

# BELLE MEADE



Montessori School | Day Camp | Farm | B & B



## Classes

**English:** students have just finished studying The Epic of Gilgamesh and are now starting The Odyssey and The Iliad.

**Humanities:** writing their own epics, stories, and essays, as well as the newsletter. In November, they will begin the annual Writer's Eye project after visiting the UVA Fralin Art Museum.

**Geometry:** learning about theorems and conditional statements.

**Advanced Math:** reviewing.

**Algebra:** working on graphs and equations.

**Pre-Algebra:** learning fractions and equations. **Integrated Science:** studying genetics and are going to study their own genes using the 23andMe program.

**Spanish:** learning verbs and their strange, nonsensical endings.

**Latin:** conjugating and translations stories.

**History:** writing research papers, focusing on early civilizations.

**Geography:** learning about Africa.

**Art:** making masks for the Masquerade Ball.

**Music:** practicing recorders and working on band songs for the trimester dinner.

Alyssa, Avi, Ezra, Charlotte, & Lucas

## Farm Tour

Belle Meade is a destination on the Rappahannock Farm Tour. This year's event was held on October 22nd. It is a day of fun shared with people throughout the community. There are pony rides, a hay ride tour of the farm, and an awesome hay maze that people can run through, bee-keeping demonstrations, silent auction for a school fundraiser, apple cider press, and a chef cook-off. Food is served that is grown right here on our the farm, such as produce, pork, and fresh apple cider!



This is a fun, family-friendly event with something for everyone. Kids love the pony rides and hay maze! People can talk to students, parents, and staff to learn about our unique school. The atmosphere is filled with color, laughter runs throughout the farm, and memories are shared amongst new friends and old. "I think it's great that people come out and see the farm and experience Belle Meade. I especially like the chef cook-off," said Anna. "I found it fun to be an assistant in the chef cook-off. I enjoyed preparing the food and having to make something with specific ingredients," commented Sabrina. "The Farm Tour is a productive way to show our program and campus to the community," commented Alex. "I like to see all the people come and have fun at our school," added Alyssa. "The Farm Tour was successful and the pony rides were fun!" commented Wes. "I enjoyed it!" said Will.

Alyssa & Flora

## Masquerade Ball

Belle Meade hosts an annual Masquerade Ball at the end of October. This year's event is on October 27 (6-9pm). There is dancing, food, and games. Students, staff, parents, and student council members plan the Masquerade Ball which is a student fundraiser. Students and parents volunteer to bring items needed for the event. Student council members stay after school to prepare for the event Masquerade Ball: decorate, prepare food, plan games, and set-up activities. "It is fun to see all the creative costumes," commented Alysa. "Last year, we had the haunted lab. It was nice to give everyone a spooky experience," said Avi. Sofie



## Farm & Animals



Here at Belle Meade, there are a lot of animals, such as the pigs, horses, chickens, ducks, cows, turkeys, and meat chickens. Every morning and afternoon, students go out to feed the animals, water them, and do what ever else is required. Students enjoy certain chores like housekeeping in the winter or feeding the horses and pigs, as well as chopping firewood.

Wes & Sofie

## DC Field Trip



Every fall, Belle Meade goes on a field trip to Washington, D.C. This year we visited the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History where we were divided into groups and sent on a scavenger hunt that was tied into what we are learning in school (human origins and history). "The science exhibits in the Natural History museum were exquisite. I loved the skulls and learning about the primates' biological structure. I knew that Ancient Egyptians honored cats, but I didn't know that they mummified them. It was cool!" exclaimed Lucas. During lunch, we had a wonderful time exploring the Botanical Gardens, observing vibrant flowers and feeding birds. "The museums were interesting and the gardens were really pretty," said Alyssa. In the afternoon, we split up into two groups: one went to the National Museum of the American Indian and the other went to the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. The group that went to the Air and Space Museum went on a space simulator where they tried to repair a satellite. Ezra and Oliver went on a Fighter Plane simulator. "We had a blast at the Air and Space Museum," said Ezra. The group that went to the American Indian Museum saw boats made out of reed and wood, as well as a special exhibit on the Inca Empire in South America. "I liked learning about the boats," said Lilie. In the evening, we had dinner at Chipotle and Panera Bread in Warrenton where we discussed the events of the day over burritos, sandwiches, and soup. Everyone looks forward to next year's trip!

