

Belle Meade School

November 2014 Newsletter



Bohemia Masquerade Dinner

Right after Halloween, we have a fund raising dinner where we make a delicious meal with Sylvie Rowand, chef and proprietor of Laughing Duck Gardens and Cookery. Our meal began with a salad with greens from Belle Meade, and goat cheese and sautéed local

pears, butternut squash soup, Basque chicken with rice and peas. For dessert we had Basque cake with berry filling. The berries and chicken were from Belle Meade. The evening started off at 4:00. The student waiters were McKayla, Leif, Noah, Lasse, Ana, and Ava, and parent volunteers. We all had already set up the tables the day before with the beautifully painted masks that Belle Meade students had created themselves, so all we had to do was clean up the school a bit and eat the dinner that Sylvie and Anita Raiford (parent of Ryan, a Belle Meade student) had very kindly made for us. We had chicken, rice and stuffed peppers. After our dinner the guests started to arrive, so the waiters brought in appetizers with assorted toppings while Sylvie, Anita and I started to plate the salad. After salad, we plated the soup. There were a few spilling mishaps in the kitchen, but it all worked out. Once people had finished their soup, the waiters rushed out with the chicken with rice and peas. This specific dish took longest to eat, so Sylvie, Anita and I had more than enough time to cut and plate the desert. After the main dish, the cake was served. And then we sat down after what felt like hours of rushing around. The entire experience was an incredibly educational experience for me. I enjoyed cooking and learning from Sylvie about catering. I can't wait to cook with her again! I'm not very excited for the sinks to be full of dishes though. Ah well. The dishes were worth it, it was an amazing experience!

Ava Hession-Landman

"Dia de Los Muertos" (Day of the Dead)

The day before Halloween, Belle Meade Spanish classes studied the Day of The Dead, which is what Spanish cultures celebrate the day after we have Halloween. The Day of The Dead is basically Mexico's Halloween except they remember their ancestors and thank them. Other Spanish cultures also honor the tradition (Spain, Brazil, Peru, etc). Lena told us all about the celebration and we talked about our family members that have passed away. I personally talked about my father, and other people talked about how they lost a member of their family. John and Johnny also where there, and they talked about their family. I'm not in Spanish (I study Chinese), but they invited me to join them, and it was interesting.

James Hensley

YAM-PLANTAIN FUFU

Fufu (or fofoo) is a staple in most African and Caribbean cuisine. It is made by pounding yams, plantains, or other starchy foods into a soft dough and adding a little salt or seasoning. Fufu is traditionally eaten with the fingers and usually accompanies soup, stew, or sauce. Many West African countries eat fufu made with yams or plantains.

In the English III class, students recently read Chinua Achebe's novel "Things Fall Apart" which is set in a pre-colonial village of Nigeria. The book speaks often of the importance of yams and eating fufu so the students were interested in tasting this traditional food for themselves. The consensus? "Hmmm...it's pretty good. Tastes like mashed sweet potatoes." Alexandra Campbell-Forte



Writer's Eye 2014

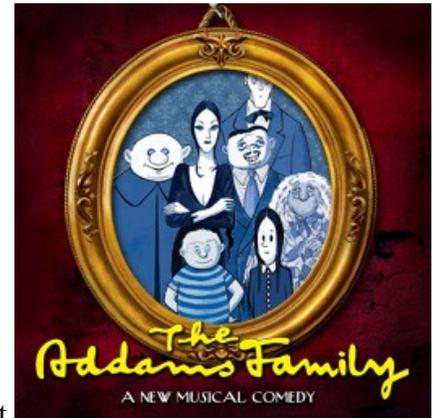
"Writers Eye" at the Fralin Museum is a writing competition that takes place yearly at UVA. The Fralin is filled with all sorts of paintings, sculptures, photographs, and artifacts from all around the world. For Writers Eye the museum selects several pieces of artwork for students to study and to write their own story or poem and submit it to the contest. Our field trip was on Friday, November 14. We departed from school about 9:00 am. When we arrived at UVA, we took a tour of the Rotunda and walked around the lawn at the center of the campus. We had an great time at UVA! We saw many amazing pieces of art, including a whole exhibit of Gordon Parks' photographs from around the 1940s. After our tour of the art museum, we had about 30 minutes to sit and jot down ideas for our stories or poems. After we finished at the Fralin we headed down to the Newcomb Hall Dining Cafeteria on the campus and ate a delicious lunch there. After we enjoyed our meal, we left the campus and headed back to Belle Meade. We made it safely. Thank you Alex for organizing, planning, and making the trip happen! "

