



THE BELLE RINGER

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The Belle Meade Montessori School Official Newsletter



How Belle Meade is Dealing with COVID-19

This year is, of course, very unusual, to say the least. Given our current world situation (the pandemic), Belle Meade has taken drastic precautions to ensure the least amount of spread possible. Masks are absolutely mandatory and enforced, hand sanitizer has been put in every room, and as for our morning gatherings, markings have been set around the room so everyone can follow the social distancing guidelines. Not only that, but many of Belle Meade's previous rules and traditions had already been doing a great job with social distancing. Because of the small number of students here, it is much less likely to contract sickness from others. Actually, given the small class sizes, it easy to distance from others, even in class. The whole school is cleaned thoroughly every day, and students spend a large amount of their time outside, keeping particles away from others more easily. In the event that a student or teacher contracts covid-19, they will be sent home until they are symptom free for at least 10 days. If three or more people test positive for COVID-19, the school will shut down and return to online learning--giving time for the school to be cleaned, and helping to prevent others from contracting the disease. But as it stands, everyone is healthy and excited to learn!



BELLE MEADE'S FIRST CAMPING TRIP 2020

Because 2020 has been such an interesting year, I did not have high expectations for this camping trip. However, it ended up being a good bonding experience, despite or maybe because of multiple misadventures. It started off fairly regular until we had to stop due to an accident in the road, and some of the students decided to get out of the bus and start climbing a cliff next to the road. It was then that I knew this was not going to be a normal school field trip. With only one more minor incident-- when the bus broke down--we were able to make it to the little town of Webster Springs, West Virginia.

The campsite was in a gorgeous spot surrounded by mountains on every side and next to a deep river. The rain clouds on the mountains looked mystical. Things were somewhat normal until some of us decided to go look at the abandoned schoolhouse. The schoolhouse itself was interesting but also gross. Rotting wood and torn apart couches littered the floor.

Once we returned to camp, we ate a delicious dinner, and I made a butterfly friend whom I named Frances. We then decided to visit the haunted house and afterwards to go for a short hike. That night, I got to experience star-tripping for the first time. Even though I messed it up most of the time, it was hilarious and an important skill to learn. Every night we sat around the campfire and told stories or just talked before heading to our individual tents. Despite smelling like smoke for the rest of the camping trip, I thought it was extremely relaxing.

The river was gorgeous and people spent a lot of time swimming or going tubing. There was even a point where people decided to go down the river on Landon's air mattress, which worked surprisingly well. On our last evening, a broken frisbee led to an intense game of monkey in the middle. Shoutout to Joey, Landon, Gavin, and Mike for frisbee skills. A big group decided to go on a night hike. However, I decided to stay by the campfire because I was wet and cold from a dare to jump in the river with my clothes on. Of course, I took the dare, but unfortunately my clothes never fully dried.

The day we headed home was chill because we spent the day packing up and driving back to Belle Meade. Overall, not everything went right with this trip, but I had fun and built friendships.



Penelope

ART

This year for art we started off with pastel drawings. We chose something random from nature or from the school. Our next art project was painting stone tiles. We choose two tiles we wanted to paint and then found somewhere outside the school to put them .

My personal favorite was the colored pencil drawing. We choose whatever we wanted to draw. We first sketched it out with pencil, then we went back over it with the colored pencils. The main point of the project was to learn how to shade and blend with colored pencils.

Our latest project was bleach art with clothes. We could choose to do jeans, shirts, hats, etc. We had two different ways to do it: some students used a spray bottle, and some used the bleach pens, or both.

Our upcoming art project is watercolor painting.



Sofie



New Students

By: Charlotte L. Holt-Calvert

This year there have been a lot of new happenings at this school of ours . We have not only new and improved safety regulations, but new English and math teachers as well as 8 new students: Aiden, Eli, Kyce, Harriet, Naomi, Penelope, Rae, and Elesä.

