



# THE BELLE RINGER

SEPT. 2019  
ISSUE NO. 1

The Official Newsletter of Belle Meade Montessori School



Photo by Sofie

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed. Sept. 18  
Bring a Friend to School

Wed. Sept. 25  
Vision/Hearing Screening

Sat. Sept. 28  
Farm Tour  
(Student Attendance Required)

Mon. Oct 7  
Midterm

Thur. Oct. 10  
D.C. Field Trip

Wed. Oct. 16  
PSAT  
(High School Students Only)

## Letter from the Head of School

With our canoe trip just finished, we're looking forward to a year of learning and adventure at Belle Meade.

In addition to classes and academic work, we are anticipating several events. This year is a STEAM Day invitational year. Students will be planning a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math project to share with the community. One topic that has been dis-

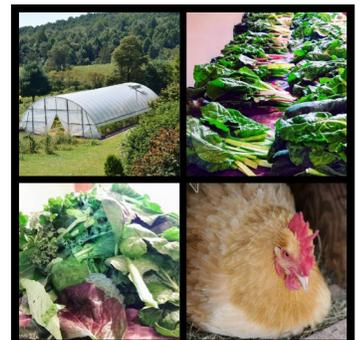
cussed as a possibility for STEAM DAY is boat design.

This is also a skit year where students will explore, write, and perform skits on a chosen topic. During our studies of history, we'll visit D.C., Harper's Ferry and other historic locations. We look forward to trimester dinners, sleepovers and Hannah's senior project, which is already in the works!

—John

## Go Green with CSA

Belle Meade Montessori School's Community Supported Agriculture program (CSA) will distribute the three-season CSA Sept. 20-May 1 (14 share distributions). The Three-Season CSA total cost is \$560, equivalent to \$40 per share. Your CSA money goes directly to the school.



[www.bellemeadeschool.org](http://www.bellemeadeschool.org)

## Farm Tour Coming to Belle Meade

The Rappahannock County Farm Tour is just around the corner on Sept. 28. Belle Meade School is looking forward to participating in this fun event with the help of students, parents, and volunteers.

Please note that the Farm Tour is counted as a regular school day for students. Their attendance and participation is required.

Visitors from the entire region attended the tour to enjoy an abundance of activities for everyone. The student-led pony rides, apple cider making on the press, and the hay maze are a big hit with children. For adults and kids the, wagon rides are an enjoyable way to experience the farm and see the animals. The bee-keeping demonstration is very informative with local honey available for purchase.

A delicious lunch of Belle Meade pork BBQ and side dishes will be available, not to mention the many other goodies for those of us with a sweet tooth.

Live music put on by Belle Meade's band is a real crowd pleaser. The Belle Meade chef cook-

off is the final event that amuses the crowd from the firing of the grills to the judges' announcement of the winner.

We will be raffling off a chance to win a week in Orlando, Florida, in June 2020 (3 bedrooms, 2 baths, sleeps 6-8 people). We will be sending home raffle tickets for your students to sell. A big thank you to Sofie's grandmother, Sylvia Garcia, for her generous donation of the week in Florida for the raffle.

A silent auction will also be held. Students and families can donate items themselves or ask local businesses for donations to be sold. We will also have a used book sale to help update our school and classroom libraries.

We would like to thank everyone in advance for your help in making this farm tour a success. We hope to see all the Belle Meade families for a fun day on the farm.

Look for a signup sheet to be emailed so that families can choose how they will participate in the Farm Tour.

—Anna

## Lower School

Belle Meade Montessori School is expanding to include to primary (ages 3-6) and elementary students (ages 6-11). We are collaborating with other preschools in the area to reach more young children. The lower school adds to the robust educational options already available to middle and high school students.

Belle Meade Board Member and co-teacher Erica Campbell spent the summer developing curriculum and finding the perfect supporting materials to spend the day developing their imaginations and spatial awareness. Physical activities will be held outdoors in the new play yard as well as around the farm. Students will engage in independent and guided work to explore math, science, literacy, music and more. The goal is for young students cultivate independence, coordination, responsibility and positive work habits.

## Why We Do Chores



Photo by Sofie

Belle Meade has a handful of chores with each of them sharing equal importance. These chores differ between morning and afternoon. In the morning, we do chores with animals; in the afternoon, we clean the school for the next day. The reason we do chores is because the farm supports the school so the school supports the farm. When students take care of animals, it teaches us to be compassionate to animals and teaches us how to interact with each other better. On top of the regular chores, every Thursday we do community work. Each week the work is different, and we all pick what we want to do. Community workday is important because it teaches us how to serve and how to be helpful. Thanks to chores, the school stays clean and we develop new talents.