McKayla Colgan



Musical

This year, the Belle Meade students and faculty have decided to put on a production of the Addam's Family! Based on the TV show, our play will have the characters that everyone knows, with an interesting and new feel. The play is student directed, and it has a fun new feel, very different from anything that we have attempted before. We've given everyone their parts, and we've started running lines and finding out everything that we need to do to set up for the play.



We're very happy for the opportunity to do this, and we are all optimistic, and working together to make this work.

Leif Kvarnes

How All the Animals Realized that the Turtle was Causing all Their problems.

Every ten years, all the animals would gather in the sacred meeting place. At this time, they would eat each other's food, and tell tales of the year. Every animal came except the turtle, who stayed at home and ate all the other animals' food.

As the animals talked, they all realized the turtle had fooled them all, and most of them were horribly maimed in the process. The birds told how they lost their feathers, and the elephant told how he lost his eyes.

This horrified the other animals, and all of the animals decided that they needed to exact revenge.

So the other animals all invited the turtle to dinner, and boiled a large pot of water. They told the turtle to not get in this warm bath, and wait until after dinner, when they could all get in the water together. The animals all left to go prepare dinner.

Of course the turtle got into the water, and was too amazed at his cleverness that he didn't notice he was dying. When all the other animals returned, they found a rich broth in the pot. They added yams and chicken, and had a great feast. Even the herbivores broke tradition, and at least tasted the dish.

With the turtle gone, all animals lived longer, had more food, and had a better quality of life.

Leif Kvarnes

The Farm

At the Belle Meade farm the turkeys are getting bigger, and they are ready to be harvested in one week for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The garden pigs were sent out to be harvested, and we sold six piglets. There will soon be more piglets. All the meat chickens have been harvested and are available to purchase. The cows are now closer to the school and B&B so that way in the winter time they will be easier to get to and so some pastures can be dormant. We are getting the chicken coops ready for winter by stapling cardboard to cover the holes and putting hay and straw in the coops. Sadly the hay bale maze is being taken apart for the cows. The chickens are closer now because of the winter also. The apple trees have stopped giving apples. The school also got new projectors and computers. Mike is installing auxiliary heating for the two north classrooms. We got the Heatmores working for the warmth of the school. We are also cutting wood. We take down trees and cut them up, and every Thursday we get fire wood.

Ethan S. Cole



Music

I am in the music elective. It is taught by my dad, Kimber. I am now helping Leif learn how to play the mandolin. So far he has learned Old Joe Clark and Drunken Sailor, and we have started Cluck Old Hen. On some of the days we will play rock music in elective. At the end of the elective I will teach him an Irish jig. Lasse plays the electric guitar, and Gabe and Noah play the acoustic guitar. Throughout the whole of the elective we will learn a song to play together.

Oliver Herron

Community Work Day

Belle Meade School's community work day gives students and parents the opportunity to learn important agricultural skills, build strength and connect with the outdoors. Every Thursday from 3:00 to 5:00 students work around the farm cutting wood, clearing trails for riding and running, and gardening. Working outdoors is a good way to stay healthy, maintain a good work ethic and is even considered a form of therapy.



Fire wood is critical for Belle Meade School's teachers and students to stay productive because it is used as a primary heat source. The Heatmor, an outdoor, wood-burning furnace, keeps the school a warm and happy learning environment during the colder months of the year. Agricultural practices have been around for over 12,000 years and should be used by everyone who has the resources. Students work in Belle Meade's gardens and green houses with parents, teachers and local volunteers. Trail clearing is important for Belle Meade Equestrians because it allows riders to travel on new areas of the farm and continue to use previously established paths. Noah Waller

Scavenger hunt at Belle Meade

During the last couple of PE classes we tried a new game focused on the School and the Belle Meade Farm, a scavenger hunt. Our PE teacher, John, and some students prepared a quiz with riddles and questions which led us to different locations in and around the school building and farm. To win the game we had to go to specific locations to find the next clue. These clues looked like this: "While I might prefer to have been around before Gutenberg, it is my lot to have been placed in Modern Times." This turned out to show the next clue is going to be in the Book Modern Times in John's Classroom.

