

MICDS

THE MAGAZINE

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MICDS

MARY INSTITUTE AND SAINT LOUIS COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

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OUR STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES



TRANSFORMATIVE STUDENT EXPERIENCE



GREAT TEACHING AND LEARNING 2.0



ENSURING A VIBRANT SCHOOL FUTURE

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MARY INSTITUTE &
SAINT LOUIS COUNTRY
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Dear MICDS Family,



At least once every day at MICDS, at one point or another, I find myself walking along Carpe Diem Drive, the interior campus thoroughfare that runs parallel to Warson Road and fronts most of our Lower, Middle, and Upper School buildings. Like many people who have seen the movie *Dead Poets Society*, which popularized the “carpe diem” maxim, I cannot help but think of Robin Williams and company every time I see our Carpe Diem Drive sign—especially because I happen to know very well the campus of St. Andrew’s School in Delaware where the film was shot, and which is, like MICDS, an exceptionally beautiful and inspiring place.

“Carpe diem” is usually translated from the *Odes* of Horace as “seize the day,” but I have learned that some scholars of Latin suggest “pluck the day” instead, as if each morning were a ripe piece of fruit ready for the taking. Our students have embraced this maxim for some time. According to John Oleski, long-time CDS and MICDS teacher, the name for our campus thoroughfare came from a student contest that took place when it first opened. The editors of the 1994 MICDS yearbook, in that same early morning of our establishment as a single institution, cited “carpe diem” as the “Quote to Sum up the Year.”

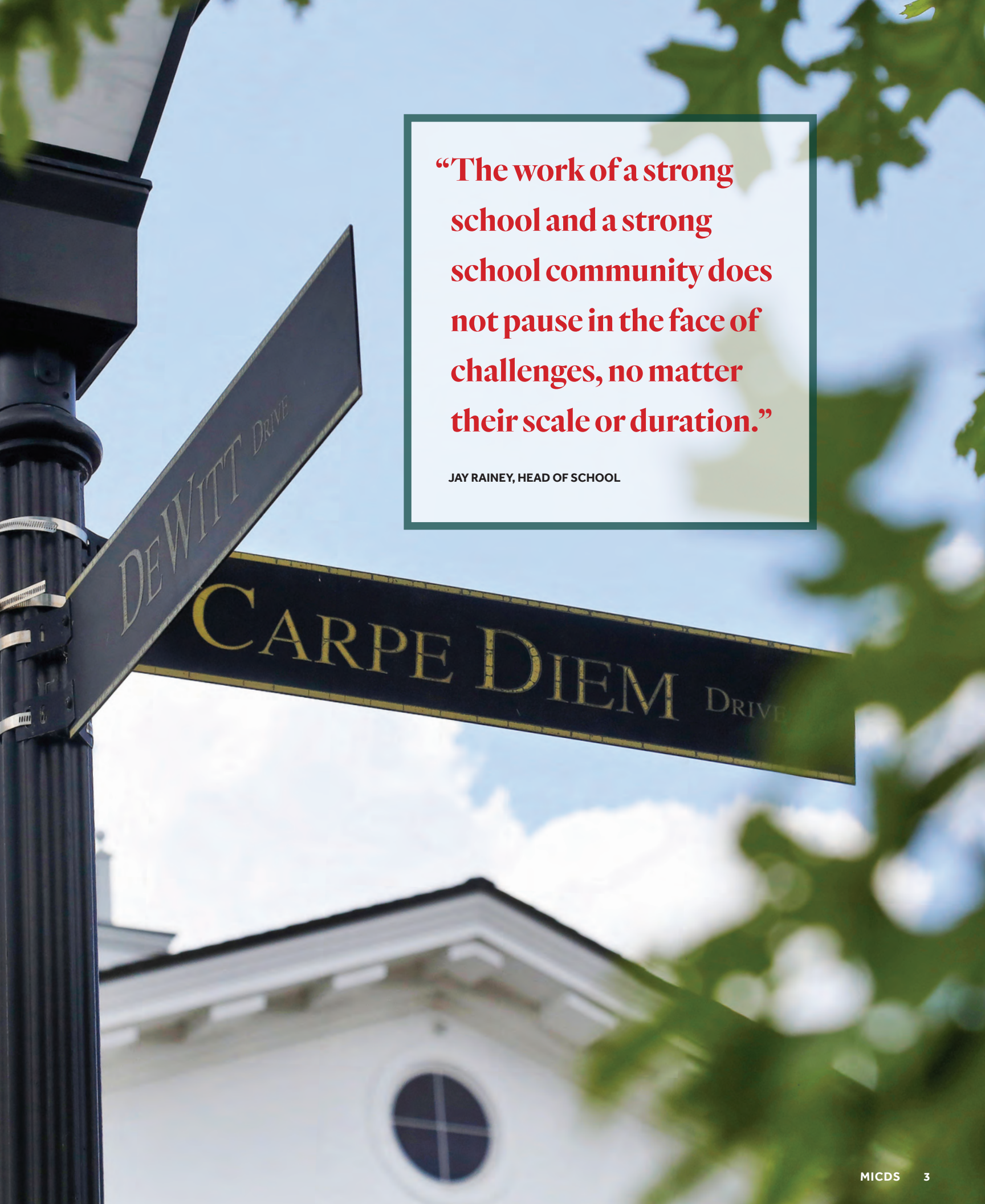
What was true in 1994 remains true today, and in reflecting on the school year that we have just completed, I can think of no better phrase than “carpe diem” to describe the response of our community to the COVID-19 pandemic. In this issue of the *MICDS Magazine* you will learn how our science teachers redesigned their curriculum and laboratory exercises to accommodate both in-person and distance learning, how one of our world languages teachers prioritizes personal connections—so important during a time of social distancing—

by drawing on his personal experiences, and how an alumnus built upon his experiences at MICDS to create a career of exploration. You will discover how Lower School students learned sign language to lead their classmates in song, how Middle School students used their creativity to design social-distancing tools, and how Upper School students carried on the tradition of the Blue Whale Cafe despite not having an in-person audience.

The work of a strong school and a strong school community does not pause in the face of challenges, no matter their scale or duration. We are certainly excited to return to regular operating conditions at MICDS this coming fall, but we are nevertheless proud of our achievements under what have been undeniably irregular conditions for more than a year. Horace did not qualify his imperative, after all, in terms of agreeable circumstances. He did not advise us merely to “seize the sunny day” or “seize the pleasant day.” He advised us to “seize the day,” at all dawns, whether overcast, bright, fraught with storms, chilly, or beautiful.

Our resolve to make the most of every moment at MICDS has not weakened through the coronavirus pandemic, and it will not weaken in the time to come. Every day in support of the growth and education of children and young people is a day to be seized. It has been a good year, and we look forward to many more. Carpe diem!

Jay Rainey
Head of School

The background of the page is a photograph. On the left, a black street signpost holds two signs. The top sign is dark with 'DEWITT DRIVE' in gold lettering. The bottom sign is also dark with 'CARPE DIEM DRIVE' in gold lettering. In the background, a white building with a circular window is visible under a blue sky with some clouds. Green foliage is on the right side.

“The work of a strong school and a strong school community does not pause in the face of challenges, no matter their scale or duration.”

JAY RAINEY, HEAD OF SCHOOL

Two Students Named Second Annual Pete Wilson '51 Fellows for Normandy Academy

Each year, two MICDS students are selected to receive full scholarships (including flights, tuition, and meals) to participate in the **Pete Wilson '51 Fellows for Normandy Academy**.

We are pleased to announce that **Jackson Strelo '22** and **Aanya Tiwari '23** are this year's scholarship recipients.

Strelo and Tiwari will be joining last year's winners, **Andrew Lindsey '21** and **Cate Cody '22**, whose 2020 summer trip was postponed due to the pandemic. After the program, all four students will give brief presentations on their experience to the 9th grade class, in alignment with the Post-1900 World unit on World War II. Congratulations, Normandy Academy Fellows!

The Pete Wilson '51 Fellows for Normandy Academy scholarship is made possible through the generosity of **Mr. Edward "Tee" Turner Baur '64**.



01



02

03

01. Jackson Strelo '22

02. Aanya Tiwari '23

03. Pete Wilson '51 addressing the student body at an Upper School assembly in January 2019.





Seniors Keep It Casual for Chill Day

The Class of 2021 enjoyed a breather during "Senior Chill Day," an annual event organized by senior parents to provide students with a chance to sit back, relax, and refuel. They wore red or green plaid MICDS pajama pants for the day and feasted on specialty coffee drinks, doughnuts, and breakfast sandwiches, as well as a full buffet at lunch.



Experience Drives Everything

Upper School Spanish Teacher Christopher Barker intentionally incorporates a “jobs unit” into his full-immersion language classes. His students are always amazed at the variety of work he’s done over the years, and the unit capitalizes on their curiosity to foster questions and conversation. It’s a sneaky trick for a teacher and perfectly expresses Barker’s creative style. He strives to tap into the interests of his students and make learning the language fun while also incorporating serious themes along the way. His unique experiences motivate his philosophy of teaching. “There’s an expression in Spanish that experience drives everything,” he said. “It doesn’t matter how big or small, but experiences define what we truly learn and acquire over the course of our life.”



hola

Barker, born and raised in South City St. Louis and one of four children, grew up exposed to parts of the Hispanic culture (mainly food and music). His mother was born in Puerto Rico and taught English, and is now the Director of Education at the International Institute. He never dreamed he would follow in her footsteps. "I liked school more for the social aspect than anything else," he confessed. "I wanted to be a chef for a while, then a firefighter. Then I thought I could combine both and cook at a firehouse."

Instead, he studied history at Truman State University, enjoying a focus on non-western, Latin American studies. His final thesis explored immigrant populations living in Spain and how language is used around those populations. With a newly-minted history degree, he planned to buy a one-way ticket to Spain, find a job, and figure out what he wanted to do next. Instead, a friend called and invited him to interview for a music teacher position at the St. Louis Language Immersion School. Barker, honing his predilection for seizing unexpected opportunities, jumped at the chance.

While he didn't know much about music beyond taking piano lessons as a child, he tackled the challenge with gusto. He found a song he remembered and practiced it until he felt comfortable, rolling it out at an interview audition that included future MICDS colleague **Emily Coppersmith** (Middle School Spanish Teacher) on the interview panel. "I probably looked ridiculous," he said. "There was singing, dancing, and puppets." He must have done something right because the school hired him and launched him on a career path he never expected.

"Since I had lived in Spain and had been around the Spanish language most of my life, it was a cool opportunity," Barker said. He also enjoyed teaching in St. Louis City, a place where he feels most at home. He learned that being around children and making a difference in their lives was exciting. Soon, the school recruited him to expand his role, and within a year, he was also teaching physical education. "I have really fond memories of that first job," he said. "At that age, which was kindergarten through 5th grade when I left, they're excited about music and PE, being healthy, running, and playing

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01



02

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games." Barker combined storytelling with body movement and incorporated exercise in gameplay. He also helped 2nd grade students as a teaching assistant and took on administrative duties. One of his best memories is of taking a group of 5th grade students to Puerto Rico.

"My responsibilities ran the gamut there. I like to work. Ever since I could ask for a job, I was asking for jobs," he said. He discovered at that first post-undergrad job that even though he had never planned on being a teacher, he loved it. He found that every day as an educator is interesting. After working desk jobs over the summers through college, he realized that he needs to be creative, and his mind requires stimulation. "Every day teaching, I get to be creative," he said. "An active mind is a sharp mind, and I try to keep mine active as much as possible."

He's been teaching for 11 years now, seven of them at MICDS. His favorite part of the day is in the five minutes before class starts. "As a language teacher, what I value is communication," Barker said. "Sometimes I don't necessarily care about their English and Spanish but I enjoy seeing students interacting." He admits that this part has been challenging during the pandemic and worries that students are not finding many opportunities to interact and enjoy interpersonal conversations. Listening to other people's stories is imperative to developing the ability to treat everyone with humility and tolerance, so Barker looks for ways

to take his students' attention away from their phones, computers, and other distractions, encouraging interaction with each other. He'll play an interesting song, for instance, and the students will engage and start talking about it. "It feels like a really fun, active party with no pressure and no grade; it's just doing what I think we are meant to do as humans, which is to find connections with each other, read body language, and engage," he said.

Sometimes Barker grabs their attention by sharing memories of one of the many jobs he's held. He has worked as an interpreter, a pizza parlor magician, and a dog walker, in a deli, in a book warehouse, and as an unpaid comedy show roadie for his older brother in Edinburgh, Scotland (he did get to crash with the other comedians at their rented flat). He challenges students to think independently, asking questions like, "Does our work define us, or do we define our work?" The conversation, in Spanish of course, is lively and interesting for students. "No matter what I do," he tells his students, "I find a way to enjoy it and be passionate about it."

His passion for teaching has grown since he first took a leap to try out the profession. He recently completed a master's in teaching Spanish and found that this time around he truly enjoyed being a student. "I was able to revisit those things I looked at before, and I'm fascinated by the language itself," he said. "I try to explain to my students how language is not static. The textbook makes it seem like it never changes, but Puerto Rican Spanish, for instance, is full of

slang that is impossible to keep up with. It's kind of like English. We laugh about it and have a good time. They can see that learning language is not simply memorizing one word and that's all you use. Each country has its own flavor of dialect they bring to the Spanish language."

While Spanish is his second language of choice, he doesn't necessarily feel that it's the best world language for MICDS students to learn. "Everyone should be learning another language," he said. "The world has opened up with each generation and there are opportunities, so learn and build on language." He recalls learning Russian in grade school and says that thanks to Spanish if he hears a song in French he can understand the main message. Learning one language opens up other languages, and language in general. It sparks connections on how things tie together and how things change. "I love talking linguistics with my students," he said. "Language is not static. It's dynamic and continues to change; it's cool."

He encourages his students to explore relevant issues and current initiatives through the framework of a foreign language, and he hopes to inspire them to continue pursuing their language after leaving MICDS. By sharing his passion for Spanish with students, he's helping them dip their toes into new cultures and new experiences.

Barker's own experiences continue to grow at MICDS. In addition to teaching Spanish in the Upper School, he serves as an advisor and coaches Middle School soccer (boys in the fall and girls in the spring). This allows him to engage with students of a variety of ages and in different settings. "Advisory is a big challenge right now," he admits. The limits of the pandemic mean losing an important part of connecting and hanging out, but he still works hard to forge connections. His openness encourages his students to share stories about their life experiences. "We live such busy lives and in close communities, we miss the opportunity to give people whose stories deserve to be told that space." He is proud that the students in the Barker Advisory always want to do more, and he wishes that this year, their senior year, he could have given them off-campus outings and experiences.

Spending time on the field with Middle School students is an entirely different encounter. "Middle school feels not as serious as high school. We don't care if we win or lose," he said. "I love when they're just having fun and being silly." When the class size doubles in 7th grade at MICDS, it's essential to make sure the new students become part of our community and that becomes easier

on the field, he says, especially in the first 10 minutes of practice when players are talking and engaging with each other in a silly, positive, friendly way.

He has managed to bring some of that irreverent Middle School sports spirit into his classroom by inventing Barker Ball, an active game that transforms his room into a playing field. His students and advisees love the game so much, they share it with their friends which results in students he's never taught or advised stopping by during free periods for a fun, quick game that isn't tied to a grade, reward, or recognition. The eponymous game is briefly on hiatus due to the pandemic, but Barker looks forward to opening his classroom for friendly competition again.

Barker comes back again and again to the one thing that makes the difference: experience. Whether he's taking students on a trip to watch their language level grow or creating space for students to relate in non-academic ways in the classroom or on the field, he's constantly seeking ways to help people connect with each other.

This philosophy extends to his own life, too. He lives "in the moment," recognizing the opportunities available even when sitting in a traffic jam. He loves to travel, typically revisiting favorite places for longer stretches to sink into the culture and community. He was elected president of the Puerto Rican Society in St. Louis, leading a board to connect with others of PR descent and raise funds for scholarships to local Latinx students. He works to keep a sharp mind by honing his skills and learning new ones. He keeps up to date with his magic tricks, which are mainly card tricks now, and he enjoys working on the home he recently purchased.

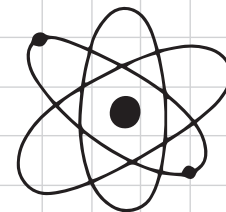
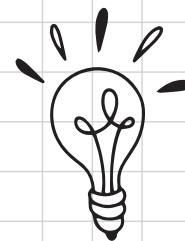
It's clear that whatever Christopher Barker decides to do, he does it with intention and a desire to glean every bit possible out of the experience. It's this delight—in language, in teaching, and in living—that makes him such a successful educator, although he would probably have been an excellent firehouse chef, too.



"It doesn't matter how big or small, but experiences define what we truly learn and acquire over the course of our life."

**CHRISTOPHER BARKER,
UPPER SCHOOL SPANISH
TEACHER**

Pandemic Inspires Science Teachers to Experiment



In the spring of 2020, the JK-12 Science Department donated a year's supply of nitrile gloves and safety glasses to local hospitals, and under the leadership of **Brian Purlee, Upper School Theater Technical Director, Maker/Robotics Coordinator**, deployed a Maker Team to use our 3D printers to make PPE devices of many designs to donate to the local response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

That was just the beginning of the Science Department's outstanding response to the COVID-19 pandemic. During a year when many schools stalled or retreated, MICDS science teachers met a variety of challenges, exceeded expectations, and moved forward on every front.

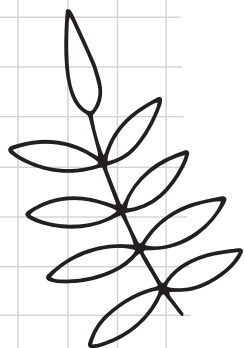
The 2020-2021 academic year began with a daily rewrite of how the science program was delivered, depending on the ages of the students and whether they were fully in-person, hybrid, or fully online. As the School's response to pandemic safety guidelines evolved, so did the teachers' pedagogies. "Shifting back from the hands-on Inquiry Learning Model to virtual or physically distant teaching, in particular, was the heaviest of curricular lifts," said **Bob Shaw, JK-12 Science Department Chair**. "Online labs were not only implemented to replace wet lab experiences, but they were unpacked, chunked, and used more intentionally to explain phenomena and quite complex science standards." Virtual science lessons and labs provided formative feedback and, in some cases, were the performance task used as the summative grade to measure mastery. "We have taught through the deadliest days in American history by adjusting our content, the amount of our content, and our teaching and learning models all while balancing the

physical and mental health of students, then each other, then ourselves—servant leaders all," said Shaw.

A Vanderbilt doctoral candidate studied our 10th grade science program this year and noted that while high-performing student knowledge grew, lower-performing students had more room to grow, and did so. He wrote that "online learning did not severely affect student learning," and that the virtual environment allowed for more 1:1 time with students to provide social-emotional support and help with content.

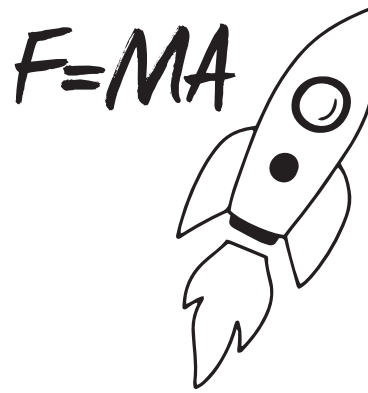
Our science teachers also connected with colleagues to foment collaboration with other subjects and across divisions. Just a few activities involved hatching chicks, launching rockets, mining asteroids, abating honeysuckle on campus, modeling the digestive system, using specialized software to review content, finding success in robotics, collecting carbon sequestration data on campus, creating bio-ethics podcasts, and learning from guest speakers who were often also alumni. These programs illustrate the carefully scaffolded content and the pathways that encourage MICDS students in all grades to continue exploring the world around them.

Congratulations to the JK-12 Science Faculty for successfully planning and executing these lessons, courses, programs, opportunities, and extracurricular events throughout the year for our students. "This team has truly been the bright and shining star throughout this hazy school year for each of their students," said Shaw.



3, 2, 1, Blast Off!

