

Millwood  
— School —

Be seen. Be heard. Be inspired.

EST. 1989

# Millwood School



October 2022

Headlines

## Fall Sports Roar!



2022 Girls' Varsity Volleyball



2022 Girls' Middle School Volleyball



2022 Boys' Varsity Soccer



2022 Cross Country

## Onward and upward for Millwood School



Mr. Christopher Ryan

Dear Millwood Families,

Welcome to the 2022/23 school year! I hope you enjoyed your vacation and took some time to relax over the summer with family and loved ones. I was fortunate to visit my family and friends in Europe for the first time in three years! I thoroughly enjoyed my trip and have returned eager and energized for the new school year.

This summer, I have been working hard to recruit the caliber of teachers required to deliver a world-class education despite a national teacher shortage. Fortunately, we have filled all our faculty positions and look forward to welcoming new teachers to campus. A complete list of new teacher names and biographies is available on the resource board. In addition to our new hires, we are also excited to announce an administrative structure change. Mrs. Phiri will assume the role of Lower School Principal, and Mrs. Gladue will assume the role of Middle and Upper School Principal. I am confident that Mrs. Phiri and Mrs. Gladue will succeed in their new roles as Millwood continues to grow.

This year marks my sixth year as Head of School, and during my tenure, there have been many challenges and opportunities. The Board and I have been careful in our planning to make sure we manage our student growth while still providing the best facilities. I have worked with architects, engineers, and the Board of Trustees to develop our new Master Plan. A significant part of our plan was the assessment of our school footprint and land ownership. Consequently, the Board of Trustees has decided to sell the land parcels not required by our final Master Plan. Rather than selling to the highest bidder, the Board was careful to partner with a developer that would consider the needs of the school and the greater community when developing the parcel. We are confident in the knowledge that the sale and development of this land parcel will not impact our beautiful campus and will enable us to realize the first step of the Master Plan. I hope you share in the excitement of the Board as we start the process of making the Master Plan a reality.



Millwood School is committed to each student being seen, being noticed, and achieving their full potential. We are small enough to be able to provide individual attention to your students and large enough to allow them ample opportunities for growth and development. I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Headlines as much as we enjoyed putting it together for you.

Sincerely,

Christopher T. Ryan

Be seen. Be heard. Be inspired.

Christopher T. Ryan  
Head of School



## 2022-2023 Board of Trustees

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More "Fall Festival Photos" on page 7.



# Welcome from Administration



**Mr. John Horsington**

My role will be to lead the authorization of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IBMYP). The IBMYP is a worldwide recognized educational framework that has the students at the core and promotes the values of appreciation, commitment, creativity, confidence, curiosity, cooperation, empathy, enthusiasm, independence, integrity, respect, and tolerance. It promotes diversity and inclusion by "encouraging students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right."

We will continue to showcase character development and build their confidence by having your students present at Monday Morning Meetings and in their classes. We believe students should be seen, heard, and inspired by their teachers and peers.

Finally, I look forward to welcoming you each and every morning, getting to know you more this year, and hearing your feedback on how we can improve your student's education. Thank you again for choosing Millwood School.

Sincerely,

**John Horsington**  
Assistant Head of School

I hope you have had a wonderful summer and are feeling rejuvenated and ready for a fantastic school year. I am excited to be in the new role of middle and upper school principal. I have been teaching at Millwood for eight years. Before that, I taught in a Chesterfield County Title I school for ten years. The experiences I have gained as a teacher and leader over these years have strengthened my love for and dedication to education.



**Mrs. Andrea Gladue**

My goal this year is to maintain Millwood's high expectations of character strength and academic rigor throughout middle and upper school. With a new office in Robinson Hall, I am ready to help all middle and upper school teachers, students, and parents have a successful year. One of the many things that I cherish about Millwood is the ability of the staff to get to truly know the students and families. We are a community and I am proud to be a part of it.

In addition to my administrative role this year, I will also be tapping into my undergraduate degree in Psychology to teach our new AP Psychology course. This will be a great chance for me to stay involved with the upper school students and get to know them better.

