



Be seen. Be heard. Be inspired.

EST. 1989

# Millwood School

July 2023



# Headlines

## Blue & Gold Shines!

Gold wins! What an exciting day it was to cap off another school year. Students competed in a variety of activities in the annual “Blue & Gold Games”. Thanks to Coach Poston and Coach Jackson for organizing one of the best games yet.



## Millwood Graduates take the next big step



**RICARDO RAIKA**

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND



**Miss Hanne Clark**

Goldsmiths, University of London



**GABRIELLA VINES**

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Class of 2027



**Jones RIEVE**



**Everett Aktalay**

**VIRGINIA TECH**



**Alex Houck**



**Claire Hollingsworth**

Millwood #Classof2023



**DANIEL GOETZ**

Virginia Commonwealth University

**VCU RAMS**



**BAILY HELM**

Shenandoah University



**SWEET BRIAR**

Glass of 2027



**Rebecca Yang**

Virginia Tech



**JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY**

Class of 2027

**GOETZ**

## Legacy Brick Program

Building the Millwood School Legacy Brick by Brick

Legacy Bricks offer an opportunity to contribute a tangible, long-lasting reminder of your support and commitment to our school that will be enjoyed by future generations.

Your personalized brick will be included in the Legacy Brick Program for a one-time donation of \$150. Each 4"x8" brick may include up to three (3) lines of text, and up to eighteen (18) characters per line.

Contact Victoria Fong, Director of Development with any questions or for a paper form at [vfong@millwoodschool.org](mailto:vfong@millwoodschool.org)

Scan to order yours today!



Suggestions for engravings:

- Commemorate your student's years at Millwood School
- Honor a staff member or supporter of the school
- Memorials
- Your favorite inspirational quote



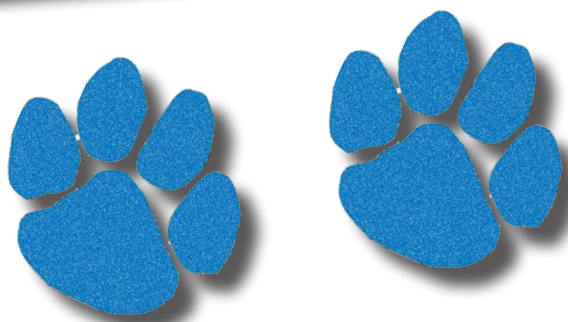
# Congratulations

CLASS OF 2023



# Congratulations Class of 2023!

Congratulations to the Class of 2023! Here are some of the most memorable moments during our annual graduation ceremony held this past week to honor our graduating class as they move forward with their lives. Best of luck graduates!



## The “Fruits of Their Labor”



Ms. Matheus’s AP Research students enjoyed a well-deserved celebration as a culmination to their year-long journey through AP Research. This “quest” consisted of an extensive year-long college-level Research Paper and POD (Presentation and Oral Defense).

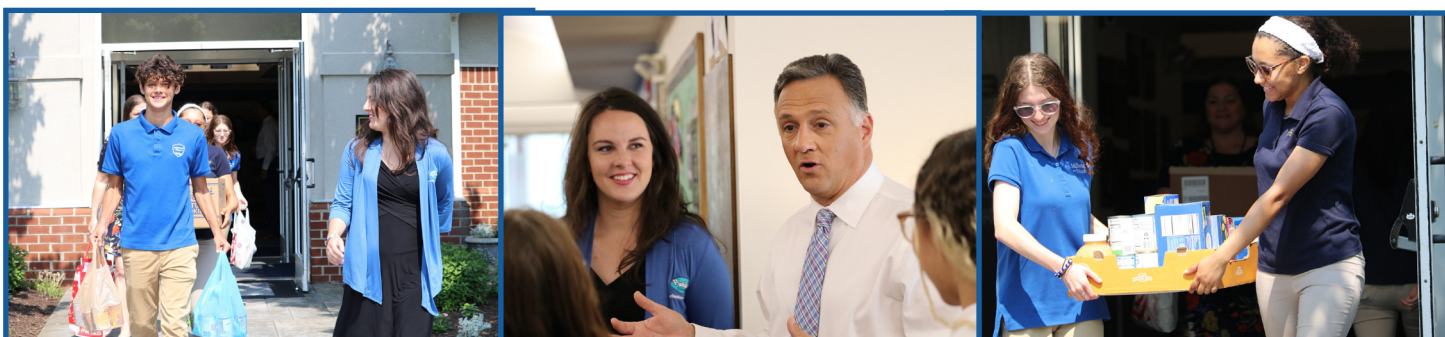
The students successfully navigated through the stormy waters of the research process by creating original research ideas, designing and conducting interesting experiments, surveys, and interviews, as well as using other research methodologies used in real life. They often had to overcome obstacles such as getting their proposals rejected or redesigning their experiments which is a key component of the learning process. Their topics addressed a wide range of interests and approaches such as Equine Therapy, or Test Anxiety to Political Polarization. Kudos to these seniors for not sinking into the sea of Academic Papers dwelling in the repositories of EBSCO, the leading provider of research databases, and creating meaningful papers!



