

MICDS

THE MAGAZINE

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MICDS

MARY INSTITUTE AND SAINT LOUIS COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

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More than ever, our nation needs responsible men and women who can meet the challenges of this world with confidence and embrace all its people with compassion. The next generation must include those who think critically and resolve to stand for what is good and right.

Our School cherishes academic rigor, encourages and praises meaningful individual achievement, and fosters virtue. Our independent education prepares young people for higher learning and for lives of purpose and service.

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ENSURING A VIBRANT SCHOOL FUTURE

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MARY INSTITUTE &
SAINT LOUIS COUNTRY
DAY SCHOOL ALUMNI

Dear MICDS Family,



It is sometimes my habit when passing our Middle or Upper School students as they transition between classes, either individually or in groups, to ask them, "What is your stress level today?" I will usually extend two or three fingers in the air by way of example. "About this much? Somewhere in the middle?" Or five fingers. "Absolutely overloaded?" Or perhaps just a fist with no fingers. "Cool as a cucumber?"

These hand-in-the-air hallway check-ins often lead to brief conversations. "Why four fingers?" I asked one Upper School student recently. "I have two papers due this week," she said. "But I'll get through it." Well-intended banalities on my part generally conclude these interactions ("Don't worry, you'll be on the other side of this thing in no time!"), if only to encourage resilience and a longer view; but I am also quick to suggest ameliorating measures—consultations with teachers, for instance, or requests for deadline extensions—in extraordinary cases.

Respecting the mental health of our students, the work of schools straddles two challenging phenomena in contemporary life. One is the unfortunate "semantic creep" of medical terminology into everyday use to an extent that dilutes its force and specificity. "People now commonly describe experiences of uncomplicated childbirth, graduate school, or overheard sexist remarks as traumatic," write Nick Haslam and Melanie McGrath in *The Creeping Concept of Trauma*, published in the journal *Social Research*. As Jessica Bennett asked in a recent *New York Times* opinion piece, "If everything is 'trauma,' is anything?" Just as we should avoid confusing everyday feelings of sadness with clinical depression lest we dilute the seriousness with which we regard the latter, we should be careful not to confuse ordinary adversity with mental anguish.

Semantic creep notwithstanding, however, the recent rise in mental health issues in adolescents is undeniable. Major depressive episodes among

teenagers have increased 60% since 2007 according to the Health Resources and Services Administration, and emergency room visits by children and adolescents for anxiety, mood disorders, and self-harm have also escalated. "The challenges today's generation of young people face are unprecedented and uniquely hard to navigate," notes last year's *Surgeon General's Advisory*, "and the effect these challenges have had on their mental health is devastating." Importantly, though, as this same report observes, these challenges "are treatable, and often preventable."

Some of our efforts at MICDS to support the mental well-being of our students are profiled in this issue, as are several examples of the initiatives in which we invest—friendship gardens, kindness waves, chill days—to create and sustain a climate of care, balance, and joy on campus. More generally, you will find in these pages stories about our academic, arts, athletics, and community programs that are simply current vestiges of this institution's longstanding commitment to a full and robust and therefore healthy student experience. I love the verb "predicate," which at root means "to proclaim." At MICDS, we ultimately predicate all of our programs on our dedication to the present and future well-being and happiness of our students. We proclaim our work in their best interest. Even through so challenging a period of childhood and adolescent experience as our world is presently navigating, I believe that we continue to succeed in this effort.

I hope that you enjoy this issue of the *MICDS Magazine*. My best wishes to you and your loved ones for a happy summer season.

Jay Rainey
Head of School

Congratulations to our Pete Wilson '51 Fellows for Normandy Academy



Each year, two MICDS students are selected to receive full scholarships to participate in the National World War II Museum's Normandy Academy, a 12-day immersive summer learning experience in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Normandy, France, that challenges students to learn from the choices made before and during the historic D-Day landings. Thanks to the generosity of **Mr. Edward "Tee" Turner Baur '64**, MICDS is able to offer the **Pete Wilson '51 Fellows for Normandy Academy** scholarship. Interested 10th and 11th graders submitted applications, essays, and faculty recommendations last fall.

