



# Millwood School



Spring 2024

Headlines

## Another School Year Begins!

We were so excited to welcome all of our families back to school for the 2023-24 school year! The students and teachers were very flexible the first week and adjusted well to their schedules. It was a pleasure to host new families and all parents at our Back to School Night meetings.



## Millwood Introduces the House System

Our new House System is all the buzz with students and their families! The House System was introduced at a fall Monday Morning Meeting with students receiving their shirts identifying their “house” membership and their designated color. Blue and gold will remain whole school colors, but all competitions are now through the House System! We look forward to building community and engaging in friendly competitions! Students, faculty and staff, and parents are all members of our four houses.

Millwood House System	
<b>YORK</b>	<b>POTOMAC</b>
<b>JAMES</b>	<b>SHENANDOAH</b>



Be seen. Be heard. Be inspired.



# Recognizing One of our Own



Last year in Mrs. Wynn’s fourth-grade class, Lillian (Lily) Sander wrote an essay on a very special person who is a role model to her. Lily shared a story about her Mawmaw and submitted it to Chesterfield County’s Aging and Disabilities Services.

This past summer, Lily received an award for her essay presented to her by the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors. We couldn’t be more proud of Lily’s accomplishment and for bringing honor to Millwood School!

# “Cultivating a Community of Kindness”

Millwood School has decided to start a new tradition this year involving a theme for the year. A new theme will be chosen each year in order to give everyone in our community a primary trait to work on. This year, our theme "Cultivating a Community of Kindness", endorses our goal to be kinder to each other and ourselves, and to grow a community where everyone wants to be.

The theme is also meant to be a thread tying together many of the major programs and functions of our school... Round Square, Houses, classroom lessons, playground behavior, etc. Students will learn more about our theme on Friday afternoon and Monday morning. Please ask them about it and encourage their acts of kindness!



# Lower School Working on the Basics!

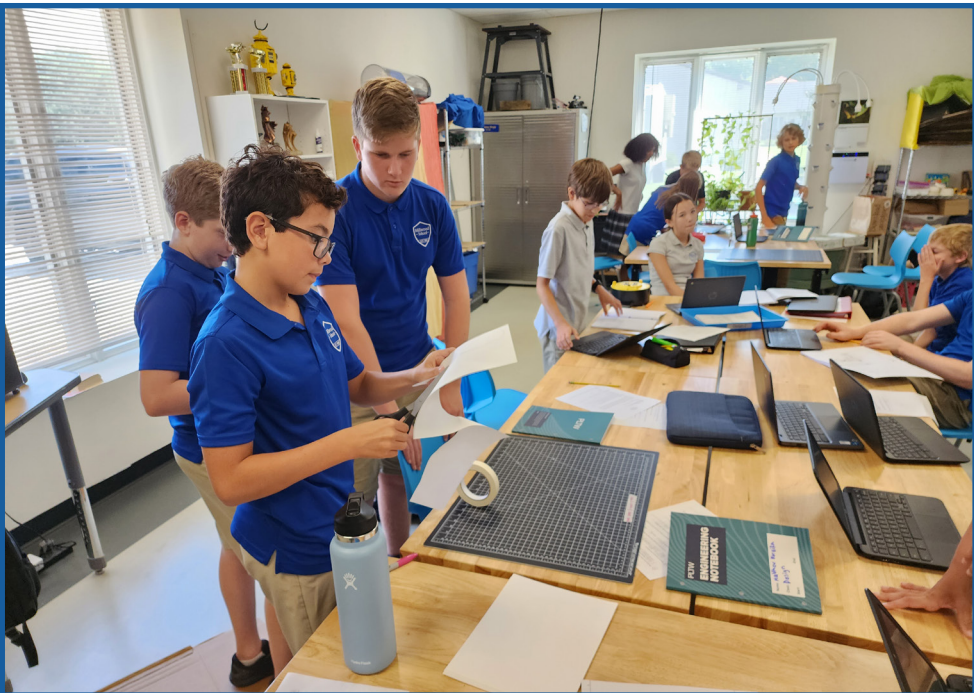
Introductions are an important part of being a student at Millwood. At the beginning of the year, we wanted to take the time to get to know each other. As the year progressed, students continued to introduce themselves to visitors as they toured the school.

