

# BELLE MEADE



School | Farm | Day Camp | B & B



Friends,

Thanks for a profoundly wonderful year. Your influence on the world is larger than you think, and you can and will do many great things. As my final parting words, I've included an excerpt from a speech several of my classmates seemed to like. Thank you again for everything— come visit me at Emory and Henry!  
Ana

*Excerpt from "We Have a Problem"*

We have a problem in the United States.

It's 2015 and we fear change. We fear the unknown. We fear *our own ability* to change. We fear *other's* ability to change. Because fear is easy. Fear is the proponent of hate— and hate is the force behind doubt, rendering us immobile, paralyzed by our own box of an identity.

But you are not a label. You are not disposable. **YOU ARE NOT POWERLESS.**

It's a long process to change the world, but one needn't walk alone. In fact, you *never have to walk alone again*. Because once you let go of your insecurities, of your doubt, hatred (inward and outward), you'll see the many problems of the world are not insurmountable. The world is worth saving.

We have a problem, and we're going to fix it

Class of 2015- You Rock, I mean Rapp! lol

Belle Meade school's class of 2015 was given a very special graduation ceremony with guest speaker Dr. Joan Vernikos. During Dr. Vernikos's speech to the graduating students, she informed them of the trials to come and how they could overcome them all through the skills they had learned from their education and the will to persevere. Dr. Vernikos spoke of how the future is not set in stone and how before her years at NASA she wanted to be an actress. It was an amazing privilege to have Dr. Vernikos speak to the seniors and a perfect final preparation for their lives after high school.

Noah

Senior Rap

The senior's did a 'Belle Meade Rap'. The song came from the theme song from the television show "Fresh Prince from Bel Air". They changed the lyrics to things around and about Belle Meade. They were very entertaining! We all enjoyed their performance. Lauren and Ana did a great job, and I wish them luck in college!

James



**Belle Meade School 2014-2015  
Congratulations to our 2015  
graduates ~ Ana & Lauren!**

**Thank you to our supporters for your generous donations to Belle Meade School and the GIVE LOCAL PIEDMONT campaign MAY 5th, 2015!**

## Yearbook

The Belle Meade yearbook of 2014-2015 is here! When they arrived, we had a great time looking and signing each other's yearbooks! Each person got his/her own customized page with his/her own bio written by another person. I have to give a special thanks to everyone who wrote bios, took the awesome pictures, and to everyone who made the yearbook happen! I really enjoyed getting to work alongside Ava, Lasse, John, Sofie, and Ana to produce an amazing product! You guys are awesome! Thanks to everyone for creating such great memories that we had the honor of documenting in the yearbook!

McKayla

## The End

The end of the year is always a sad time, but it was made easier by the wonderful speeches of our graduating students. Ana spoke about the importance of friendship, love, and family. Lauren spoke about the experiences she has had at Belle Meade, and the people she loves. It was both a great ending for those who are leaving but also a closure to those of us still at Belle Meade. Our graduating students will be missed dearly.

Leif



## My Year in the US

I was asked to write an article about my exchange year for the latest Belle Meade newsletter. When I was given this assignment, I thought it was a great idea. Now I'm sitting here with pen and paper and realize, how hard it is to put everything I want to say into words. I have learned, experienced, and made so many exciting memories this year. I've met so many amazing and inspiring people, seen so many great places and for some reason still can't believe I am actually here. Going on this exchange was the best decision and overall experience of my life! I encourage everyone who wants to learn, speak, breathe and feel so many things, languages, cultures and emotions of a second life, to go abroad for just one year. I'd like to thank all Belle Meade students for making this year a life-changing experience, all teachers for being great tutors and role models as well as Susan for being such a delightful and happy individual who gave me the opportunity to see the US from a completely different perspective. Thank you.



Lasse

## The Last Music of the Year

David Rampy(Pops) sang a Shaker melody entitled *Simple Gifts*. It was very good. When he sang, you could really hear the soul (sol in music is the fifth note of the major scale) of the song. The students sang *Seasons of Love* From the musical *Rent*. It was very good. I am impressed with the way they were able to pull it together in the last few weeks. The Strings class played *The Road to Lisdoonvarna*, *Egan's Polka*, *John Ryan's Polka*, *Irish Washer Woman*, *Wayfaring Stranger*, *The Atholl Highlanders*, *Crazy Train*, and our original called *Planxty Angsty*. It was very much fun to play all of these songs, and I can't wait for next year.

Oliver

## Welcome!

We are pleased to welcome these new families to our school community:

Alyssa Amster and her parents Valerie and Mike Amster  
 Jharna East and her parents Laura and Frankie East  
 Edward Giles and his parents Faith and Brian Giles  
 Jena Sanford and her parents Krissi and Mike Sanford



### Storm and Graduation

At the final Belle Meade trimester dinner and graduation, there was a storm going on. So when I was going to get a table for me, everyone was putting down their plates and pulling the tables inside. I was confused at first until I saw raindrops outside. That is when I realized that a storm was brewing; so we ate our dinner inside. The school did music presentations. When the storm ended, everyone went home, and Ana and Lauren graduated happily from Belle Meade School! Ryan

### Kittens

There are two sets of kittens born recently at Belle Meade, Mango's and Samantha's, and all were not planned. Sofie is keeping one of Samantha's kittens, two are going to be placed in a home with kids, and one still needs a home. All but one of Mango's kittens are at a new home now. The dogs really like them, and so do we. They are cute and sweet. I am going to name my kitten Peaches or Leo. The mommy cats, Mango & Samantha, will soon be fixed so there are no more kitten born here any time soon! In the meantime, we are so happy to play with kittens! Sofie

### Hiking Trip

We went to hike for the end of the school year with Alex, John, and Kimber, and every one except for Susan and Mike. We went swimming and had fun at White Oak falls. We hiked up to the top of all the falls and went swimming, and some of the people stayed at the bottom and swam. John got lost so Kimber went to go find him, and then Kimber got lost from what we thought was 3 hours. We hiked back and did chores and had circle. My favorite part of the whole day was when Leif and Lasse went swimming. They were funny!

Ethan



### Trimester Dinner

This year the Belle Meade graduation dinner theme was picnic. Home-cooked fried chicken, barbecue and various other types of meat were brought. There were salad makings and fruit and for dessert various cakes and cupcakes. Drinks were different types of kombucha and tea. Now while eating these delicious foods was easy, finding a place to eat them was not. Huge storm clouds had just rolled in, and so of course it started to pour just as we were about to eat.

Once the rain started, there was a mad scramble to bring in the tables and chairs from the outside and reset up back inside. Thankfully, this was done just in time (well, almost in time.) But all the food was worth it, so thank you to all who contributed to our wonderful graduation feast!

Ava

### Thank you to our major donors:

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