Beasley Pop Rockets Explain Newton's Laws of Motion



In 3rd grade science, Beasley students explored forces and motion—and pop rockets provided the perfect setting for their celebration of rocket science that included the landing of NASA's new Mars rover, Perseverance. Students used rocket science to also experience Newton's Three Laws of Motion:

- Newton's First Law: Every object in a state of uniform motion will remain in that state of motion unless an external force acts on it.
- Newton's Second Law: Force equals mass multiplied by acceleration ($f = ma$).
- Newton's Third Law: For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.

The mere act of launching connects to Newton's First Law of unbalanced forces. Newton's Second Law of Motion states that acceleration is connected to the force applied on the object and its mass. The success of the pop rockets and their launch height was directly connected to the amount of gas formed in the canister. Finally, in Newton's Third Law, for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. The rockets traveled upward with a force that was equal to the downward force of the water, gas, and lid.

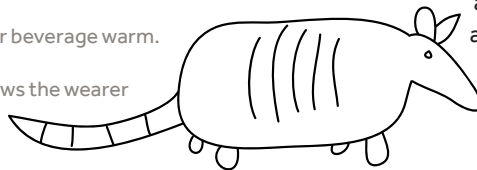
These budding scientists had a blast building and launching their rockets, all while learning about Newton's Laws.

01. Students wait patiently to launch their pop rockets.

02. The area outside the MAC was transformed into a launch pad.

03. This furry mug keeps your beverage warm.

04. Designing a coat that allows the wearer to shed layers.



First Graders Create Biomimicry Inventions

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MICDS 1st grade scientists were surrounded in the study of plants and animals this year. They explored external structures of organisms and how these structures help a plant and animal survive in the wild. This study led them to think about biomimicry, the design and production of materials, structures, and systems that are modeled on biological entities and processes. They connected what they learned to invent things to solve human problems, and came up with some clever and helpful designs, including:

- A coat that can shed just like that of a dog—you pull off velcro layers when you're too hot and add a layer when you're too cold.
- A cooling system designed after large tree leaves.
- An armored flying car designed after birds and the armor on an armadillo.
- A cozy cup with a furry exterior—comfortable to hold and keeps your cocoa or coffee nice and hot.
- A fish trap designed with every fishing adventure in mind—it looks like a plant and simply needs to be lowered to catch the best fish.



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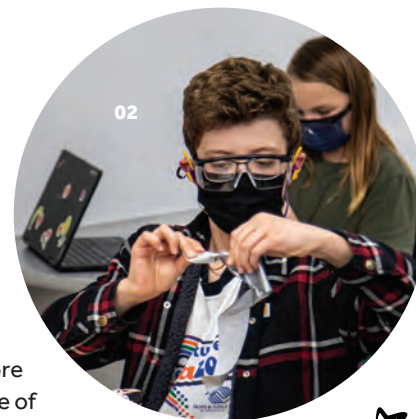


A 5th Grade Mission to Collect Asteroid Samples

Middle School Science Teacher Branson Lawrence presented his 5th graders with an engineering mission: collect core samples from an asteroid!

Fifth grade scientists designed their own asteroid sampler machines using straws, elastics, binder clips, popsicle sticks,

skewers, and cups. Their machines were tasked with collecting core samples from the surface of the asteroids, which earthlings know as potatoes. Students had to design machines that could store potential energy to be released as kinetic energy, driving straws into the core of their potato asteroids. The activity also helped students engage with the practices of engineering: collaborative planning, prototyping, testing, and redesigning to find the best solution possible. "It is so exciting to see the students engage with these types of challenges where there is no one right answer," said Lawrence. "Their creativity really has a chance to shine!"



01. Students built asteroid sampler machines using common household objects.
02. Finding the best solution possible by engaging in the practices of engineering.
03. Plastic baggies serve as models for the human stomach.
04. Learning about the digestion system through hands-on experience.



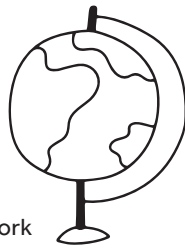
Seventh Graders Learn About the Digestive System

Seventh grade students conducted a lab experiment that served as an introduction to their study of the digestive system. The students were given saline crackers, plastic baggies, and a small cup of water.

They placed the crackers in the baggies and crushed them up, then poured in water and mashed the mixture around with their hands. Soda further broke down the crackers, and then students dumped the slurry into coffee filters and squeezed out the liquid, simulating how food is digested. "Watching kids make connections in their learning is one of the things I enjoy most about teaching," said **7th Grade Science Teacher Michelle Bouchard**. "One of the easiest ways for students to remember information is through experiences."



Using Our Campus as a Science Lab



Tenth grade science students were asked to work in groups to create an infographic that illustrates the carbon cycle and how carbon is sequestered—all by studying a single tree per group on MICDS' campus.

"They started by choosing a tree on campus and calculated how many pounds of carbon are stored in that one tree," said **Laura Bradford, 10th Grade Science Teacher**. The students then compiled data from their chosen tree to complete a variety of calculations that, when coupled with additional research, allowed for them to create an infographic explaining carbon sequestration and its relevance to the global community.

The project also frames the environmental issues we face with increasing CO2 levels in the atmosphere. "I learned about the extent to which humans are altering the carbon cycle and what we can do to reduce carbon emissions," said **Erica Engelhardt '23**. "It was really interesting to make the connection between a single tree and how much it can do for the Earth's atmosphere," added **Henley Danforth '23**.



01

01. Student-designed infographics were displayed in the STEM building.

02-03. Environmental science students enjoy hearing from the landscape architect who designed the grounds around the STEM building.

Landscape Architect Speaks to Environmental Science Class



Landscape Architect Felipe DeNarvaez visited with 11th graders both in-person and online for **Upper School Science Teacher Andi Galluppi's** Environmental

Science class, discussing the decisions made when developing the landscape plan for the McDonnell STEM building. DeNarvaez had the challenging task of developing a landscape that was both functional and beautiful—although that beauty may not be the typical short-grass lawns and manicured bushes that are common around most homes and businesses. "Some people may look at this piece of landscape and think of it as messy," DeNarvaez said, referring to the native Missouri plants chosen

for the area in front of the STEM building. "People are used to seeing clean and organized landscaping." But those native plants have their purpose: to stop water runoff from quickly flowing over the land. Slowing down water runoff increases retention, which promotes a healthy ecosystem. The water ultimately returns to the water table. "I thought it was really interesting that they had to figure out a way to include the

water from other neighborhoods and areas around the school," said **Joshua Borja '22**. "The plants out front filter water from different areas around the campus and they help collect water and drain it into the river and streams, directly from our school. I think it's pretty cool how something so simple—like some plants in front of the school—can have a big impact on the community we live in."



Always Looking,

When **Kevin O'Briant '92** arrived at MICDS, he came from a co-ed public school background and landed in a newly integrated school formed by the merger of an all-girls school and an all-boys school. He watched as his classmates adjusted to having members of the opposite gender in their classes, amused that his peers seemed to struggle with something he had always known. "I just didn't see what the big deal was," he said, "and I wondered why everyone was being so weird about this."



02

01. Examining the taphonomic or "site formation" processes at Nicholas Canyon Beach in Malibu, California. In this place a small beach community was razed in the early 1970s to create a park and nature is slowly taking over. Country Day School alumnus Vincent Price had a family beach house here prior to the demolition.

02. A photo from O'Briant's senior page in the 1992 yearbook.

He was a fly on the wall, content to observe and learn from what he calls "the strange social experiment" going on around him. It was an inkling as to his future career as a professional archaeologist and ethnohistorian, where he specializes in studying relationships. Now, though, his observations have grown well beyond how adolescent boys and girls relate to each other, but how civilizations relate to their environment, and specifically how people relate to plants.

O'Briant has taught archaeological field methods for the University of Chicago, the University of New Mexico, and Wesleyan University; conducted medico-anthropological fieldwork in India; and provided archaeological consultation for documentary films and now makes his own. In addition, he teaches general-interest archaeology courses for adult learners at the University

of Montana School of Extended and Lifelong Learning. He also provides interpretive historical tours of the Lewis and Clark Trail in Montana and Idaho and Spanish-Cuban-American War historical tours in Cuba.

His career involves continuous exploration, a medley of different "gigs" that allow him to pursue personal passions such as traveling. He has built a reputation as a fixer and builder of financial databases and business intelligence tools for mid-sized manufacturing companies. He makes enough with this to only take on cultural resource management or archaeology projects that interest him. This way, O'Briant gets to choose his own projects that have, so far, carried him to work in 13 different states and provided a broad picture of the pre-history and unrecorded history of North America that he'd never have learned by staying strictly in academia. He has explored

different ecological zones and their history and other archaeologists and their ideas. He's fascinated by "taphonomic processes" or how soils and climate can change preservation, explaining that working in Cahokia, Illinois, is totally different than Mesa Verde, Colorado. "Things get buried in one place, and they don't in another," he said.

Archaeology today isn't anywhere close to what is pictured in the Indiana Jones movies. "When you try to live in the west, you have to wear a bunch of hats and take on a bunch of gigs," O'Briant explained. "Archaeology as a career is a dead end, and it's really hard to make any money. Cultural resource

management work means you're relying on contracts to create documents for compliance with federal laws and the Environmental Protection Act. This means following pipelines around and writing reports about what's going to happen to this or that historic site." For O'Briant, this work can be dull and dry. He prefers a mix, seeking out new ideas and projects that suit his whims at any given time.

This nomadic lifestyle is a continuation of his childhood. The O'Briant parents were teachers and his father enjoyed finding schools with deficient or no music programs, fixing them up, then moving on. Kevin and his brother were both born in Sault Ste.

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Always Learning



03. Offloading gear at the site where the Lewis and Clark Expedition camped on May 29, 1805, on the Missouri River in central Montana.

04. Guiding back-country historical tours through the Upper Missouri Breaks National Monument in central Montana in the late spring.



continued from page 15 >>

Marie, Kevin on the Canadian side, and his brother in Michigan. The O'Briants moved to west Texas and western Oklahoma before returning to St. Louis to care for aging grandparents. Once in St. Louis, they settled in St. Charles and eventually moved to Lafayette Square.

His mother called the Country Day Head of School and explained that Kevin was a good student—a national merit scholar—and he was accepted for his senior year. “I transferred in and felt like a foreign exchange student,” he said, “which worked out fine since my friends were mostly the actual foreign exchange students.” He noted that the divide between where he was living and where he was going to school was jarring, just as he noted that the girls spoke up more when they were in mostly-girls classes on the MI side of campus than when they were in the boy-dominated classes on the CDS campus. The differences didn’t phase him—he saw them as interesting cultural contrasts and he enjoyed being in a variety of environments throughout each day.

Mrs. O'Briant taught at Francis Howell High School in St. Charles, so every day she and Kevin would leave their home in Lafayette Square at 6 a.m. and drive to Ladue. Classes didn't start until 8 a.m., so Kevin would find a way to get into the building, locate a couch, and crash. A favorite couch was in the art gallery, and eventually, he befriended an artist in residence who was painting there. “He invited me to join him and I’d watch him paint,” O'Briant remembers. After school, he went to his grandparents' house in Kirkwood and waited for the ride back, or he'd take the public bus for an hour and a half to get back to Lafayette Square, which he said was an adventure in itself.

He remembers learning calculus from Will Hansen, who was “really fabulous with such a dry subject. He was all about data visualization, getting us to see the kinds of shapes and three-dimensional space that calculus formulas described. It was huge to have that understanding.” Hansen also occasionally whipped out a guitar and sang songs as Kermit the Frog. An English teacher introduced O'Briant to reading plays, which is something he had never done. In French, he read Molière and learned about things he hadn't known existed. Between French literature and U.S. history, he saw a bigger world.

History runs deep in his family. O'Briant often took his disabled grandfather to monthly Civil War roundtable meetings to listen to different lecturers. His family vacations involved historic and archaeological sites like Mesa Verde, where he climbed ladders to visit cliff



dwelling. Even with this background, he didn't set out to become an archaeologist. Instead, he planned to study microbiology. “I was a huge nerd in high school,” he said. “I went to the Missouri Scholars Academy, the George Engelmann Math and Science Institute which was a camp for nerds, and band camp.” He learned about statistics, DNA, and plant physiology, but once he got to college he “found the subject matter interesting but the people weren't.” He described science classes full of people studying the material only because it was a prerequisite for medical school. “There was no passion or love for the material,” he said. “It was intellectually sterile, and no fun.” He took an anthropology class with the encouragement of a friend and learned about the people of the Malaysian peninsula. “It was really fascinating. It had random facts about people who lived someplace I never paid any attention to.” This class turned him into a cultural anthropology major with a minor in South Asian studies.

He admits he wasn't built for college, so he signed up for an archaeological field school in the summer to knock out an extra quarter early. What started out as a “just for the credits” class turned into a fascination with a prehistoric archaeological zone in Kampsville, Illinois. He realized that this was where his passion lay, and he was determined to dive in. “I ended up going back to the same field school and teaching at it for five years,” he said. “My whole life started turning on archaeology at that point.” He paused, reflected on the change from his major to his life's work, chuckled, and said, “I got hung up on the wrong Indians, I guess.”



O'Briant firmly believes that the future of archaeology lies in accessibility. Right now, the focus of public archaeology is elementary education. It's oriented to younger children and mostly focused on excavations. "Why are we focused on methodology and not the actual discipline?" he asks. Excavation is simply a data collection tool, and it's often unnecessary given new technology such as ground-penetrating radar. Noninvasive methods allow the gathering of evidence without destroying the archaeological context, and it's how that evidence is used that's important. "We can reconstruct the ecological history of the place and examine the relationships between people and fire, people and plants, plants and fire...which landscapes are being created by people and which are doing their own thing."

He also says that archaeology should be much more visible. Archaeologists today hide the exact locations of key physical discoveries due to a fear of looting and offer academic research loaded with jargon that makes information inaccessible to lay readers. O'Briant believes there's a better way to engage the public. "It's translation work," he said. "How can I communicate my findings in simple language that gives people a better understanding of our world, how things came to be, and how things work? If we don't know how things came to be, how can we undo them?" He dreams of a society that understands the utility of archaeology and creates legislation that supports the field and preserves heritage sites and values.

O'Briant encourages anyone who is interested in the sciences to pay close attention to everything around them. "See how things fit together. Science teaches us to be reductionist and specialize and focus into narrower and narrower places and this is a good methodology, but you have to remember that you're just looking at a part of something and it's connected to everything else." He specialized in human osteology—skeletons—and knows "everything there is to know about a skeleton, but it's still just a data set. I'm interested in human behavior over time and a skeleton can only tell me part of that." His interests have since morphed into plants. "Plants can tell me more about people than their remains can." He posits that education today is often intended to set people up with tools that give them the complete package of what they need to live. Instead, we should always be looking, always be learning. "It's like giving a chef a knife roll. Good tools, but you still have to go buy food."

01. Guiding a canoe trip through the White Cliffs section of the upper Missouri River. Over O'Briant's shoulder is the campsite where the Lewis and Clark Expedition camped on May 31, 1805.
02. Leading a hike through a slot canyon or "coulee" in central Montana.
03. A photo from O'Briant's senior page in the 1992 yearbook.
04. Sifting soil from a public archaeology project involving the excavation of a late 19th century privy (outhouse) associated with an old boarding house in Missoula, Montana.



VISIT >> magazine.micds.org FOR LINKS TO KEVIN'S WORK.



Frosty Days for Lower School P.E.



Winter in St. Louis can certainly be frosty, but that didn't stop our **Lower School P.E. Teachers Jim Lohr and Sue Orlando** from connecting our students with the great outdoors. Our in-person Lower School students participated in physical education activities outside on the MICDS athletic fields unless the forecast called for heavy rain. Students learning from home were encouraged to step outside for their daily activity sessions.

Conducting Lower School P.E. classes outdoors provided a safe experience for students and a fast progression on movement skills. Lohr and Orlando taught one grade level at a time, separated into stations by cohort and without much "touchable" equipment. "I really like the laps, but some people don't like it," said **Ford G. '31**.

Lohr said, "We had kids accomplishing skill milestones earlier in the year due to the increased focus on specific physical exercises versus mastering a game within a unit."

Orlando added, "When parents report that their kids are talking excitedly about P.E. at home, that's always a good sign."

When it snowed, our 2nd grade students enjoyed the opportunity to make snow angels, build snowballs and snowpeople, and repurpose campus cardboard into sleds. "We always do exercises, and it's fun to do it outside. I like sliding and making snowballs," said **Brooke S. '31**.

With a bit of help from Mother Nature, our students remain inspired to achieve their fitness goals. **Nyle M. '31** enjoyed the daily activity and new challenges. "I like when we have to do exercises because I feel excited and happy. Snow angels are fun, and I like to try and make snowballs, but I'm not very good at it yet."





“When parents report that their kids are talking excitedly about P.E. at home, that’s always a good sign.”

LOWER SCHOOL P.E. TEACHER
SUE ORLANDO



Seventh Grade Poets Share Their Work, and Themselves

As part of their poetry unit, 7th grade English classes created a portfolio with five original poems. They learned about SAWFIT—summary, analysis, word (choice), figurative (language), imagery, and theme—and considered these elements when creating their poems that explored a variety of topics. “From their favorite moments of springtime, to sports, stress, and anxiety, or a love poem to their dog, I never really know what we are going to get,” said **Maggie Dunson '09, 7th Grade English Teacher**.

After composing, students gathered at the Poetry Cafe to share their work with classmates. Sessions were held in the Alumnae Room and the Harris Reading Room, spaces transformed by dim lighting, glowing stools, streamers, and other decorations, with some students participating via Zoom.

“It was quite exciting listening to my classmates’ poems because they often took an unanticipated spin in order to rhyme,” said **Shil Penilla '26**.

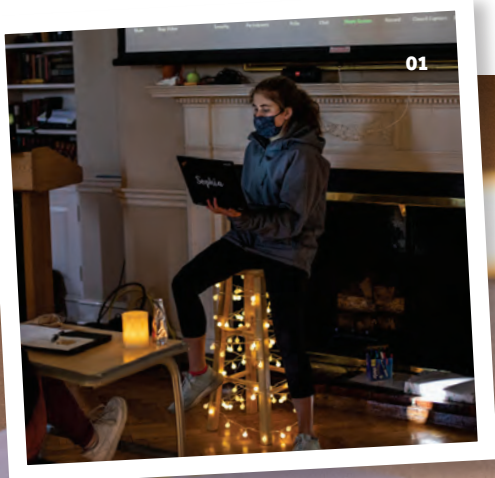
“Every year, the students demonstrate creativity, vulnerability, and poise as they read personal poetry in front of their classmates. It’s one of my favorite activities all year,” Dunson said. “I love hearing what the students write about and always learn something new about my students.”

Carrie Clennon '26 enjoyed the experience. “During the presentations, everyone had compliment cards for another person, and it felt great to read them after we read our poems. I was nervous going up to the front of the room, but once I started my poem, it felt a lot easier, and I felt proud of myself after,” she said.

Narya Phatak '26 agreed. She said, “The poetry unit was fun because it was a new way to express our thoughts. It was a safe space to talk to the class about our writing.”



01. A seventh grader shares a work of poetry for the “cafe” guests.

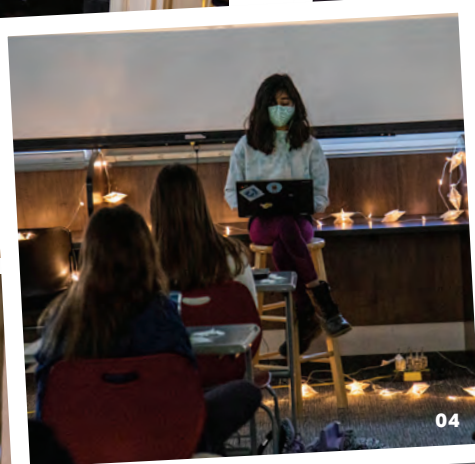


02. Students present a portfolio of five original poems.

03. Seventh graders learning online were able to present remotely via Zoom.

04. Compliment cards were available for students to fill out to celebrate their classmates.

05. Demonstrating creativity and vulnerability is key to the poetry process.



Sixth Graders Create Social Distancing Innovations

"I thought it was great collaborating with my classmates on this build. We all got to share our ideas and create something useful together."