## Stepping up for those in need! Millwood partners with Puritan Cleaners

Millwood families partook in a NHS and NJHS sponsored Food Drive in partnership with Puritan Cleaners this past school year.

This food drive benefited "Feed More". Matt DiNardo WRIC Meteorologist from ABC 8News - WRIC and Sara Moncrieff from Puritan Cleaners and the 100K Meals Team visited our school to pick up all of the 496 pounds of food donations. That's just over 413 meals for families in need. What a wonderful showing of support!



## 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.

# Lower School Classroom Updates

## JK & K “Circle of Life” Experience

The study of life cycles is one of those topics that spirals throughout the science curriculum in our lower school. Junior kindergarten and kindergarten students studied the life cycle of a butterfly, seeing firsthand the stages of development. When the caterpillars arrived, they were placed in the mesh butterfly house which was positioned in the lower school hall so all of the students could watch the progress. One by one the caterpillars formed their chrysalis and began the transition into beautiful butterflies.

As the butterflies hatched out, fruit and flowers were placed in the butterfly house for them to get nourishment. The students were fascinated to watch them flutter around inside the house. Once all of the butterflies emerged, it was time to release them into the wild. Lower school students gathered outside on the playground to watch Mrs. Taillon set the beautiful creatures free where they will hopefully lay eggs and continue the “circle of life”!



## Fourth Grade’s Study of Ecosystems



Fourth grade students learned about ecosystems in science and studied how organisms survive in each environment.

They also learned about researching using credible sources, along with paraphrasing and summarizing information in our own words.

Students used their research skills to find information about a specific ecosystem to complete their first big research project of the year! As part of this unit, students were assigned one ecosystem to research. They completed much of the research at school using online resources, as well as nonfiction books. The students worked on summarizing information in a graphic organizer. At home, students used their research notes to create a poster, a diorama, or a Google Slide presentation about their ecosystem. Projects were presented in class as part of the public speaking curriculum.