—Morgan

# Looking Forward

## Middle Schoolers Talk about Coming Year

What am I looking forward to? Hmmmm. I know. I'm looking forward to walking on the pond when it freezes.

—Lucas

This year I look forward to having fun. I always have a lot of fun when I'm at school because school is where all my friends are.

—Charlotte

In this upcoming year I am most looking forward to doing new things and creating new memories. I am also excited for art, riding and hanging out with friends.

—Lela

I am excited for the skiing trip in the winter. I can't wait to go on the huge slopes. So excited!

—Reilly

This year I'm excited for the hay-bale maze and the pond.

—Landen

I'm looking forward to making more friends, build my relationships with my current friends at Belle Meade, and be happy.

—Mia

I think it would be cool to branch out from camping trips. It would be interesting to see what other trips we could do.

—Jack



Photo by Kathryn

## Farm Animals

Here at the farm all of the animals are doing well. We just got some new piglets. The cows were put on the back pastures grazing away. The meat chickens are growing like crazy. We are getting the horses back to work and ready to go on adventures. The layers have been cutting back with the eggs. Last but not least, the turkeys are getting ready to get sold for Thanksgiving. Email your turkey request to [board@bellemeadeschool.org](mailto:board@bellemeadeschool.org).

—Sofie



Photo by Sofie

## Canoe Trip

We recently returned from our annual canoe trip. This is a three-day trip that encourages us to work together and get to know each other. We camp, cook our meals, and of course, canoe. The Compton rapids are the only very large ones, but there is still ample opportunity to get stuck on rocks or show off your skills at avoiding them. Everyday we take multiple brakes to swim, have seaweed fights, and rest. This is a productive trip of fun and teamwork, and by the end, we understand each other a little better.

—Aylssa



Photo by Kathryn

## Art Opens Doors



In art class we're doing a rather big project! We're painting huge doors that Becky's neighbor donated. We washed the doors first, considering they were covered in dust and dirt from sitting in the junkyard. On Wednesday we went out to Little Washington and Sperryville to take pictures for the murals we'll paint on them. I'd say the students in the class are excited for the actual painting part, which we haven't gotten to yet.

—Lilie

## Field Trips



Art by Joseph

Here at Belle Meade we go on many interesting field trips. These always have some sort of fun activity to do while we're there, in addition to simply going to the places. For instance, we go to Washington D.C nearly every year, and last time, we went to the museums and did a sort of scavenger hunt but with history questions. When we went to Montpelier, we played this game where there are translucent boxes with items of James Madison's time in them, and groups of students tried to guess what they were. Of course, we don't do the same stuff every time, and often, the places we go are just fun within themselves, like the Shakespeare theater. We watch a play there and answer literary questions about it afterward. Either way, they all combine learning and fun in the best way possible.

—Joseph

# New Faces Build Community

## Message from a Veteran Student

It is the start of a new year and we would like to welcome our new students and families to Belle Meade. This year we have an exchange student from Finland, Venla, bringing with her some of her culture and history. During this first trimester students will bond and learn from each other by helping around the farm and working together in class. With the addition of the lower school, younger students can work together with our older students and learn teamwork skills. We hope to grow our school community over the year and teach students to work together as a whole.

—Gavin

## Hi, Everyone!

My name is Venla. I'm a 17-years old exchange student from Finland. At the moment I'm in 11th grade. Belle Meade is very different from the typical American high schools we see on the tv and news, and that is a part of why I like it so much in here. I went to a high school with about 1,000 students in Finland. I thought that was a small school, but it seems I was wrong about that. So far I have had so much fun here at Belle Meade, and I'm sure we'll have great time during the rest of the year as well!



Photo provided by Venla

## Trimester Dinners



Trimester dinners are family gatherings that happen at the end of each trimester. It's a chance for the students to perform/show off what they have been studying academically that trimester. There's usually a theme set around these dinners and people tend to cook according to that theme. Overall, it's a way to pull the community together one evening and enjoy each other's company.

—Hannah

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

*Oct. 19  
5-7 p.m.*

## Fundraiser:

We invite members of our community to learn more about our school and show their support.