Maybe at your next visit at Belle Meade you want to find some of the locations. Here are some clues:

My slope is 1:12 or less, by law! Wouldn't want anyone rolling away.

Bilbo couldn't have successfully floated away in me, at least not in my current state of oxidation.

A particularly colorful Equus Africanus Asinus was violently beaten here but it didn't make the news.

Lasse Naumann

Middle School Classes

English- We read different kinds of books. We recently finished *DOGSONG* by Gary Paulsen and just now finished *WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND* by Elizabeth George Speare.

Spanish- We practice months, days, seasons, and weather. We also let students bring Spanish foods, and we celebrated the Day of The Dead (Dia de los muertos).

Latin-We study Roman languages and adjectives in Latin.

History-We study famous people that lived back in the old days and what role they played in the 1500s.

Science- We are studying hybrids, reproduction, evolution, and animal types.

Math- We do practices, like division, subtraction, multiplication, and addition.

Music- I play xylophones. I also play different kinds of songs.

Art- We draw pictures of things like cans, eggs, and circles.

Electives- It is where we do different things like cooking.

Yesterday we went down to the pond to look for different kinds of mammals.

Gym- This is an elective. It is where we exercise. We also play this funny game where we call a two person number to get a towel to each of the teams. They let me be the referee, and I like it.

Ryan Raiford



Garden

For the past few days we have watered in the hoop house. Today we weeded some, and then we covered the plants in the hoop house so they would not get cold. The winter garden is taking shape. Cover crops of winter rye and oats have been planted. In the outdoor garden cover crops have been planted over the kale and the other tender greens. In the hoop house we have planted kale, arugula and lettuce. The hoophouse lettuce and cover greens need row covers. Oliver Herron

Junior Fox Hunt with Thornton Hill Hounds

The equestrian ladies from Belle Meade relaxed out with the Thornton Hill Fort Valley hounds on November 7 for a "junior meet" on a farm across the road from campus. It was a cold and blustery day with not much scent. Although the students were a bit nervous, they rose to the occasion and rode their horses beautifully (and even enjoyed the fast run we did have on a red fox). Lauren showed her skill with Dakota and jumped some coops like a seasoned hunter. Ana rode Habanero with a relaxed smile as if she had been doing this a long time. McKayla was awesome and showed her expertise on a rather difficult but well-handled Amethyst. Alex rode Aisling who wanted to run past everyone but was made to do circles! All in all the Belle Meade equestrian ladies did a fantastic job, showing their good horsemanship and etiquette out hunting. Rosie Campbell, MFH (Master of Fox Hounds)



New Pony

Three weeks ago, Belle Meade's Equestrian program gained a new equine member, Kodiak, formerly named Texas. He is a cute bay Quarter Horse gelding with lots of fancy white markings and a personality to match. Kodiak was donated by Natalie Ortberg and delivered my family and me one sunny Sunday afternoon. I grew up with Kodiak and worked with him as a kid. When Natalie mentioned he was searching for his forever home, I knew he would be a great fit here at Belle Meade. After agreeing on the need for a sixth horse, arrangements were made. Kodiak has integrated into our herd of five beautifully and rapidly become friends with Dakota and Cherokee. Under saddle, Kodiak has a lot to learn about being a lesson horse, but he shows improvement each day and is demonstrating with some more saddle time, he has what it takes. In his training which has been a team effort between Alex Forte and me, Kodiak is starting to enjoy trail riding, though he prefers ring work. At this point, his favorite thing to do is to jump! Kodiak is a very talented little horse, we cannot wait to see him giving lessons to our beginner and intermediate students here and assuming his role in our community. Lauren Hammer

Thank you to our major donors:

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