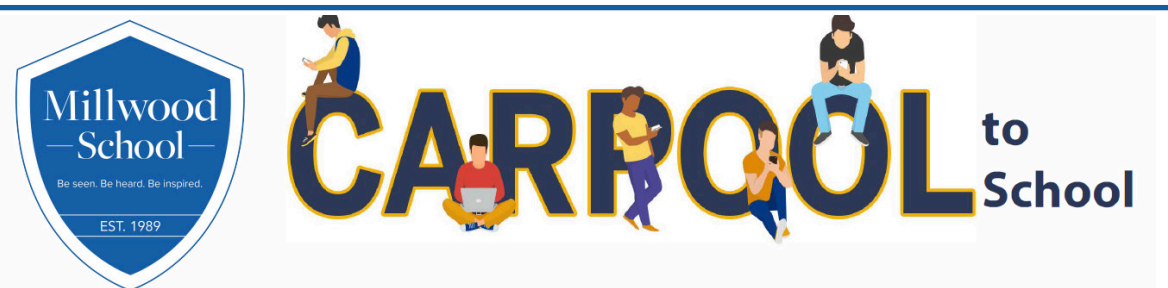
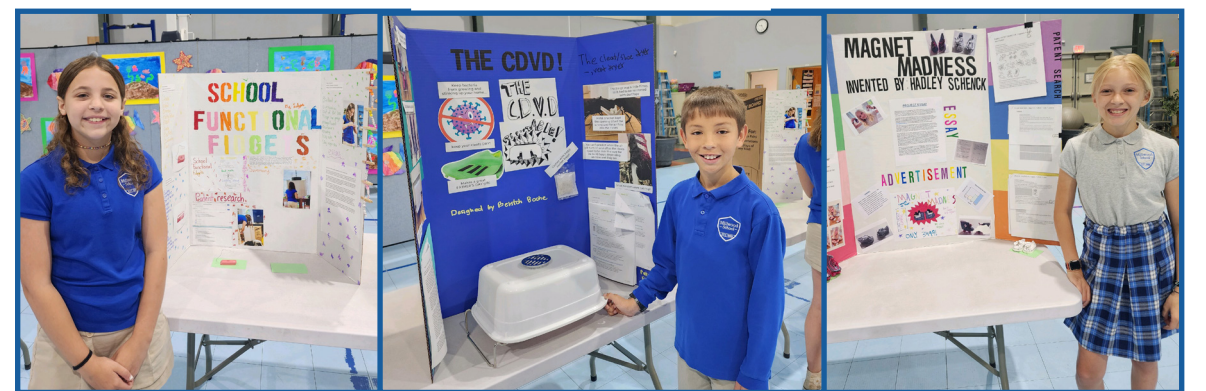
## Famous Americans Speak on Campus

A time-honored tradition took place when the first graders presented their Famous American speeches. The students presented their speeches to an audience of parents and grandparents. This was their culminating public speaking presentation of the year. The students have been learning how to be effective public speakers and have enhanced their growing skills by presenting book reports and penguin projects to their classmates. All parents and teachers were impressed with their ability to share confidently with a large group. Way to go first graders!



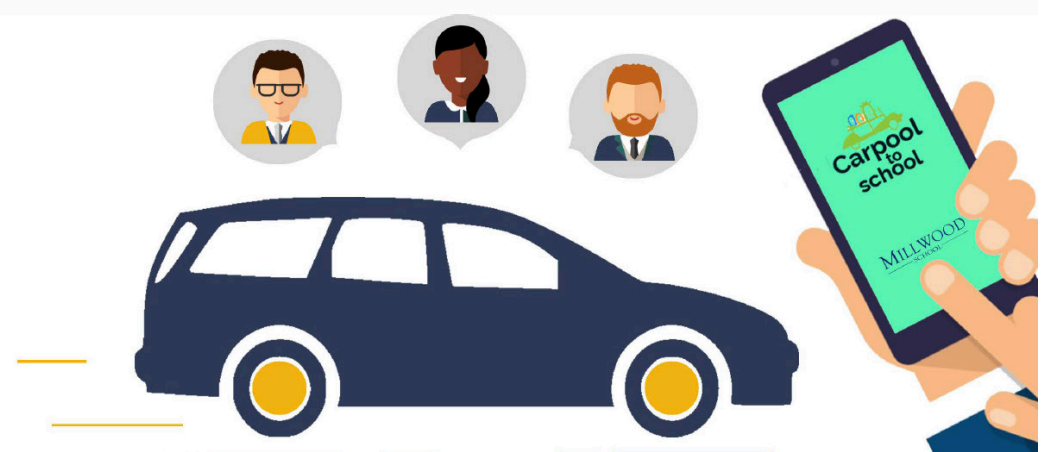
## Fifth Grade’s Invention Convention

It was problem-solving at its finest! The fifth-grade students were tasked with inventing a product that solved a perceived problem. As part of the process, they had to do a patent search to determine if that invention already existed. If not, the students could proceed with a prototype, testing, and reinventing when necessary. Sometimes it took several tries to get to that final product that could be marketed. Each student created an advertisement to sell their invention and made a working model to demonstrate their product. All of this work was displayed and students practiced their public speaking skills by presenting their projects to other classes and parents.