JONATHAN WEISS '27



01

Sixth graders brainstormed ways to keep students physically distanced while using shared spaces such as classrooms and hallways. Collaborating in small groups during their advisory period, the students came up with materials and went to work on their innovations.

Using pool noodles, duct tubing, wooden rods, twine, and always-essential duct tape, students developed several different designs to facilitate social distancing. One group placed T-shaped structures in the hallway that prohibited walking close together, and another group made a helicopter apparatus that a student wears to allow more personal space. Many designs followed related concepts.

"All of the ideas, though very similar, each had their own little twist to make it unique and special," said **Marie Willie '27**.

Other students relished the collaborative nature of the project and enjoyed brainstorming and bringing their concept to reality. "I thought it was great collaborating with my classmates on this build," said **Jonathan Weiss '27**. "We all got to share our ideas and create something useful together."

The 6th graders certainly hit all the marks of LEAD on this project and strengthened their bond as the class of 2027!



02



03

The projects were part of the 6th grade LEAD initiative, which stands for:

L EARN WITH CURIOSITY AND JOY

E MBRACE CHALLENGE

A DVOCATE FOR SELF AND COMMUNITY

D EMONSTRATE COLLABORATION AND TEAMWORK



04

The MAKER Movement at MICDS

"THE RENEWED INTEREST IN MAKING HAS COME TO BE KNOWN AS THE MAKER MOVEMENT—A RISING INTEREST IN SHARING AND LEARNING FROM OTHERS WHILE WORKING WITH ONE'S HANDS WITHIN INTERDISCIPLINARY ENVIRONMENTS THAT COMBINE A VARIETY OF TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGIES."

—AGENCY BY DESIGN

The Middle and Upper School makerspaces are uniquely equipped workshops for students to explore their ideas through making, tinkering, and experimental play. Access to these spaces enables students to learn by doing and apply their knowledge from classes and other experiences, pursue personally meaningful projects, create utilitarian objects, or build things just for fun. Designs, prototypes, and builds for problem-solving can begin with an inspiration, or it can come from learning about materials and techniques through a guided project.

Photo below and 01-02 at right: The makerspaces at MICDS are filled with a variety of sample projects that showcase what can be created while inspiring new work.





01



02

With either approach, students engage in iterative training, tweaking things to see what will happen, and learning from failure—it's all part of the process. **Middle School Science Teacher and Robotics/Maker Coordinator Branson Lawrence** said, "When students pull ideas from their heads then take action to prototype and build and rebuild, they cultivate a growth mindset. This mindset encourages students to believe that they can learn to do anything, striving to be the lifelong learner who says, 'I can do that.'"

In all divisions, maker programs provide opportunities for students to create and add depth and tangibility to what they're learning, including independent projects or enhancements to assignments in multi-disciplinary subjects. Additionally, the maker experience for faculty and staff serves as a resource for generating ideas and providing equipment or materials to strengthen the overall student experience.

Maker projects are far-reaching. For example, students build Sphero chariots and fire extinguishers in 9th and 10th

continued on page 26 >>

03. Third graders learn to design and build in the Upper School maker space.



03



continued from page 25 >>

- 01. The only limit is the imagination.
- 02. Third graders watch the laser cutter in action.
- 03. Brian Purlee, Upper School Theater Technical Director, Maker/Robotics Coordinator at work.
- 04. A fully-stocked tool shelf and workspace.

grade science and 3D-print prosthetic hands when studying kinesiology, while physics students build and test projectile launchers. Crossing divisions and subject matter, 3rd grade students design and craft a board game for their U.S. Regions unit in Social Studies.

The Biggs Family Maker's Space in the Upper School STEM building boasts many tools that help bring students' ideas to life.

With the resources there, the only limit is the imagination. The workshop has four 3D printers, a laser cutter, a CNC router, a hotwire foam cutter, wood saws, soldering irons, sewing machines, and all of the non-power tools you would find in a fully stocked garage—as well as some you wouldn't. The unique tools have spurred our students' creativity and ingenuity, such as creating face shields for football helmets during a pandemic.

“Our hope is that we can excite students and adults by giving them a place to make, or even just come down and put together a puzzle. We can even design and create the puzzle!”

BRIAN PURLEE, UPPER SCHOOL THEATER TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, MAKER/ROBOTICS COORDINATOR





05



06

Brian Purlee, Upper School Theater Technical Director, Maker/Robotics Coordinator, wanted community members to have the same opportunities so he opened up the maker space to faculty, staff, and students and established “Maker Mondays,” a weekly open shop time for tinkering and creating.

“This is our first time trying it,” said Purlee. “When I first started working with this project and getting the space together, I was asked to figure out how we could have a larger reach than just through the classes.”

Whether you are a novice or a craftsman, Purlee and Lawrence treat the maker spaces as a place to try something new—or just have a little fun. The desire to share the creative process and tools with others helps build a “making community” and creates a culture to learn from each other and perhaps work together toward innovative solutions for real-world problems.

Purlee added, “Our hope is that we can excite students and adults by giving them a place to make, or even just come down and put together a puzzle. We can even design and create the puzzle!”



07

05. Many students prefer using the antique hand-powered drill press.

06. Tinkering and designing for the next great innovation.

07. Third graders put the finishing touches on their board games.

Middle School Faculty Take the Oath



The Girls' Varsity Squash team threw Williams and Clarke a "party" after passing their citizenship interviews in December



"I deeply appreciate all the opportunities this country has offered me. All these years living in this beautiful and lovely country not only opened my mind but shaped the person I am today."

MIDDLE SCHOOL WORLD LANGUAGES TEACHER ZUOWEI CHANG

If you were born in the United States, you likely learned about being an American through family, friends, and history classes in school. For those emigrating to the United States, there is no "normal path," so the journey can have many steps and hurdles and becomes immersive in the final round of citizenship.

The decision to apply for citizenship is significant. One must weigh the benefits that U.S. citizenship offers, such as freedom, voting, and employment, with the responsibilities that all citizens should exercise, such as respecting others' rights, paying taxes, and defending the country.

For three of our MICDS faculty members, their choice to become U.S. citizens stemmed from a similar theme: a deep appreciation for the opportunities available in the United States.

Middle School World Languages Teacher Zuowei Chang, who became a U.S. citizen in February 2021, said, "I have been living in the United States for two decades. Originally from China, I first came to study at Columbia University as a graduate student, then moved to St. Louis in 2010

and began working at MICDS as a language teacher. I deeply appreciate all the opportunities this country has offered me. All these years living in this beautiful and lovely country not only opened my mind but shaped the person I am today. It has been a journey of learning: to appreciate, to learn from others, to become a better person, to follow my heart, and always to do what I believe is right."

The process of immigration and naturalization has many stages with many forms, fees, and interviews along the way. **Middle School Science Teacher Nolan Clarke**, originally from Port Elizabeth, South Africa, and the United Kingdom, first entered the country on a fiancé visa. He said, "I met my now wife, who is American, when I was living in London. We became engaged and moved to St. Louis to be close to her family. After being a permanent resident in the United States for 12 years, I decided it was time to become a citizen as it was the natural next step after being married and having American-born children."

He applied for a green card, spending two years under conditional provisions. Once the conditional time expired, he applied for permanent residency and after three



“After being a permanent resident in the United States for 12 years, I decided it was time to become a citizen as it was the natural next step after being married and having American-born children.”

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER NOLAN CLARKE

years of being married, he was eligible for citizenship. Clarke held his green card status until his citizenship ceremony in January 2021.

Middle School History

Teacher Robyn Williams took a slightly different path. She said, “My journey started in the fall of 2007 when I left Zimbabwe to attend Trinity College in Connecticut. When I graduated from Trinity in 2011, I moved to St. Louis to teach and coach at MICDS. I wanted to become a U.S. citizen because it offers more protections and freedoms than my home country. It’s been a long and stressful journey to become a citizen, but it was absolutely worth it.”

MICDS community members helped Williams prepare for her citizenship interview and civics test. In free moments before school, at recess, in advisory, at squash practice, and even passing in the hallways, her 5th grade advisees and students, Girls Squash team, and colleagues quizzed her on the 128 civics exam questions. “It truly felt like a

team effort, and I will treasure all those moments where the MICDS community was rooting for me. It helped make my civics test a breeze,” she said.

At the ceremony, an official from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) reads individual names and asks the judge to confirm each person’s status. The judge presiding over the ceremony then leads the applicants in the Oath of Allegiance and in the Pledge of Allegiance. What is normally a celebratory event with friends and family became a solitary event due to the pandemic. Williams

said, “Our families were not allowed to join us, and there was no live stream available for them to view either. Even with the restrictions in place, it was a really special day.

“While I am now a U.S. citizen, I feel like I still bring a different perspective to my students who are learning about ancient civilizations or talking about current events. It’s a good reminder that we each have our own story and journey that shapes our worldview, and each story is important to our collective identity. I love telling my students stories of how I grew up in a different country

and how life was similar or different from what they know.”

All three faculty members value the kind and congratulatory words, emails, and letters they’ve received since becoming United States citizens. “Coming back to school the next day, I felt like a rockstar,” Williams said. “While my citizenship ceremony was not as celebratory as pre-pandemic ones, the MICDS community helped make my day so special. I will always be grateful for that.”



“It truly felt like a team effort, and I will treasure all those moments where the MICDS community was rooting for me. It helped make my civics test a breeze.”

MIDDLE SCHOOL HISTORY TEACHER ROBYN WILLIAMS

Holiday Drives Foster Lives of Purpose and Service

Every year around the holidays, MICDS students and families participate in donation drives to help those in need. Although the pandemic adjusted the typical format for conducting these drives, this year was no different in giving to those facing difficult times. The MICDS community banded together to contribute to the Helping Hands Toy Drive and Derek D. Martin Food Drive. Nothing can stop our Rams from living into our Mission of leading lives of purpose and service!

HELPING HANDS

Helping Hands is an annual MICDS school-wide holiday toy drive that benefits FamilyForward, an organization that delivers comprehensive therapeutic and educational services to support biological, foster, and adoptive families in the St. Louis community. The families often must choose between buying food, paying bills, and giving holiday gifts to their children. Through Helping Hands, MICDS families donate new toys, games, and books for children ages newborn through young adult. FamilyForward transforms their offices into a "toy store wonderland" where a parent, foster parent, or social worker can "shop for an angel." Many MICDS donors also participated in their Teen Angel program, which pivoted to a gift card program that enables teens to purchase their own clothing.



This year, the program went virtual, and families shopped the organization's online holiday wish lists. FamilyForward Events Manager Tina Nelson reported, "We had a great response from MICDS and were able to fulfill the wishes of every child we serve. While this year looked like no other, we are grateful for MICDS' continued support."

THE CAPTAIN DEREK D. MARTIN FOOD DRIVE

This year marked the 7th annual Derek D. Martin Food Drive, where Upper Schoolers typically donate cereal, mac 'n' cheese, and canned goods to the St. Louis Fire Department Rescue Squad. Captain Martin, the father of MICDS alumni **Jordan Martin '06** and **Kayla Martin '17**, was a firefighter stationed in Engine House #1 for the St. Louis Fire Department. He and his fellow firefighters ran a food collection every year before the winter holidays to feed families facing food insecurity around their engine house. After Capt. Martin died in the line of duty in 2002, his friends and coworkers renamed the food drive in his honor and grew the drive from feeding 50 families to over 700 families. His daughter Kayla introduced the food drive to MICDS when she was in 9th grade, and it has remained a tradition since.

The 2020 collection was conducted virtually due to COVID-19. Instead, the firefighters collected monetary donations totaling approximately \$8,000, which was used to purchase food for the families. "Our hearts are unbelievably full, and we are so thankful that we were able to raise enough money to afford the food, the trucks for deliveries, and the bags, shirts, and lunches for the volunteers over a two-day period," said Kayla.



FOR A VIDEO RECAP >>
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Upper School Community Finds Silver Linings of COVID-19

The MICDS Upper School Community Service Committee polled students, faculty, and staff in all three divisions to ask the question: What are the silver linings of COVID-19? With the responses, the committee compiled a video highlighting MICDS community members' acts of service and reflections on the good things to come out of the pandemic. Some examples include the Beasley students creating clay hearts to share with faculty and staff, virtual tutoring of younger students by their Upper School friends, free online music lessons, volunteering with Santa's Helpers, connecting with residents of a senior center, creating a Little Free Library for the MICDS campus, and more.

"Volunteering this year is challenging, but I've been so impressed with the creative and safe ways students have found to help others," said **Director of Global Learning and Upper School Community Service Erin Hamill**. "Our students have really stepped forward to enthusiastically support those in need."

"We are deeply social beings, and the absence of hugs and connection served as a reminder of what's important in life," added **Head of School Jay Rainey**.



Virginia Portell '24 with the Little Free Library she built and stocked for the MICDS campus.



TO WATCH THE VIDEO >>
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Fourth Graders Use Sign Language to Lead Beasley Assembly

What do you do in music class during a pandemic when your 4th grade song leaders have to refrain from vocal singing? Leave it to **Lower School Music Teacher Barb Spieler** to creatively adapt our most senior Beasley students' leadership opportunities.

In a typical year, 4th graders have the honor of being song leaders of *America the Beautiful* during Beasley Assemblies. Ms. Spieler shared, "Since we were limited in our ability to sing during Lower School music classes because of COVID-19 restrictions, I taught the students sign language." Fourth graders were then able to demonstrate the signs and lead the singing of *America the Beautiful* for their younger Beasley friends.



FOR LINKS TO VIDEO COMPILATION >>
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The Importance of a Brain Break

A Middle School Mental Health Day

01. Students enjoyed fair weather by playing corn hole and washers.

“Mental health affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood.”

TAQUERA WALKER, MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

On the minds and hearts of all parents and teachers is how the pandemic affects our children and students. With different routines at home and school, it's essential to provide opportunities to rest the brain. **Taquera Walker, Middle School Counselor**, designed a Mental Health Day for Middle School students. The day included age-appropriate activities and discussions to help students understand the importance of emotional, psychological, and social well-being and, in the process, learn about themselves and how to take care of their mental health.

“Mental health affects how we think, feel, and act,” Walker said. “It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. Mental health

is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood.”

Each grade level enjoyed a unique schedule of activities and presentations along with time for reflections, opening up with classmates, and learning about what anxiety, stress, and depression can do to minds and bodies. Students enjoyed three different activities of their choosing, including reading, escape rooms, campus hikes, Minecraft, writing, and origami. Walker introduced mindfulness practices that bring self-awareness in noticing emotions in both brains and bodies, and how to make conscious choices to improve one's feelings.

"It was a great day to relax with students where the number one goal was to have fun and be together outside of the academic classroom."

MARK DUVALL, 6TH GRADE DEAN

Students also attended a virtual session with CHADS Coalition for Mental Health. They learned about the warning signs and symptoms of depression and suicide and how to reach out for help.

Supporting each other was another key theme for the day. Walker said, "I encouraged students to show respect to one another by listening and offering support and encouragement as a meaningful exchange. I also reminded them to allow their friends space if they need it, would like to be alone, or if they would like to hang out or eat lunch with someone new."

Teachers and students found the day interactive, relaxing, and meaningful to their well-being.

"It was a great day to relax with students where the number one goal was to have fun and be

together outside of the academic classroom," said **Mark Duvall, 6th Grade Dean**. Students and teachers were more at ease, and you could feel the calmness in the halls and the activities. I think we should do one mental health day each semester."

"It was kind of like a chill day without as much pressure from tests and quizzes," said **Elle Faerber '28**. "I feel happier and less stressed out to take our minds off school for just one day."

"I thought the day held a good balance for the students of learning about mental health and strategies to manage emotions along with actually taking time to use these strategies, such as playing with LEGOs," said **Branson Lawrence, Middle School Science Teacher**.



02-04. Middle Schoolers enjoyed a variety of leisure activities such as writing, working on art projects, experimenting in the maker space, and building with LEGOs.

Saved by the Bell (Covers) to Keep the Music Alive

When our community faces a challenge, our MICDS family supports one another in creative ways. The pandemic almost jeopardized our students' ability to continue playing music on campus, yet our community tapped into its unique creativity to assist in finding a solution.

Without missing a beat, **Middle and Upper School Band Teachers Becky Long and Josh Baumgartner** researched options to keep their students playing music safely in these times. One of those needs was for bell covers for our student musicians. Bell covers act as masks on the bell-shaped part of trumpets, trombones, saxophones, and tubas. They are made with washable fabric that doesn't affect sound quality or volume, yet they perform the critical function of blocking aerosol droplets.

Desperate times call for desperate measurements, and **JoAnne Vogel, Middle School Fine Arts Department Chair and Visual Art Teacher**, stepped forward to help lead the creation process for the bell covers. "She was the master craftswoman that came up with the right size patterns needed to fit the instruments, she reached out to her

neighborhood for fabric donations, and she put together kits for the volunteers to sew. It was amazing," shared Long. Vogel even created a how-to video for those who would help sew the instrument masks.

Long recruited help with the assistance of **Parents Association President Stephanie Kolman** and Baumgartner secured help from friends. The supply kits were distributed to a team of volunteers to help with the sewing, and to everyone's delight, our students continued making music. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of the 11 dedicated volunteers who helped sew bell covers for our musician students. Thank you for keeping the music alive at MICDS!



01. JoAnne Vogel designed the patterns for instrument bell covers and coordinated the volunteer sewing team.

02. Nela Navarine Gonzales P'21'24 volunteered her time by sewing bell covers.

03. Between custom masks that could be worn while playing to instrument bell covers, our students stayed safe.



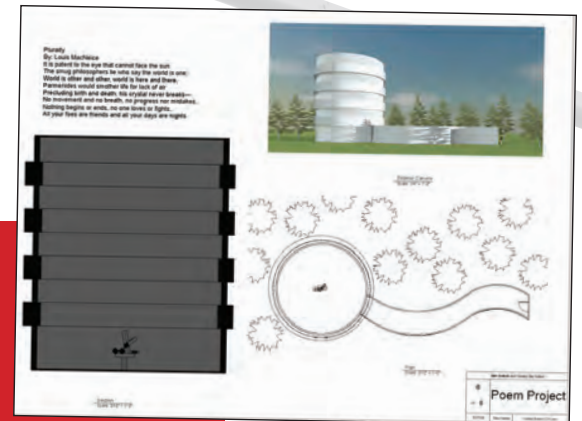
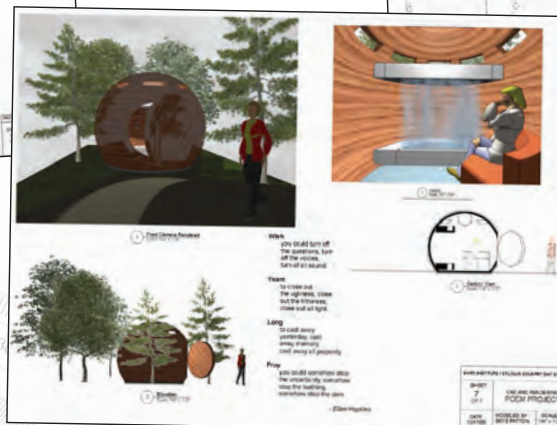
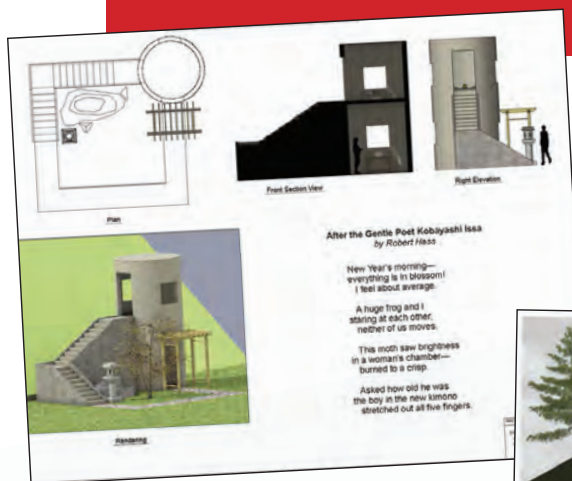
POETRY

INSPIRED STRUCTURES

Architecture Students Design Poetry-Inspired Structures

Second-year architecture students used poetry as inspiration to design creative structures in their CAD/Rendering class with **Upper School Fine & Performing Arts Teacher Patrick Huber**. Students selected a poem and created a series of sketches suggested by the piece's imagery. From there, they imagined a client for whom the poem might be important and dreamt up a structure commissioned by that client.

