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THE BELLE RINGER

The Belle Meade Montessori School Official Newsletter



Here's looking at you, 2021

Winter
Love is like winter
warm breaths thaw cold hearts
one day summer will come

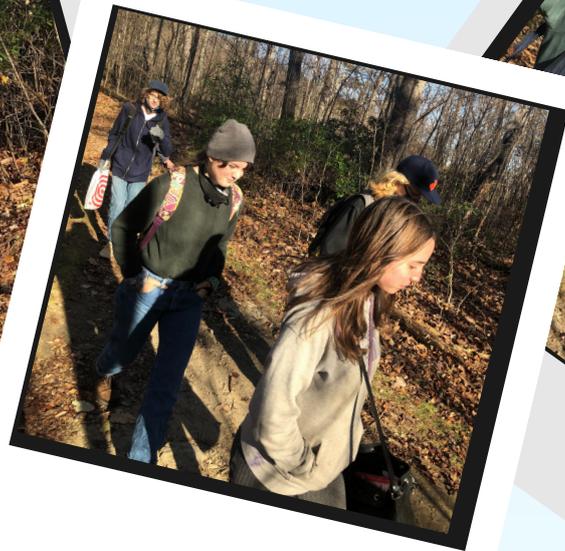
Mia

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Hazel River Hike

On a beautiful winter's day, the middle school and high school students joined to take a hike on the Hazel River trail in the Shenandoah National Park. It was the first of our Thursday hikes, which are replacing our ski days this season due to COVID-19 precautions.



New Students



What's your name? **Kyce**
What grade are you in? **9th**
How old are you? **14**
Have you been liking school so far? **Yeah, it's a nice and wonderful environment, and very welcoming.**
What's your favorite subject? **English**
What's your favorite elective? **Music**
How did you find out about school? **My mom knows Ethan.**

What's your name? **Harriet**
What grade are you in? **6th**
How old are you? **12**
Have you been liking school so far? **Good!**
What's your favorite subject? **English and Science**
What's your favorite elective? **Homesteading.**
How did you find out about the school? **I used to go to summer camp.**



What's your name? **Aiden**
What grade are you in? **6th**
How old are you? **12**
Have you been liking school so far? **Good, I like the school.**
What's your favorite class? **Any class with John.**
What's your favorite elective? **Homesteading**
Do you like riding? **It's terrific!**
How did you find out about the school? **My Aunt Megan found the school.**



This first picture you're seeing is a picture of Archie and Aiden. Their whole group consisted of Archie, Aiden, and Mia. From my understanding, the goal was to get a wheel barrel to land on a traffic cone, and it pretty much succeeded. But before I continue, let me explain: basically the middle school science class did this thing where they built multiple small machines to do a simple task. Now that that is out of the way, let's move onto the next group, which is Nolan and Eli. Their goal was to get a wood plank to hit another piece of wood. Nice. And last was Elisa's and mine and it was simple: BIG tractor tire, downhill, crush plastic tub. Oh, and there was a ramp. And some certain people may have gotten in the tire . . . cough Archie and Aiden . . . cough. **Rae**



Rube Goldberg projects



Rube Goldberg projects



Rube Goldberg projects



Band And Music

Belle Meade's very own band, Lasagnas in a Fire, has just returned from winter break. Since the last edition of the newsletter, they have been hard at work with recent additions to their ever-growing setlist, namely Wham!'s smash hit, *Last Christmas*, and the royalty-free banger, *Silver Bells*. In addition to their new and improved setlist, Lasagnas in a Fire has also gained a new member whose talent does not go unnoticed! The one and only Jack Dueck has been playing solo piano for a year and a half, just having joined us last month, and reports enjoying the class! His unique wit and insight are invaluable to the class.

KYCE

Mary Poppins



Practice has already begun for Mary Poppins, the musical that Belle Meade is performing this March. Alyssa is going to play Mary, the lead role. We've been reciting lines in the first act, and have also practiced songs.

Jack



We had a Christmas tree this year that, by Belle Meade standards, was beautiful. Let me give you some perspective: Last year, we had two dead trees with a single green branch between them duct taped together. It was so bad that Santa himself had to come and get a new one. This year we had several people go to get the tree, including Jack, Archie, Elisa, Aiden (for a little while), and me. We had quite a trek to go get it. We used up all of P.E. class and went a little into community work day. When we got to the very end of our community work day, we had decorated it to make it look like it was at least part tree and not just a muddy shrub. Although what I found most unusual is that we usually look for the tree on community work day but instead this year we did it during P.E. Hmmm. . .

Lucas

New Teacher Profile: Joe Parker

Joe is nice and he loves teaching. He and his wife have been doing homesteading for the last 8 years, "It gives us a sense of independence from the mainstream food growing and distribution system that has proven to be fragile." He is good at teaching homesteading. He mostly thinks the school is like a big family. Joe loves Dandy and Buster (our Belle Meade dogs) especially when they visit his class room, "They really brighten my day when they show up." Joe thoughts on COVID-19: "It prevents us from being able to do our normal things like camping and field trips. Also, having to wear masks all day prevents me from really being able to communicate with the students. When I can't see a person's face, I really don't know what they are feeling."

Harriet



Homesteading has been a lot of fun this year. I enjoy it because I have learned new skills that will help me in the future. This year in homesteading, we built a rabbit hutch and raised flower beds. The raised flower beds are great because they allow produce to grow without touching the ground. This makes it easier to harvest them, and also reduces risk of losing the crops. The rabbit hutch will be home to our bunnies, so they can stay dry and warm. I'm excited to see what else we will build with Joe this year.

Landen

I lay on the freshly dying grass.
The leaves have long left the tops of the trees
Turned to gold and amber and then fell to the earth
Never to return the same as that past summer now gone.
Time marches on.
Everything returns to everything.
At least I hope it does.

Charles



Penelope, our new PM

The Republic of Midgar

Penelope has been selected as our new prime minister for this trimester, with the other members of parliament: Joseph and Landen for our high school members; Jack, and Mia for our middle school members; and Joe as our teacher representative. Mia and Sofie are our appointed judges.

Mia

353 F.T. Valley Road, Sperryville, VA 22740

540-987-8970

www.bellemeadeschool.org

school@bellemeadeschool.org

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