During the first week of school, the first graders took time to share their "Me Bags." Each student filled his/her bag at home with four items that they loved. At the end of the first week, each child got to share those items and tell why they were special. First graders did this as a class to get to know one another as they started the school year, and they found out that many of them love the same things.

Third-grade students have been practicing their active listening skills. Using building blocks, the students had to place them in the right position and order by listening to directions. The students felt very accomplished!



# Seventh-Grade Design Students Off and Running



Design 2 students have hit the ground running this school year! After a review of safety and the design process, they have formed teams and are working on their first design challenge. In this challenge, students are assigned to a group to research, design, and build a therapeutic device for a pediatric patient with spastic hemiplegia. The model of their device is customized to fit a team member’s lower leg and foot, with the primary requirements being that it effectively keeps the patient’s foot level on the ground while standing and is comfortable to use.

Since the device is intended for pediatric patients, students are challenged to use their creativity in crafting an age-appropriate design that doesn’t intimidate young patients. Quite the challenge!

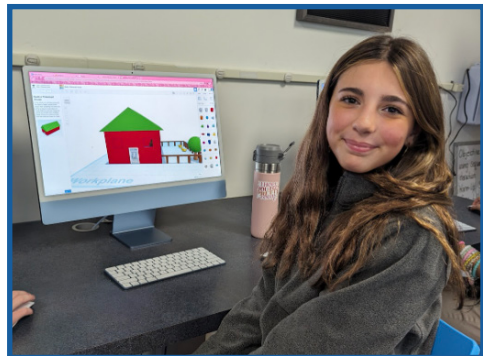
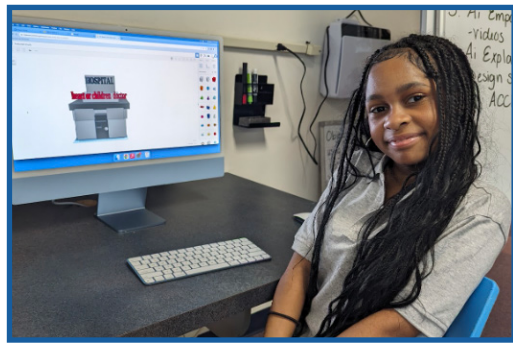




# STEAM Leads the Way in Technology

## Playground Architecture in Design 7

The seventh-grade design students in Mrs. Legacy's class are on their way to becoming playground architects. They spent the first two weeks of school developing their 3D digital design skills on TinkerCAD by working through practice lessons. Last year, the students had an introduction to TinkerCAD in sixth-grade Design, but students new to Millwood this year were able to practice at a level appropriate for them and experience success.



The class was introduced this week to their first unit project where they will design a piece of inclusive playground equipment. Students began the "inquiring and analyzing" step by completing an empathy map while watching videos about inclusive parks around the world. One of the key takeaways from that activity was that play is for all people, regardless of physical ability or age. Over the next few weeks, the students will conduct additional research, brainstorm designs, and develop a 3D prototype. We can not wait to see their creativity in action!

## 5th Grade Paper Chain Creation

In STEAM class with Mrs. Ipock, students celebrated International Dot Day by reading *The Dot* by Peter Reynolds. Mrs. Struiksma's 5th-grade class acknowledged the day by creating the longest paper chain possible with only 1 piece of construction paper and 15 dot stickers. They demonstrated great collaboration, accurate measurement, and plenty of effort! The record for the longest paper chain was 135 inches!