I will also be teaching lower school Spanish so I will have a chance to be involved in each level of the school. I look forward to working with all of you soon.

Sincerely,

**Andrea Gladue**  
Middle & Upper School Principal



**Mrs. Christy Phiri**

Welcome back to our returning families and welcome to our new families! I hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer. Mine has been spent poolside, beachside, or playground side as my girls have kept my husband and me on our toes and making memories. I have loved this time, but I have also been looking forward to returning to school and being back with my Millwood family.

This is my tenth year at Millwood School. It has been a joy working with passionate and gifted educators and getting to see our school grow throughout the years. Our students are the absolute best, supporting one another and fostering a safe space to try new things and learn from one another. I am looking forward to stepping into this new role as Lower School Principal, in order to support our amazing staff, students, and families throughout the year. We are dedicated to inspiring our students and creating intentional, meaningful learning that is engaging and tailored to student needs and interests.

I am looking forward to seeing you all soon. I can't wait to see you in the pick-up and drop-off line and at our wonderful community events. I will be reaching out to you throughout the year. It is my goal to check in with you regarding your child's educational experience. We work best as a team when we are all heard and valued. Thank you for investing in Millwood. Go Bobcats!

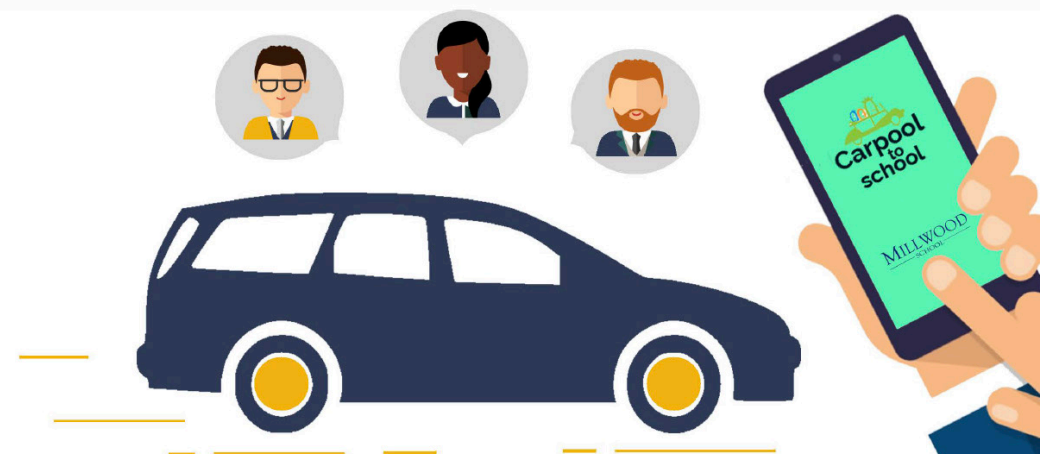
Sincerely,

**Christy Phiri**  
Lower School Principal



## CarpooltoSchool is now available for

### Millwood School parents and students



Sign up to participate at  
[millwood.carpooltoschool.com](http://millwood.carpooltoschool.com)



## 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.



# Introducing our new Lower School Faculty

## Ms. Michelle Botteicher



**Ms. Botteicher**

Ms. Michelle Botteicher is excited to be teaching our first-grade Millwood students this year with Mrs. Marci Zehrer. Michelle has an Early Childhood and Elementary Education teaching degree from Penn State University and is coming to us with 20 years of teaching experience. She is originally from Central Pennsylvania, however, Michelle and her family have been living in Richmond for the last 20 years. Michelle lives with her 7th and 9th-grade daughters, and her English Bulldog, Louie. She enjoys swimming, camping, going for long walks, and watching movies with her family. Michelle has a solid background in reading and phonics instruction and is really looking forward to building the reading skills of her first graders this year!

