

The Belle Ringer

Good-bye Mary!

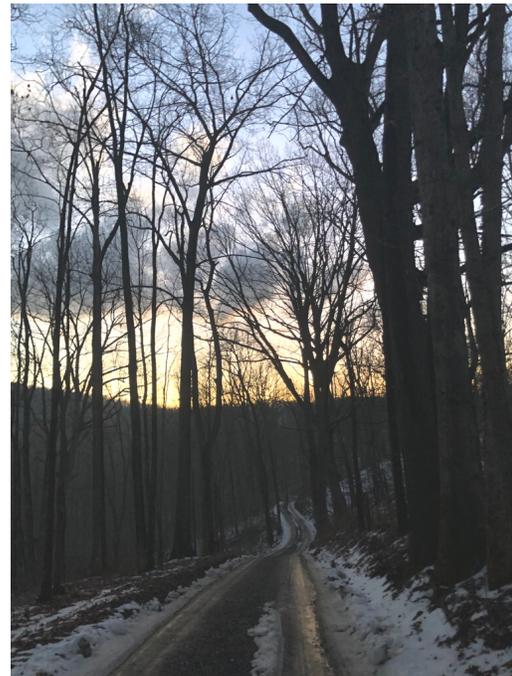


Thank you, everyone. Well done!



ENGLISH

We write about stuff on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. We share our 10-minute write topics. We have a major writing project. We read on Tuesdays and Thursdays. ~Archie



~Lela

GOV'T/HISTORY

Third Trimester Government Projects:
We were allowed to pick a topic and the format (slides, document, presentation, poster). We presented our topics to the class on April 20th. My project was a paper on the US Constitution. ~Naomi



MATH/SCIENCE

Hydroponics: We are growing plants in 5 gallon buckets without dirt. The buckets were filled with water and liquid nutrients. We cut holes in the lids using a drill and placed net baskets in the holes. Plants were put in fiber in the baskets. The baskets should be a little above the water level so roots get some air as they grow to the water. ~Lucas



PENELOPE

HOW OLD ARE YOU? *15*
WHAT GRADE ARE YOU IN? *10TH*
HOW DO YOU LIKE SCHOOL SO FAR?
IT'S CRAZY BUT IN A GOOD WAY!
WHAT YOUR FAVORITE CLASS?
PHYSICS
WHATS YOUR FAVORITE ELECTIVE?
ART
DO YOU LIKE RIDING? *THE ONE DAY*
I HAD WAS PRETTY FUN
HOW DID YOU FIND THE SCHOOL?
MY PARENTS FOUND IT .

RAE

HOW OLD ARE YOU? *13*
WHAT GRADE ARE YOU IN? *8TH*
HOW DO YOU LIKE SCHOOL SO FAR?
I CAN'T DO MATH, BUT IT'S PRETTY
GREAT.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CLASS?
LUNCH
WHATS YOUR FAVORITE ELECTIVE?
MUSIC AND ART.
DO YOU LIKE RIDING? *IT'S NICE*
HOW DID YOU FIND THE SCHOOL?
MY PARENTS FOUND THE SCHOOL.



ELISA

HOW OLD ARE YOU? *11*
WHAT GRADE ARE YOU IN? *6TH*
HOW DO YOU LIKE SCHOOL SO FAR?
I LIKE IT A LOT!
WHATS YOUR FAVORITE CLASS?
STUDY HALL WITH JOHN
WHATS YOUR FAVORITE ELECTIVE?
MUSIC AND ART.
HOW DID YOU FIND THE SCHOOL?
THROUGH MY BROTHER (LUCAS)

SUE GARVIN

The middle school English class interviewed Sue, the new English teacher.

Why did you apply for this job?

Timing is everything. I was looking for a teaching position; Mike was ready to quit his long commute. While I'm new to English, I have always enjoyed reading and writing. This seemed like an intriguing opportunity to stretch myself and work in a very appealing farm school environment.

What do you think of the job so far?

I like it. It's quite challenging, in a good way. In the student body, there is an amazing range of personalities and interests. Getting-to-know everyone and figuring out how we can work together is rewarding. Both the format and flexibility of the schedule are super.