I'm here today to tell you about these fresh faces on campus and give you a look into their experiences with the school year.

For this issue of the newsletter I will be talking to Eli and Naomi, two new fantastic middle schoolers that we have in 6th grade this year.

What is your name? "Eli"

How old are you? "11"

What grade are you in? "6th"

How have you been liking school so far?

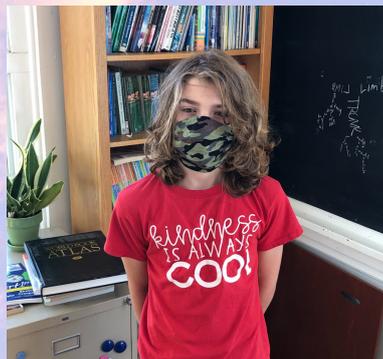
"I really like this school; it's a really great school; and I really hope I can come here next year."

What is your favorite class? "Science"

What is your elective? "Homesteading"

Do you ride, if so how do you like it? "It's fun even though I get thrown around a lot"

How did you find out about this school? "My mom stumbled across Belle Meade and I went to the camp and then after 2 years of that, I ended up at the school."



What is your name? "Naomi"

How old are you? "12"

What grade are you in? "6th"

How have you been liking school so far?"

"It's pretty good--it's different, but I like it! We get lots of outside time and the teachers are really nice."

What is your favorite class? "Math"

What is your elective? "Music"

Do you ride, if so how do you like it? "Riding is pretty fun--it's nice to get down to the stables and ride."

How did you find out about this school? "I used to go to the swimming lessons, and when my parents found out this was a school, they decided to send me here."





Logo designed by Charlotte

Music & Band

Lasagnas In A Fire is the official band of Belle Meade School. They performed a handful of cover songs and originals during their livestream on the second of October. The Lasagnas are very focused on music theory and songwriting; creativity is a big part of songwriting. The class is also studying the history and development of music throughout the years, as well as the hardships minorities faced while creating and producing music. Even while in the middle of a pandemic, the Lasagnas are working hard to get their work out to the public. If you would like to meet the band, then check out the @lasagnas.in.a.fire Instagram page or you can see their photos in the link below.

Link for band photos: https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1H1nLVqsuHZ-6cDUc_pp-mszeniClgC3W



GAVIN

Variety Show

The variety show took a lot of dedication and time before it was complete, but in the end we got it out there and had a lot of fun doing it. There were two parts to the show. The first part was when we got to prepare a piece to play either by ourselves or with another band member. These pieces included: *Elisa*, guitar - "Tale of the Troubadour" with Maddi on guitar; *Naomi*, piano - "The Viking Feast"; and *Charlotte*, voice and guitar - "I Don't Know" with Mia on drums. Everyone contributed to whole band songs that made up the second part, some of which were "Never gonna give you up" by Rick Askley and "Buttercup" by Jack Struaber. We livestreamed and will livestream many more songs, so keep an eye out for that so you can go watch songs anytime you like on Instagram @lasagnas.in.a.fire. Special thanks to Maddi Hicks, our wonderful music teacher, who made this all happen!

NAOMI

In other news . . .

Rockets Launched

Joe, our new science teacher, and his 10th through 12th grade physics class students decided to make rockets using simple and recyclable materials. They used a string trigger rocket launcher to send it 100s of feet into the sky. We had a variety of designs and recorded all the heights and distances that they went.

Mia



Charlotte, our new PM

Establishment of the Republic of Midgar

The constitutional convention this trimester established the Republic of Midgar with representation for all citizens of the upper school regardless of age. Midgar is a semi-parliamentary representative democracy. Charlotte has been selected as prime minister, with the other members of parliament being: Jack, Alyssa, Joseph, and John. Gavin, Naomi, and Mike were appointed and confirmed as judges. Parliament has established a taxation system, a school code of conduct, and a national bank as well as planning various activities and school procedures for the year.

John

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