## Mrs. Casey Phillips

Mrs. Casey Phillips is thrilled to be joining Millwood School as a second-grade teacher along with Mrs. Lynn Johnson. Casey received her Bachelor's Degree from Longwood University in 2009. She comes to Millwood with 11 years of teaching experience in grades K-2. Casey started teaching in Chesapeake, Virginia where she was awarded Teacher of the Year at Southwestern Elementary for the 2014/2015 school year. In 2015 her family moved to Hanover County, where she grew up, and she began teaching in Chesterfield County. Casey now lives in Chesterfield with her husband, three sons, a dog, and two cats. Her two oldest sons are also excited to join the Millwood family in 3rd grade and JK! Casey enjoys reading, walking, and going on adventures with her family. She looks forward to instilling her love for reading and writing in her students and seeing their growth!



**Mrs. Phillips**

## Mrs. Lindsey Thompson



**Mrs. Thompson**

Mrs. Lindsey Thompson will join our third-grade team with Mrs. Kristen Reynolds. She is a wife and mother of two, Audrey who is in fourth grade, and Sullivan who will be entering Kindergarten this year. Her family resides in Woodlake. Lindsey began her journey in education many years ago at VCU. She received a psychology degree and then continued to pursue a career in education. Lindsey worked in Henrico County for several years teaching third and fifth grades. At that point, she decided to leave Henrico to spend more time with her family. Lindsey spent some time teaching preschool at Derbyshire Baptist Church. When Covid hit, she began a small private learning group of second-graders in her home and had such an amazing year. Last year, Lindsey was at Cloverhill Christian Academy where she helped develop their preschool program to prepare kids for Kindergarten better. Lindsey is excited to join the Millwood team this year in third grade. She has a true passion for education. Bringing knowledge to so many different ages has led Lindsey to know her true calling is to be back in a classroom full-time. Lindsey looks forward to being a part of this amazing community of educators and families.

## Mrs. Erin White

Mrs. Erin White looks forward to welcoming her fourth-grade students to Millwood. Erin earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Randolph Macon Woman's College (now Randolph College) and received her post-baccalaureate degree in Elementary Education from The University of Richmond. She has 14 years of teaching experience in kindergarten, second, and fourth-grade classrooms. Erin is originally from Delaware but, after 7 moves to 4 different states, she now considers Virginia her home. She is married with 2 grown children; both of whom attended JMU. Go, Dukes! Erin and her husband live in Midlothian with their two dogs. Erin looks forward to building a classroom family with her Bobcats this year. She values creativity, respect, teamwork, and determination, and strives for humor and kindness to be key elements of her classroom culture. Erin is excited to join the Millwood community and cannot wait to meet her newest students and their families!



**Mrs. White**

## Mrs. Rachael Wynn



**Mrs. Wynn**

Mrs. Rachael Wynn is excited to join Millwood as a fourth-grade teacher. She is from Chesterfield County, graduated from Longwood University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Liberal Studies, and is licensed to teach Pre-K through sixth grade. After teaching for two years, she earned her Master of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction. Rachael has fifteen years of teaching experience in Chesterfield County in various grade levels. She is passionate about teaching students to love learning and motivates them by designing engaging lessons that spark curiosity, encourage collaboration, and develop critical thinking skills. Her nurturing learning environment allows students to build positive relationships and become confident leaders. Rachael is married with three children, ages 9, 6, and 1. She enjoys vacationing with her family and exercising. Rachael looks forward to partnering with her Bobcat families!

## Mrs. Cami Struiksma

Mrs. Cami Struiksma ("Struck-smuh") is excited to join the Millwood team as a fifth-grade teacher this year. Cami graduated from Brigham Young University with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. After graduating, she spent two years teaching 4th grade at an IB school in Draper, Utah. While taking time off to raise kids, she has worked as a summer camp director, ran a math tutoring business, started a craft event business, and has spent the last year substitute teaching for Chesterfield County schools.



**Mrs. Struiksma**

Cami is married and has three girls who will attend Millwood in the fall – a 5th grader, a 3rd grader, and a Kindergartener. Her hobbies include crafting, traveling, being outdoors, and breaking out of escape rooms with friends. Cami is passionate about education and helping students develop the skills and confidence they need to excel.