Avi, Lilie, & Stephen

## Garden & CSA



In the garden, we are growing nutritious vegetables such as eggplants, lettuce, tomatoes, potatoes, sweet potatoes, peppers, and so on. In the morning, as well as the afternoon, a small group of students go to the garden to weed, water, and manage the garden. Kimber says: “We have just finished harvesting sweet potatoes; fall/winter CSA has started; kale and broccoli are growing until the first hard frost; garlic for next year should be going in the ground soon, if not already. Fall lettuces and radishes are growing; Swiss chard will be harvested until the killing frost. We are preparing beds for winter—cover crops and fallowing.” Every other Friday, families receive a CSA share that includes meat from farm, beef, pork, or chicken, freshly picked greens from the garden, and usually eggs from the hens. We have a few more Three-Season shares available if you would like to enjoy the food from Belle Meade Farm.

Flora & Sabrina



## Open House

Belle Meade has two Open Houses every year: one in spring and one in fall. Each season, students give tours of the farm and school for visitors and prospective families. Students and parents provide snacks for the community and those who visit along with class presentations and musical performances. Students display their artwork and inform the visitors about what the students are learning in their classes. This year’s Open House was on Sunday, October 15 (1:00-3:00pm). We had two visiting families: Gavin, a 7th grader who attends Belle Meade Summer Camp and a family friend of Lilie. There was a great presentation by the 9th grade Biology class. Alyssa, Will, and Thomas gave presentations demonstrating a variety of topics from their Biology class: DNA, Genes and Alleles, Gregor Mendel, and Punnett Squares. Students used Powerpoint and visual aids to explain the current 23andMe project which is biotechnology company. “The Biology presentation was interesting and well put together. I think it’s interesting that we are testing our own DNA to see our heritage,” said Will.

Sofie & Will



**Upcoming Events** by Thomas

October 15: Fall Open House (There might be chocolate cupcakes)

October 18: Chocolate Cupcake Day (IMPORTANT!!! Obviously, bring chocolate cupcakes. I did not make this up, whoever put it on the calendar probably didn't, but someone made it up at some point just like every holiday.)

October 20: Alex & Becky's birthdays (also bring more chocolate cupcakes)

October 26: Alice's birthday (chocolate cupcakes, of course)

October 27: Masquerade Ball (there might be chocolate cupcakes here, too)

October 28: Oliver's birthday (guess what you should bring)

October 31: Anna's birthday & Halloween (notice any patterns?)

November 2: Writer's Eye Field Trip (They don't allow cupcakes)

November 5: Daylight Savings Ends (Celebrate with...CHOCOLATE CAKE CUPS!)

November 11: Veteran's Day

November 16: International Thomas's birthday day and also 1st trimester dinner (So. Much. Chocolate. Cupcake.

November 17: Conferences - No School (Try Harris Teeter)

November 20: Fall Break begins (Still trying to make my chocolate cupcake jokes semi-original)

November 23: Thanksgiving for all the chocolate cupcakes and my sense of humor

November 24: Fall Break ends (To break your fall, try chocolate cupcakes)

**ENGLISH WRITING EXCERPTS:  
Epics, Myths, and Essays**

*Gilgamesh Themes & Symbols* by Avigayil

*The Epic of Gilgamesh* is an Ancient Sumerian story that was written in cuneiform on clay tablets around 3500 BCE in Mesopotamia. It is about the king of a city called Uruk which existed during 2700 BC. Gilgamesh is believed to have existed and been the king of Uruk; however, it has yet to be proven. In the ancient epic, Gilgamesh is the king of Uruk. He was running wild and doing whatever he wanted because of all the power he had. The citizens felt that he was abusing his power and needed to be taken down a notch. The people of the city went to the gods for help. The gods created a wild man named Enkidu. He was created by the gods out of clay and was put into the wilderness. Enkidu's purpose was to balance out Gilgamesh by being less impulsive and content without having ultimate power. They developed a very close, brotherly friendship and went on adventures together. In this ancient story, common thematic and symbolic archetypes appear, such as love as a motivating force, the inevitability of death, mortality, the trust and wrath of gods, the wilderness, the city, cedar forests, sleep, snakes, Humbaba, Enkidu, and Gilgamesh.

*The Epic of Timothy* by Will

Narrator 1: Before the large cities and vast towns. People lived on their own. With no order and took what they wanted and killed random people. Until a not so tall man, who stood like a rock... Narrator 2: Or more like a pebble. N1: "Be quiet this is my story, where was I...oh yes, a man of solid steel..." N2: "(very weak steel)" N1: "...believed this is not how it should be and decided he would go to the gods and ask for their eternal wisdom. And bring peace and order to the land." N2: "Why did he think he could do that?" N1: "Why are you here?" N2: "Because I was told to by..." N1: "Fine but be quiet, so our hero decides he would travel through the treacherous land, through the cedar..." N2: "You never told them his name." N1: "o yes our mighty..." N2: "(not so mighty)" N1: "Fine not so mighty hero's name is Timothy." N2: "Real original <slow clap slow clap slow clap>" N1: "Fine! Where was I? (Starts muttering: 'traumas, land, cedar forest') Oh YES through the cedar forest, and to the city of the gods and ask for their wisdom."