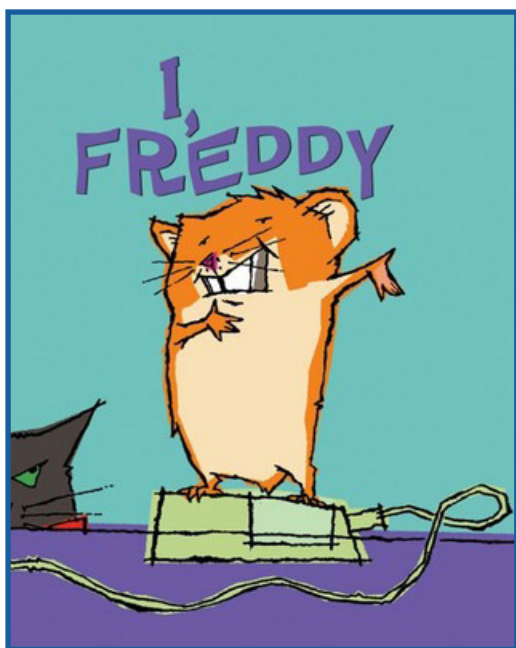
**CarpooltoSchool is now available for**

**Millwood School parents and students**



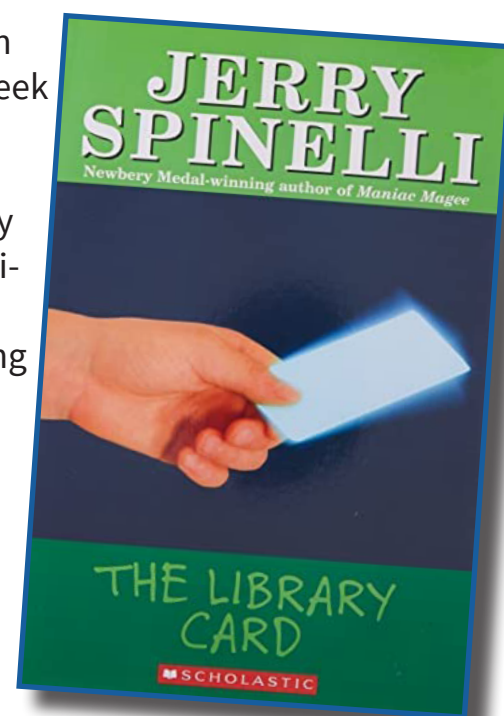
Sign up to participate at  
[millwood.carpooltoschool.com](http://millwood.carpooltoschool.com)

# Extension of Reading Skills in the Library



Students in Lower School work on reading, writing, and language skills every day within their classrooms. But those skills are also enhanced when they go to the library each week with Mrs. Ward.

Junior kindergarteners have been working hard on alphabet books in library class. They have been practicing letters and their sounds. The kindergarteners enjoyed reading holiday books the weeks before our break. They are becoming wonderful readers and are enjoying choosing new books each week. First graders have been looking for challenging books to expand their reading skills. They are expanding their interests to include non-fiction books. Second graders are working hard in the library on their class book study! They are working with the book *I, Freddy*, reading each class and working on comprehension, discussions, and utilizing their reading notebooks.



Third grade has been practicing comprehension strategies. Students are able to read a story and apply many comprehension strategies such as retelling, identifying story elements, making inferences and asking questions. Fourth graders have finished their novel study of *The Library Card* by Jerry Spinelli. The students worked hard on different ways to respond to the novel and make connections between the novel and their own lives. Fifth grade has started the sequel, *Among the Imposters*, to the novel they just finished, *Among the Hidden*. Students have been working on story mapping and identifying the main idea, important details as well as discussing the author's purpose for many different writings.

## 100+ Days of School Celebration!



JK and Kindergarten students celebrated reaching the 100th day of school. They are 100 days wiser and older! Many students chose to dress as a centenarian rocking their gray hair, suspenders, hair rollers, canes, and wrinkles. They definitely looked the part. Together, our Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes set a goal of collecting 100 food items per grade level, to donate to the Chesterfield Food Bank.