Do you like your classes?

I wouldn't be here if I didn't like my classes. We are implementing new daily routines in English and Literature. The students have a lot of responsibility and (most of them) are engaging fully in class; I listen and respond to needs and interests. In the process, I am learning to be an English teacher and the students are learning to enjoy English. It's actually quite fun. And where else could the English teacher necropsy a ewe in first period class?



Do you play any instruments?

No. I regret that my musical talents are negligible.

Do you believe in witches/ghosts/ and spirits?

I definitely believe in witches and spirits; I'm not at all sure about ghosts.

Where do you live and how many acres do you have?

I live on a small farm of 25 acres, just a bit to the north of Belle Meade.

What types of pets and animals do you have?

I currently have: one Alpine goat, a geriatric Quarter Horse pony, a Thoroughbred, two Anatolian Shepherd dogs, six cats (Buddy, Boo, Raven, Panda, Quinn, and Toby), four hens, one rooster and about 22 guineafowl.

Do you like Dandy and Buster?

They are awesome, now that Dandelion has finally stopped barking at me.

Mitsubishi or Volkswagen?

Volkswagen. (I own Chevy and Ford.)

How long do you plan on staying here?

Should I be flattered that you ask, or terrified?

I'll stay as long as it suits all of us.

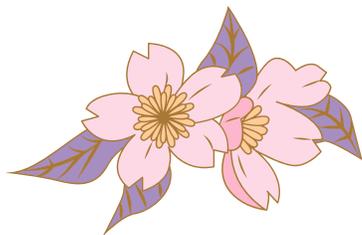
10-MINUTE WRITE

Three days each week, English class begins with a 10-minute write. In response to a short prompt, students are asked to write (unedited) anything that comes to mind.

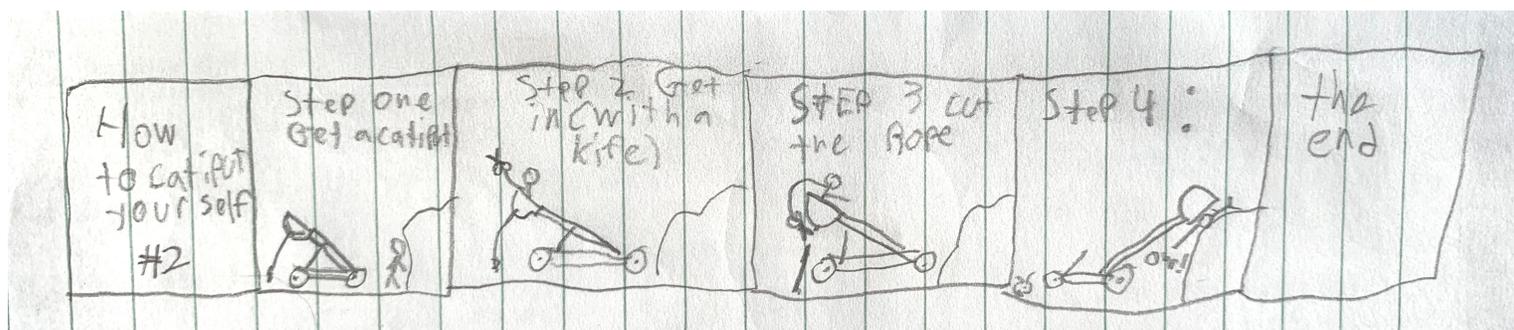
On this page, we share three submissions to, "Write a funny story:"

Awooga, Awooga

Jaw drops to the floor, eyes pop out of sockets accompanied by trumpets, heart beats out of the chest, Awooga awooga sound effect, pulls chain on train whistle that has appeared next to head as steam blows out, slams fists on table, rattling any plates, bowls, or silverware, whistles loudly, fireworks shoot from top of head, pants loudly as tongue hangs out of mouth, wipes comically large bead of sweat from forehead, clears throat, straightens tie, combs hair.
Ahem, you look very lovely. ~Kyce

