

# BELLE MEADE



Montessori School | Day Camp | Farm | B & B



## SnowBall

The annual Belle Meade SnowBall was on February 16 this year. A big thanks to everyone who helped and donated all the delicious food. Thanks to Mrs. Faxlanger for donating the donuts and Sofie for running the donut game. Thanks also to the people who took part in The Newlywed Game and to John and Lucas for hosting it. - Will

It was a fun night all around. Thank you to Val for doing card readings and parents for providing delicious food. Chris and I had fun playing The Newlywed Game with everyone. We had some serious competition! I still think Sofie and Avi or Wes and Stephen should have won. - Alex



## Welcome Gavin, Emily, & Hannah!

My name is Gavin Arndt, I am 12 years old and I live in Amisville. I enjoy playing guitar, horseback riding, and canoeing at the pond at Belle Meade School. I started going to Belle Meade in 2018 and am in 7th grade. I am in Algebra 1 and am two years ahead of my grade level. I enjoy doing chores in the mornings, starting the day off with something fun, also doing chores in the afternoon, and ending the day doing something fun. I like the way information is presented to you here; it just makes it easier to learn. I love it! - Gavin

Hello my name is Emily Savage, and I am 16 years old. I live with my father and stepmother on Slate Mills Road. My hobbies and interests are riding horses and hanging out with friends. I have a big family: some live in Massachusetts and some live in West Virginia. I have three dogs at home named Suzie, Chelsea, and Dobi. We have two horses: Cat and Fandango. We also have one cat named Haggie. I love my new school and my new friends. - Emily

My name is Hannah Thede. I am 15 years old and am currently in the 10th grade. I live in Flint Hill on a small family farm. I have always loved animals as well as the outdoors. My hobbies are drawing, volleyball, cooking, hiking, and camping. - Hannah

## STEAM Workshop

On the 19th of February, visitors came to the school to build trebuchets and participate in a performing arts activity. We used hammers and saws and random metal items as counterweights. We were provided with an 8-foot piece of wood to cut and assemble along with public materials for the sling, counterweight, sling string, and some other random stuff. The large trebuchet built earlier by Belle Meade students was also fired. - Thomas

When I came to Belle Meade School, I came on STEAM Day. We made trebuchets and launched marbles to see which one worked the best. It was fun! We split into groups of four to six people. The groups spent an hour each on our trebuchets, using hand saws, drills, hammers, and wood. It was a great event! - Gavin

Preparation - We built two types of trebuchets: one was big and the other was small. The small one worked well, but the big trebuchet had some issues. The container holding the weights (a big metal pot) broke during our test launches.

The Design Challenge - On STEAM Day, the challenge was that we had to get our trebuchet to launch a marble and hit a card tower. We had 1 hour to complete the challenge. The items we used to build the trebuchet were a few different pieces of wood, a saw, nails, screws, a pouch, tin foil, and cardboard.

The Big Trebuchet - We were able to launch water balloons successfully from the large trebuchet. - Noah

## Trimester Dinner

At our recent Trimester Dinner, families of students were invited to attend and bring food. We typically have a theme which was international this time. There was live music and various performances by students. Oliver presented his Senior Capstone project (building a guitar), the band performed Hard Times by Paramore, and the Bland Competition participants performed their songs: Alyssa sang Break Even, Lilie sang This is Gospel by Panic! At the Disco, and Oliver played the Bach Cello Suite on violin. - Thomas

The second trimester dinner was much like the first.

Music class did a few performances: one included a song from band practice and the other was a recorder duet (performed by Sabrina & Flora). The three students who did the Bland contest performed their songs as well. Then our graduating senior, Oliver, did a presentation on his senior project and the Spanish class showed their Soap Opera: *Mayordomo*. Sabrina & Flora



## Bland Contest



On February 18, Belle Meade students performed at a music competition in Little Washington, VA. The contestants in the Bland Music competition were Lilie Halko who sang This is Gospel by Panic! At the Disco, Avigail Aaronson who sang Daughter by Youth, Alyssa Amster who sang Break Even by The Script, and Oliver Heron played a beautiful Bach piece on the violin. None of them placed as there were opera singers performing in a different language. - Alyssa

## Replacing the Greenhouse Roof

During the windstorm, the wind destroyed the greenhouse cover. So on March 19 we replaced it. It came in a large roll and we had to unravel it (which took about 10 minutes), pull it up onto the greenhouse (13 min), pull it down to the other side using string (30 min), and finally secure and adjust it (30 min.) Three days later we laid new mulch down in the greenhouse. The wood chips do two key things to help run a successful garden. They keep moisture in, and they keep weeds out. - Noah