She believes in giving students authentic, hands-on learning experiences, as well as tailoring the curriculum to challenge each individual student. Cami strives to build a strong classroom culture based on curiosity, positive relationships, empowerment, and a genuine love for learning. She can't wait to kick off an amazing year!

## Mr. Joshua Stone



**Mr. Stone**

Joshua Stone is delighted to join the faculty of Millwood School in 2022 as our music instructor. Joshua has composed, conducted, and produced music for CBS News, The Museum of Modern Art, The Smithsonian, BuzzFeed, 20th Century Fox, The Discovery Channel, Nickelodeon, and more. He is also an experienced music educator having taught at a number of notable elementary, middle, secondary, and collegiate-level schools.

Throughout his career as an educator, Joshua has found ways to engage and inspire students through unique courses and programming. He taught "History of Music on Earth," an interactive journey through time for the New York Public schools, and created a city-wide interdisciplinary song project in Syracuse, New York. This project involved schools, libraries, churches, and civic organizations and rallied them behind a collective musical experiment.

His GlobalBeatPartners program invites students to learn songs in many languages with teachers from countries across the globe.





# Welcome Mrs. Holtz - School Counselor

Hello everyone and thank you so much for the warm welcome to Millwood School over the last couple of weeks. I am feeling beyond grateful to be at Millwood and have the opportunity to get to know your most precious gifts... your children! This first week of school has been long and exhausting, yes, but also wonderful. There have been smiles and laughter and budding friendships happening all over the place! Children seem happy to see each other. Teachers are happy to see their students. We are all happy... even though we might not know it... to be getting back into a routine and learning new things! It feels really great to feel our minds and even our hearts GROW.

In the weeks to come, I plan to visit lower school classrooms with lessons about naming our feelings, being aware of how our words and actions make others feel, and honoring each other's differences and uniquenesses. I will begin meeting with middle and upper school students individually to get to know each of them, as well.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, thoughts, or inspirations. It takes a village to raise a child. I am honored to be a part of your child's village. Thank you for that privilege.

Kindly,

**Lindsay A. Holtz, MEd**  
**School Counselor**



**Mrs. Lindsay Holtz**

## Middle & Upper School New Hires!



**Ms. Matheus**

Ms. Carolina Matheus is looking forward to joining our team as the Middle School Social Studies teacher this year. So much so, that she's coming all the way from Quito, Ecuador with her two children! She has a Bachelor of Arts in History from Georgetown University and a Master's in Education from Walden University. Whether teaching art to street kids in Uganda, or about the Mayas and Incas to middle schoolers in Quito, Carolina hopes to bring some of her international experience to Millwood.

With over twenty years of teaching experience ranging from ages 12- 25, Carolina is passionate about bringing a sense of wonder and awe about the human experience to her students through interactive and hands-on activities.

She also believes firmly in the importance of celebrating each child's unique gifts and learning styles as a means to help them thrive. In her free time, she loves being outdoors with her children, traveling, drawing, and watching binge-worthy Netflix series. She looks forward to becoming part of the Millwood community and exploring Virginia.

Ms. Emily Whitesell has lived in Richmond since 2016. While attending Virginia Tech, she completed a study abroad program in Paris. After receiving her Bachelor's degree, she worked as a teaching assistant in Le Mans, France. This experience led her to pursue a Master of Teaching degree from the University of Virginia.

She has worked as a French teacher in Henrico County for the past six years. Emily enjoys reading, hiking, and traveling. She is looking forward to sharing her enthusiasm for the French language and culture with students at Millwood School. She joins our World Language department with Dr. Christine Ryan, Mrs. Graciana Dutto, and Mrs. Andrea Gladue.



**Ms. Whitesell**



**Ms. Gordon**

Ms. Maria Gordon looks forward to teaching Physics and Math. She grew up mainly in Hanover, VA and moved to Richmond this past summer for a change of scenery and to be closer to loved ones. Ms. Gordon has a Bachelor of Science in Physics from James Madison University and a Master of Arts in Teaching.