## ENGLISH WRITING EXCERPTS: Epics, Myths, and Essays

### *Gilgamesh Compare/Contrast* by Oliver

At the beginning of the story, there is normally something big that happens to the hero that jerks him/her out of a normal life and into the role of hero known as “the call to adventure”. In *Gilgamesh* there are a couple calls to adventure. The first is when Enkidu is called up to help Gilgamesh become a better king. The second is when they go off to fight Humbaba and free the forest of his yoke. The third is when Enkidu is killed by the gods and Gilgamesh goes off to find the secret to immortality. Likewise, in *Eragon*, the main character is chosen by a dragon to be her rider. Because of this, Eragon is the only free rider. He is the only dragon rider capable of standing up to Galbatorix. He goes off to become more powerful so he can defeat the evil King Galbatorix. The call to adventure is often the “main thing” that happens in the beginning of most epics. Sometimes before this happens the hero isn’t aware that he (or she) is the hero quite yet, and, after it happens, there is sometimes a short period of denial on the hero’s part. He doesn’t want to except that he has to go on this adventure because of what it might mean for him. He might need to leave his family or a loved one. Then there is all the trouble that he will encounter on his journey. There is almost always loss and failure.

### *Suffocating* by Lillie

It was a beautiful Monday morning. The wind was whistling through the tree's leaves, the orange sun was shining vividly over the gray Ohio mountains. The streets were bustling with people and cars going to and from work. But unfortunately, it was the start of a new year and for Tyler Joseph, it was the start of new school as well. Getting to the point, Tyler had social anxiety and wasn't the best at talking to new people and making friends; this unfamiliar school was like being a miniature tuna in a sea of vicious man-eating sharks. Tyler gripped his backpack strap, trying to refrain from the shaking and trembling of his hands being too noticeable. As he speed-walked through the courtyard and into the school, he could feel the stares of boys and girls alike burning into the back of his head, hushed whispers becoming the majority of the noises he heard besides the rustling of the trees. He kept his head faced forward, doing his best to not make eye-contact with any of them.

### *The Epic of the Refrigerator, Part 1* by Alyssa

Bob dove out of the way of the watermelon as it spun out of control, trying to dislodge the knife but it was clear that this fight was over. “This isn’t over!” the Phantom Watermelon rasped. “I will be back! And when we meet again, I will be stronger; you will be defeated!” Bob retreated to the other side of the hallway, just in case the cooties started to radiate into the air. Then, the phantom watermelon disappeared in a puff of smoke leaving no evidence of the epic battle that had just occurred.

### *The Epic of the Refrigerator, Part 2* by Thomas

The olive slowly slid down the pizza rolling over the hot cheese, but Bob just barely managed to close his mouth before it slimily slid across his face and onto the floor. He slowly backed away, holding the drooping pizza. When he reached the counter, he finally felt safe enough to eat. Keeping his eyes on the abomination, he quickly ate. Unfortunately, when he took a bite, the cheese came off! He stood there dumbstruck, holding the uncomfortably warm cheese in his mouth and the dough in his hand.

## Epics, Myths, and Essays

### *The Epic of Danielle Durante* by Sabrina

There she sat with her legs laid out on the couch reading a fairly long book and occasionally looking out the window at the coast of Amalfi (Naples, Italy). The sky suddenly went dark and the light breeze turned into strong winds, everything went silent, and she started to get worried. She looked out the window with a puzzled face, confused by seeing everyone freaking out. Minutes later, Danielle heard a loud siren go off. She then realized something was wrong. Then grabbed her phone and car keys then ran out the door. Everyone was panicking, it was very chaotic, and nobody knew what to do until the police came and took groups of people to safety. As the police took Danielle to the van, she saw a dog stuck under a piece of wood. She told them to let her go so she could save it, but they wouldn't let her because there was a tornado close behind. Danielle stopped resisting and got into the van; she sat quietly as they drove away.