Bonnie Sneider '21 appreciated how the project inspired her to think differently. "I really loved this project because it allowed me to put poetry into action. I learned how to think about poetry in a completely new and practical way—in terms of buildings! As always, Mr. Huber supported us as we explored our interpretations of the poem and added unique design elements to the structures we created on Vectorworks. Who would've thought that eight lines of a poem could drive the entire creation of a building!"



16 Art Students Place in 100 Neediest Cases Contest

Once again, our art students created expressive drawings for the 100 Neediest Cases Student Art Contest sponsored by the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. A number of our talented Drawing, AP Drawing, and Painting students place in the competition each year. Artists in the top 40 have their work published in the Post-Dispatch alongside the 100 Neediest Cases stories published each December.

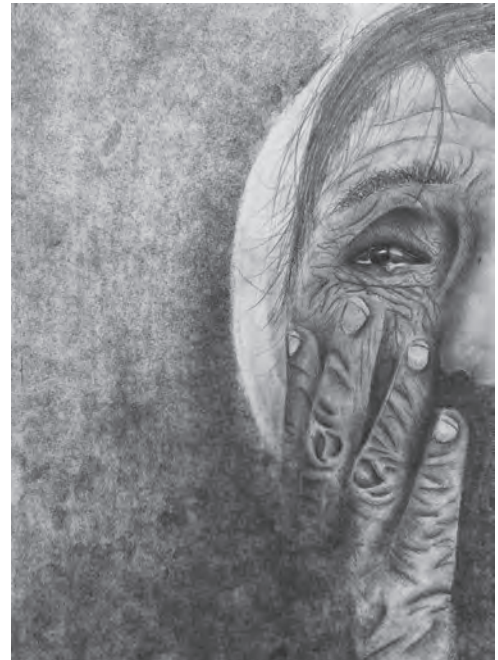


Congratulations to our 16 talented student artists who earned 40% of the top 40 placements.

Lauren Sugavanam '21—4th place
 Sophia Weber '21—5th place
 Nikitha Ada '23—6th place
 Olivia Warren '21—7th place
 Hailey Kim '22—10th place
 Maya Gralnick '22—11th place
 Helen Love '21—12th place
 Kendall Rozen '21—13th place
 Landis Bingham '21—14th place
 Laine Tompras '22—18th place
 Alex Kulczycki '22—19th place
 Shudi Wang '21—20th place
 Noah Macam '23—31st place
 Ashley Cooper '23—36th place
 Will Seemiller '23—37th place
 Ananya Radhakrishnan '21—38th place



Sixth place drawing by Nikitha Ada '23



Fourth place drawing by Lauren Sugavanam '21



Fifth place drawing by Sophia Weber '21



01. Cate Cody '22 steps up to the mic.

02. Mimi Brown '21 performs with heart and passion.

03. Sebastian Neumann '21, Patrick O'Brien '21, Grayson Marks '23, Jack Morris '21, and Austin Stoddard '23 rock the house.

The 25th Annual Blue Whale Cafe Showcases Talent and Causes

Blue Whale Cafe is a cherished MICDS tradition that allows students and faculty to showcase their instrumental and vocal talents, celebrate the arts in our community, and raise money for charity. This year, Blue Whale took on a virtual format; audience members watched from home while performers performed original, classical, and modern pieces.

Instead of traditional ticket sales for one charity, viewers had the opportunity to donate to one or multiple causes of their choice during "commercial breaks" throughout the virtual show. "Every act has picked a wonderful cause to support in Blue Whale this year, and we really hope you'll consider donating to these causes," said **Jack Morris '21**, Co-Master of Ceremonies.

"The challenge was to keep positive energy in the room when the students were performing," said **Patrick Huber, Upper School Fine & Performing Arts Teacher**. "It wasn't about mourning what we lost due to the pandemic, but about celebrating what we could do in this unique situation."

Congratulations to the performers, crew, and Arts Council for an incredible virtual performance on this milestone 25th year of Blue Whale Cafe.



[FOR MORE PHOTOS >>](#)
magazine.micds.org



Upper School Students Debut “After the Fire”

Upper School Fine and Performing Arts Teacher Patrick Huber wondered how this season’s student production would look. A veteran of the theater scene both locally and nationally, he knew first-hand what effect the pandemic was having on shows of all sizes. What Huber didn’t doubt was the creativity and motivation of our Upper School students. When he requested original works, cast, and crew, they responded with enthusiasm, forming a team that wrote, acted in, and produced an original piece.

Huber appealed to the entire student body, hoping to recruit beyond the traditional “theater kids” to be part of the artists’ collective. He asked English and history teachers to encourage their students who

enjoy writing. He exhorted music teachers to promote the opportunity to their student musicians and composers. He even appealed to advisors, noting, “You may have students who have been leaders in conversations about current events who could make a real contribution to the piece we are writing.”

“Now more than ever, the theater artists among us need opportunities to create together, to make some sense out of our current circumstances, and to share our work with the rest of the community,” said Huber. “We are gathering a collective of playwrights, actors, designers, and technicians to create an original work that takes advantage of the present circumstances to make an audience laugh, cry, and feel empowered.”

01

Because, eventually, there will
be nothing left to burn.

After the Fire
01.22.21



“Now more than ever, the theater artists among us need opportunities to create together, to make some sense out of our current circumstances, and to share our work with the rest of the community.”

UPPER SCHOOL FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS TEACHER PATRICK HUBER

What resulted was *After the Fire*, a vibrant collection of vignettes that poignantly capture how today's students feel about their world and current events. This creative and compelling performance premiered in January on YouTube. The MICDS community was encouraged to donate to secure “tickets” to the premiere, with funds going to the St. Louis Actors' Studio's Theater Sustainment Fund. Their efforts raised \$2,350 for the fund, supporting local, small, professional

theater companies that were forced to close because of the pandemic.

“*After the Fire* was so fun to work on,” said **Allison Pfefferkorn '23** who wrote one scene and acted in another. “Since parts were filmed separately, it was amazing seeing all of our hard work put together in the end.”



FOR A LINK TO THE FULL PRODUCTION >>
magazine.micds.org

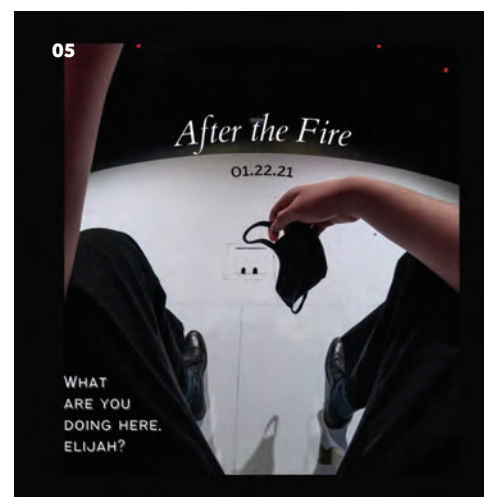
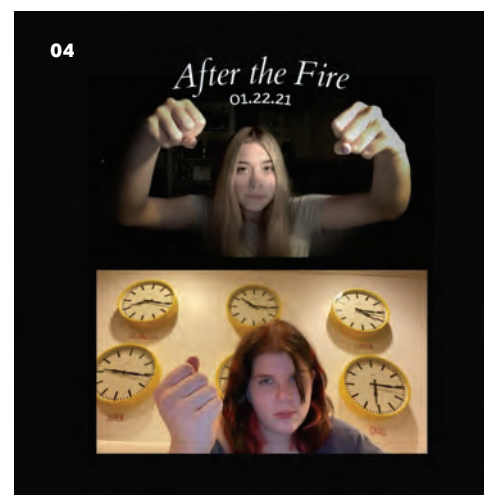
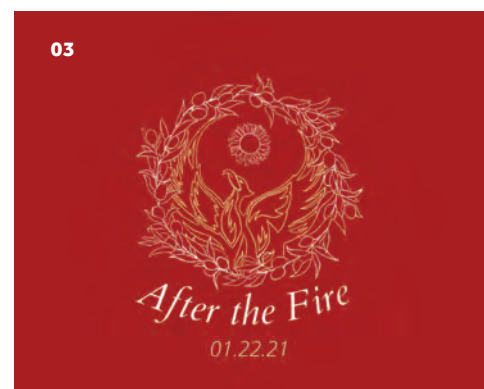


01. Ash Aranha '23 and Noah Macam '23 in a scene from *After the Fire*.

02. Cast and crew enjoying a Zoom after party.

03. | 05. *After the Fire* promotional materials designed by the student-actors.

04. Mimi Brown '21 and Keller Goldstein '21 promoting the production.



Bringing Speakers to MICDS, Even in a Pandemic

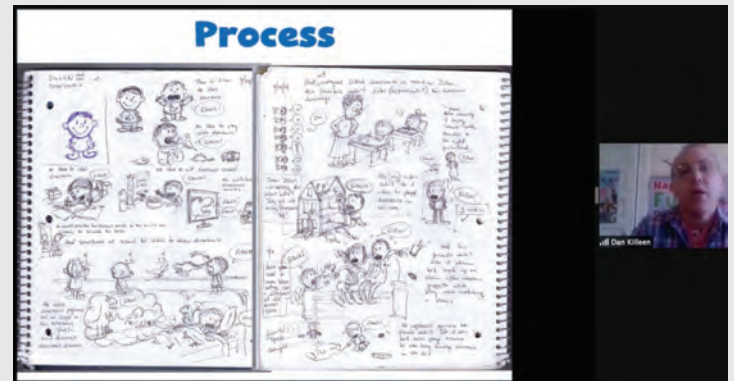


Beasley Welcomes Guest Artist and Author Dan Killeen

The talented author and illustrator Dan Killeen virtually visited with our Lower School students. He shared great stories and helpful advice on reading, writing, illustrating, and his unique creative process.

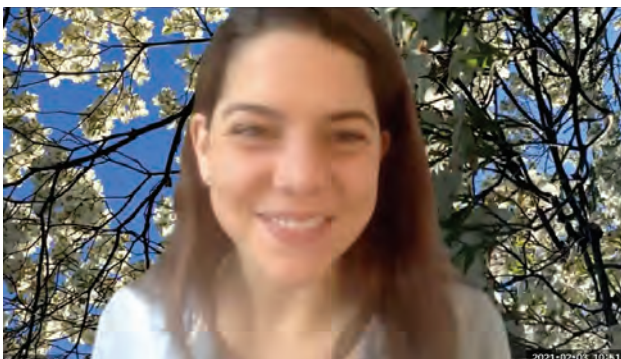
“I hope reading my books makes reading fun, and it might inspire some kids to write and illustrate their own books.”

AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR DAN KILLEEN



Upper Schoolers Learn About Food Sustainability from U.S.-U.A.E. Business Council Director

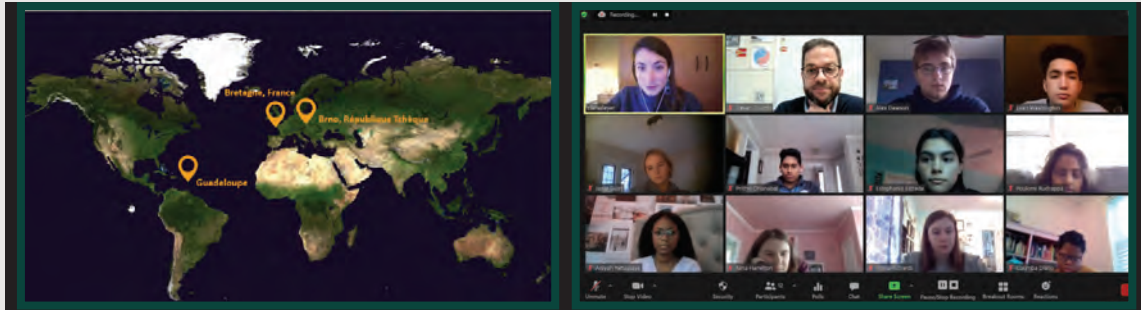
In the new Upper School Human Geography and Sustainable Development class, students hosted a virtual visit with **Mary Zuccarello '15**, a director at the United States-United Arab Emirates Business Council in Washington, D.C., who focuses specifically on food security initiatives.



Erik L. Bond '77 Lecture

This year's speaker was **Jeffrey Rush '92**. He shared his thoughts on his time at MICDS during the merger years, the importance of understanding differences and being an ally, and the non-linear path to developing personal leadership. Rush has the added distinction of being the first virtual Bond Lecture speaker.





Connexion Locale et Mondiale (Connecting Locally and Globally)

Our Upper School AP French students enjoyed a virtual visit with Clara Steyer, a French expat living in St. Louis who currently works in Washington University’s Office of Sustainability. The visit paired well with their ecology unit on environmental challenges—and creative ecological solutions—from all over the world.

Mayor of Ladue Spends Morning with 1st Graders

The mayor of Ladue, Nancy Spewak, gave a virtual presentation to excited Lower School students. She answered questions about communities and community leaders and shared how she regularly solves problems as mayor.



“The most important thing about being mayor is learning to listen. All points of view are important.”

NANCY SPEWAK, MAYOR OF LADUE



Young Composers Lift Off With Inspiration

The Upper School AP® Music Theory class welcomed Susan LaBarr, composer/arranger and Missouri Composer Laureate (2012 and 2013), to officially kick off their annual composition project. She is also the composer of the *MICDS Alma Mater*, commissioned by the school in 2013.

Young Alumni Triumph in MICDS Madness

This year's MICDS Madness challenge was one of the most successful ever with young alumni from the classes of 1997 through 2016 competing fiercely and coming together to achieve 28% participation—in only 10 days' time! Madness is a spirited FUNdraising competition among classes where alumni encourage each other to express creativity via emails, social media, and videos. Throughout the campaign, alumni also get a sense of what life is like for a student at MICDS today and which traditions have endured throughout the years. Their generosity supports students and faculty through academics, athletics, and the arts at MICDS, and many gifts were made in honor or in memory of beloved faculty and classmates.

This initiative is successful thanks to the dedicated group of alumni who volunteer to motivate and inspire their classmates to give. We are enormously grateful for our volunteers and proud of these classes that work so hard to ensure a transformative educational experience for today's students. And, our young alumni donors have a great deal of pride that their support helps to launch MICDS students on a lifetime journey of discovery, exploration, and innovation. Our students and faculty are forever grateful for their support.



IN THE HISTORY OF MADNESS, YOUR GIFTS
HAVE RAISED:

OVER **\$1,400,000** FOR MICDS

100%

OF OUR STUDENTS, FACULTY AND PROGRAMS
BENEFIT FROM THIS SUPPORT

THANK YOU

FOR BRINGING HOME A WIN FOR TODAY'S STUDENTS!

[MICDS.ORG/GIVING/MICDS-MADNESS](https://micds.org/giving/micds-madness)

*Our students and faculty
are forever grateful for
young alumni support.*



28%

TOTAL PARTICIPATION
AMONG 20 CLASSES

TOP 5 CLASSES

- | | |
|---------|-------|
| 1. 2002 | [71%] |
| 2. 2016 | [58%] |
| 3. 2003 | [57%] |
| 4. 2011 | [36%] |
| 5. 1997 | [34%] |

763 DONORS
WORLDWIDE



VOLUNTEERS

49

MILES THE FARTHEST
GIFT TRAVELED
BONDI BEACH, AUSTRALIA

9,057

ROOKIE CLASS
WINNER: **2016**

(OF THE FIVE YOUNGEST CLASSES)

THE OVERACHIEVER AWARD:
CLASS OF 2016
(87 GIFTS OVER GOAL!)

CLASSES
WITH MOST
GAINS OVER
LAST YEAR

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. '97 & '03 | TIE! (+19pp) |
| 2. 2013 | (+16pp) |
| 3. 2002 | (+13pp) |

Why I Give

Rallying in Honor of a Fallen Ram

Our annual MICDS Madness giving challenge among the classes of 1997-2016 provided a meaningful opportunity for the Class of 2016 to rally around a common goal. In honor of their 5th reunion and in memory of beloved classmate **Charlie Gillis '16**, an impressive 58% of the class participated in this giving challenge, earning them 2nd place honors. This is quite an accomplishment considering that older classes historically dominate the top spots. The 2016 "rookie year" performance was the best ever by a 5th year reunion class.

Thanks to the generosity of the Class of 2016, their gifts, along with contributions from the Gillis family and others, will help to fully endow the **Spirit of Teaching Award in Memory of Charlie Gillis '16 Fund**.

The Spirit of Teaching Award in Memory of Charlie Gillis '16 Fund agreement states, "Charlie Gillis loved MICDS and the strong relationships he developed with his teachers and coaches as well as his classmates and teammates. He found great joy in sports, the arts, and numerous academic pursuits, but his joy was as much in the shared experience with others as it was in the specific pursuit and in the process as the result. Indeed, he rejoiced in the daily grind, in sharing ideas and embracing challenges with others. Charlie was inspired by his teachers and coaches at MICDS, who profoundly changed his life and helped him become his best self. The Spirit of Teaching Award shall be given to the MICDS teacher or coach who truly inspires his or her students of any age to develop great passion for learning, to grow in their chosen pursuits in academics, athletics, and/or the arts, and to become their best selves."

Many thanks to the Class of 2016 for your gifts in Charlie's memory and for making this endowment fund a laudable award for our teachers for years to come.



Thanks to the generosity of the Class of 2016, their gifts, along with contributions from the Gillis family and others, will help to fully endow the Spirit of Teaching Award in Memory of Charlie Gillis '16 Fund.



Thank you!

How Your Annual Gift Today Supports MICDS Tomorrow

By Jay Rainey



At MICDS, as at most independent schools, family contributions to tuition constitute most but not all of the funding for our programs. The investments made here on behalf of every student, every day—the optimization of class sizes for individual learning, the range of curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular opportunities, the support, professional growth, and retention of our extraordinary faculty and staff, the loving maintenance of our campus facilities and grounds—all come at a greater cost than family

contributions to tuition alone can afford. Indeed, tuition only covers about 80% of the true cost of educating our students at MICDS.

While some of that remaining 20% is funded by auxiliary revenues, most of it is funded by philanthropy, either in the form of gifts to the MICDS Fund or proceeds from our endowment. All of us in the MICDS community are the beneficiaries of gifts to the School over its 162-year history that have either, in the case of gifts to the endowment, compounded

steadily over time, or that have, in the case of gifts to the annual operating budget, indirectly contributed to additional endowment growth.

Gifts to the MICDS Fund should not be understood exclusively as one-time donations to cover our operating expenses for a single academic year. They are, effectively, gifts in perpetuity to the School. If there were no MICDS Fund, we would depend on the endowment to subsidize the entire cost of tuition after family contributions and auxiliary revenues. Every dollar that is contributed to the MICDS Fund, therefore, is a dollar that we do not have to spend out of the endowment—which is, in turn, a dollar that remains invested in income-producing financial instruments. The investment return on that dollar for that year will remain in the endowment in perpetuity, increasing the size of the endowment and therefore increasing the portion of the endowment available to support the MICDS student experience.





Here's how the math works. A one-time gift of \$100 to the MICDS Fund protects approximately \$2,500 of our endowment from spending, since we tend to draw 4% of the endowment's value into our operating budget, and \$100 is 4% of \$2,500. The average annual return on investment in the stock market is about 10%, so in an average year, \$2,500 would yield another \$250 into the endowment. If that \$2,500 had not been protected by the \$100 gift to the MICDS Fund, it would have been reduced to \$2,400, which would yield a return of \$240 in an average year. Thus, a gift of \$100 to the MICDS Fund not only provides \$100 for the current-year operating budget, but also facilitates an additional \$10 of endowment growth—the difference between \$250 and \$240 in an average year—to help support all future-year operating budgets. In this way, a gift to the MICDS Fund today is effectively a gift to MICDS students forever.