She has been teaching in Loudoun County the past few years and looks to create a classroom environment where students feel welcome, valued, and comfortable. She wants all of her students to discover their passions and find a love of learning. Each day her students will have opportunities to use and grow their collaborative, communication, and creative thinking skills. Ms. Gordon enjoys cooking, reading, and crafting in her free time. Ms. Gordon is excited to join the Millwood community and lead her students to be their best selves!

Mr. Larry Sullivan has known since high school that he wanted to teach chemistry. He received his Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry in May of 1996. He then took a job as a chemist for two years. Mr. Sullivan completed his Master's Degree in Chemistry at Mississippi College in May 2000.



**Mr. Sullivan**

Mr. Sullivan then taught Physical Science, Chemistry, AP Chemistry, and Biology at St. Joseph Catholic School for ten years. He taught college General Chemistry and Biology in the seven years that followed. In 2017, Mr. Sullivan relocated to Fort Lauderdale, FL where he taught AP and Honors Chemistry at an independent school from 2017 to 2020. Since the Pandemic, he has been an online AP Chemistry/Math teacher and tutor. It was always his intention to become a teacher, and feels very fortunate and honored to be here at Millwood School.

## Millwood Buddies: A Staple in School Culture

Intertwined into the Advisory curriculum is our buddy system. In junior kindergarten students are paired with eighth graders, with whom they do crafts, read books, and have lunch throughout the year.



The middle/upper school students progress with their buddies, and when they graduate, their third grade buddies sing at their graduation. In sixth and seventh grade, students are peer mentors for fourth and fifth grades, respectively. The middle school students help the lower school students navigate through peer relations, homework, and study skills. This culminates in a shadow day for 5th graders at the end of the year, so that the lower school students experience a day in the life of a middle school student.





# More From Around Campus

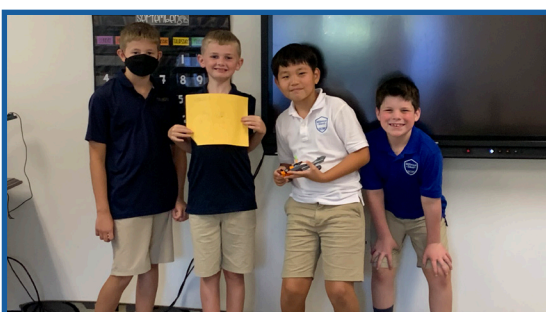
## *Kindness Matters*

Second grade students read “A Little Spot of Kindness” to go along with building a classroom community. The students listened to the story, shared how they can show kindness in and out of school and created their own spot using watercolors. This topic is part of character building and is under the umbrella of Millwood’s Big Ten and Round Square.



## *Who Doesn't Love Legos?!*

Mrs. Wynn's fourth graders collaborated the first week of school in teams. Each team chose a Lego STEAM challenge, sketched the product, and worked together to build it. They had a choice between building a famous building or landmark, creating a vehicle that could carry a Lego person one meter or more, or making a Lego machine with three or more gears. After the students finished, they presented their project to the class and reflected on what went well and challenges they may have faced. These students are off to a great start with their critical thinking and problem solving skills!