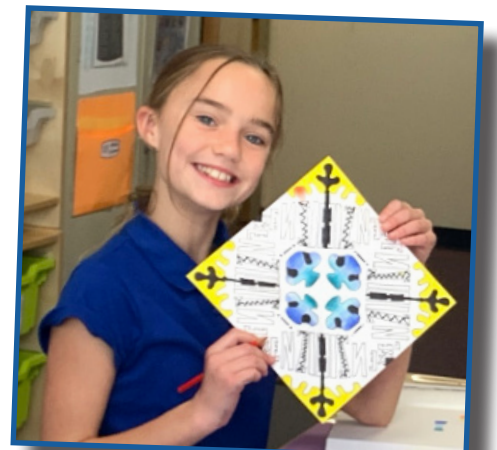


# Millwood Art Students in Full Display

There are many basic skills for younger children to learn when they begin to experiment with art. The kindergarteners studied warm and cool colors, line variety, and patterns. These skills were incorporated into their Sun and Moon projects. As you can see, they were very focused on doing their best work!



Students in Mrs. Funk's 6th-grade art class discussed where artists get their inspiration and applied something that they write almost every single school day to create their masterpiece...THEIR NAME! Students began the project by practicing writing their names in block and/or bubble letters in their process journals.



They then used their skills to fill in a triangular piece of paper with their name and other possible simple shapes, making sure to utilize as much of the space as possible. This triangular design was then traced onto a square piece of paper eight times, ensuring that it displayed radial balance. Areas within the design were filled in solid black to help create contrast alongside the neighboring areas of color. They were pushed to blend one color into another to add more interest to their design. So many of the students shocked themselves with the success of their final pieces. They truly turned out remarkable!

Upper School Visual Art students have been exploring the art medium of charcoal. After learning different ways to work with the medium, they refined their skills by recreating an image of a skull with a wide variety of values. This exploration helped them in the success of their foreshortened self-portraits. As you can see, some explored the addition of color with the use of chalk pastel pencils. The results are amazing!



## Download the official Millwood School App today!

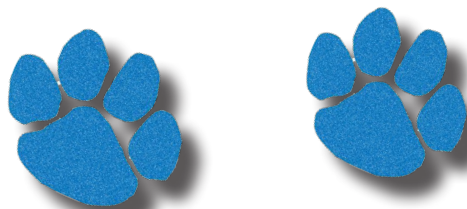
We have an app for our school which includes a variety of helpful information such as access to the Family Portal, our school calendar, social mediums, and so much more! It is FREE to download from either the [Apple](#) or [Google Play Store](#). Search "Millwood School" and the app will be available to download on to your device of choice.



# Middle & Upper School Friday Community Meetings

This year, the middle and upper school students get together on Friday afternoons to build a stronger community. Over the past few weeks, the Community Meetings Club has taken over planning and leading the meetings, giving many students another opportunity at public speaking. These meetings are more casual than the traditional Monday Morning Meetings.

Each week, the students hear a kindness tip of the week and a house points update from the weekly student leaders. The captains from the current school sports teams select a player from each sport to highlight for an exceptional performance or being a good team player. Each Friday meeting ends with a friendly competition between the houses, like hula hoop pass or basketball shootout.



## 6th Graders Visit DC Museums



Sixth graders in Design 1 visited the Museum of Failure in Washington, DC. The students learned how failure plays an important role in innovation and how some successful creations (such as the Segway) were still considered failures by their designers. Students discussed their favorite failures and what failure meant to them, and they brought back many ideas for their own designs. One of our favorite quotes from the Museum of Failure was, “Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.” (Robert F. Kennedy)

Their second stop was a visit to the National Building Museum. Our Bobcats enjoyed their lunch on the lawn of the museum before touring the exhibits. Students learned about the ways home construction has changed in the United States from adobe to modern green construction with engineered walls. They also learned about sustainable and affordable housing and accessible design. Most importantly, our Bobcats were able to engage their creativity in the museum’s Brick City exhibit!



## College Board National Recognition



We’re celebrating two of our own, Leila Grace and CeCe Witherspoon, who are among 72,000 students from across the country who earned academic honors from the College Board’s National Recognition Programs! They received the National African American Recognition Award. The National Recognition Programs honor the substantial academic achievements of underrepresented students. They’re an easy way for students to showcase their hard work in high school. The programs not only benefit students, but they also benefit colleges looking to recruit diverse, talented students. There’s so much that makes students like Leila and CeCe unique. That’s an asset to colleges and programs.



