

BELLE MEADE



School | Farm | Day Camp | B & B



Winter on the Farm

Over winter break new additions to the farm were welcomed, piglets! "The piglets are very cute and squeaky!" Said Lauren. Today is the coldest it's been all winter, 9°! That just means to layer on jackets, gloves, and hats for chores. We are constantly putting wood in the heatmore to keep the school warm. For riding we are working on more ring work during the winter, such as jumping, trot rails, cantering, and trotting. Things certainly do not slow down at Belle Meade for the winter!



McKayla

Addams Family

So far for the play we have been practicing both whole group and solo songs with David Rampy, (thank you David!), rehearsing lines, and doing one on one lessons with each other. We have also planed shopping trips to complete the Addams' family wardrobe. We enjoy finding new ideas to make the play better and better. Of course, the work has been strenuous but completely worth it, and we're all having a fabulous time!

Ava



Señor Garcia: The Man and His Dream

Since Johnny Glass, Spawn of our very own John Glass has abandoned us; Señor Garcia has been a wonderful replacement and innovation to our Spanish program. On Tuesdays, Alex has us do grammar and bookwork. While on Thursdays, Señor Garcia helps us with conversational Spanish.

Señor Garcia was born in Mexico and moved to Texas when he was six. He is the grandfather of our student, Sofie Garcia, and the former father-in-law of Anna Maher. We enjoy his presence and think he is a wonderful addition to the school.

Leif



Holiday Celebration

On December 19th, 2014 Belle Meade School had a Christmas and winter holiday celebration. We had pizza, salad, cupcakes, cookies, candy and other holiday foods. After lunch we had a secret Santa celebration. Every student brought presents for another student and because of that, got presents themselves. All the students really liked their presents and left the school enlightened with the Christmas spirit.

Lasse



Martin Luther King Day

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King: Life and Legacy Live on

Martin Luther King, Jr. lives on because we all have to live what we believe. He inspired all of us and our dreams; he showed that violence is not a way because it is not something we do not support or want.

In many ways, King was a lot like me due to my love for communities, and how we should represent what people want. The "I Have A Dream" speech is very inspiring to me because it shows how there is still hope even if there seems to be no light for a community and what they want. We can elect an leader and the leader directs us.

Martin Luther King, Jr. did many things: he marched on Washington, and he helped Rosa Parks to boycott the buses. We can do the same; we can rise up as a nation and show that we have a say in our rights.

Back in the 1960's, we didn't have equal rights for all people, but we fought for them, we rose up and showed that all people deserve to be treated equal, and we proved this to other nations. King showed us that if we use peace to help influence people, they will rise up as a community against the oppression.

We, the citizens have a right: the right to say what we want. In some parts of the country we still have racism, but we can help fight together and show what love is as King taught us. Love is not a word that we should just throw out into the air; love is when you will do anything for your family member, friend, neighbor, or colleague. It is when you come second. I believe that this is possible because there is always someone who will accept each and every one of us on his small world, this small little pebble out in space.

For right now, we have to follow and do what our heart wants, not what other people want. We have a heart and a mind so we should do the right thing. There is always an alternative. For everything there is always an answer, and with a human there is always love. Follow your heart and what is right. This is the lesson that Martin Luther King, Jr. left us to pass on to generations that follow.

James



Belle Meade School is a 501(c) 3 no-profit organization. Donations can be made online at www.bellemeadeschool.org or sent to 353 F. T. Valley Road, Sperryville, Virginia 22740

It's the most coldest time of the year

Now that it is the dead of winter, and cold creeps around every corner, one thing that brightens the school week is skiing. Every Thursday, we eat a quick lunch, hop into the van, and take the drive over the mountains to ski. We get there, don our gear, and enjoy an hour of skiing before lessons. Then we learn, improve, and refine our technique with an instructor, all while having a great time! We have about fifteen minutes after our lesson is over, and time to turn in your gear. We spend time with our friends, have a great time, and all while sliding downhill! Then we all get back into the van, and drive home. It's one of the great times of the year, and I love when it comes around again.



Leif

My Winter Break

I did wonderful things on my winter break. The first thing I did is Christmas, spent time with family, and got wonderful things. I even got a sumo game and 2 new video games for the Wii.