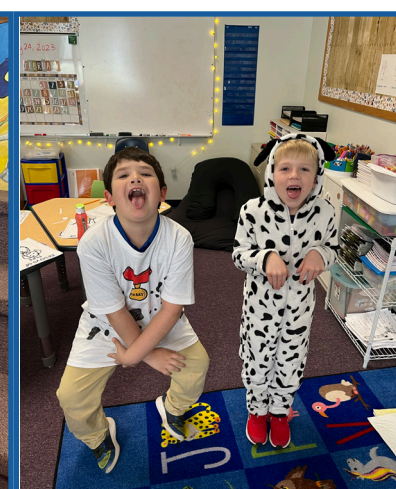
Through Junior Kindergarten's Plant Domain and Kindergarten's Unit focus on healthy eating, they've discussed the importance of food as it nourishes the body and how our bodies long for things that help keep us healthy! Donations were abundant, allowing both grade levels to surpass their individual goals, reaching a grand total of 267 food items collected! What a great example of community service from our youngest students!



Since the first graders celebrated the 100th day of school for the last two years, they decided to recognize the 101st day of school by drawing on characters from "One Hundred and One Dalmatians"! The students are also completing a variety of activities involving the number 101. They are using bubble digits for 101 to create a picture, writing 101 words that they know, and making new words from the words "one hundred one". For a writing activity, the students shared what it would be like to have \$101, what they would do with 101 dalmatians, and what each child would be like if he/she was 101 years old.



First graders have also been studying Conservation in social studies. They are learning about reducing, reusing, and recycling. On Thursday, both first-grade classes took glass jars and reused them to make a decorative pencil holder.



## College Board Recognizes Millwood School



Millwood School has earned the College Board's AP<sup>®</sup> Computer Science Female Diversity Award for expanding young women's access to AP Computer Science Principles (CSP). This award acknowledges 1,105 schools for their work toward equal gender representation during the 2021-22 school year. Millwood is one of only 832 schools to be recognized for achieving this significant result in AP CSP and one of only 3 schools in the Richmond Metro area. This honor recognizes the outstanding work Millwood is doing to engage more female students in computer science.

Research shows that female students taking AP Computer Science are more likely to major in computer science in college than matched peers. Through our leadership in diversifying computer science education, we're preparing our female students for the high-paying, in-demand jobs of the future and giving them the opportunity to help solve some of society's most challenging problems. Thank you to Mrs. Legacy for giving our students the opportunity to develop those skills for Computer Science and offering engaging activities that contribute to their success!

# More From Around Campus Middle & Upper School Updates

## Mechanics of Flight Design

Mr. Wright's Design 3 class has been applying their knowledge about aircraft design and the forces of flight. After reviewing the forces of flight, students investigated how wing design impacts the flight characteristics of an aircraft. They designed wings and tested them in a wind tunnel to observe how small changes in design can have a big (and sometimes catastrophic) impact on flight. With their knowledge of wing design, our Engineers spent time modifying wing control surfaces and observing their impact on flight stability.



The capstone for this unit is for students to take all of their experience and knowledge and apply it to flying an aircraft. Students have utilized a flight simulator to work through taxi, takeoff, and landing tasks. They have experienced how different power and wing configurations can have different flight characteristics and influence how complicated controlling an aircraft can be.



Thank you to the Civil Aviation Patrol Aviation Education Division and the Virginia Department of Aviation for your support!

## Environmental Club Hikes the Swift Creek Reservoir



Millwood is fortunate enough to be situated in Woodlake, a lovely area full of meandering trails and lush green scenery. The Environmental Club took advantage of this and enjoyed a mild hike and a picnic at Swift Creek Reservoir this Thursday. Students relaxed as they identified the native Virginia flora and fauna preserved in this area. They also took a

moment to share some snacks, and even pick up some trash, as a minor service to our local community.

Congratulations to the Environmental Club for coordinating the recycling in school every week for the entire year, and exhibiting our values of Environmentalism consistently!