The National Recognition Programs help students find ways to celebrate that. Eligible students apply on BigFuture. They have a GPA of 3.5 or higher. They’re the top 10% of PSAT/NMSQT® or PSAT™ 10 assessment takers in each state for each program or have earned a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP® Exams. They either attend school in a rural area or small town, or identify as African American/Black, Hispanic/Latino, or Indigenous/Native. They’re invited to apply during their sophomore or junior year.

Students who are awarded recognition will be notified at the beginning of the next school year.



Our school has

**College Board  
National  
Recognition  
Program  
Awardees!**



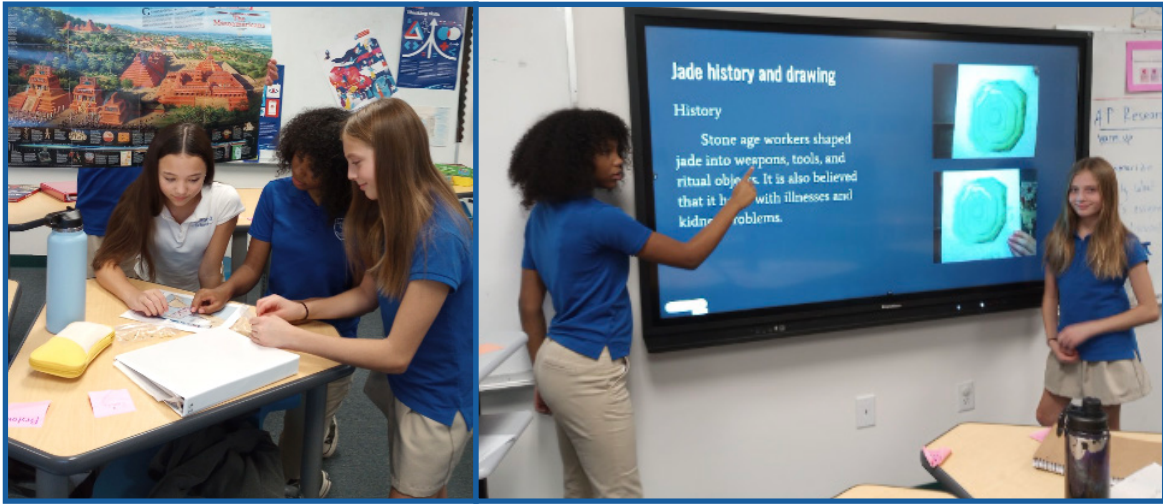
# More From Around Campus

## Lower, Middle, & Upper School Updates

### Discovering Mayan Trade Routes

Ms. Matheus's 7th-grade Individuals and Society class had fun analyzing and discovering Mayan trade routes. After researching and presenting the origin, uses, and importance of emblematic products such as jade, obsidian, cacao, and cotton, they played a barter game. In this game, they had to decide which merchant group to trade with based on their peer's logical arguments, research, and an ad they had previously developed.

They even discovered that cacao originally came from Ecuador (Northern South America). Some students brought and shared dark chocolate with the class to represent this delicious contribution of pre-Hispanic origin to our modern-day diet. Through this game, the importance of trade in the development of a thriving civilization was highlighted.



### 4th Grade Explores Space

Fourth-grade students in Mrs. Wilson's and Mrs. Wynn's classes worked collaboratively in small groups to design a model of the Earth, Sun, and Moon. They used various materials such as styrofoam, Play-Doh, spheres, pipe cleaners, and toothpicks to model concepts such as axis, rotate, revolve, and orbit. Students labeled their diagrams and illustrated them. These models helped students understand the relationship between the Earth, Sun, and Moon.