When my wife, Ruth, and I give to MICDS, we take comfort in knowing that we are supporting current

students and generations of students to come. We are not so much proud to give as we are humbled to give; and for our family, it is not so much a matter of generosity as it is a matter of duty. We best honor the philanthropy of previous generations by extending it to future generations—and doing so also happens to feel really good. St. Louis native Maya Angelou once said that "giving liberates the soul of the giver." I could not agree more.

Gifts of all sizes matter, and every single gift makes a difference—not only in the current school year but in perpetuity as the endowment dollars that your gift protects continue to grow and to give back. Your commitment to MICDS reflects the great spirit of our dynamic learning community and is a testament to the philanthropic legacy of our School.

Thank you for supporting all students in our Ram community—now and into the future—through your gifts to the MICDS Fund.



**Gifts of all sizes matter,
and every single gift makes
a difference—not only in
the current school year
but in perpetuity as the
endowment dollars that
your gift protects continue
to grow and to give back.**

#RamNation

2021

Rams Rewind

WINTER SPORTS SEASON RECAPS



We are delighted to celebrate the fantastic accomplishments of our winter sports season student-athletes!

Boys Basketball

Head Coach: Travis Wallace

Wins in the Metro League Conference and MICDS Holiday Championships

The Boys Basketball team hit some tremendous highs, including Top 5 ranking by MBCCA and the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, winning the MICDS Holiday Championship, and finishing first in the Metro League Conference for the second year in a row. The team ended the season 20-4. Losing ten seniors—**Ben Brooks '21**, **Aaron Hendricks '21**, **Henry Jones '21**, **Will Kacmarek '21**, **Erik Kuznetsov '21**, **Jack Pronger '21**, **Nick Roper '21**, **Dillian Sant '21**, **Hasani Spann '21**, and **Sam Wienstroer '21** who posted a record of 43-9 the past two seasons—will not be easy. In 2021-2022, three-year starter **Brandon Mitchell-Day '22** will take the reins for his senior season along with a solid senior class.

Girls Basketball

Head Coach: Scott Small

Tournament Success in a Challenging Season

Despite all of the challenges inherent in trying to pull off a high school athletic season during a pandemic, the MICDS Girls Basketball team was able to safely find a way to preserve the majority of its scheduled games, persevere, and earn meaningful accomplishments along the way to a strong 16-9 finish. The Rams won both the MICDS Holiday Tournament and the Lindbergh Tournament, and finished 2nd in the District tournament. The Rams did not lose any seniors this year, so we look forward to building on this success next season with the roster intact. Congratulations to the players who earned Metro League accomplishments: **Zaire Harrell '22**, 1st Team; **Ellie Gira '21**, 2nd Team, **Binta Fall '23**, Honorable Mention.

Boys Squash

Head Coach: David Doherty

Undefeated Season

After some logistical discussions about the safest way to play a close-contact, high-exertion, indoor sport during the pandemic, the Boys Varsity Squash team, captained by **Jon Raclin '21**, succeeded in holding an entire season, albeit with fewer and shorter practice times. The team hosted John Burroughs School for one match and defeated the Bombers in a match held in their newly-repurposed squash facility. They ended the season winning a home match against the men of the Missouri Athletic Club, closing a particularly challenging year with an undefeated record. Additional thanks go to **Coach Muhammad Tahir** for working with many of the players throughout the season, both during and after practice times, and to team parent Mary Chou (mother of **Jackson Chou '23**) for keeping morale up!



01



02



03

01. Boys basketball finished first in the Metro League Conference for the second year in a row.
02. Girls Basketball, with a record of 16-9, won several tournaments and finished 2nd in Districts.
03. Boys Squash powered through an undefeated season.

Girls Squash

Head Coach: Robyn Williams

A Season Record of 3-0

Despite not traveling to the east coast to play in the Mercersburg Invitational and the U.S. Squash High School Nationals tournaments due to the coronavirus pandemic, the girls made the most of their limited season. One of the season highlights was playing in their first-ever St. Louis away match at John Burroughs School's new squash facility. They took on the JBS co-ed varsity team twice, as well as the Washington University women's squad. The varsity girls were victorious in all of the matches. The team bids farewell to several outstanding senior players: **Raneem Alzahabi '21**, **Imaan Amin '21**, **Katie Nuzum '21**, **Courtney Shands '21**, **Livie Warren '21**, co-captains **Lily Baker '21** and **Annalisa Goot '21**, and managers **Andi Blackard '21** and **CeCe Nourie '21**.

Girls Swimming and Diving

Head Coach: Chris McCrary

Records Fall to Finish Girls' Swimming and Diving Season

Senior Captain **Madigan Kinsey '21** and Junior Captain **Anna Scott Baur '22** led a talented girls' team this season. **Sophie Henriksen '22** returned after missing last year for knee surgery and finished second at State in both her individual events, breaking team records in both swims. Baur also scored at State in her individual events. Kinsey joined them to score in the 200 Medley and 400 Free Relays. They were supported by a talented freshmen squad consisting of State qualifier **Everdine Ferguson '24**, **Mikaela Mikulec '24**, and **Isabella Phillips '24**.

01. Girls Squash pulled off a season record of 3-0 and bids farewell to several seniors.
02. Madigan Kinsey '21, Everdine Ferguson '24, Anna Scott Baur '22, and Sophie Henriksen '22 plowed through the water to set new records and bring home team and individual accomplishments.





03. Will Schaumburg '21 post-match.

04. Co-Captain JT Williamson '21 sets up to strike the net.



Wrestling

Head Coach: Vito Krischke

Working Hard and Preparing for a Great Future

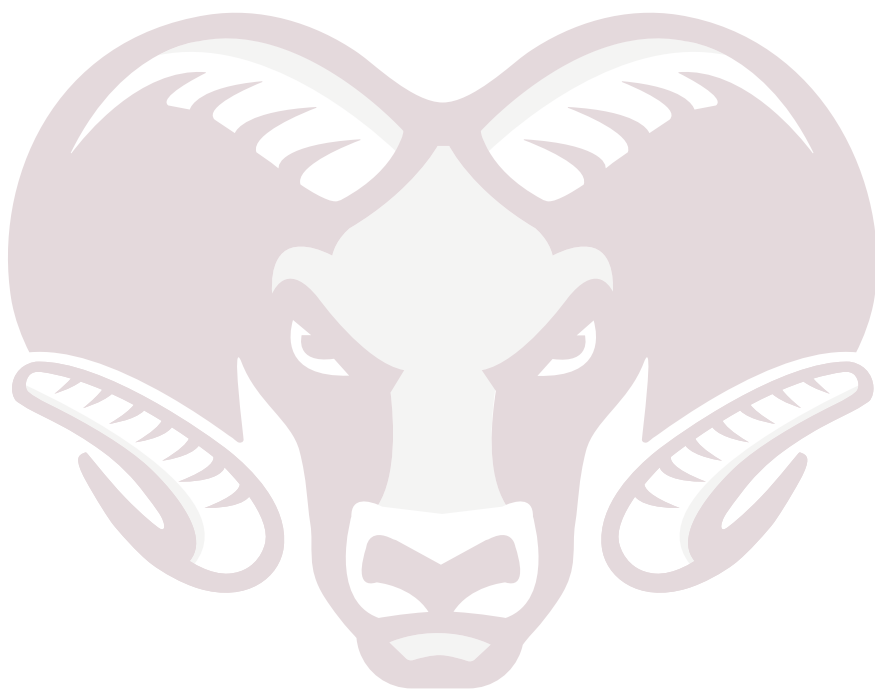
Wrestling worked hard this year, and the team brought in several new athletes. While the pandemic kept meets and tournaments limited, as with many of our teams, the wrestlers competed hard, hosted a meet at home, and came away with victories. Thank you to our seniors, **Jack Baptist-Jarvis '21**, **Will Schaumburg '21**, and **Raphy Sowah '21**, for their leadership during this challenging season. The Rams wrestling program is set up for a very successful 2021-2022 season, and the athletes look forward to competing again.

Ice Hockey

Head Coach: John Mattingly

Played a Shortened Season with Spirit

The 2020-2021 MICDS Rams Hockey team finished the shortened season 6-6-1. This young squad was led by senior captains **Hugo Englehardt '21**, **Will Giles '21**, and **JT Williamson '21**. The season's big surprise was freshman **Ameer Hajjil '24** leading the team in points. **Riley Clinton '21** and **Deren Peligreni '23** split time in the net as a powerful goaltending duo. The team expects big things in the coming years with 15 returning starters, all freshmen and sophomores.



01. MICDS Dance held an online concert showcasing their creativity and passion for dance and choreography.

02. The Rams Cheerleaders showcased their hard work and undaunted spirit to support our Boys Basketball team.



Dance

Head Coach: Summer Beasley

Online Concert Showcases Creativity

This year's rehearsal process and concert proved that we can do anything when we embrace our passion. The dance concert consisted of first-time choreographers alongside experienced choreographers as well as MICDS alumni. **Paige Naughton '22** performed a dance choreographed by **Alyssa Przygoda '09** with elegance and emotion. **Emma Scally '22** filled the stage with beauty and grace while performing her solo choreographed by Chiao Shih. **Shelly Bhagat '22** shared the charm and artistry of Indian dance, and **Angel Pura '23** made her debut as a choreographer sharing her talent and creativity. With students on and off-campus, someone was learning material over Zoom every day. It was not until the week of the concert that everyone was on stage rehearsing together—and what a fantastic feeling. Although the production was only 15 minutes after editing, the dance concert proved to be a success!

Cheerleading

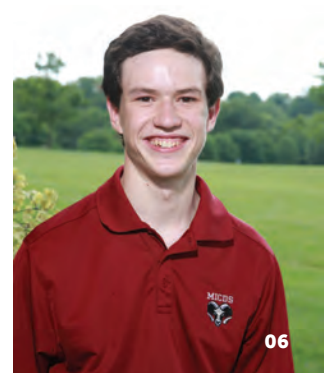
Head Coach: Lauren Fletcher

Showcasing School Spirit

The Rams Cheerleaders were relentless in showing their school spirit throughout the winter season, leading the crowd in cheers, chants, and halftime performances at the Boys Varsity Basketball games. A main highlight of the season included performing a halftime routine choreographed by the seniors. The team relishes every opportunity to showcase their hard work. The team will miss its six seniors, Captain **Mimi Brown '21**, Captain **Lily Dooley '21**, **Nikki Garaygay '21**, **Ilana Meissner '21**, Captain **Rowan Taylor '21**, and **Lillie Wurdack '21**. We look forward to another strong season in 2021-2022!

Seniors Sign Letters of Intent on Virtual College Signing Day

Ten student-athletes from the MICDS Class of 2021 gathered virtually to sign symbolic letters of intent on college signing day. This year's signing day premiered online and students signed their letters of intent from the comfort of their own homes. Congratulations, Rams!



Congratulations, Rams!



WATCH VIDEO ONLINE >>
magazine.micds.org

Class Notes

NEWS FOR MARY INSTITUTE
AND SAINT LOUIS COUNTRY DAY
SCHOOL ALUMNAE AND ALUMNI

The following pages reflect
notes submitted through

May 25, 2021

Submit your news for the next issue to:
classnotes@micds.org

Weddings

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING ALUMNI ON THEIR RECENT NUPTIALS.

Mary Holbrook '08
and **Tyler Johnson '07**
October 10, 2020
(photo 1)

Katie Littlefield '02
and **Rohan Castelino**
August 22, 2021
(photo 2)



01



02



GETTING MARRIED? EXPECTING?

We'd like to help you celebrate, but we can't print news about future weddings or babies. When your plans become reality, please let the Alumni Office know and we'll gladly print your news after the fact, and all share in the excitement!

Alumni/ae Deaths

THROUGH MAY 25, 2021

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES TO THE
FAMILIES OF ALUMNI/AE WE HAVE LOST.

Harold Jolley Jr. '41, January 29, 2021

Thomas Moore '43, December 29, 2020

Carlota Busch Webster '45, January 15, 2021

Harriette Costello Kacalief '45, March 30, 2021

Leopold Abraham '45, May 2, 2021

William "Peter" Moser '47, February 2, 2021

Malcolm Breckenridge '47, April 24, 2021

Barbara Lane Stephens '47, April 24, 2021

Van-Lear Black '48, February 17, 2021

Ronald Henges '50, January 30, 2021

John Bosman '54, April 5, 2021

John Neiger III '55, February 10, 2021

Robert Streett '56, February 13, 2021

Margaret Wightman Kobusch '56, February 19, 2021

Cynthia Hungerford Gibbons '57, January 16, 2021

Robert Funsch '57, April 25, 2021

Cynthia Bland Medart '58, May 25, 2021

John Hay '59, December 19, 2020

George Bornstein '59, February 2, 2021

Barbara Dean Butler Webb '61, February 21, 2021

Graham LaBeaume '61, March 12, 2021

Patricia Ernst Woo '61, May 3, 2021

Robert Blankmann '63, February 10, 2021

Thomas Langsdorf '65, December 24, 2020

Ann "Nancy" Charles Miller '65, February 1, 2021

Deborah Freiheit Campbell '66, July 15, 2020

Robert Merrifield '70, November 20, 2020

A. Dale Preston Jr. '72, January 8, 2021

Leslie Waltke '75, January 1, 2021

Martin Yearout '75, March 9, 2021

Jennifer Wells '79, February 6, 2021

Robert Cornforth Jr. '80, Date unknown

Faculty Deaths

Mildred Shocklee, Former MI Bursar, January 2, 2021

Charles Grimley, Former CDS Faculty, March 18, 2021

1949 MI

Ann Schuster Klotz lives in Wilton, Connecticut. "I went to Mary I for five years and graduated in a class of 49 girls. Most of my later life I lived in Connecticut in a farmhouse constructed in 1768 with my husband, four sons, and one daughter. My youngest son lives with me and two others are nearby. My daughter has lived in Portugal for 29 years. I had a career of raising kids, working in local schools, volunteering, quilt-making, and travel. My furthest trip was to China where we made friends with a family that has visited us many times. It would be nice to hear from my class."

1952 CDS

Don Streett reports: "I am now married to a great-grandmother—which means that I am a GGF thanks to our daughter **Carolyn's '77** daughter delivering a son on Thanksgiving Day 2020 in Charlotte, North Carolina. I am also pleased to have received the MICDS Endowment Report for 2019-2020. Our class Band Fund looks to be holding its own in terms of Historic Market Value, and how nice to read of the uses to which some of this fund is put."

Bo Meyer: "Both Lois and I are fine. Have just received the second Pfizer vaccine, which is wonderful. Still being careful, close to home and when out, wearing a mask, even when walking our dog. Thank goodness our Virginia suburb of D.C. keeps us away from any traumas in the Capitol area. Without traffic, our drive along the Potomac is only 15 minutes from the White House. These days we stay in Virginia, no inside dining, and apart from family and friends."

Gary Fields (Fleischman) died on October 18, 2020, in San Francisco at the age of 86. After graduating from CDS, Gary attended Harvard University and the Stanford University School of Law. Before beginning his private law practice, he worked as an Assistant

United States Attorney in Los Angeles in the early 1960s. His practice was primarily civil litigation, but he also worked in criminal defense.

Adie Dietz reports: "Not even COVID-19 can dull the bond between grandparents and grandchildren. If anything, the bond has become stronger because in times of uncertainty families provide strength and stability. **Jody '56** and I have tried to bide our time until time opens the vista to more freedom. Health-wise, I think our class has done very well. Best wishes to all!"

Torrey Foster writes, "The Fosters have received their vaccines for COVID-19. All is well for us in Naples."

We are sorry to learn that **Tom MacMahon** has been suffering from some very significant medical problems, including COVID-19. We wish him well and hope for his early recovery.

We recently received the following note from **Bob Post** with some wonderful photos of an incredible weather event on the Oregon coast: "Periodically the Oregon coast experiences what is termed a 'king tide.' Twenty- to 30-foot waves carry across the wide sand beaches and crash against the 15' cliffs that border the water, sometimes transcending them and throwing water and debris onto lawns and bushes."



Nine members of the class proved their technical savvy by attending the virtual meeting held in December. And "D" was there as an audio attendee.

1954 MI

Susan Spoehrer Elliott says, "The Gatesworth, where we have an apartment, was in lockdown last summer, so **Howard '52** and I stayed in Florida and were blessed to enjoy gorgeous weather, golf, bike riding, and workouts at the fitness center. All the best to everyone!!"

Estie Veron Pruett reports that she has moved to an apartment on Topton Way in Clayton.

1955 MI

Elizabeth Hobson Rand is proud to announce the birth of her first great-grandchild, Dawson Dobson Rand.

1956 MI

ANN LUEDINGHAUS CASE
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Peggy Wightman Kobusch has died. She will be remembered for her gracious smile, her concern for others and her ballroom dancing. The class sends their deepest sympathy to her family. It's hard to believe that it has been 65 years since we graduated. Due to the pandemic, nothing has been planned to celebrate the occasion. **Page Sharp Jackson** has continued to hold Zoom get-togethers for many of us. **Nancy Green Maune, Nancy Buford Ream, Carol Culver Bitting, Susie Fischer Yoder, Jody Noel Dietz, Ellen Armstrong Wallace, Nancy Noland Kurten, Priscilla Hocker Claman, Blanche Myer, Judy Gissler Adair, Carolyn Frank Henges, Mary Morey Bradley**, and myself have all joined at one time or another. A surprise was seeing **Serena Stewart**.

Kay Lungstras Welsh reported that she and John spent two months on the Cape last summer then went to their winter home in

Las Vegas. **Minette Grunik Bethke** has her grandson living with her. **Judy Trimble Lane** says she and Pluto, her cat, occupy themselves bird-watching. **Lolly Desloge Hogan** has a 21-year-old rescue horse, “a sweet black Percheron” named Carl, and a lovely view of the Pacific Ocean. **Blair Smith Lawlor** and Bill have sold their Montecito winter home and are in a retirement center in Evanston. Please send me any news and stay well.

1958_{MI}

MARY KOENIGSBERG LANG
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It is with great sorrow that we report the death of our dear classmate **Cynthia Bland Medart** on May 25, 2021. Cimmy had had Alzheimer’s and also heart issues. She died peacefully with her two daughters at her side. We all send our deepest sympathy to her family.

As no one has sent in any news to the school or to us, here are bits of news we have gotten by conversations, email, hearsay, and osmosis:

Susan Russe Dreyfus is still in Melbourne, Australia, and has been hunkering down and expecting to get her vaccines. Susan and Andre have two daughters, one who lives in Melbourne with two granddaughters.

Connec Darmstatter Counts and **Nancy Agress Brodsky** live in the same retirement complex outside of Boston! A win-win for both girls and the class of ’58!

Lil Brokaw Metcalfe is looking forward to a visit by her daughter **Betsy ’94** and her two granddaughters. She has not seen them in a year and a half, and is so excited to give them 1,000 hugs!

Joyce Thompson Stericker is happy that her son **George ’91** is engaged to be married. Joyce is glad they will be living in St. Louis.

Alice Davis Rains is moving from one house to another (they own both) and is finding the move most daunting!

Marnie Crossen Bell is reported to be doing well in California and is glad restrictions are being lifted!

CY Williamson Metcalfe and Walter spend most of the time at their country place—especially good during the pandemic!

Libby Hall McDonnell was watching her grandson **Mac Stevens ’23** play lacrosse when **Florence Johnson Lewis’** two daughters, Lizzie and Harriet, spied her and came over to say hello—what a wonderful surprise! Their son was on the opposing team.

Mary Koenigsberg Lang sums it all up: we are happy and healthy, so “who could ask for anything more?”

P.S. Does anyone want to try a Zoom for our class for a few minutes just to catch up and say hi? If so, let one of us know and we can possibly organize it—maybe.

Stay safe and stay in touch!

1958_{CDS}

Chris Bent in his own words: “Survived congestive heart failure in September, lost 35 lbs., and am back fighting the good fight for the Lord. So satisfying to serve others unseen. A video surfaced of my Gemini 7 recovery in December 1965 and two months later the very first Apollo (fully operational, unmanned) to return from space. Amazing the twist and turns of life; wisdom still coming; Godspeed.

