

# Belle Meade School

February 2014 Newsletter



## English

In English class the middle school has just recently finished reading Charles Dickens *A Christmas Carol* and have dived into our new book *Treasure Island* written by Robert Louis Stevens. While reading the book, we are assigned certain tasks such as going home and reading a couple of chapters and writing down five questions and ten vocabulary words. Every morning for English we come in and write our words on the board. Once everyone is done we pick ten words and write synonyms. Honestly, thinking up synonyms is the hardest part. Sometimes finding a synonym seem impossible, but, if we are really truly stuck, we get someone to look it up. Now in English class I think everyone has lots of fun and enjoys learning words. Personally, I love coming to English class in the morning and seeing what words others have found. Emily

## Math

Recently in math we have been working on speed. We are learning how to find the speed of something if we only know the distance and the time. We are mostly trying to find the speed of an object using MPH, miles per hour. We were previously working on ratios and were learning how to find the ratio of groups of people or objects. Celeste



## Art

In middle school art we are studying perspective. Perspective is drawing things the way they look like in real life, all of the correct lines and angles and such. First in middle school, we drew one point perspective. One point perspective is drawing with one point - the vanishing point on a line (the horizon line) that is the farthest from everything else and to which everything connects. The next art class we drew two point perspective, that is the same as one point perspective except now there are two points from which everything goes to on the horizon line. Drawing is a lot of fun. At first when you start to draw it, it just looks like a whole bunch of random lines and makes no sense, but as you draw more, at all starts to come together. So, all in all, it's fun, hard, but fun. Ava

## Geography

In geography we learn in depth about all the areas of the world. Right now we are studying Asia. We are writing about different countries and presenting it to the class. To pass our test we have to label all the countries in Asia. The subject before Asia was Europe. For both subjects we used a computer program called [iliketolearn.com](http://iliketolearn.com) for review. Geography is one of my favorite subjects because I love learning about the world. Kavan

## Skiing

This week on Thursday we are going skiing at Massanutten for the last time as a school. Last week, we could ski by ourselves, and we didn't have any more ski lessons. The snow was not bad last time, and we hope that on Thursday we have good weather. We are happy to go on the ski trip. Pascal



## Farm

The beef here at Belle Meade is 100% grass fed goodness. It's like Gaia herself came up from the earth and bestowed her wholesome ways upon our cows. With every nourishing bite of our ground beef you can feel the love that Mike puts into every moment of raising them. During the winter we feed them a bale of hay every day to supplement the lack of grass available. We also practice what is known as rotational grazing where the cows are rotated from field to field in order to have maximum coverage. The pigs and chickens are no different either. Our pork and layers are fed with non-GMO feed. The pigs enjoy turning over the garden for the next season. We strive to feed only the best food to obtain the best cuts of meat. David

### **Elective**

In elective for the past few weeks, we have worked on building shelters out in the woods. Victor is the head of the elective. He takes us outside to teach us how to live off the land, and how to survive. We are finding the materials out in nature. We are using branches, leaves, and vines. I put a long branch in the fork of a tree and made a roof-shaped structure out of other sticks. For the past eight days I have gone off to spy on the others to see what they were doing. One of the times Ethan came with me. Oliver



### **Physical Education**

In physical education we play a lot of fun games. In the warm weather we play basketball, frisbee, dodgeball, speedball, soccer, volleyball, and pom-pom. In the winter we also play dodgeball, basketball, pom-pom and frisbee, but we also have water challenges, snowball competitions, battles and inside games. No matter if it's hot or cold, we always manage to have fun in PE, especially with Victor as our teacher. Phillip

### **New Teachers**

Since one of our teachers is no longer with us, we have a new schedule, and some new staff members. We have a new English teacher which is Susan. Susan loves it! This is her first time teaching English since David was in seventh grade and now he is a senior in high school. She finds it fun and interesting, and she gets to know her students in a different way. But she has to catch up on her reading! She also enjoys team teaching Latin with Elijah Wheelock. She is relearning and learning new Latin the more time passes. We also have a new chemistry teacher, Kimber Herron. He is a school father with science and mathematics background. He is enjoying this new challenge, and is always thinking of fun, hands-on things for the students to do so he can keep our attention. All the students are embracing the new changes! Amelia

### **From the Garden**

In the gardens, the increasing sunlight harkens the full swing of spring. We have planted carrots, beets, radishes, and Asian greens in the hoops house. Outside, we have planted snow peas, beets, radishes, and carrots. Hopefully the cold winter temperatures will subside allowing these early plantings to grow. Using biodynamic guidelines we have also planted potatoes under heavy leaf mulch. Inside, under sunlight and lights, we have started cabbage, Swiss chard, leeks, and beets; all have germinated. With the help of students the gardens are going to be spectacular. James

### **100 Year Anniversary**

It has been an interesting time here in the school. We are celebrating the 100 year anniversary of the construction of our very own Belle Meade Schoolhouse. We are gathering photos and great memories of the amazing building from when it was first built in 1914 to today, carrying on its duties as a working school house for eager young children. We are having a birthday party for public to come, view the school house, and even learn about what is going on here today. This is my third year at this amazing school, and I love coming to this unique learning environment where students assume with so much responsibility. Elliott

### **Kitty and Helping With The Play**

We've all been working on the play for months now, and it's really starting to come together as a whole. For the dancing aspect of the production, we needed another person to come in and show us what to do. Kitty Keyser has really been helping us the past few weeks to develop the choreography for the different dance scenes. She has been a great help in making this work, and she's made the whole process a lot easier. She helps with everything from the dance scenes, to how characters should walk, to how they should sit. Her insights are very helpful, and help the day go smoother. Leif



### **Thank you to our major donors:**

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