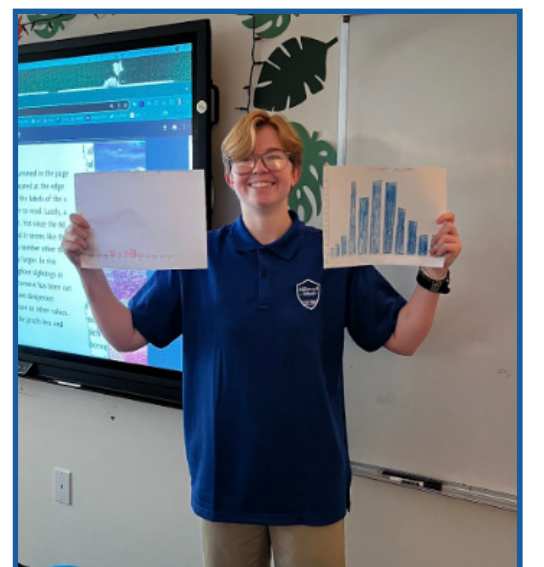
### Map Design for Junior Kindergarten

Junior Kindergarten has been learning about Families and Communities, and as an extension activity, they constructed maps of a neighborhood of their choosing. The students constructed a specific part of their map, using inquisitiveness to decipher the sizing, placement, and design of each drawing they added. As maps finished up, they used the remaining time to construct models, using their hand-drawn maps as their blueprints.

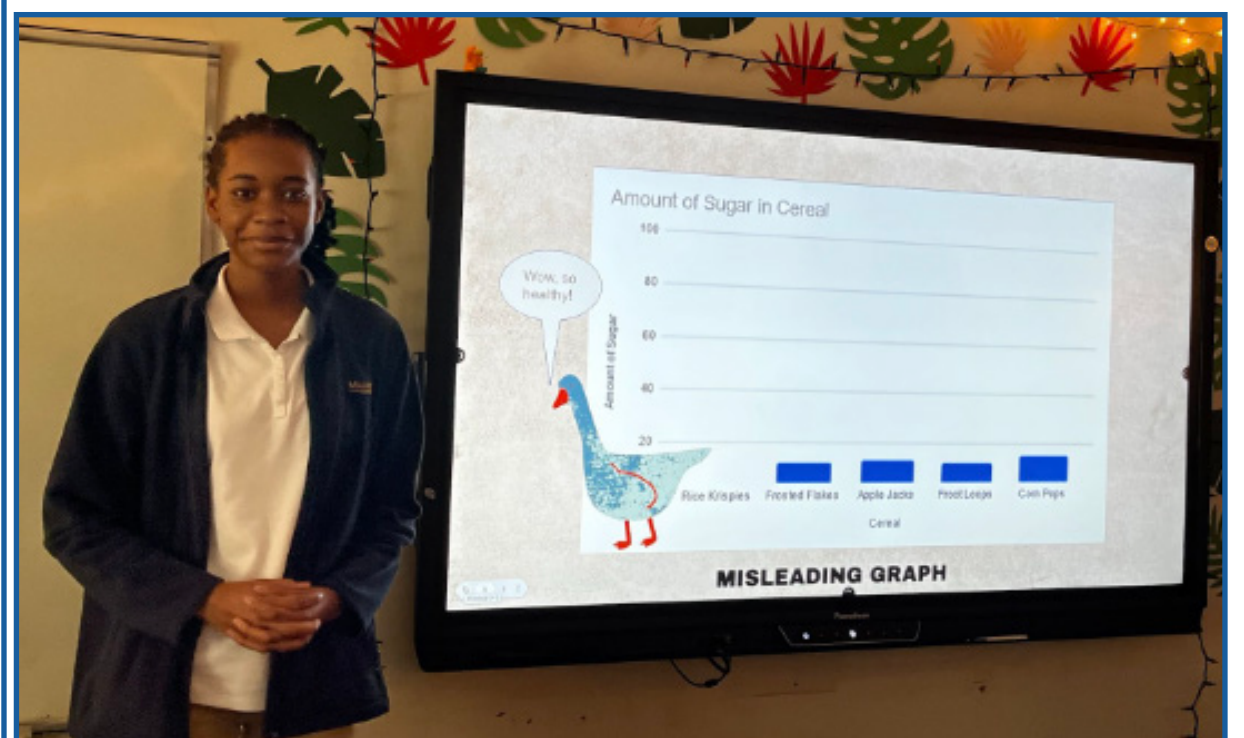


### Exploring Data in AP & Honors Statistics

In Ms. Gordon's Statistics class, students have been learning about one-variable data. Specifically, how to represent, describe, and graph a variety of data sets. As they approached the end of this first unit, students had an opportunity to explore data of their own choosing. Each student found a data set about anything they wanted and then made two graphs to represent this data. The catch is that one graph was misleading!