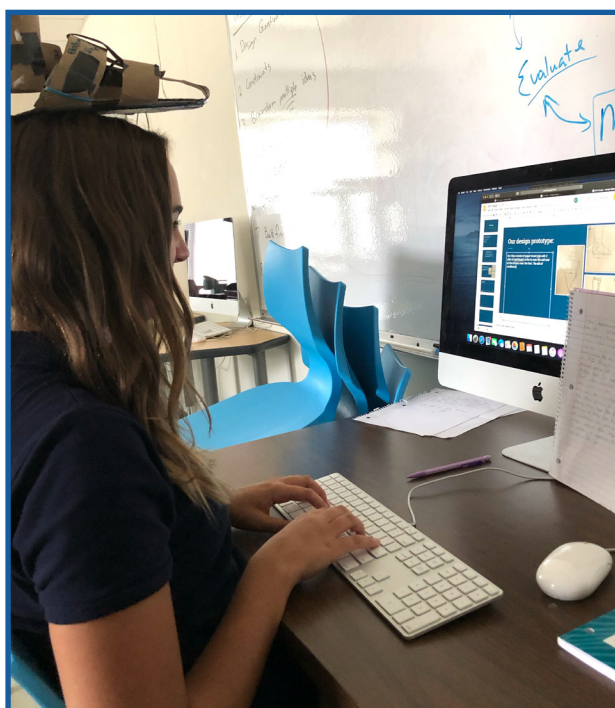
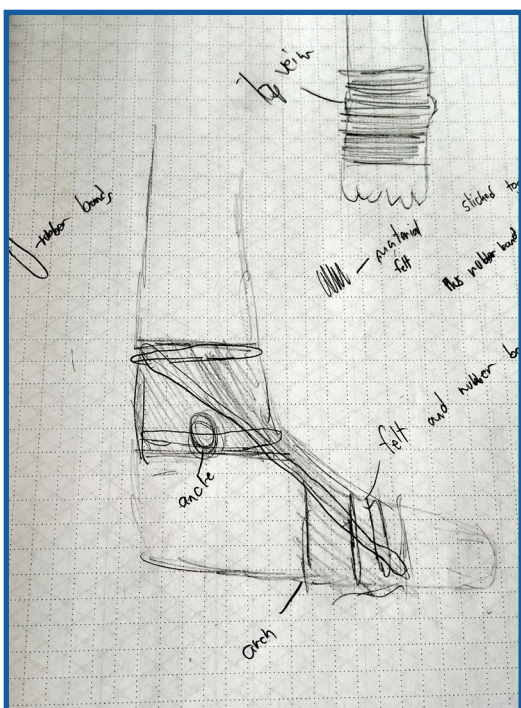
## *8th Grade Design & Modeling*



The start of school found our 8th grade Design class designing, building and testing an Ankle/Foot Orthosis as part of their PLTW Design and Modeling curriculum.

Bobcats worked in teams with a limited amount of materials and created successful prototypes of their design.

They demonstrated outstanding teamwork and ingenuity in their designs!



## *A Senior Celebration!*

On Monday, September 19, 2022, Middle and Upper School students met to honor this year's Class of 2023 in Millwood's annual “Candelight Ceremony.” Seniors took to the stage and pronounced something important to them as they embark on the final school year. Congratulations to our seniors!

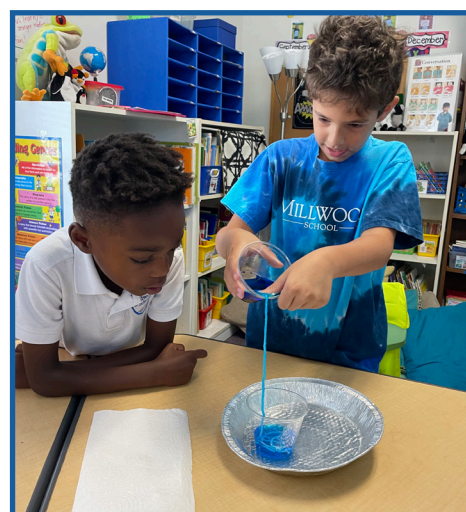


## *3rd Graders Explore the Scientific Method*

Young Scientists are a group of former educators who visited Millwood School to present in-school scientific lessons. The third graders participated in two activities where the scientific method was explored. They were able to observe, form a hypothesis, make a prediction, conduct an experiment, and finally analyze the results of those activities.