## Art Created With Tessellations



Students in Art 1 studied the artist MC Escher and his mesmerizing works of art called tessellations. Tessellations are a pattern of one or more shapes that fit together with no gaps or overlaps. Art 1 students looked at three different types of tessellations: translation, rotation, and transition. After viewing the Islamic patterns in the tiles of a Moorish palace (The Alhambra) in Granada, Spain Escher, was able to see how these shapes could be converted to create interlocking patterns of fish, birds, and many other subjects.

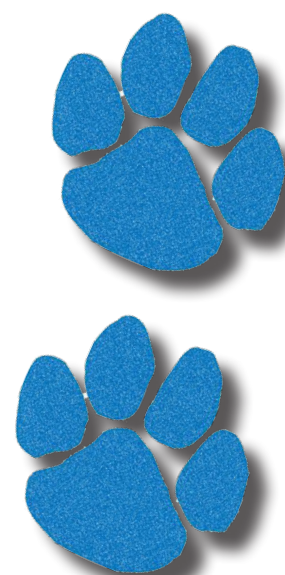
The students were instructed to manipulate a square to create a "tile" of an object. After multiple experiments, they decided upon one design to create a tile. They then created a printing plate of their tile, carving into linoleum with gouges to take away the negative space in their design. Any remaining areas that were left uncarved would then be inked with a brayer and printed onto a gridded piece of paper. When finished with printing their tile on their paper, they were to add color with colored pencils in every other printed space to create an alternating pattern. The results are stunning!



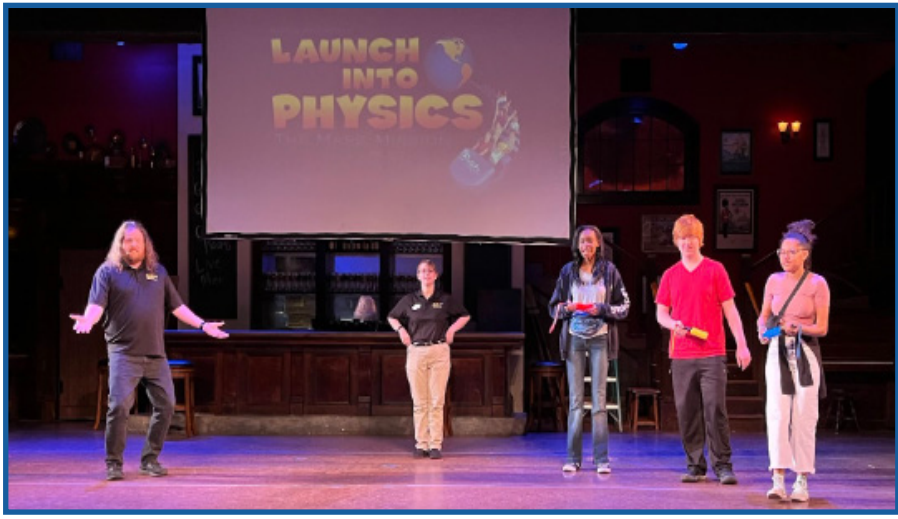
## Literary Studies at the AP Level

The AP Literature and Composition students took their College Board AP exam on Wednesday, May 3. Throughout the year, they learned how to analyze novels, plays, and poetry. The four core texts centered around common AP Literature free-response question themes: a power or familial struggle, change in character, and contrasting characters/settings. The poetry analysis included the use of figurative language, rhyme, rhythm, and connotation/denotation.

The students read 1984 by George Orwell, King Lear by William Shakespeare, The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde, and Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston. 1984 depicts a totalitarian society where the state has eliminated all individual liberties. King Lear is a tragedy about self-centered royalty in England. The Importance of Being Earnest, a comedy, follows two men who assume alter egos to escape social obligations. This play satirizes Victorian upper-class society and customs, such as the treatment of marriage and relationships. Their Eyes Were Watching God, a Harlem Renaissance-era novel, portrays a Black woman in the South as she tries to find freedom and love. Through in-class discussions and analysis of these works, the students gained the skills necessary to confidently tackle the AP exam.