## FARM & Garden:

We are cleaning up the farm after the recent storm (which was more like a tornado). Here is a dramatic description of events: On March 4, 2018, the night of the trimester dinner, Winter Storm Riley bore its teeth upon Rappahannock and surrounding counties. Neither children nor animals were safe from its clutches. Farm animals ran for shelter, people sought refuge in their houses, and the land braced for the impending storm. That evening, after our trimester dinner, the great wind came over the mountains from the west and left behind a path of destruction. "It was something straight out of The Wizard of Oz!" said Wes. "We all could have died!" lamented Sofie. And then, tragedy struck...citizens lost power, water, heat, and Internet! Those who have generators were safe, but others had to wait out the storm in the dark and cold (without access to Facebook or Instagram!!). When the sun rose on March 5, roads and fields throughout the area looked like a war-zone. Trees and power lines were down, roofs had blown off buildings, entire structures had collapsed, and many roadways were covered in debris. It was an episode to remember. We will never forget the wrath of Riley. - Humanities Class





## Skitstory Performance



Our school production this year was Belle Meade's Skit-story of the World: a comical rendition of historical events. Open dress-rehearsal was March 8, followed by opening night on March 9 and a Saturday lunch matinee on March 10. The skits we performed were Ignorant History Class, Trench Warfare, Lewis and Clark, Victorian Floral Messaging System, Christmas in a Victorian Prison, Victorian Manners, Teddy Roosevelt, Tudor Toothpaste, Roman Triumph, Historical Masterchef, and International Relations. We chose these to perform as our favorites from a starting pool of Saturday Night Live, Studio C, and Horrible Histories comedy sketches. However, Lewis and Clark was written by Charlotte Calvert. We worked hard to make this production a success, and we hope you all had as much fun watching it as we had performing it. - Alyssa

My point of view from the play was different than the performers because I was stage crew. I think that the play went very well. I had a lot of fun interacting with the cast, getting to help with the sets, and being in the first scene. It went very smoothly, and I had a lot of fun doing this play with my new friends. My favorite scenes were when Wes got stabbed and rejected by Sofie. I also liked when Will got slapped by Alyssa. The hardest part of being in the stage crew was moving heavy things and putting them in the right places. The whole cast did a great job and the whole performance was great. - Emily

I thought the performance was not only hilarious, but also well thought-out. The students did a wonderful job at the play. - Hannah

### Risers

The risers came on a truck. They were transported from Saskatchewan, Canada. It took all the students, teachers, farm workers, and truck driver to take the risers out of the truck and into the school. Then we had to put them on a cart for easy transportation and to keep them from damaging the Belle Meade floors. A week before the dress rehearsal Belle Meade set up the risers. A day later we put the seats up on the risers. The risers are very practical for everyone getting a view of the play. They were also very good for people who wanted to hide from getting makeup. We got a grant from a foundation that helped to pay for the risers. - Lucas

### Pigs

The piglets are really cute. At first we just had a mother sow who we call mama. She was pregnant when we bought her and was due any day. She finally gave birth on the spring equinox. She had 10 piglets which are all very cute.- Charlotte



### Classes

English - English 3 recently finished studying Sophocles' tragedies *Oedipus Rex* and *Antigone*. We are now working on a literary analysis essay comparing and contrasting the two pieces. English 2 just finished reading George Orwell's *Animal Farm* and discussing totalitarianism, the Russian Revolution, and the Cold War. English 1 recently finished reading Gary Paulsen's *Sentries* and is preparing for a class debate.

Humanities - Students have presented their Discovery Projects and are beginning a new assignment.

Math - Geometry is studying quadrilaterals as well as working on a building project. Pre-Algebra students are studying proportions with fractions. Algebra I is studying fractions and polynomials. Algebra II is working on rate problems and finding perpendicular lines to slope-intercept form lines. Calculus is working on finding the area under a curve. Pre-algebra Honors is working with distributing multiplication and division over addition to solve for variables. The Pre-algebra class is expanding their ability to solve for variables in a variety of different problem settings. In Middle School math, students are calculating circumference and area of circles.

Science - In Biology, students are exploring genetic medicine and manipulation. Integrated Science students are studying the properties of light.

History - World History 1 students have begun a capstone research project on a subject of their choice.

Geography - Geography students are beginning to study Antarctica, Australia, and Oceania.

Spanish - Spanish 2 recently presented projects on Mexican food and have a test on the imperfect. Spanish 1 is studying daily activities and descriptions.

Latin - Latin 1 is studying Roman numerals, words for numbers, perfect and imperfect tenses, and nominative and accusative. Latin 2 is also studying cases and tenses, comparative and superlative adjectives, and working on more complicated translations.

Art - Students have started working on a "body map" project and drawing silhouettes.

Music - Students have split up into strings, choral, and band groups for the final trimester projects.

### Thank you to our major donors:

Greve Foundation, Joseph and Lynne Horning/Horning Family Fund, Joseph B. Johnson, Mike Biniek and Susan Hoffman, Cliff and Christine Mumm, Liesbet Koromzay, Susan and John Dienelt, David and Virginia Gerrish, Jeanne and John Floberg, Columbus Foundation, Matthew Wheelock and KK Ottesen, Inasmuch Foundation, Jeanne Hoffman Smith, Marion Briscoe DeVore