Chloe Davis '24 and **Abby Wyckoff '24** are this year's Fellows. "We had a remarkable group of students apply this year, all of whom have amazing strengths and assets. In the end, we are thrilled that Chloe and Abby will be representing MICDS as 2022's Pete Wilson '51 Fellows for Normandy Academy," said **Carla Federman, JK-12 History and Social Sciences Department Chair**. "They are both passionate about studying World War II and the Normandy invasion in particular, and thoughtful in how they approach these topics. They impressed us with their essays, their applications, and their interviews, and we're tremendously excited for them to be able to experience this opportunity, and then bring their experiences back to MICDS next year."

Davis and Wyckoff will be joining four other MICDS students—past winners of the Fellowship—this summer. The last two years' trips were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so **Andrew Lindsey '21**, **Cate Cody '22**, **Jackson Strelo '22**, and **Aanya Tiwari '23** will also participate this summer.



Congratulations!

Prize Speaking Continues in its 105th Year

The annual tradition of the Prize Speaking competition, sponsored by the English department and now in its 105th year, was celebrated at an Upper School Assembly last December. In early fall, students select literary excerpts to recite in front of an audience and audition, hoping their piece will resonate with the judges and audience.

Upper School English Teacher David Terrell shared, "I'm so grateful for how supportive our students are at Prize Speaking. I think all of them recognize and appreciate how much courage it takes to stand in front of 700 people and recite from memory a literary work."

Harper Graves '22 recited a passage from the novel *We Regret to Inform You* by Ariel Kaplan. **Nina Schuerer '25** recited two poems by Billy Collins, *Memento Mori* and *Horoscopes for the Dead*.

Graves was declared the 2021 winner of this year's Prize Speaking competition. Per tradition, her name will be inscribed on the famous Dartmouth Cup.



"I'm so grateful for how supportive our students are at Prize Speaking. I think all of them recognize and appreciate how much courage it takes to stand in front of 700 people and recite from memory a literary work."

UPPER SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER DAVID TERRELL



A Respite For College-Bound Seniors

On Senior Chill Day, MICDS 12th graders hung out with friends while wearing comfy plaid MICDS pajama pants and School sweatshirts. This highly-anticipated day celebrates the huge milestone of completing college applications. Thanks to the generosity of parents and guardians, seniors enjoyed a variety of treats. In addition, the DuoDogs organization brought furry friends for pets and snuggles. "It was extremely enjoyable to share this special moment with my beloved seniors, the Class of 2022," said **Dean of Students Daniel George**. "None of this would be possible without the fantastic organization and positive attitudes of our amazing senior parent reps and particularly our parent organizers, Joanna Tschudy and Rachel Oliver."



Three Cheers for Ms. O!

It's easy to see how **Sue Orlando** was a cheerleader in high school. She brings that same energy, enthusiasm, spirit, and support to our littlest Rams every day in her role as Lower School physical education teacher. This fall marks the start of her 38th year guiding students to healthy activity—making physical education fun and exciting—and she's just as enthusiastic now as when she started.

Growing up, Orlando describes herself as a kid who "would rather play a game than sit down and read a book." She was always on the move and eagerly went to ballgames with her father. She knew from an early age that she was destined to teach. She was a baton twirler, traveling and competing. Around sixth grade, her instructor, who was also an elementary school teacher, asked her to assist with the younger twirlers. She enjoyed babysitting. Later, a middle school physical education teacher and a high school psychology teacher reinforced the message: You are good with children. You should look into being a teacher. She agreed, and after graduating from high school attended Culver-Stockton College to get a degree in psychology and her teaching certificate.

She began teaching in the Northwest School District but soon suffered from district cutbacks. As a newer employee, she was one of the first to go. She worked in a dentist's office for a year,



Sue Orlando in her early days at Mary Institute.



then at the Washington University dental school for another. She knew she wanted to get back into teaching, so she answered an ad in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* for a teaching position at a school she had never heard of: Mary Institute. Orlando started in a part-time role and was hired full-time the following year. She has also served as the physical education department chair and interim athletic director, but her true love is elementary level PE. She eagerly accepted the charge to create some consistency in the Lower School, serving in the role alone after a colleague's retirement and before **Jim Lohr** was hired. With his arrival, Orlando had found a true partner and together they have built the program for 27 years.

This program goes beyond the PE classes that many of us knew when we were kids. Gone are the days of seemingly endless square dancing or deadly dodgeball. Orlando remembers that when

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“We want kids to be able to move and be active and be comfortable with themselves, not to be focused on being on teams. Our goal is to build a well-rounded child who is able to move and comfortably play anything. And who enjoys playing it.”