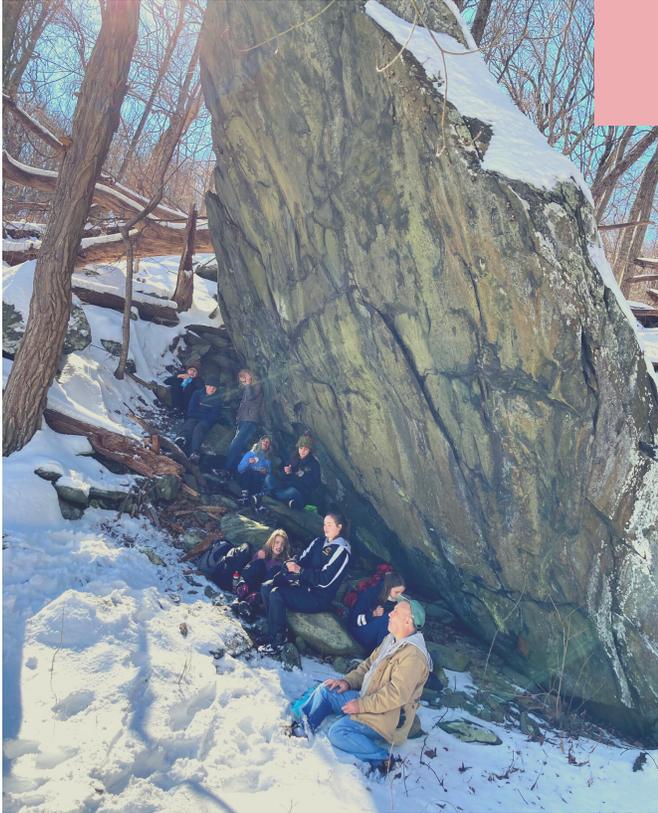


One time, I was out sailing and found myself coming face to face with a man who looked just like me. I asked, "Why did it take so long to find you?" He replied with nothing but blinks and knowing glances. "Even now, you refuse to speak to me?" I said. Finally he spoke. "It's not my fault you won't listen to yourself," he said. "For my words now are nothing but your own epiphany." This confused me. But as I thought so deeply, the reflection disappeared and all I saw was murky water. After all this time I had finally absorbed my own troubles and became one with myself. This whole experience just reminded me of the story, that's all. Anyway doctor, just put the glove on and let's get this over with. ~Joseph



~Archie

ROSE RIVER

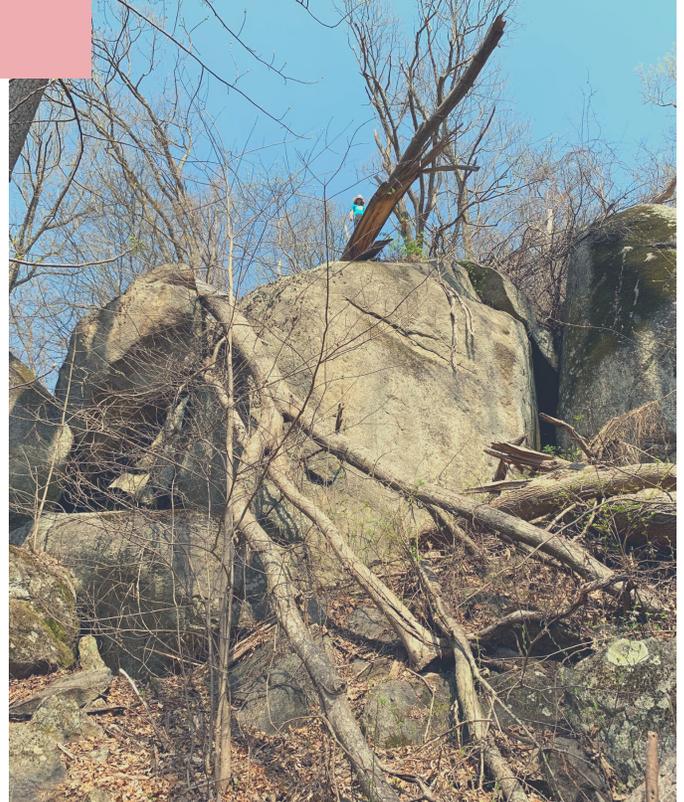


Rose River Trail is a 3.5 mile loop trail located near Syria that features a waterfall. There was an abundance of snow for our February hike. Only about a third of the people made it to the substantial boulder. The rest sat down and ate lunch about halfway up. We slid back down the mountain on the paths. It was cold and wet, so by the end, there was a sizable amount of wocky slush in the bottom of our shoes and boots. When we got back to the van, we began to thaw.