Students were able to decide how they would mislead a statistically illiterate audience, but luckily we saw through their schemes. They all had a fun time exploring data and making relationships appear deceptive.



### SPECIAL FEATURE



### BSN SPORTS FLEECE COLLECTION





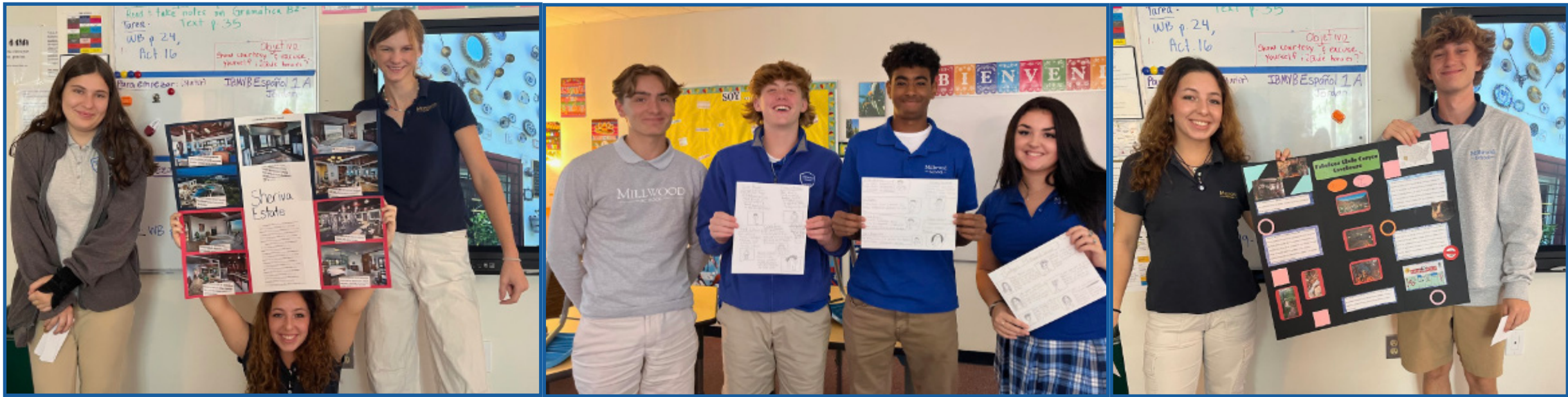
# Millwood Languages Update: French & Spanish

*“Aprender otro idioma es...aprender otra manera de pensar acerca de las cosas”  
-Flora Lewis*

*To learn another language is to learn another way of thinking about things.*

Upper School Students in Señorita Jordan’s Spanish 2, 3, and 4 classes have been working diligently to craft a variety of projects and hone their skills in presentational speaking! Public speaking is the cornerstone of Millwood’s curriculum. By learning these skills in English, as well as another language, students add another facet to their own identity and develop a multicultural awareness that would not be possible in just one language. Students in these classes presented projects where they posed as a variety of roles to complete GRASPS Tasks related to their target grammar and vocabulary, including:

- travel agents to convince their audience about a unique travel experience (Spanish 4).
- news reporters who gave a detailed account in the preterite (past tense) about a fictional, crazy event of their choice that took place at Millwood School (Spanish 2).
- marketing experts who had to design a "webpage" to introduce various members of the Millwood community to potential new students and families (Spanish 3).



National French Week is a week-long celebration of all things franco-phone and took place across the U. S. this week in schools, communities, and chapters of the American Association of Teaching French. Mme Ryan encouraged her students to bring French out of the classroom to inspire others to discover French and the francophone world. The upper school French students taught the iconic French game La Pétanque to Mrs. Laine’s 5th grade class. The weather was beautiful and the students enjoyed learning some French words about the game. After a couple of tries, the students got quite competitive! Vive la Pétanque.