SUE ORLANDO

>> continued from page 7

she first started, it was common to teach kids the fundamentals of basketball and then choose two students to be “captains,” letting them select their teams. The process divided children into groups of winners and losers, titles that often stuck beyond the walls of the gym. “It has evolved so much to be more student-centered and friendly for the kids,” she said. “We want kids to be able to move and be active and be comfortable with themselves, not to be focused on being on teams. Our goal is to build a well-rounded child who is able to move and comfortably play anything. And who enjoys playing it.”

The other way Orlando and Lohr ensure children are comfortable learning in Lower School PE is to right-size their equipment. “We bring things down to their levels, including using lower baskets and smaller balls for the basketball unit. They don’t even realize what they’re practicing in that unit because they’re just having fun,” she said. Every two weeks, students move on and learn a new game, a new skill. This timing keeps the students engaged and excited about each unit, and gives their teachers plenty of time to develop skills to build upon the next year. “The program grows with the kids,” Orlando explained. “And their expectations grow appropriately as they grow.”

Growing children is Orlando’s favorite part of her job. “We probably know the kids better even than their homeroom teachers by the time they leave Beasley for the Middle School,” she said, “because we get to see them every day and we have them for six years.” The Lower School PE program starts with Junior Kindergarteners learning to skip and progresses through team sports. Orlando and Lohr set goals for their little athletes: they want to be sure students are able to move correctly and function in the daily PE world, to know that it’s important to do things to keep them healthy. The team isn’t focused so much on developing specific skills in their students, but developing the mindset that a healthy body means opportunity. “It’s important to be a well-rounded person who is active and not in front of a screen all the time,” she said.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced Orlando and Lohr to re-think their entire curriculum. During distance learning, they made and shared videos to encourage students at home to get up, get out, and move. Upon returning to campus, they moved PE outside every single day to keep kids spaced apart while giving them plenty of room to move. They reinvented PE at MICDS, including creating



new tools such as large hoops that helped guide kids to safe distances. Sharing equipment was out of the question at that time, too, and they couldn’t even play simple games like tag. Always creative, Orlando and Lohr came up with new ways to play old games. They purchased foam noodles that allowed kids to play tag, carefully disinfecting them each night. A large speaker and a microphone meant lively music and Lohr’s deep voice could be heard booming across the campus as he encouraged students to run, jump, dance, and play. They seized opportunities as they arose, such as using snow-covered hills on campus for sledding. “It was like being a new teacher again, growing and learning,” Orlando said. “Even though we look for new activities every year anyway.” She quickly shrugged off all the hard work of reinventing almost the entire PE program in less than a year. “It’s not about us, it’s about the kids.”

“Other schools are amazed that we see our students every day. We have space, we have equipment...we have everything. We are blessed to be here. I love to get up and come to work every day.”

SUE ORLANDO

In addition to the natural creativity sparked by their close, collaborative partnership, Orlando and Lohr look outside for new ideas. The duo has attended three SHAPE America conventions, an event that gathers health and physical education professionals from across the country who teach K-12 and beyond. They are also members of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance, which provides support and assistance as members seek new ways to engage students. Orlando loves to see what other schools are offering in their PE program, and is often reminded that she's not challenged when it comes to access and resources. "Other schools are amazed that we see our students every day," she said. "We have space, we have equipment...we have everything. We are blessed to be here. I love to get up and come to work every day."

It's good that Orlando loves what she does, since set-up for the day's activities can sometimes take up to an hour. "We want to entice the students," she said, and that can mean everything from setting up for an Olympic competition in the South Gym or preparing for swim lessons in the Steward Family Aquatic Center. Sometimes they teach Tinikling, a traditional folk dance of the Philippines that involves keeping rhythm with poles while partners step and jump. It promotes balance, coordination, speed, and agility, all the goals Orlando and Lohr work into each unit. The students love it. This year, they were especially intrigued by the Olympics unit; the day we spoke was bobsled day, which involved students pushing each other around cones in the gym, with participants sitting on mats stacked on scooters. "It is like organized chaos," Orlando laughed. "The kids know what to do and where to go, and they know when it's their turn."