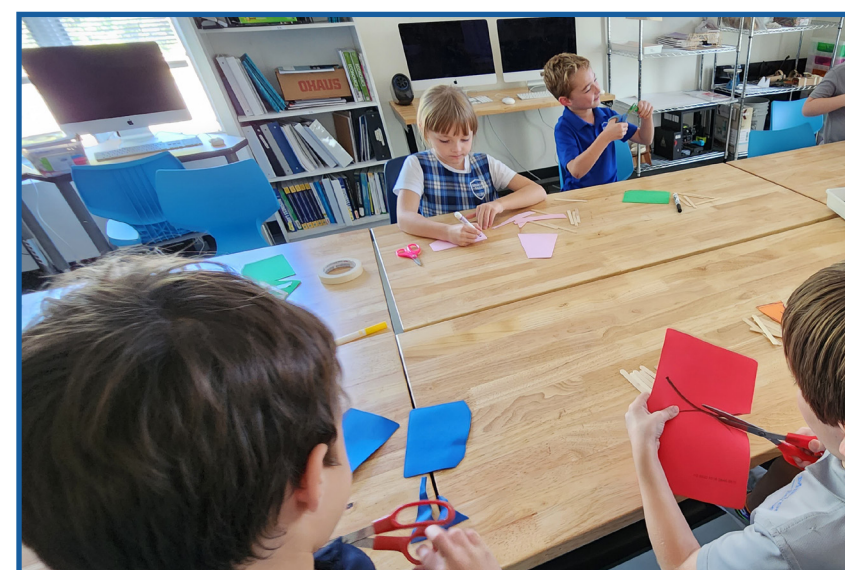


Students created and tested a hypothesis involving water traveling from cup to cup with yarn. Food coloring made the water easier to see. Another activity had the students working with a combination of school glue, laundry detergent, and water. Students enjoyed experimenting with what happened to the physical properties as more of the detergent and water were added. You can see that the students were inquisitive, engaged, and amazed at their outcomes!



## *Building Ears to Hear Better*

1st graders have been learning about how animals have adapted to the places they live. We talked about the Arctic Fox and how it has very good hearing. Our Bobcats used the knowledge they learned about adaptations to design and build ears to help them hear better. This is one way Millwood pursues the Round Square Ideal of environmentalism.





# Round Square Trip Abroad

Millwood School is proud to be one of 230 like-minded schools in 50 countries worldwide that connect and collaborate, offering world-class programs and experiences developing global competence, character, and confidence in our students. Round Square can only strengthen the character education program that has been a hallmark of Millwood's mission for 33 years. ***"Round Square schools share a commitment to character education and experiential learning built around six themes - our IDEALS - International Understanding, Democracy, Environmental Stewardship, Adventure, Leadership and Service."***

Mr. Ryan traveled to Gordonstoun this past summer and met Richard Davey, Gordonstoun's Head of Upper School. This Scottish school is one of two original member schools where the Round Square community and IDEALS originated. The goal of the visit was to see first-hand where this international community of schools began and find out how Gordonstoun implements the Round Square Program. Gordonstoun has seen many notable pupils over the years, including a young Prince Charles, the future Charles III of England, equipping them "for leadership and service in a democracy by helping them to prepare for life despite hardships, dangers, and emotions of the moment."



On Sunday, September 18, seven upper school students and three faculty members traveled to Oxford in England for the 53rd Round Square International Conference. The theme of the conference is, ***What Does it Mean to Take Less and Be More.*** During the first part of the week, the group stayed at Oxford University's Pembroke College, enjoying some sightseeing, followed by dinner and speakers from their host school. Students also attended the Opening Ceremony at the New Theatre Oxford.



Over the next two days, students heard Keynote speakers share their experiences with "Living the RS IDEALS" and participated in student forums with fellow student leaders from around the world. Students had some downtime to compete in a selfie-based Discovery Dash Treasure Hunt around Oxford before returning to the theatre for a Cultural Performance. Our group also had the opportunity to revel in a Ceilidh dinner dance for their final evening in Oxford.



The students and faculty later traveled from Oxford to AKS Lytham in the North West of England. For the remainder of the conference, students participated in service activities and outdoor adventures in Lytham and the Lake District, followed by dinner and musical performances. For the last few days of their trip abroad, Mr. Ryan joined them to act as their guide as they explored the sights of London. The group visited the Courtauld Gallery, the British Museum, Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London, the Houses of Parliament, the London Eye, Chelsea Football Club, and the Queen's Theatre in London's West End to see Phantom of the Opera. What an experience that our students and faculty will never forget!