What does Christmas mean to me? I like Christmas because it is full of happiness and sharing.... and cookies and candy.

My new year's resolutions: two more new video games for the Wii, go to the Baltimore aquarium, swim with dolphins, go to the San Diego zoo, go to the Smithsonian. Well there you have it.. hope you had a fun winter break too.
Ryan

Alex goes to Austin - CX Nationals

Alex placed 7th (1st Cat 3 rider) in the 2015 USA Cyclocross National Championship Masters division last weekend in Austin, TX. Not bad for a rookie!

"It was an exciting experience for my inaugural year competing in CX. Our race was first on Friday morning, and the weather gods had decided that it would be rainy and cold in Austin. The hard, dry, fast course that I pre-rode the day before had become a sloppy, wet mess overnight. Prime CX conditions but not my specialty. Luckily, Brian let me borrow his carbon wheels with mud tires so I had good equipment and extra pit wheels if necessary. After warming up in the Vanderkitten team tent, I made my way over to the starting line ready for 45 minutes of 'blood, sweat, and gears'. Although I was ranked 8th, my call-up was in the second row which meant a good start was needed. I got out fast and fell in with the top pack, sitting in 5th place for the first lap. Podium spot! I thought. Then the mud came...my roadie background did not help me on the steep, narrow, slippery turns on the back side of the course, and before long I had dropped back a few places. Apparently, when Texas dirt gets wet it becomes sleek clay; no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't get a good grip either on or off my bike so I relied on my running background and chose to carry my bike through the rough bits. I managed to keep fighting and finish in the top ten (1st Cat 3 rider in my division). All I can say is that it was total chaos...exactly what a CX championship should be. The podium will have to wait until next year, but now I know what to expect. I learned a great deal over the season like how to prepare better for races under certain weather conditions and in particular areas, what apparel and equipment is needed, how to ride in mud, and what type of training is required. Getting pumped for Asheville 2016!

I especially want to thank everyone who supported me along the way and contributed to my fundraising campaign. It couldn't have happened without you. Thank you all!"

Alex



Multimedia

In multimedia elective we have been working on the yearbook. We are writing bios on all the animals, teachers, and students. We all have assignments in the yearbook that are doing multimedia. McKayla has to collect secret quotes. I am collecting photos. Ana is doing the blog, editing bios and writing about the play. John is recording music. Ava is doing blog and Facebook. Lauren is doing Facebook and photographs. Ethan is also doing short bios and collecting photos. Lasse is doing photographs and a movie.

Sofie

Garden News

The garden is doing well. Due to our first snow and hard freezes, there are still things to do in the garden such as pruning the orchard and cleaning up old plants. With the help of Wendy and Lenna, the garden is prepared for winter and the cold. We've had several hard freezes and chills; even with temperatures in the single digits and with strong wind, veggies and flowers are still growing in the hoop houses. I'm sure that this year will produce much good food.

James



Riding

On Monday the 5th, Alex decided it would be a fun start back to riding after break to do an obstacle course.

We brought balls, costumes, cones, and brooms. We used them to design different stations like weaving through cones, dribbling a ball with a stick, dressing up ourselves and the horses, backing up and an assortment of other challenging exercises. We all had a blast! Lauren



War Horse

In our English 1 class we read the book War Horse, and now we are watching the movie. The book is about a young boy of 16. His father buys a horse at the market. He was drunk when he bought the horse and brought it home. It was a colt. His son Albert was in love with the horse and trained it and called it Joey. Then Albert's dad had to sell the horse to make money to pay rent. The horse went to the war in 1918, and many other horses were there too. Joey survived and then he made a friend named Tophorn. Tophorn dies sadly. Joey went through dead man's land and was stuck in barbed wire. Two soldiers were coming out in the field to save Joey. Albert joined the war and was hurt and could not see for a couple days. Joey was reunited with Albert. Unfortunately, Joey was got an infection from the barbed wired that was probably rusted. He had tetanus from the cut and he was stiff for days and couldn't eat anything but oatmeal. Then Albert and Joey went home and lived happily ever after.

Ethan

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