Orlando also coached Upper School field hockey and racquetball for 29 years, so she was able to see many of her students through a deep progression of skills. Now, she's thrilled to teach the children of many of her former students. "It's unbelievable, the number of kids I've had go through where I've taught their moms and dads. It's a long line of connections with families." Two or three families who attended our admission Open House this year were delighted to see their PE teacher. "I haven't seen them in 20 years, and they say, 'Ms. O, you're still here! We have little ones coming!'" she said. Younger Beasley School alumni also like to visit. "The Middle School kids are always sticking their heads in the gym or stopping by," Orlando said. "They'll say, 'Oh, you're doing the Olympics! I remember doing that.'" She loves staying in touch with her former students.

"Being with the kids is my favorite part of the day," Orlando said. We're sure many of her students feel exactly the same way.



Building Bridges in the Upper School

Engineering students research, design, and construct models



Would you drive across a bridge made from popsicle sticks and yarn? In December, MICDS Upper School students asked us to suspend our disbelief as they proved just how effective those engineering materials are at creating bridges.

Travis Menghini, Upper School Math Teacher, tasked his engineering students with making the bridges, using skills learned across several disciplines. Students have been learning computer-aided design all year and used CAD software to help design their bridges before building them. "Students were required to perform their own research on real-world bridges as well as other popsicle stick bridges to help them conceptualize and design their bridges," Menghini said.

This year's winners were **Connor Hunt '22, Harry Kohler '23, Zachary Lippert '23, and Mac Stevens '23**. "We did some research on both real-world bridges and popsicle stick bridges to determine what design would hold the most weight," said Kohler. "We determined that more popsicle sticks equaled a stronger



Connor Hunt '22, Harry Kohler '23, Zachary Lippert '23, and Mac Stevens '23 with their winning bridge that held 400 lbs.



bridge." Stevens echoed the need for researching the best design. "Our research showed us that some bridges failed because the platform fell over on its side. We decided to include a wall-like stack of sticks on the inside to prevent the platform from folding," he said. The research paid off and the team's bridge held 400 lbs. before failing.

Menghini emphasized that students need to build on the scaffolding of their MICDS education to be successful at the project. "As an instructor, I mainly serve as a mentor and gave guidance to the kids," he said. "My goal is not to tell them the answer, but rather to guide their research to follow the scientific method and for them to learn from classmates what works best."

Learning about bridge-building concepts and applying them to a real-world experiment was rewarding. "The project was able to give us a more in-depth look at the general concepts of modern bridges and the science behind them," said Stevens. But, as Kohler admitted, "The best part was winning."



Build Like An Egyptian



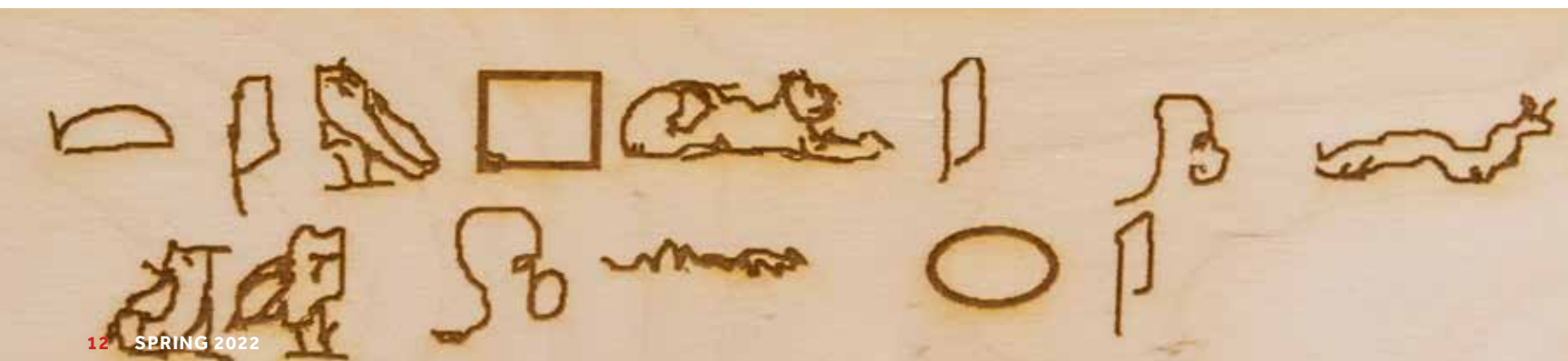
Fifth-grade history and social sciences students finished their Egyptian studies with a hands-on project that brought the ancient country to life.

First, they divided into teams and chose a topic to research, such as daily life, temples, farming and irrigation, pyramids, trading on the Nile, the Battle of Kadesh, or the mummification process. Each team member conducted research, finding two to three articles to support their topic and taking notes on each.