## Millwood Student Spotlight: *Leila Grace*

Leila Grace, 11th grader at Millwood School, attended the Virginia Space Coast Scholars (VSCS) summer program in June 2022. The program was for High School Sophomores focusing on the science, engineering, and technology integral to current missions at NASA Wallops Flight Facility and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport. The free program, designed by the Virginia Space Grant Consortium (VSGC), in partnership with the STEM Education program affiliated with Old Dominion University Peninsula Center, inspired students who possess technical and/or scientific interests and were motivated to learn about the many different opportunities that NASA offered.



The program featured two key elements. The first is a dynamic online science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning experience featuring five modules. Upon completion of the online program, top-performing scholars were invited to attend a seven-day residential Summer Academy at NASA Wallops Flight Facility on Wallops Island, VA, where scholars learned firsthand from NASA professionals and their partners about the latest, cutting-edge technologies and missions. Completing the online course did not guarantee a slot into

the Summer Academy, due to space and funding limitations. Students were informed by email if they were accepted for the summer academy, based off their overall course GPA.

Leila completed the rigorous academic modules while balancing her coursework at Millwood during her sophomore year. This past summer, only 1500 students from various schools in Virginia applied for the program. Based off her overall academic GPA for the program, Leila was one of the top 10% of applicants who was selected to the summer program. Students selected to attend the summer stayed in the University of Eastern Shore dormitory. Students shared a college dorm room and their food allergies were addressed. Students spent their days at NASA Wallops Flight Facility working with mentors and NASA staff to develop a NASA scientific mission. Students had to be US citizens or legal permanent resident to attend the summer academy.

This was a great experience for Leila as she understood how spacecraft, rockets, and launch vehicles were designed and built and was able to learn about the latest advances in space technology. She highly recommends the program for Millwood students who want to understand the big picture of space exploration, and discover career opportunities in aviation and space.





# Advancement Update: *Annual Fall Festival Rocked!*

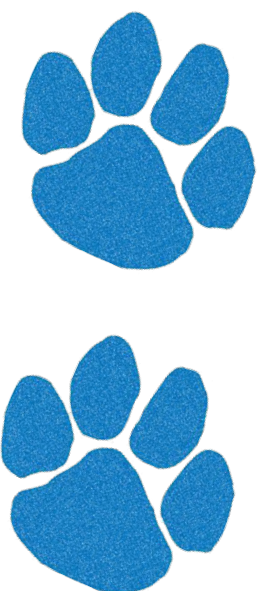
It was a pleasure to see so many families at this year's Fall Fest! A big thank you goes to Erin Williams, Whit's (8th grade) mom, for spearheading this event for us. Thank you to all of the volunteers who came to help out for the afternoon, and to those who donated food items for our meal and cakewalk! Signage and flyers were designed by Heather Witherspoon, and we appreciate the vendors for spending time with us. We could not have done it without everyone's help.



## 2022 Golf Classic: *Another “Hole in One”*

This fall, Millwood families and friends gathered in support of Millwood School for a day of golf! Thank you to Brandermill Country Club for its hospitality as well as the following corporate sponsors for making this event possible: Fest VA, Commonwealth Commercial Partners, LLC, East West Communities, Envirowash, H. J. Holtz & Son, Inc., Kwik Signs, Bowerbird Energy LLC, & Striker Masonry.

Also, huge thanks to our family sponsors: Collins Family, Russell Family, Correia Family, Garvin Family, Macleay Family, Kulzy Family, Chenevert Family, Trebour Family, Bell Family, Hopkins Family, Wilson Family, Harrison Family, & Helm Family.







# Millwood School



October 2022

Headlines

## First Day of the '22-'23 School Year

The school year opened on Monday, August 29, with our first Monday Morning Meeting. Robinson Hall was filled with many parents and grandparents to help us usher in the new year. It was exciting to see so many families.

The students have been getting to know new classmates, exploring new curriculum, and adjusting to routines and procedures. When the students were asked at arrival this morning how their first week has gone, the responses were very positive. Here's to a great year!