Jim Dodds reports his son, Chris, is engaged. His prospective daughter-in-law is a senior scientist with Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. “Seems timely. Cheers.”

Maurice (Bud) Hirsch continues to have his photographic images accepted in juried gallery shows including at Art Saint Louis and The Foundry in St. Charles. His granddaughter, **Anna Speller ’20**, a first-year student at Southeast Missouri State, is competing on their women’s gymnastics team.

Top Logan says nothing to report, but it’s good to hear from us. “Greetings to all the guys. Stay safe, everyone.”

1959_{MI}

Our classmates report on how they are faring during this pandemic, and many feel optimistic about traveling to see family now that vaccinations are available.

If you would like to keep up with **Quinta Dunn Scott**, follow her on Facebook! She shared this update: “I did not realize how much I enjoy writing until I started writing *Along Route 66* and *The Mississippi*. Jeff Smith, editor of *Confluence* magazine, invited me to submit. I wrote a series of articles on the springs that feed the Current River and on Ozark forests. I plan to submit to the University of Missouri Press as a book. The day has come to stop making photographs and depend on my writing.”

From **Sue Forney Boyd**: “Greetings all. Among the many things I’ve been grateful for during this pandemic are: regular check-ins with family and friends; our community garden and friends; courses on FutureLearn.com with participants from all over the world; participating with folks online in the U.S. and abroad to explore and create opportunities for Outdoor Learning; webinars on gardening; reading books; and my second and final vaccine, and the health care workers who made it possible!”

Meredith Ittner writes: “Like everyone else, I am mostly homebound with the pandemic. I’ve read a lot of books and signed up for too many webinars. Thank goodness for Zoom keeping us all connected. My big job is the garden. I have kept up doing artwork and belong to a collage group. I joined a group doing mail art over the next year, which means I receive art and must send a collaged or painted postcard each month.”

Jeannie Hamilton Pearman reports: “Don and I are full residents of Florida now, happily. We sold his house in Scottsdale and my apartment in New York, so we won’t travel so much now in our old age. We love Palm Beach, and so many friends come through here, although the coronavirus has slowed them down. I can’t believe how old we are!”

Carol Jacobs Montag said, “I am very grateful. There appears to be a small light at the end of this very long tunnel. I am hoping that after my second shot I can plan a trip east to see my grandchildren. It has been nearly 15 months since I have seen them in person. I don’t really go anywhere except my daily walks, doctors appointments, and trips to our cute little corner market. I love walking almost everywhere and the occasional public bus trip. I do my Alliance Française class via Zoom. Lectures, meetings, classes all conducted from anywhere in the world!”



Carol Jacobs Montag '59 and her husband Jonathan Horwich

Sally Curby Johnston comments that she is content at home. “My big day is watching my Roomba clean the floors, an occasional trip to Walgreens, and perhaps carry out. I’ve read 20+ books, watched endless movies, and played games on my iPad. I see my kids and grands,

when they are back from college. My love of live theater has been put on hold. I have learned I’m content at home. I’m blessed with good health and am in a financial position that I can and do help others.”

Anne Scherck Morrison is, we hope, a pandemic exception. “I hope I am the only classmate to report that Alan and I were felled by COVID-19 in January. We have no idea how it found us. Fortunately, we had mild cases although he spent three nights in the hospital where the latest treatments worked well. Our recovery lasted several weeks. We fortunately are now back to our pre-illness selves. We are grateful for the calls, texts and emails from so many classmates, as well as the love and support from our daughters, Nina and Becky.”

Lydia Long reports that she has barely left her condominium since March but has continued taking Washington University classes remotely. Both of her out-of-town sons visited in recent months.

Josephine Christian Weil wrote to tell us about her new grandson, Deegan, son of her daughter, Amelia, who lives in Tampa, Florida. Josephine and Richard visited Amelia and her family in March. Josephine planted 25,000 bulbs in November “so spring will come and be glorious.” All of us lucky enough to visit Josephine’s amazing garden at our last MI Reunion would be thrilled to visit again.

Margi Cardwell Higonnet: “We are plugging along. As someone who taught English all those years, I am fascinated by the power of lies, of group-think and web-platform algorithms. Perhaps it affects people working in medicine on issues like vaccination as well. With members of my family who don’t recognize their moments of illogic, I try to hold my tongue. But I’m actually quite strong-willed (we think it is a Cardwell trait), so I’m lucky that Patrice is very patient with me.”

Sheila Morrin Humphreys: “Like Sally, I have enjoyed the luxury of being at home, in my case without rushing over to the UC Berkeley campus every day. My volunteer job has filled my days. As our son, Ben, often says to us,

‘Keep active.’ We were looking forward to a good visit to St. Louis last June, now deferred to June 2021. We watch a lot of news at night, and I occasionally correct the grammar of the reporters while thinking very fondly of Miss Minton. Mrs. Johnson’s Latin declensions figure as well.”

I have very much enjoyed being in touch with many of you over the past several years, in the quest for *Class Notes*. I pin my hopes for meaningful connection with classmates on quarterly Zoom meetings as we enter our ninth decade. Fondest good wishes to each of you and please keep in touch.

1959 CDS

ARTHUR LUEKING CDS '59

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By the time this is published, most of you will know this but I guess I have to say it anyway: as the members of the Class of '59 enter the fifth score of life, we are inevitably reminded of our mortality. Since the last edition of *Class Notes*, our ranks have been reduced by two with the loss of **John Hay** and **George Bornstein**, both men who lived up to the ideals modeled by the faculty we were fortunate to have had at Country Day School.

After graduation from Amherst College, John went on to earn an M.A. in Divinity from the Divinity School and an M.F.A. from the Drama School at Yale. The Reverend Hay was a full-time minister in Connecticut and Massachusetts for more than 25 years and continued to serve as an interim minister for years thereafter. Yalies will be interested to learn that for 11 years, John was the Senior Minister of United Church on the Green in New Haven (the one in the center). John is survived by his wife, Carol Squires Hay, his three children, numerous grandchildren, and countless friends.

George graduated from Harvard College, received his Ph.D. from Princeton, and spent his professional life at the University of Michigan where he retired as Professor

of English and Literature. A published and internationally recognized scholar on the life and works of William Butler Yeats, George's interests were wide-ranging and eclectic—from baseball to the relationships between the Jews and the Irish. He is survived by his wife, Jane York Bornstein, three children, several grandchildren, and many friends.

Those are the required “informational” obituaries, but neither of the two paragraphs above captures their essences. After a moment of silence in their honor, both men were fondly remembered at our monthly Zoom meeting with numerous stories of their exploits both at school and in later life. **Kent Faerber**, unable to attend, sent a beautifully worded tribute for John, and **Fred Hanser** recalled baseball discussions with George who, though a Detroit Tigers fan, had a warm spot for the Cardinals. If we had been able to meet in person, I'm sure we would have toasted their memories.

And speaking of the Zoom meeting, we were joined for the first time by **Ivar Nelson**, who continues to reside in Moscow, Idaho, where he and his wife are researching the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps, one of the more successful depression-era projects of the Roosevelt administration in the 1930s. Is there a book in the future?

Another first-timer was **Mike Latta**, fully retired from all his many ventures and feeling confined (as we all are) by the COVID pandemic which has prevented his travelling to Park City.

Tom Hirsch joined from Fairfield, Iowa, where he continues to work at a somewhat reduced rate in information technology at Maharishi International University where he has been employed for nearly 40 years.

Of the regular participants, **Nat Griffin** reported that, upon returning to his ranch in Texas (from Michigan with a stop in St. Louis), he had a heart attack from which he claims (and appears) to have recovered. Good news!

Chip Matthews overcame his negative attitude toward technology, Zoomed in for the first time, and recalled events at Ivar's family cabin in the Ozarks. Best left there.

Sonny Harrison determined that approximately half of the 13 participants had received at least one of the COVID vaccination shots and discussed with **Bill Tucker** several strategies for getting the shots. Bill encourages everyone to do so.

Jim Schneithorst, **Henry Massie**, and **Julius Frager** also Zoomed into the meeting from various parts of the country.

Over the last several months, participation in these meetings has grown to the point where nearly half the class has attended at one time or another. If you haven't (and you know who you are) and would like to, email **Butch Welsch** at bwelsch@welsch-heatcool.com and he will send you an invitation and reminder. Do it! It's fun. And thank you, Butch, for doing it!

Chip, Butch and I continue to meet for lunch every Monday at Lester's, 11:30 a.m., and will continue to do so as long as the St. Louis County Executive permits indoor dining. Many have joined us; all are welcome.

1961_{MI}

CHARLOTTE MASTIN ELLIS
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Claire Foster Evans is thankful to have been married to Marshall Evans for 53 years. They have four children, 12 grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. They still live in three places: Atlanta, Georgia; Vero Beach, Florida; and Vail, Colorado. She has been fortunate during the pandemic to be able to play golf, ride her bike, teach Bible study, and play bridge online. She looks forward to seeing us at our reunion and says God bless us all and stay healthy and safe.

Mary Donetta Hannegan McMillan reports they are still hunkered down and had their first COVID vaccines.

Hadley Hesse Wood spent one week at a resort in Cabo San Lucas in January. She rode a camel, swam, went parasailing, and enjoyed beautiful sunsets and the beach. She also went to a week-long painting seminar. She did a

lot of writing. The mild Southern California climate allowed her to have friends over for coffee or wine, sitting outside. She created a neighborhood book club and walked with neighbors. She hopes we are all doing well and feeling attached to family and friends during this hard time.

I, **Charlotte Mastin Ellis**, have been reading a lot and watching films and concerts online. I participate in several Zoom book groups. I did a presentation about Jane Austen by Zoom for my sorority alum group. I think Miss Busse would have been proud of me.

1963_{CDS}

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Your class agents have decided to take a short hiatus from reporting on the CDS class of '63, primarily to give the *Magazine* a chance to catch up with our notes. That being said, there is one very important addition that needs mentioning. Two classmates, **John Allman** and **Mark Webber**, have already started thinking about our 60th reunion, coming in just two (short) years. They recommended that our classmates create now a short biography of “your life” since our graduation in June 1963. Both John and Mark have finished their bios, both of which are excellent, and would be happy to share their efforts if it would help. Jay has added that it might make sense to have two classmates interview and write each other's if that would be easier. Joe and Jay will develop a follow-up plan to check on your progress which gives us a great chance to visit and gather fodder for future *Class Notes*. At this writing, it is safe to say that you can forward the finished product to either your class agents or Mark or John. We can make sure they make it to one master file. In the meantime, as we hopefully approach something akin to normalcy after these bizarre last several months, stay safe and stay well.

1964 MI**JANE COX**

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ANNE STUPP MCALPIN

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Most of you have implied that little is going on in your world. We do thank those of you who have written, and we are happy to share what we have gleaned.

From Florida, **Noel Volkman Cooke** sent some very sad news. "The terrible news is that my marvelous husband, James, died on November 3. It was a surprise, a sudden perfect storm of many illnesses he had been valiantly fighting for years. I am remaining in Vero Beach, surrounded by so many old St. Louis friends, just trying to cope with being a widow. Life goes on and I've had both COVID shots, so I'm good to go if there would only be somewhere safe to go!"

Did you all know that we have among our classmates someone who can speak to safety at this time? The class of 1964 has our own epidemiologist, **Penny Forney Canny**! She wrote, "I am still affiliated with the Yale School of Public Health and on its Leadership Council, so I've had a unique opportunity to have an insider view of what's going on with COVID. Our daughter is an immunologist/pediatric rheumatologist at UW in Seattle. Our son works for Pacific Gas and Electric in the Bay Area/Northern California, so he's been busy having to deal with the aftermath of the disastrous fires." Penny also mentioned she has reconnected with **Susie Primm** and they have had a great time catching up.

Marianne Schultz Galt also wrote from Florida saying, "**Sandy '60** and I are being careful and staying safe. We have read a lot, listened to Audible, and binged on various TV series. We feel very fortunate to be in Florida with beach walking, golfing, attending exercise classes, and dining outside. Our children joined

us after Christmas and in February and March. We love having them here and are delighted they like Florida so much. Best to everyone."

One of our most energized and energetic classmates, **Punkin Hirsch, A/K/A Carolyn Michel**, has seemingly grabbed the pandemic by the neck and stuffed it in a closet. "New circumstances make us evolve and find new ways to do our art. My office turned into a 'studio' with lights, a mic, a backdrop and my iMac. Since there is no live theatre, I performed *Women I Have Loved* on Zoom with Sarasota Jewish Theatre: four monologues from favorite one-woman plays. It went very well, thankfully. My husband and I are doing well!"

Our final Florida correspondent, **Cindy MacDonald Gamblin**, submitted: "Forgive me for not submitting anything, but it's been pretty boring around here. Take care and stay safe."

From New Jersey, **Ann Greve Sadler** emailed: "Not much news; I am knitting a lot, reading, cooking, and helping my eight-year-old grandchild through remote learning on a Chromebook. Hope all is well with everyone. Love you guys."

Our Virginia classmate, **Ginny Alfring Kalbach**, observed: "Our family is fine and COVID-free so far. Thanks for keeping us up to date."

From Arkansas, **Jacky Israel Blakeslee** sent: "Not much to report here. We have survived so far, have had our first shot and looking forward to the second. Had a quiet Thanksgiving and only **Kathy** here for Christmas. Haven't seen kids or grandkids since the fall. Ridiculous! Looking forward to a very busy spring and summer and getting back to normal."

Debby Roulhac Poitevent says: "Writing from New Orleans where we had a do-it-yourself Mardi Gras. I have a 16-month-old granddaughter who is funny and adorable. I do a lot of babysitting. I am staying involved with friends and activities via Zoom. Taking a four-year course from Sewanee called Education for Ministry and practicing therapy over Zoom.

Walking and yoga and still meeting with the same group of friends (for 35 years) every Wednesday morning. We have supported one another through this. Wonderful women like our Mary I class."

Some of our St. Louis girls chimed in and **Kimmy Thompson Brauer** exclaimed, "No one has done anything fun except email our family and friends. Home on the range! Shall we all celebrate turning 75? That is a milestone! Looking forward to the time we can all be together. Big love!"

Mary Vogt Myers emailed calling me (Anne McAlpin) "Hedgie," referring to our fifth-grade play when we were both hedgehogs because Mrs. DuBois thought we resembled them! Mary hopes all are doing well in these nerve-wracking times. Mary and Punkin had the opportunity to reconnect when Mary saw Punkin's Zoom performance and thought it was so good that she called her. Punkin was most appreciative, and speaking of Punkin, our Class President For Life, **Barbara Baur Dunlap**, says "Punkin is so young, so brilliant, so funny, such a songbird. Charlie and I may watch her every night, she is so amazing! Beside incredible talent, I want to know her secret sauce for how to look 30 years younger and be so healthy in mind/body/skin! So much fun. Love to all."

Out in the wild west **Cherie Hagnauer Pautler** has started her vaccine series at King Soopers Grocery pharmacy. Can others claim anything more exotic?

Patsy Clark Ball drove with husband **Eldon '64** to Arizona to spend Christmas with son **Justin '01**. They had a great time and returned without COVID. Justin relocated to Arizona from Los Angeles when his job became remote and he could live anywhere he wanted.

Finally, to end on a happy note, **Becky Jones Fouke** shared: "Like everyone else, the Foukes have been hermetically sealed for the past year and have very little to report except that our oldest grandchild, Lily, was accepted early-decision at TCU! On top of that, she was also offered a partial merit scholarship, prompting

her grandfather, **Luke '59**, to observe that she's the first Fouke in the history of the planet to be offered a scholarship for anything, let alone scholastics. So there you have it. Hope everyone is well and holding up okay!"

Best,
Jane and Anne

1965_{MI}

PEGGY DUBINSKY PRICE

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Greetings, classmates! There might be light at the end of the COVID tunnel. I got my COVID-19 vaccine in February and hope to be able to travel to see family soon. It's been over a year since we have seen our granddaughter, but we are grateful for Facetime and our daily chats. Hope you are receiving or have received the vaccine, too.

I was informed by MICDS of the death of our classmate, **Ann "Nancy" Charles Miller**, in February. Fun, fair, and a hard worker at everything she did—Senior Council President, sports, academics and friendship—Nancy was the best. We will miss her. Thanks to all who sent memories. She was my first roommate on the MISF trip to France in 1964 where she was our leader in fun and trouble. According to **Anne Kennard**, when we all stayed out two hours past curfew on Bastille Night to watch fireworks over the Loire River, Mme Seewoster greeted Nancy when we came in at 2 a.m. with, "You too, Nancy!" (I only remember hysterical screaming.) **Kate Meyer Getzendanner** wrote that she last saw Nancy when she served as the priest at Trinity College when her son attended. **Jane Atwood Whitehead** described Nancy as "self-deprecating, wry, unpretentious" and remembers having a student council meeting at Nancy's the summer before senior year when they tried to re-write the fire rules and later discovered they had no authority to do that! **Becky Woolsey Ester** remembers Nancy's love of Fig Newtons. **Sandi Whitelaw Russell** summed it up: "A remarkable person, a remarkable athlete, a wonderful friend to all. Not only was she smart

but as far as athletics she was my best right wing in varsity hockey and the best varsity tennis partner I had. Like so many of our classmates, you lose touch through the years but not the memories of a good friend." We send our condolences to her husband, Barry.

Condolences also to **Linda Glick** and **Trudi Glick Carey '74** on the loss of their brother, Dan. Linda described Dan as follows: "In a family of characters, Dan was our leader."

Staying home has brought out some funny email threads of MI memories. **Elizabeth Kendall** recently taught a class on *The Tempest* and started a flurry of communications about who played what part in our 10th grade play. The leads were **Irene Leland** as Ariel, **Elizabeth Kendall** as Miranda, **Bobbi Buell** as Caliban, and **Sallie Williams** as Prospero. I played Trinculo, a drunk in Shakespeare's play but, according to Mrs. DuBois, a "silly" person. **Alice Langenberg Abrams** thinks she played the other drunk/"silly" part—Stephano. Buell recalls the play opening with the two of us "drunk/silly" under a blanket. Fun memories!

Hope you'll all consider joining our Class of '65 book club! Our most recent book was *The Disappearing Earth* by Julia Phillips, a mystery about two girls who disappear in Eastern Russia. Classmates join on Zoom from near and far. It's been wonderful to get together online and catch up. Watch your email for future books and dates.

News:

Alice Langenberg Abrams: Walter's royal treatment, undemanding life from COVID isolation, and indoor winter existence has made me a total slug. My step counter laughs at me. It's nice being cozy in front of the fireplace! Riding out the pandemic in Lexington, Massachusetts, and Barnard, Vermont, both agreeable places to find winter hygge (yes, hygge). Breast cancer entered my life in November; treatment is proceeding successfully. Keep on track with your mammograms, classmates—they are life savers.

Bobbi Buell: I spent the last year in quarantine, but it hasn't been a total loss. My husband, David Waters, worked on clinical trials for one COVID treatment using colchicine, an existing and inexpensive drug. The trials were successful in preventing some of the severe complications. My daughter, Molly Rogers, has her own show Sundays on Twitch. My son, Starrett, found true love. And in November, the fourth company I founded, onPoint Oncology, sold to RxVantage, a Los Angeles tech company.

Jane Atwood Whitehead: On New Year's Eve I did my first binge watch: *Bridgerton*. The Duke of Hastings...there are no words. On a loftier note, I'm reading Obama's *A Promised Land*. I started it as something of a homework assignment. It's 700+ pages. He's an eloquent writer with a remarkable story to tell of his devotion to family and this country.

Jan Shapleigh Mackey: My newest grandchild, Annabel Wells Mackey, was born June 7, 2020, to Johnny and Hadley Mackey. Another redhead in the family. I had a knee replacement in October; it has been a long slog back with lots of physical therapy. Online bridge has been a godsend during COVID. I play with **Leigh Limberg Mason** every Thursday. I remember many fun times with **Nancy Charles Miller** growing up, Mary Institute, Smith College. She officiated at my daughter's wedding 10 years ago, a vivid memory all the more precious now.

Annette Morriss Clow: My really good news is that Frannie had a baby girl, Isobel Wynne Wallace, on January 19. She's almost named after my favorite Henry James' heroine.