In “daily life,” for instance, students could choose to focus on one specific social class (there were six, and each lived very different lives) or compare all the social classes. The ancient Egyptians designed and built temples to commemorate their pharaohs and

worship their gods. Some students researched one or two of these temples before creating a scene that showed the inside of an ancient Egyptian temple, including as many different rooms, statues, and artwork as possible.

Each group then collaborated to create a 3D scene that showcased their research, and each scene needed to accurately show Egypt’s distinctive desert landscape, including the Nile River, if applicable. Then, they decided how to showcase their information, whether using the 3D printer and laser cutter in the maker space or building a scene in Minecraft. They

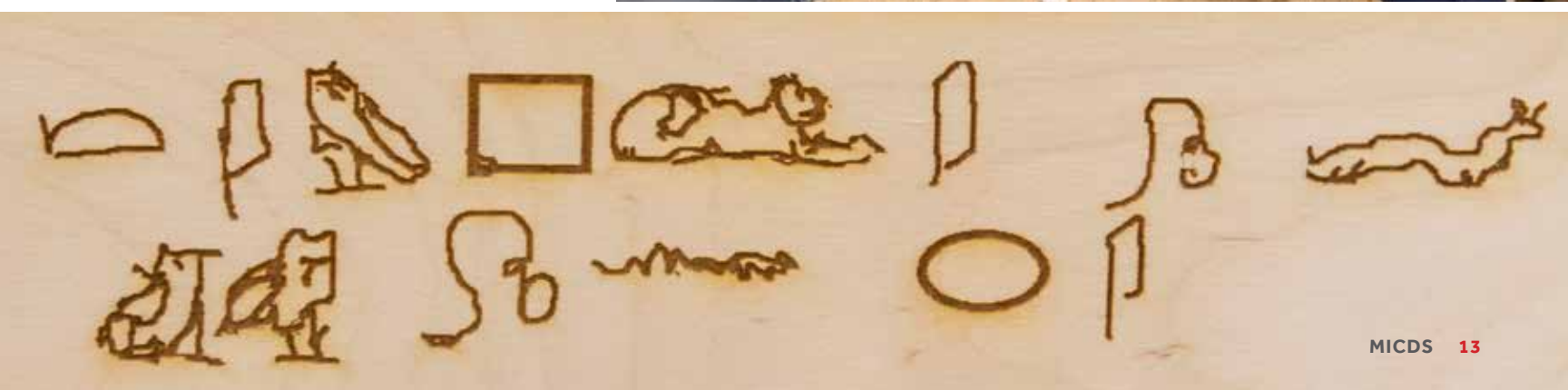


were allowed to use any type of material to build their project, and **Middle School Science Teacher Branson Lawrence** helped the maker space groups. Some ideas for materials to use included 3D printed items, laser-cut and engraved wood, Legos, cardboard, styrofoam, paper, sugar cubes, and candy. **Fifth Grade History and Social Sciences Teacher Robyn Williams** instructed her students to get creative and use whatever resources they wanted.

"We worked on a model of all the social classes in Ancient Egypt," said **Amya Singla '29**. "Not only did we learn about Ancient Egypt but we also learned how to collaborate with our team. I thought it was very fun because we got to be as creative as we wanted."

Timo Finnegan '29 said, "I was surprised by all the options of materials we could use and how much fun it was. I researched the peasants' social class and made a 3D model of farming, and I made the social pyramid."

Using their models, the teams then presented their findings to their peers. "This is one of the students' favorite history projects in fifth grade," said Williams. "It gives them a choice and allows them to show their learning in a hands-on and creative way. It is a great way to wrap up our ancient Egypt unit."



Seventh-Grade Scientists Construct Cell Models

Seventh-grade science students studied body systems this academic year and spent time learning about cells, including some of the more common organelles found inside our body cells, as well as how the cells obtain energy through cellular respiration. Organelles, or “little organs,” are specialized structures that perform various jobs inside cells. In the same way organs such as the heart, liver, stomach, and kidneys serve specific functions to keep an organism alive, organelles serve specific functions to keep a cell alive.

Students chose a type of body cell and built an interactive educational model. They shared their research of organelles and cellular respiration using Scratch (coding using blocks of code) and Makey Makey (electrical wiring which interacts with Scratch). Makey Makey lets students transform

everyday objects into computer interfaces. It's a little USB device that plugs into a computer that students can use to make their own switches that act like keys on the keyboard: Make + Key = Makey Makey.