## Round Square Students Visit Kenya!

Round Square is an international network of 230 like-minded schools in 50 countries that connect and collaborate to offer world class programmes and experiences that develop global competence, character, and confidence in our students. They connect and collaborate to offer world-class programs that develop global competence, character, and confidence in our students.

The network was created from the educational theories of educationalist Kurt Hahn, who wanted to establish a way of educating students post-World War II that would help make the world a better, safer place. It empowers teachers as the architects of learning excellence, working alongside engaged colleagues in a rewarding career supported by a strong global network.





# 2023 Golf Classic takes to the links at BCC!

Thank you to all of the sponsors and team players for supporting this year's Golf Tournament! It was a beautiful day on the course and Brandermill Country Club provided a wonderful meal after our tournament. Thank you to Erin Williams and her team of volunteers who helped organize the event!



## Students, Faculty Compete in Soccer & Volleyball

On Tuesday, November 7, Millwood's determined faculty and staff took on the Boys' Soccer team in our 3rd Annual Millwood Cup competition. The boys' soccer team coached by Alex Alexander, prevailed with a 3-1 win. Everyone played hard and had fun which was the main goal of the afternoon's activity. The record now is 2-1 with the boys' soccer team gaining the lead over the faculty and staff. Next year should be quite competitive!

The Girls' Volleyball team also took on the faculty and staff for some very spirited and competitive play! This volleyball competition was played on the new floor of Cornerstone Gym allowing for a larger capacity of spectators. The plan was the best 3 out of 5 would determine the winner. Time only allowed for 3 sets and the girls won 2 out of 3. Congratulations to all of our student-athletes for well-played seasons! Thanks to the faculty, staff, and parents who stepped up to participate!



## Thank you to our Sports Boosters for 2023-24

The Brown-Pennington Family  
The Busick Family  
Morgan and Scott Cheatham  
Jim and Maria Collins  
The Cooper Family  
The Copley Family  
B and Wayne Correia  
The Dodge Family  
La Familia Edmunds  
The Fouts Family  
The Garrett Family  
The Garvin Family  
Amy Glover  
The Hopkins Family  
The Macleay Family

Katia Mastropas and Zak Brown  
The Newsome Family  
The Noreika Family  
The O'Connor Family  
The Osborne Family  
The Perkinson Family  
The Peterson Family  
Logan and Rebecca Pickels  
The Rieve Family  
The Struiksma Family  
The Supron Family  
The Tweedy Family  
The Watson Family  
Family of Carter and Henry Williams  
The Winslow Family







# Millwood School



Spring 2024

Headlines

## Annual Winter Concert from Perkinson *What an evening of musical performances!*

Extra planning went into coordinating programs for our families' enjoyment. We appreciate Mr. Stone's flexibility and the students' added efforts, especially those who performed in both portions of the concert! It's always refreshing to see the confidence and talent on display by our students.

Our musicians sing, dance, and play instruments under the guidance of Mr. Joshua Stone. His enthusiasm is contagious and encourages the students to step out of their comfort zone.

*Congratulations, students and Mr. Stone, on a job well done!*



## A staple of longevity: Mrs. Mills retires after 30 years of service!



Mrs. Andrea Mills, who retired this year, was invited to have lunch with the faculty and staff on Wednesday. The students were so glad to see her. She visited with the students as they enjoyed their lunch in Robinson Hall. Mrs. Mills is one of those people who always steps up to lend a helping hand wherever it's needed. She made a lasting impression on the Millwood community!



In honor of her 30 years of service, a legacy brick was placed along the front walk to commemorate her dedication to and love for Millwood School.

*We miss you,  
Mrs. Mills!*



*At Millwood School, we don't simply provide knowledge. We inspire it. We are a Junior Kindergarten - Grade 12, college preparatory, co-ed independent day school.*

[www.millwoodschool.org](http://www.millwoodschool.org) | 15100 Millwood School Lane, Midlothian, VA 23112 | 804.639.3200