~Landen and Lucas

NICHOLSON

The Nicholson Hollow Trail follows the Hughes River in Etnan. We got an early start on a warm, sunny April morning. After finding an awesome swimming hole, we split into three groups. One group stayed to sun, swim, eat, and talk. The other students headed further up the trail in search of a waterfall or a cave. Tobi and Eli explored the rock formation around the cave, while the other group continued in search of the waterfall.



Special thanks to Mia for technical assistance with this issue of The Belle Ringer.

ART



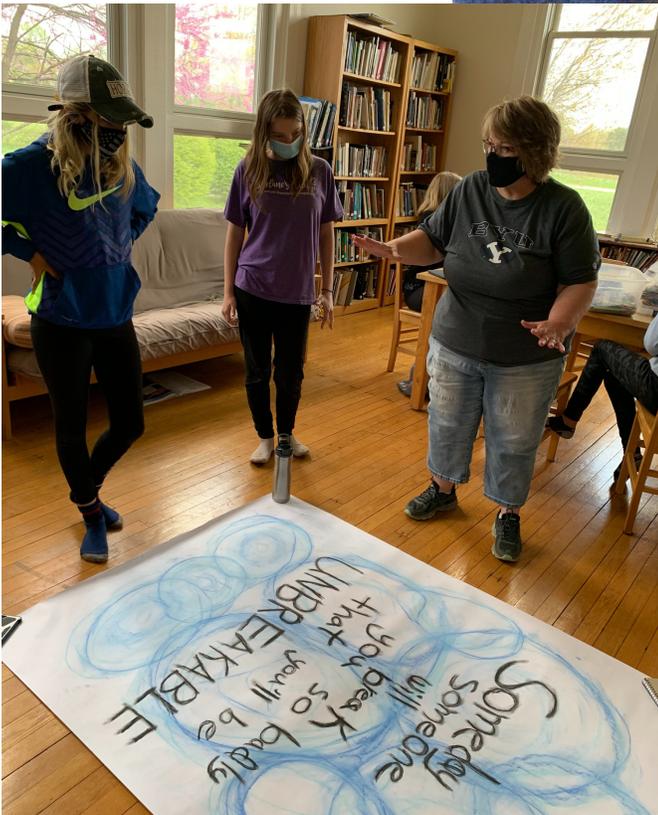
~Sofie



~Penelope



~Lucas



~Lily



~Harriet

WITH LOVE, FROM THE LOWER SCHOOL

... a day with the little people of Belle Meade.

In past issues of *The Belle Ringer*, you all may have heard quite a lot about the life and times of the upper school folk. But, despite popular opinion, us big kids have, in fact, learned how to share; in this article, we're going to take a trip down to the lower school and see what the next generation of Bellemeadians is up to.

First, let's see what a normal day looks like for these youngsters.

Following the Montessori structure of our school, both upper and lower students start the day off with a quiet time called Circle; all the kids will sit together and look introspectively on their feelings for the day. One of the most important things that children at Belle Meade learn, besides the formal subjects of math, science, and history, is emotional literacy: the ability to recognize our emotions, and then think and know why we feel them.

After the morning circle, the lower school children split into two learning groups composed of primary and elementary. The children are taught subjects such as math, science, history, music, art, and English. Right now, the lower school children are working on a big project where they are learning about the stories, history, geography, and gods of Greek mythology. After a healthy lunch and some time to play and socialize, the elementary group heads down to take part in our horseback riding program. Learning the responsibility of taking care of animals stretches from the youngest Bellemeadians helping to feed and take care of the horses, and clean the chicken eggs, all the way to our graduating seniors who lead chores and help to teach and guide the younger students in many different tasks.

~Charlotte



~Lela