5. Get the name of the head of admissions, the head of any department that interests you, and anyone else for whom you have questions (such as a coach or head of studying abroad). Then send them an email introducing yourself, describing your interests, and starting a dialogue about the school. You'd be amazed how beneficial this can be to your chances of being accepted and how you can set yourself apart from other applicants.
6. You may be dead set on a college, get there, and absolutely hate it. You need to make the decision whether or not you feel at home there.

Lauren

Chickens

There are lots of things people don't know about chickens. Most people think that chickens are very dumb, but chickens know how to survive in the wild on their own. Chickens are very protective animals. The roosters are aggressive in the wild; they will kill each other for dominance and territory. They are very pretty birds. They are not called chickens in the wild; they are called English game hens or just game hens. Chickens are game hens that don't roam the wild in North America today, but in South America they do. In Africa they are distant descendants of the guinea hens. I raise chicken, turkeys, ducks, geese, and quail. They are very interesting animals. I raise them for meat and eggs. In my English class I did a presentation on chickens, quail and turkeys. I told about how chickens are raised today by factories and big facilities.

Ethan

Strings

Strings elective is currently working on several different songs to present at the school's upcoming trimester dinner. These songs include many traditional Irish tunes like Whiskey in a Jar, Athol Highlander and Road to Lisdoonvarna. Strings will also be performing several other songs including, Smells Like Teen Spirit, Devil's Dance Floor and a song written by the students. Strings class has also been working on composing songs. Writing songs gives students a chance to work together in a cooperative and productive manner, giving students good experience in teams/project groups.

Noah



Farm + Garden

Throughout winter, the garden has operated on a smaller scale for the CSA, and we have enjoyed flavorful winter veggies and fresh canned veggies. Now that the weather is warming up, we can expect an increase in produce and new delights from the garden.

Early spring veggies are being harvested and sown, like spinach, lettuce and three different kinds of kale. Turnips are among some root vegetables that we can look forward to, as well as snow peas and Sugar Ann snap peas, which are already "up and well," says Wendy, gardener extraordinaire.

Cover crops are currently going through the process of becoming nutrient-rich soil, which is just in time for the summer veggies, which will be going into flats and kept inside until the end of the school year.

The herb circle is also being expanded, and it will serve as a major contributor to the summer CSA program for vegetarians, where they will receive more culinary herbs and edible flowers in addition to the usual delicious fare.

The farm is beginning to awaken, with egg production rapidly increasing. The pigs are happy and gregarious, and the horses content. The cattle are doing well, sans one mother cow, but she is becoming healthier every day, especially with the mild weather. Her calf is lively and curious, and seems to have adopted Mike as his "surrogate mother."

All in all, we can expect this spring to be a lively and productive one, whether vegetable, animal or student.

Ana



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