# AP Calculus & Physics Students take on Busch Gardens



Over the past year in AP Calculus and AP Physics, students have been working hard and learning a lot. Just two weeks ago, both classes took their AP exams. To wrap up a year of hard work and dedication, the classes took a trip to Busch Gardens! Students Leila Grace, Hanne Clark, Luke Wade, Gabi Vines, Rebecca Yang, and Everett Aktalay have a final project for Calculus to make their own roller coasters. In preparation for this project, they completed market research at the park and saw what made a roller coaster fun or, in some cases, what made it terrifying.



They also had the opportunity to attend a presentation called "Launch Into Physics," where the Physics students

got to show off what they learned throughout the year to the Calculus students. All of the students learned how Physics applies to the different rides in the park, which resulted in students recalling how many g's they were experiencing on a ride throughout the day. Overall, this was an enjoyable experience where students learned and later got to apply their knowledge to their final projects. The students had a great year together and Ms. Gordon is so proud of everything these students have accomplished.

## Round Square Trip Abroad

This past spring several 8th grade students embarked overseas to attend a Round Square adventure conference hosted by The Samworth Church Academy in the North of England. The conference was held in the beautiful scenery of North Yorkshire, just north of the picturesque city of York. Here are our delegates departing from Richmond and arriving the next day ready to have a wonderful experience.

Later in their journey, students visited The Bushwhackers Camp. The camp staff have been excellent, teaching the group a variety of survival and outdoor skills. Mr. Ryan met up with the group and saw the students learn about first aid, in particular, how to treat victims in a disaster situation. The students were then split up into groups that were made up of students from schools all around the world. On a hike through the forest, the students were taught which plants were edible and which were poisonous. Then, the instructors staged a plane crash where the groups had to practice the skills they were shown earlier to help the 'victims' (secret volunteers from the teachers and students).



Our Round Square delegates continued their overseas adventure in London, England learning a bit about natural history as well as doing some sightseeing, visiting the London Eye, Parliament, Buckingham Palace, and the London Bridge!



## Winter Concert Shines Bright from Perkinson



Led by our JK-12 Music Teacher, Mr. Joshua Stone, students from junior kindergarten through 12th grade performed a variety of memorable holiday tunes to a sold-out audience at the Perkinson Center for the Arts & Education.

# An Evening in Wonderland Millwood Auction & Gala Re-energized!

Thank you to everyone who attended “An Evening in Wonderland Gala”! From the costumes to the items up for auction, Robinson Hall was transformed into a world unlike any other. The event was a marvelous success and we hope to see you at next year's Gala!



## 2022-23 Sports Season Awards

Our student-athletes were recognized for a job well done. Our coaches reminded us that it's not always about the wins, although we savor those moments, it's also about the effort, attitude, and teamwork our players demonstrate throughout the season.



**These student-athletes received the Bobcat Award (BA) and Coaches Award (CA):**

### Cross Country

BA Laila Cober / CA Daniel Goetz

### MS Girls' Volleyball

BA Maddy Meisner / CA Braelynn Correia

### Varsity Girls' Volleyball

BA Maya Novoa / CA Ellis Aktalay

### Varsity Boys' Soccer

BA Caleb Ferris / CA Griffin Aktalay

### MS Boys' Basketball

BA Grant Wimmer / CA Ethan Hanrahan

### Varsity Boys' Basketball

BA Zachary Franklin / CA Andrew Macleay

### Swimming

BA Luc Ryan / CA Gavin Gardner

### Boys' Baseball

BA Rory Wittersheim / CA Jake Allen

### Girls' Varsity Soccer

BA Maya Novoa / CA Abby Garrett





# Millwood School



July 2023

Headlines

## Bravo Millwood School Drama Students!

Middle and upper school drama students, along with a number of 4th and 5th graders, should be very proud of their performances this past spring. There was humor, drama, song, and dance as the actors entertained their audience.

Miss Butterworth has grown Millwood's drama program over the last two years. The drama class has become a wonderful addition to the class offerings for our students. Interest has grown and the productions have become more elaborate. The drama class also gives students the opportunity to learn about backstage planning, costume design, and lighting for those not interested in being on stage.

Both productions, **Cinderella** and **How to Succeed in High School Without Really Trying** were a huge success!