Leigh Limberg Mason: The family went to Breckenridge, Colorado, for 10 days in July. Son Charlie has moved his business from California to Austin, Texas. I talk to **Susan Caspari Carnwath** now and then and play bridge online. My grandkids are all grown up. Two are driving. The youngest goes to MICDS and the older two to Whitfield.

Diana Davis Madsen: Peter and I had our first Moderna shots. We were lucky that our medical group had the vaccine. We are not



01. Alice Langenberg Abrams holding her latest work, Bacon and Eggs in Skillet.

02. Peter and Diana Davis Madsen with family in Wyoming 2020.

03. Carol Jackson Hunter, Connie Shapleigh Martin, Linda Glick and Peggy Dubinsky Price.

04. Carol Jackson Hunter (2nd from right) with three of her four daughters 2014.

05. Nancy Charles Miller shows her fun side during her MI years with Annette Morriss Clow.

06. Oldie but goody: reunion 2005.

07. Louisa Legg Deland, Connie Bascom McPheeters and Nancy Burkham Williams with Nancy Charles Miller (right) at reunion 2010.

complaining at all about our slightly sore arms! In July, our whole family, including six grands, visited the HF Bar Ranch in Wyoming after we saw the facility's COVID plan. We rode horses, fished, hiked, and ate meals outdoors. Our trip was followed by weeks of home schooling and remote working in Bay Head, New Jersey.

Mimi Johnson Severs: Stay well, everyone. I had my first Moderna vaccination in January and the second dose in February. Then I was 94% immune and able to resume some of my former activities in groups. May 2021 be a much better year for us all!

Irene Leland: "It's been wonderful receiving these latest Best Song awards to add to my treasured list from The Akademie: *The World Is Waiting*; *The Birds Still Sing*; *My Honey Babe*; and *Not A Cloud In The Sky*." Our thoughts are with Irene as her ex-husband Joe recovers from a stroke.

Several classmates have sent memories of **Carol Jackson Hunter**. My favorite is the following from **Elizabeth Kendall**: "Carol volunteered to pierce my ears in high school. And she did it, deftly, in my home bathroom, with a needle, ice, and a cork, while my mother hovered in the background like Edvard Munch's *Scream*." **Jane Atwood Whitehead** describes Carol as "eternally young and eternally beautiful." **Patti Baer Lehr** says Carol was "a good and kind friend." I have great memories of riding bus 24 with Carol for eight-plus years. We were close friends in middle school and spent hours wandering through Clayton with **Elizabeth Wells**. (Did our parents really let us spend Saturdays in Clayton on our own?) Carol was a psychiatric nurse in New Mexico and leaves four daughters.

Book recs: *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*, *American Dirt*, *Becoming Duchess Goldblatt* (is she real?), and *Daisy Jones and the Six*. Best TV binge show: *The Queen's Gambit*. Send me your favorites for the next issue.

1966 MI

We received a remarkable number of responses. Thank you all! Let's begin in Missouri, specifically St. Louis, with the Honorable **Susan Frelich Appleton** who is proud to announce the arrival of two grandchildren, Catherine (in St. Louis) and Daniel (in D.C.). She continues to teach and is making another cinematic entrance, in addition to the *Kinky Kryme*, in a documentary about the life of a famous birth control crusader, Bill Baird.

Laura Kloos Justiss sends her best to her MI classmates and is very grateful to have meaningful work during the pandemic. Laurie has graciously offered her Zoom Pro account for our next class Zoom meeting. Our August 2020 class Zoom get-together was a tremendous success.

Robin Ewing Engler's family is fine, but they are all very tired of this seemingly endless virus. Her elder daughter, **Lele '96**, is in St. Louis, and daughter **Ashley '10** lives in Oxford, Mississippi, with husband and twins. Sadly, Robin's mother, **Rosalie '40**, passed away in the fall of 2020.

Pam Moulton Baker has been reliving some of the happy moments she spent at Community School, MI, and Whitfield and says she feels closest to her MI buddies. We are amazed that Pam was able to get to her computer to share the sad fact that she has suffered from chronic back pain since 2019 despite 12 back fusions! She is now an expert on good Amazon and Netflix series and has become fluent in Mandarin and Portuguese due to her extended time watching foreign films.

From south central Missouri, **Jane Fordyce** says her life is extraordinary despite being on the losing end of an altercation with an extension ladder. Her creative solutions for daily exercise include running a vacuum cleaner with a walker and balancing a dinner plate while maneuvering across the room with a cane. Her outside world continues unfazed: the birds and squirrels still need to be fed and she relishes the mundane.

Diane Levy Jacobsen has kept herself busy working on environmental issues. She made a video, *The Sabbath Year of Earth Day*, as well as a series about racism, inequality, and the environment: www.nemnsynod.org/ecofaith.html. Diane serves on several boards, teaches, and fishes and hikes in northern Minnesota. She visits her mom and siblings in St. Louis and enjoys Zooming with her five grandsons and their parents. In June 2021, Diane and Paul will celebrate their 50th anniversary.

Tauna Urban Durand and Doug have spent the last year mainly at home with weekly outings to the grocery store. This is a huge change from the globe-trotting Tauna we have come to expect. They are fortunate to live in sunny Florida where they can be outside year-round, and although she's kept up with more friends and family electronically, she looks forward to giving real hugs, not virtual ones. Even though **Barbie Winkelmeyer Ballard** has moved to Sarasota, she and Tauna have not yet been able to connect due to COVID.

We are delighted to report that **Mary Schlapp Thistle** has made a full recovery from her brain surgery this past year. She has returned to competitive accordion playing and crocheting, and she is now chasing her new granddaughter, Hollis, around the living room. She has lost none of her sense of humor nor her remarkable intelligence.

From Columbia, South Carolina, **Pam Morris** (aka Gammie) dreams of someday completing her bucket list of adventures. Before the lockdowns she was teaching Mah Jong but now plays online, including competing in an online tournament. Her greatest joy is chauffeuring her two local grandchildren and Zooming with the other two once a week.

Anne Steiner Manning cheerfully reports that she gets her second vaccine shot any day now. She sees glimpses of light at the end of this long tunnel. Anne is learning Spanish and taking a writing class where her last essay featured a story of her going to the Blue Note Club in East St. Louis to see Ike and Tina Turner! Several of us were lucky enough to have gone to that famous club. Anne lives in Miami in the

winter and spends most summers on Martha's Vineyard—not a bad combo!

Sally Schaum Witte sends overdue thanks to **Susie Frelich Appleton** who, she says, single-handedly changed the course of her life some 52 years ago. Sally had dropped out of college and was working in New York when Susie, then at Vassar, said something like “you have no business being out of school.” A Ph.D. in psychology and a 35-year practice in family therapy later, Sally is forever grateful for Susan’s powerful nudge. We love stories like this that show how our lifelong friendships have affected each other.

Susie Meyer Cornell tells us she has had Zoom happy hours with her college roommate and marathon phone calls with Tauna where they laugh constantly. Although her gym is open, she has chosen to wear out her carpet walking laps in her home. She was thrilled to get her second shot and returned to the gym in March 2021.

After 22 years of working on the American Mural Project (AMP), **Ellen Griesedieck Posey** is wondering how she thought she could complete her work without an additional century. The art installation is going well, and we highly recommend you check out her four-minute video on www.americanmuralproject.org. The Posey family is doing well, with all five living together since March 2020, and they haven’t killed each other, yet.

From way north in Maine, **Nancy Eliot Ulett** tells us that she had to stop work in March 2020 due to COPD brought on, she says, after only 60 years of smoking. Even though Nan tested positive for COVID in December 2020, she had no symptoms and credits her health to her smoking and being a mass of chemicals that the virus couldn’t touch. She found time to create a great garden. Her two silly cats keep her company and her son came for a three-month summer visit.

In addition to dealing with a pandemic, **Ellen Roos** and Tom found themselves in their Colorado home surrounded by two immense wildfires that came within two miles of their house. They were evacuated for nine days, but remarkably their home survived. Needless to say, they are profoundly grateful (as are we), and she sends love to all during these times of great change.

Kris Beam Dewees and Chuck did not fare as well as Ellen, losing their entire home in July 2020 to fire. They decided not to rebuild and instead found a different home which they made their own. They were able to celebrate Christmas in their new home with their children and grandchildren. Kris created a “blessing tree” that she filled with beads, each carrying the name of one of the 300+ people who reached out to support them. Many Mary I names were on the tree. Their new address is 18531 Florence Bend Dr., Cyprus, TX 77429.

Jayne Schneithorst Land tells us that she has not been idle during the pandemic. She has found a new boyfriend in Colorado, born three weeks after Christmas 2020. Brooks is her grandson “boyfriend,” and now he and his two-and-a-half-year-old sister keep Jayne a very busy grandmother.

Sally Lewis Kennedy sends greetings from Denver. All is well with both of their kids, who fortunately live nearby. She isn’t able to see her three grandsons as much as she would like. However, Sal has done lots of reading, including the complete works of Mark Twain.

Patty Glaser is in good health, and on her one trip to Alaska in March 2020, she came home with 75 lbs. of salmon, halibut, black cod, and different rockfish. Her 95-year-old mother is doing well in St. Louis, but Patty sadly has not been able to visit her for over a year because of COVID.

Jo Anne Larkin reports that she had a wonderful year: 2020 began with a world cruise where she spent time on several Caribbean Islands learning the local languages and rituals. This was followed by classes in classical ballet and a debut performance on Broadway in which

she was the solo performer. Jo also learned to play the tuba while en pointe. She doesn’t expect us to believe her but promises this is all true.

Becky Egle von Schrader and **Eric ’66** love living in Carpinteria, California, but are ready to fly the coop to visit kids and grandchildren in St. Louis, Kauai, England, and Mexico. They are both writing their second books with Becky’s derived from her dissertation about giving children the best start in life. It is her labor of love to be able to serve future generations by combining the latest science with indigenous wisdom for early parenting.

Sally Jones Foley is thankful to be living in California during COVID because her outside activities are abundant. She plays lots of golf and takes long hikes. Much of her family lives in Petaluma, and she has taken up piano again which she says she hated as a child. Do we hear a future recital with Mary on accordion, Jo playing tuba, and Sal tickling the ivories? Sally is hoping to travel to southern California soon to see her other daughter and family, who recently moved back from London.

Mary Bagby Wyatt has recently moved to Seattle after retiring from many years at Pfizer in St. Louis. Mary tells us that this is where the development and clinical supplies for the COVID vaccine were manufactured—yay St. Louis and Pfizer! Her younger son and wife moved to Seattle where Charlotte, her granddaughter, was born in January 2020. Her other son lives in San Francisco where he and his wife were married via Zoom in 2020. Busy year, Mary!

Abby Martin Packer and John road-tripped to Idaho and Colorado to see their kids and grandson. They sold their lake house in Pennsylvania and are now building a home in Sun Valley, Idaho. Their daughter, Cameron, was married in July. Since John had triple bypass surgery in November 2020, walking has been a salvation both for exercise and for the chance to see neighbors and friends.

Far, far away, **Ginny Limberg** in Perth, Australia, says life is relatively sane. She lives where there are few constraints, social distancing is the norm, and no masks are required. Her heart goes out to all who have been affected by COVID—and she never assumes that it couldn't happen to her. Ginny's son and family are doing well in the Dominican Republic, where Ginny continues to "see" them on WhatsApp. She is grandmother to two lovely girls but stays close to home tending her garden and walking her dogs to stay fit.

Diane Deal Parks also acknowledges how lucky she and David are to be in Australia. She exercises 3x/week via Zoom, plays the piano, and tends her vegetable garden. All concerts and theater are online, and like many of us, she maintains her sanity by walking her dog.

Liz Douglas is holding COVID at bay, jogging, and doing Pilates—necessary because she's doing more cooking. She has directed monthly half-hour 1940s radio plays performed via Zoom. She's also the sound engineer, complete with sirens, gunshots, breaking glass, and many hilarious glitches. Her eldest son and family bought a house near Melbourne, and her youngest son and wife moved to California to be near Liz's widowed middle son and his three little boys. Liz's daughter managed to blitz her penultimate degree while homeschooling her four kids.

Lark Upson and husband, Jack, are happily living in France. She keeps busy painting her friends' grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Lark calls herself a humble artist, but her portraits have a warmth and a very human feeling to them. Her exhibition of paintings of four endangered species reminds her of the cost of climate change and the diminishing health of our planet. Lark sends "baisers à tous, classe de 1966." Show off.

On a very somber note, we are sad to report that two of our classmates have died. **Susan Schafer** died after a long battle with Huntington's disease, and **Debbie Freiheit Campbell** passed away in 2020. Our deepest sympathies go out to both families.

Claire Keeler Beck reports that when Vail Mountain closed in March 2020, she hightailed it back to Vermont to quarantine with David for several months. She had a full summer of riding, gardening, and completing foolish household repairs. On a personal note to Robin: I am so sorry that we lost your mom (Aunt Rosalie to me). She was a great lady and was always there for my mother, including during one of the most difficult times in her life. Not a day goes by that I don't appreciate the Class of '66.

Gale Rutherford Dunlap says that her world is now smaller, slower, and quieter. But the pandemic downtime has introduced her to the huge benefits of daily meditation, massive amounts of gardening, and all sorts of home cooking. Her favorite meals are chocolate chip cookies and Pane Integrale. Gale looks forward to again doing things she once took for granted: time with kids and grandchildren, random unmasked walks with friends, and world traveling. Keeping in touch with MI classmates this past year, however, has been a huge bonus.

1970 CDS

PAUL C. ANAGNOSTOPOULOS
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Hearty salutations to all the classmates, family, and friends reading this installment of the CDS '70 *Class Notes*. I trust you are healthy and managing to stay sane during these crazy times.

It is my sad duty to report that our fellow classmate **Bob Merrifield** passed away in late 2020. Bob was with us in classes 6 through 4 and then went on to Burroughs. **Tom Barad** reminded me of the C Team basketball game in which Bob was sent in with only seconds to go and scored the winning basket for the Bombers. In spite of the fact that he could have lorded this over us, he was apparently quite humble about it.

Our traditional fall mini-reunion was officially canceled, but a few intrepid classmates got together at the St. Louis Racquet Club for drinks, dinner, and conversation. Attending the fete were **Phil Estep, John Fox, Wes Mellow, Dave Oetting, Ernie Planck, and Bob Wells**. Bob let me know that he is doing well and that the get-together was "quite congenial." Below you will find two photos taken by Dave Oetting.



Speaking of **Dave Oetting**, he informs me that his son, **Davey '04**, was married in February. Congratulations, Mary and Dave! There were ten participants including the minister and organist, along with Zoom guests hither and yon. The rehearsal dinner included six people, a pianist, and a Zoom concert by Jim Salestrom. In other happy news, Mary and Dave bought a house in Keystone, Colorado. I am sure that Mary will quite enjoy spending time there over the coming years. Oh, and Dave, too.

I received this report from **John Fox**: "We had a COVID-baby grandson, Charles Tucker Fox, born in December to son Nick and daughter-in-law Cara. I continue to attend meetings for both the City of Ladue and the St. Louis Art Museum via Zoom, which is getting very tiresome. It is better to see people in person!"

It is clear that I must give the fellows more warning when Class Notes need to be submitted. **Mark Johnson** checked in: "...but if I really try maybe I can think of something that happened since everything stopped happening a year ago."

I'm always pleased to hear from **Scott Johnson**. We often trade links to songs we have discovered during our wanderings through the interwebs. I will always be in Scott's debt for turning me on to Country Joe and the Fish one afternoon in the locker room.

Tom Barad checked in with his requisite news, a summary of the coronavirus era: "Lot to be said for quarantine. My broiled salmon has certainly improved...my review, not Jill's. I've also learned there is no way to avoid eating less than two handfuls of Glutino cookies once one takes the first bite. This is to be avoided." I have relatively frequent chats with **Charlie Schott**. He recently gave me an update on **Nadia Danett**: "I'm told that Mrs. Danett's memoirs are now completed. I spoke with Nadia and she is in good spirits and was very much present in the moment. She is 96 (two weeks older than my mom)." As of this writing, the book has been printed and a copy resides on my shelf.

I was happy to hear from **Jack Thomas**: "We are now in Florida and received both shots of the vaccine. A slightly better social life here than in St. Louis since we can eat outside, but still very limited contact with others. Recently ate with **Bob Hermann** and spoke briefly with **JD Koch** on the driving range. Since we can engage in outdoor activities here in the winter, I have been quail hunting quite a bit, in addition to golf."

Stop the presses! **Tim Barksdale** reports that "my film on conservation in Missouri just received the first level of approval from American Public Television, an arm of PBS. We have a completed script, trailer, and treatment and are over 60% finished. The next step is the completion of the editing and the groundbreaking animation. So we still have a lot of work to do."



The CDS Class of 1971 gathered in April in St. Louis for lunch celebrating their 50th Reunion. Back row (l-r): Shep Hermann, Madt Mallinckrodt, Tom Collins, Mike McKee, Larry Reed, John Ferring, Bruce Hecker, and Keith Bridwell. Front Row (l-r): George Albin, Jay Jarvis, Tom Goldberg, David Jolley, and Buck Drew.

Time continues to pass at a pleasant rate here in Carlisle. I declared myself more-or-less officially retired in January. Now I have plenty of time for hobbies and volunteering with various organizations in the area. Cynthia continues to report for the *Carlisle Mosquito*, writing more furiously than ever. Both kids are with us. Luke is an assistant manager at the town's only grocery store/deli/wine and beer shop. Rose takes voice and guitar lessons multiple times each week. We are looking forward to a safe three weeks in Rhode Island in June and July. Stay healthy, folks!

1971 CDS

In August 2020, **Bob Neuwoehner** began writing a blog about depth psychology, religion, spirituality, and more. About once a week, he posts a brief essay sharing some of the knowledge and wisdom he gained earning a doctorate in religious studies. You'll find the blog at SoulSpiritWisdom.com. He also teaches occasional courses, online for now, through the Academy for Lifelong Learning in Denver, and soon through his local church, Christ's Episcopal Church in Castle Rock, Colorado. Meanwhile, plans are in the works to release a new collection of original songs with his band, Blue Stone Mojo.

1972 CDS

Peter C. Smith: My wife Nancy's daughter, Alex, and her husband had a daughter in May '20, and my son, Nick, and his wife had their second child, a son, in September 2020. That brings our grandchildren total to five, all aged three and under. We are greatly enjoying our baby boom. Nancy continues to teach and mentor as a Professor of Physical Therapy & Orthopaedic Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine but no longer

sees patients. I am mostly retired but still do a bit of consulting in the media business. My volunteer activities are focused on supporting law enforcement and addressing hunger issues.

1974 MI

We apologize for misspelling the names of two classmates and for identifying one photo incorrectly in the last issue of *MICDS Magazine*:

p. 75 **Lyn McCandless Hopkins'** name was spelled incorrectly

p. 76 In the class photo from the reunion lunch, we misidentified a classmate as **Cyndy Knapp Keesee**; and it was **Jennifer Hayes Best**.

p. 77 **Gayle Bodine Garrett's** name was spelled incorrectly

Thanks to **Holly Hermann Gulick** for pointing out these errors.

1975 MI

LISA COULTER
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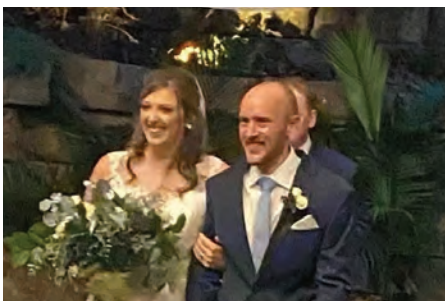
KAT SCHNEIDER CLARK
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Hello to all our MI Classmates. In these crazy times, we are grateful to connect with so many classmates. However, we are very sad to begin these notes with our condolences for the loss of **Leslie Waltke**. **Frances Van Dyke Burkham** was so kind to share an eloquent tribute: "Our classmate Leslie Waltke passed away after courageous battles with numerous serious diseases over her lifetime. Having survived a COVID diagnosis in November, she finally succumbed to Autoimmune Hepatitis and Kidney Failure on January 1, 2021. Before retiring and moving home to St. Louis for

her health, Leslie was a successful executive with multiple large corporations, travelling the world for business and for pleasure. She was forever indulgent to her family and friends, and to her beloved dogs. Inspiring in her indomitable drive and optimism, Leslie retained her wry sense of humor, frequently referring to her health as a never-ending game of 'Whack-a-Mole.' We will miss her."