### *The Copper-Haired Slave* by Flora

Thebes, Egypt, 2686 B.C: A dark caged room that smelled of manure, a room that was once full of slaves, most of which had either died from the plague or had been sold. The caged room with metal bars as walls, that were as cold as ice. Everyone that could move huddled together except for one, a young slave girl who shivered by herself in a corner. A girl from a foreign country with copper hair and green eyes that who looked dazed from the lack of food and water. The thin cloth that covered her body was barely enough to withstand the cold weather. Her toes that her hands tried to cover to keep warm were red and purple and almost frost bitten. Her nose and ears were red from the cold. Sounds of footsteps came closer; the metal door swung open, hitting the metal wall as it stopped. A slave trader walked in, he looked around then walked close to a little slave girl, violently grabbing her by the arm hard enough to bruise her. The little girl screamed and yelled as she was thrown out of the cage to be sold. One by one the women and children were thrown out of the cage. As the slave trader came close to the copper-haired girl, she spat at him and smiled as she saw his face.

### *Once a King, Always a King* by Ezra

There he was, sitting in his not so favorite class: government class. Staring blankly at the dead middle of the chalk board, thinking about the real world problems. "I wonder if all my clothes in the dryer will be wrinkled when I get home," he thought to himself. "And so, I now resign from being Prime Minister." Ezra snapped out of it. No time to think about wrinkled clothes! He knew this was his time to strike. To take action. To prove that he is better at being a leader than he is folding his clothes. "Yes, yes, very very nice Rufus. Come take a seat." he said as he applauded sarcastically. Rufus was a quiet guy. But nice guys aren't fit to lead! "Thank you very much, Rufus. So now we must elect a new Prime Minister," Mr. Ronskauskys said. Ezra was urged to jump out of his seat and say "ME ME ME!" but no. He didn't. Instead he took off his glasses (Ezra always likes to wear his glasses regardless of the lighting) and slowly turned his head to Mr. Ronskauskys and snapped his fingers to get his attention because he was cool like that.

*The Epic of Zelda* by Sofie

In a far away universe, there was a planet called Lacuna. On the planet of Lacuna, there was a kingdom of the Lucanians. They were all panicking because the planet was dying and they were trying to save it, but they could not. The King and Queen had two kids named Zelda and Titus. They decided to save the kids and send them away. Titus was just a baby but Zelda was thirteen. When she was leaving, the planet exploded. Titus got to earth first and Zelda arrived a few days after. Zelda and Titus went to live with a family, but when Titus got a little older they separated. Zelda stayed with the family. She was fifteen at this point and realized she had powers but had to hide them from the citizens of earth.

*The Epic of Ash* by Wesley

Ten years later, Ash knew he had the potential for greatness, but he felt he was not ready. One day, Ash met a robot bird named Sparrow. Sparrow had the ability to shapeshift. He trained Ash to be a hero. Sparrow taught Ash how to sword fight because he could turn into a sword and he could also turn into a gun..but sword fighting is more fun.

*The Epic of Heracles* by Lucas

There was once a god named Heracles. He was the god of forests. He was in the heavens and decided to go down to the mortal world and create a city. He conferred with the goddess, Alex and responded: "If you do this, you must commit great deeds, but if you do decide to do this, Sofie will give you the fastest horse any mortal can never possess; it's name is Pegasus." Heracles visited Sofie and asked her to give him the horse and she did. When he flew down to earth on his new steed, Pegasus bucked and tossed Heracles from the saddle and he plunged headfirst down to earth. The free fall took a full day, and when he finally got down, he wiped out the dinosaurs. (That is how we got the schist about an asteroid wiping out the dinosaurs. It was really a god in free fall.)

*The Book of Tecana* by Charlotte

Once there was a man named Toman who was walking through the desert. A Goddess named Que came up to Toman and told him to lay in the sand and when he awoke to build a city of peace. The Goddess said that if he refused, he could be on his way. Toman did not want to meet the request so he walked on. It had been three days without water, and it was then that Toman realized that he would die anyway so he lay down in the sand and slept. When he awoke, Toman was next to a river again. Que came to him and told him to build a city of peace. He did and called it Tecana.

*The Building of Patchropolis* by Stephen

There once was a very mighty, powerful god named Huntoro who became corrupted by power and possessed by the Dark Sorceress who wanted revenge and was banished from the heavens forever. Huntoro was sent to earth and met the goddess Patchi. They decided to become friends and together kill demons who tried to enter the world. One day, there was a mighty demon that lived in a cave, causing avalanches on the mountain. Patchi decided to go alone to defeat it, but Huntoro followed. Sadly, Pachi was injured in battle, but Huntoro saved her. Because of this, he decided to build a city for protection and named it Pachtropolis.

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