There's no easy transition here, but we were happy to hear from so many of you! **Kathy Krause** writes, "I am busy virtual teaching during this pandemic and it has been quite an experience. I have grown to love virtual teaching, and I feel that education as we know it will never be the same. I am also busy with the Church of St. Michael and St. George. I am now a wizard at Zoom meetings, keeping in touch with far-flung family and friends. It was so good to see several of you last December via Zoom. Remembering our classmate, Leslie Waltke. My wish for each of you in a wonderful 2021."

Annie Chalfant Curtis writes, "Holland came back from her tiny New York City apartment and spent five months in Tennessee writing songs and recording some cool podcasts. I got both hips replaced during this downtime and boy, was it worth it. I am looking forward to getting back to my home organizing business as soon as things are safe again. I am actually finally learning to cook. I enjoyed the class Zoom meeting and look forward to the next! Thanks so much, Kathy Krause, for all the work you put into it!"



Trevor, the son of Cindy Shillington Gillentine '75, and Maggie, the daughter of Karen Sedgwick Kane '75, on their wedding day.

Karen Sedgwick Kane has exciting news to share: "My big news is that **Cindy Shillington Gillentine's** son, Trevor, and my daughter,

Maggie, were married on November 21. Cindy and I had such a good time planning the event, and now call ourselves the "fun-in-laws!" I was able to vacation in December with **Kathy** and Mitch on Sanibel and am headed back down again in a couple weeks to spend time with my grandson, Jimmy, Kristen and Matt's adorable two-year-old! My mom turned 90 in November and like all of us, can't wait for her world to reopen after COVID."

Kathy Sedgwick Moran adds, "Even with COVID, our family pulled off a 90th birthday for our healthy mother, Carla, in November. My husband, Mitch, retired July 31, and the timing was ideal as I transitioned to a new agency, Better Homes and Garden's Preferred Properties in Town & Country, in August. Our third grandchild, Patrick Sedgwick Moran, arrived January 23, 2021, in Kansas City. Counting the blessings that occurred during this crazy year, onward and upward, until we all meet again."

Beth Sasser Eley writes, "Our news is that Lex and I have left the DC area behind and moved full-time to the mountains of Virginia. Lex is still working remotely, and I am happily immersing myself in the community here by joining the board of the local Arts Association as well as serving on the Parish Council at our little church. I am gardening and playing golf in warmer months. Our favorite activity however is entertaining grandchildren when they come to visit."

We also heard from **Joy Spitz Lee**, who wrote, "I am going on 18 years in Houston. Retired in May 2020 after 15 years as a pet resort owner. I'm thoroughly enjoying retirement and have spent a lot of time going through everything at home, reliving a lot of fond MI memories along the way. Tom and I are in the planning stages of selling our house here and taking up beach life in Galveston. **Son Geoff Copper '03** and wife just purchased their first home here in Houston, so that's been exciting for them as well. Meanwhile, I continue to have a soft spot for senior poodles and have my own small doggie (and one former street cat who thinks she is a dog) retirement home."

As for your class agents, **Kat Schneider-Clark** shares, "It has been such a surreal time for everyone. We have not been able to perform since early last March. Daughter Caroline is a freshman at University of Louisville and seems to enjoy it. Over winter break, her dorm flooded, and luckily, Caroline was moved to a really lovely apartment-style dorm. My car knows how to make the drive to Louisville and back by itself. I am sending my love to all of my classmates!"

And **Lisa Dennig Coulter** writes, "It's been a crazy year with the pandemic but I'm grateful that my lovely mom, my four children, and my beautiful daughter-in-law are all happy and healthy! And real estate has luckily been really busy—definitely one upside to 2020! I'm wishing all our classmates health and happiness and hoping we can safely get together again soon!"

1980_{MI}

Lisa Engelsmann Acker: I am a new YouTube creator with my own channel called *Show Me Beautiful*. I review beauty and makeup tips for the over-50 crowd. Only need a few more thousand subscribers! I have over 70 videos posted. My motto is be the best version of yourself inside and out.

Kim Rabenberg Barnes: Hello, class of 1980. Thanks, Fifi, for taking over as Class Agent at my request. I was tired after 40 years! I was living in Perugia, Italy, in an apartment when COVID hit, and I was stuck in Rome for a month. Not a bad place to be stuck, and of course, I was with my Broozy, server super dog! Chase came for Christmas in Rome and we saw the Pope, etc. Amazing. Love you all and can't wait until our dancing reunion!

From **Fifi Lugo:** I feel so fortunate to be able to write a little news about our 1980 class. Gosh darn, it has been 41 years since we were together! I know when I see your posts on Facebook or Instagram or get a little news from someone who saw someone who told someone about what you have been up to, it puts a smile on my face. Here is what I know, kinda know, or have been told.

I was lucky to be able to spend some time, after a long time, having coffee with **Wendy Goessling Wolfsberger** on a snow day this month. She has two boys, Clark and Jack, at SMU in Dallas. Her daughter, **Greta '22**, is at MICDS. Wendy launched a marketing partnership in late 2019, DW Partners, and is already working with national and Fortune 500 clients. She loves working for herself (and her co-founder partner) and is thrilled to discover their business model really works, even in a pandemic!

Talby MacCarthy Payne wrote that she and Henry still live in the Detroit area but have spent a lot of time, especially during COVID, in Northern Michigan. This summer, Talby enjoyed seeing **Lisa Acker** and **Melissa Chamberlain**. Some visiting classmates were **Lea Diederich Bender** and **Jenny Steinman**. Her husband, Henry, reviews cars so they spend a lot of time in all brands of cars, from trucks to Corvette convertibles. Talby is the webmaster for HenryPayne.com where you can see Henry's syndicated cartoons and auto reviews.

It was so fun to get a wedding announcement from **Lisa Engelsman Acker** letting us all know about the COVID wedding at her home; her son, Johnny, got married in December. And she did get a quarantine puppy which is so darn cute.

Did anyone else see the wonderful sports moment **Enid Gardner Dodson's** daughter had on the basketball court? If not, find it on Facebook. Enid is consulting for several education reform organizations supporting districts across the country with their virtual, hybrid, and in-person curriculum and instruction needs. Enid did make it to St. Louis for a quick weekend in October to see family. Enid and David celebrated their 20th anniversary in May.

If you want to see beautiful flower arrangements, go to Instagram and check out the work of **Harriette Moore Warren**. Next year will be her first year in 22 years that she

will not have a child at MICDS. Harriette and Peter's youngest daughter, **Livie '21**, graduated this Spring!

I was so excited to hear from **Julie Larson Quensen**. She and hubby Phil have moved into a great neighborhood in San Antonio called The Dominion and are loving the club life! Their youngest boy is in Texas with them, about to finish up his second year of medical school, and her two older boys are living and working in St. Louis.

Cynthia Watson Rank emailed to say her son **Clayton '14** graduated from Missouri S&T in 2018, and daughter **Caroline '16** graduated from TCU in 2020. Both of them are working with her at Watson Label Products, which is celebrating 60 years in business. She and her family enjoy golfing and going to the Bahamas as much as possible.

Barbi Cady Macon is still taking fabulous photographs of everyone around town and apparently has painted her basement floor. She was really excited about that!

Laurie Garesché Clithero and Michael recently moved to a beautiful townhome with a few cats. **Teddy Fister '17**, her youngest, is graduating from University of Richmond in the spring and will be working in DC. **Jack Fister '14** continues to write and perform beautiful music all over the country.

Julie Schlueter Nelson jets between St. Louis and New York City taking care of her mother and doing interior design for the very fancy.

And finally, I am kicking along. Everyone was home for the shut-down. So since the house was bulging at the seams, we opted to get a Newfoundland puppy to hang out with our three geriatric Westies. Fun times! You know, at the end of the day, this pandemic has had its silver lining. So many of you have said how nice it has been to spend time together with your families in a slower-paced world. Let's embrace that good. Ladies, stay safe! Stay healthy! Stay in touch!

1982 MI

Kay Berra Houghtaling: Creig and I are taking lots of long walks, visiting parks with our dog, Barney, and so far staying well. Daughters **Jessica '09** and **Kaytlin '13** are also doing well. Jessica earned her masters degree in biology from Washington University in May and finished her seventh year teaching at Pattonville High School. Kaytlin continues her work with Powell Symphony Hall even though concerts have been cancelled for the foreseeable future. We are all looking forward to a time when things are more back to normal, hopefully soon.

1983 MI

Anne Nixon Livingstone Kirsch: In January, 2020, my daughter, Caroline, and her husband, Alex Aguilar, had a daughter. Mariana Annalisa Aguilar was born weighing 4 lbs 5 oz. She is now over a year and full of lots of energy!



Anne Nixon Livingstone Kirsch '83 holds granddaughter Mariana.

1986 MI

Sarah James Banks: Hi from sunny Florida! John and I have traded our skis and parkas for flip flops and are now spending our winters in

Vero Beach. We are especially happy to have **Allison Ritter Varricchio** in town, who has welcomed us so warmly and who generously shares all of her spot-on recommendations of local necessities. Please be in touch if you're coming this way!

1987 CDS

Boyd Hoffmann: Still in St. Louis but ditched the suburbs. Moved to the city, got a golf cart to restaurant and bar hop. Been fun and lots of visitors—come on down. Still snow skiing in winter and boating at Lake Ozark in the summers. Daughter graduated from TCU and is in global sales with IBM in Boston.

John Gregory: I'm still teaching English at the same boarding school in Asheville, North Carolina, where I have been for the past 20 years. Still married to the same beautiful woman I met in college over 30 years ago. Still rooting for the same Duke Blue Devils. And still have the fondest memories of my eight years at CDS with the class of '87.

1994 MICDS

Mitchell A Klink '94 has guest-curated an exhibit at the Bermuda National Gallery: *Illusion and Abstraction: capturing the landscape examines our relationship with the natural world through three distinct lenses: realism and depth; atmosphere, colour and light; line, shape and form.* Mitchell moved to Bermuda in 2019; he works for EY in strategy and performance improvement.



Mitchell Klink '94.

2009 MICDS

Brenndan Crumley will be starting a residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at Washington University in St. Louis/Barnes Jewish Hospital this July, after finishing medical school in Philadelphia.

2002 MICDS

Katie Littlefield married Rohan Castelino on August 22, 2021, at Edg-Cliff Farms, her family-owned vineyard and winery in Potosi, Missouri. It was a small family gathering which included her mother, **Stephanie Littlefield '72**, and her sisters, **Maggie Littlefield Sahlman '01** and **Carolyn Littlefield Brown '07**. Her aunt, **Cyndy Knapp Keesee '74**, was the officiant and her cousin, **Kendall Krummenacher '02**, was also in attendance. Katie and Rohan are looking forward to visiting classmates and spending more time in St. Louis in 2021.



Are your friends not receiving the printed MICDS Magazine?

With 8,000 living alumni and many parents, grandparents, and friends of the School, we want to remain as fiscally responsible as possible. The School constrains the mailing list by specific criteria, including reunion cycles and donation history to conserve print and mail resources. We send the magazine to all alumni the year before, during, and after your reunion. *MICDS Magazine*, and back issues, can always be found on our website at magazine.micds.org. Need to update an address? Please send updates to Llesperance@micds.org in the alumni office at Llesperance@micds.org or visit the alumni portal at micds.org.

We've all heard the saying, "*When life gives you lemons...*" so when the world as we knew it changed in the spring of 2020, the MICDS Alumni Association responded by saying, "Who's in the mood for lemonade?" A year of creative solutions for an unexpected reality quickly unfolded.

Dear fellow alums,



While we weren't able to host our traditional in-person alumni events, we leaped at the opportunity to offer a variety of new and modified experiences that allowed for more alumni to participate.

From a virtual Homecoming Fun Run complete with printable bib numbers to lively online Trivia Nights, alumni from across the globe joined in the fun. The holidays ushered in a virtual Lessons & Carols sing-a-long where nearly 300 Mary Institute alumnae gathered in song to brighten our spirits.

We were thrilled to engage our talented faculty through online book clubs and "lunch-and-learns" on topics such as the MARSfarm, film analysis of *Vertigo*, the history of St. Louis, and remaining calm under pressure. We even had **Raj Tailor '92** offer a virtual cooking demonstration for fantastic vegetable lasagna. Lookout, "Celebrity Chef!"

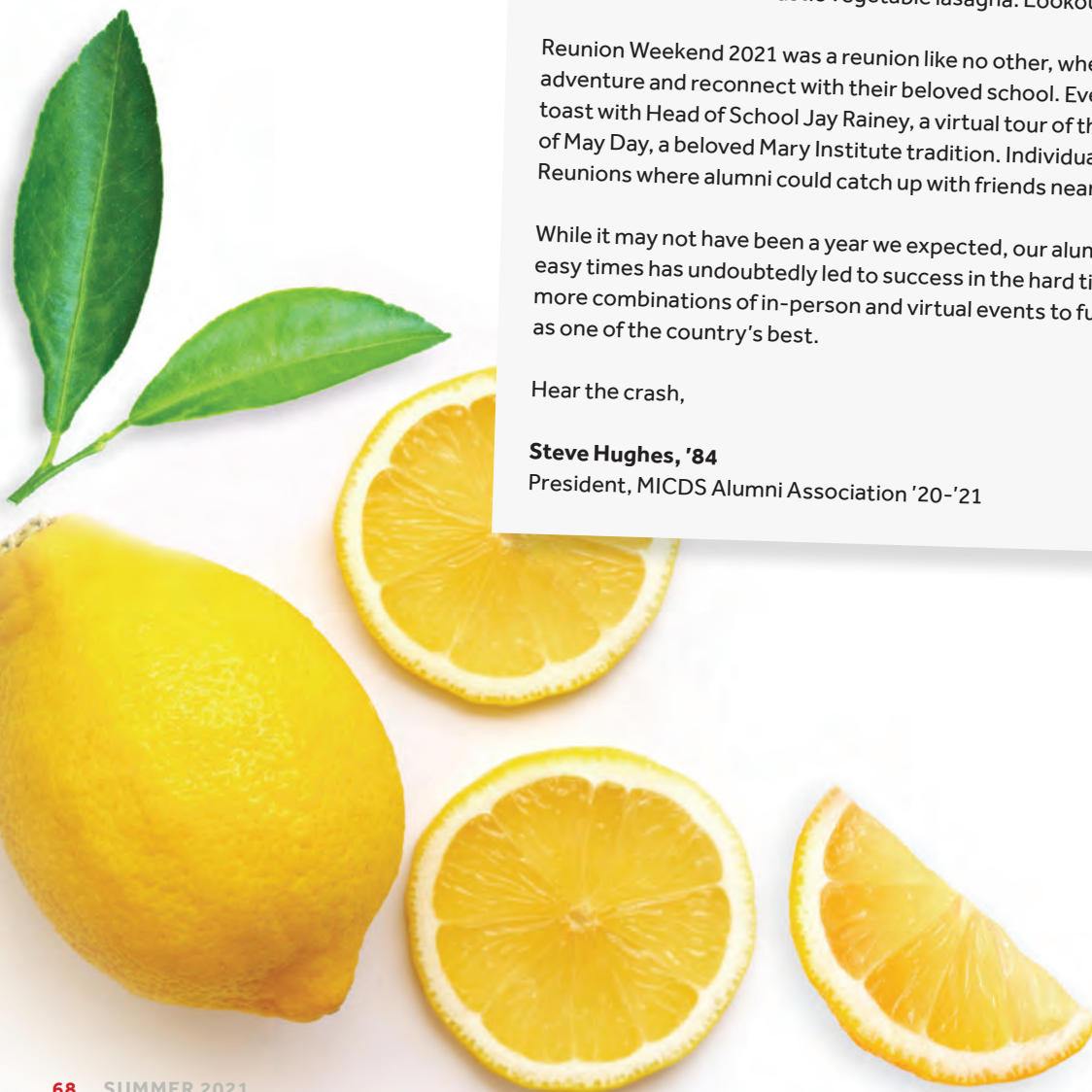
Reunion Weekend 2021 was a reunion like no other, where alumni could choose their own adventure and reconnect with their beloved school. Events included a virtual champagne toast with Head of School Jay Rainey, a virtual tour of the CDS Archives, and a live stream of May Day, a beloved Mary Institute tradition. Individual classes also organized Zoom Reunions where alumni could catch up with friends near and far.

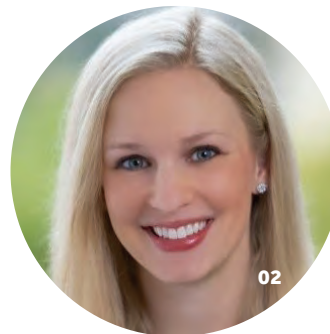
While it may not have been a year we expected, our alumni community's strength in the easy times has undoubtedly led to success in the hard times. We look forward to providing more combinations of in-person and virtual events to further bond our Alumni Association as one of the country's best.

Hear the crash,

Steve Hughes, '84

President, MICDS Alumni Association '20-'21





01. Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn '85 was profiled in the *Wall Street Journal* for the launch of her newly reimagined Salon 94 gallery space in New York's Upper East Side. 3 East 89th Street features palatial gallery rooms, an art library, offices, and a soon-to-be cafe. In the article, Jeanne shares, "I come from the school of thought that art needs a lot of help and we are responsible as dealers to make it magical, to install it correctly and light it correctly and think about the experience." Gallery context couldn't be more critical, she adds. "These are churches, in a sense, temples."

02. Molly Rouse Ketcham '97 oversees strategic planning, business operations, and real estate across North America for Accenture Federal Services (AFS) and saw a diamond of an opportunity in her hometown for AFS's newest Advanced Technology Center. "St. Louis is such a wonderful place to live, and over the past few years, it has also become a great growth area for the technology space," Ketcham said. St. Louis checked all the boxes regarding tech-savvy talent, cost of living, and attractive quality of life. The AFS Advanced Technology Center is based in the Maryville area and will bring 1,400 new technology jobs to the St. Louis area by 2025.

03. Logan Stone '09 recently released his directorial debut feature film, *Exodus*, a sci-fi/post-apocalyptic adventure, on AppleTV. Stone studied visual communications and film theory at DePaul University in Chicago, and in 2013 he founded Cinestone and began shooting and directing a variety of projects such as short films, music videos, commercials, and feature films.

04. Leah Thomas '13 recently visited with Upper School students, where she spoke about her experience as an intersectional environmentalist and eco-communicator. Thomas founded the Intersectional Environmentalist platform, a resource hub that advocates for environmental justice and inclusivity in environmental activism and education. She is also the founder of the eco-lifestyle blog Green Girl Leah and has written articles for *Vogue*, *Elle*, *The Good Trade*, and numerous other publications. Thomas is currently writing a book covering the history of the environmental justice movement and how we arrived where we are today, including a chapter for educators on getting students informed and involved in environmental justice. Learn more at greengirilleah.com.

Francis Posega Rappleye '17, a student at the University of San Francisco (and son of MICDS faculty member Chris Rappleye), was featured in a photo exhibit for the Harvey

Milk Photo Center. Traditionally presented in analog form using darkroom materials, this year's exhibition was presented in digital format at harveymilkphotocenter.org.



Artwork by Francis Posega Rappleye '17

05. Annika Kline '20, a student at Haverford College, was awarded a placement on the National Field Hockey Coaches Association Division III Scholars of Distinction list. In total, over 450 Division III field hockey student-athletes were honored with the prestigious plaudit. The Scholars of Distinction program recognizes student-athletes who have achieved a cumulative grade-point average of 3.9 or higher through the first semester of the 2020-21 academic year.



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At Mary Institute, public speaking was integral to the student experience in the classroom, in activities, and at the podium in Mary Eliot Chapel. Today, starting in Lower School, students are offered opportunities to present multi-disciplinary projects, poetry, personal essays, and lead school assemblies, giving them the tools to express themselves in a variety of formats and environments.