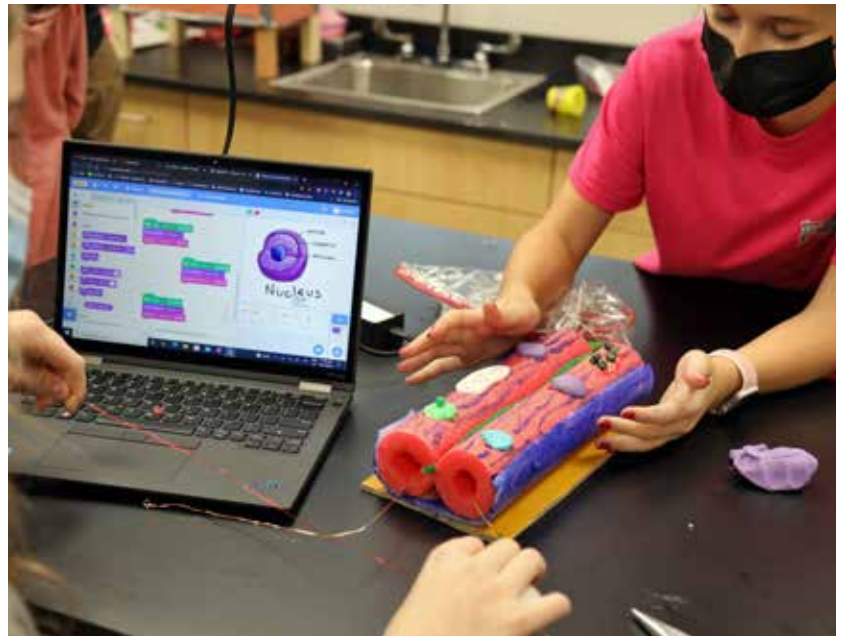
Students model their specialized cell from materials that can and cannot conduct electricity in order to make their model interactive. In doing so, they have to use cooperation in a group and knowledge of cells, electricity, and block coding. **Grant Krainik '27** thought the project was interesting and enjoyed making the model. He learned three valuable lessons: “1. Play-dough is conductive. 2. Just how small the cells actually are. 3. Hot glue does miracles.”





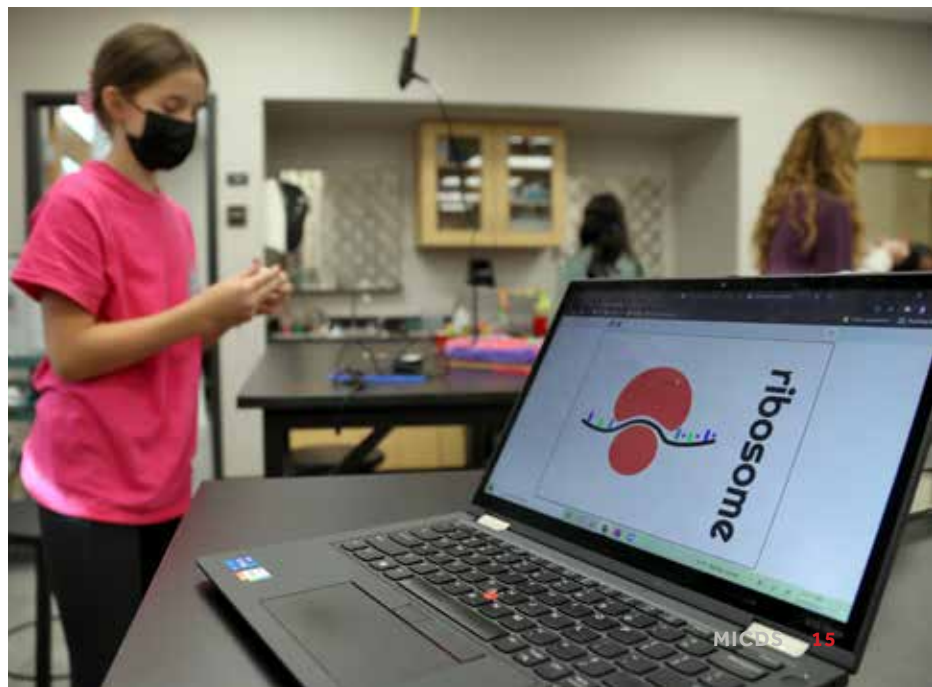
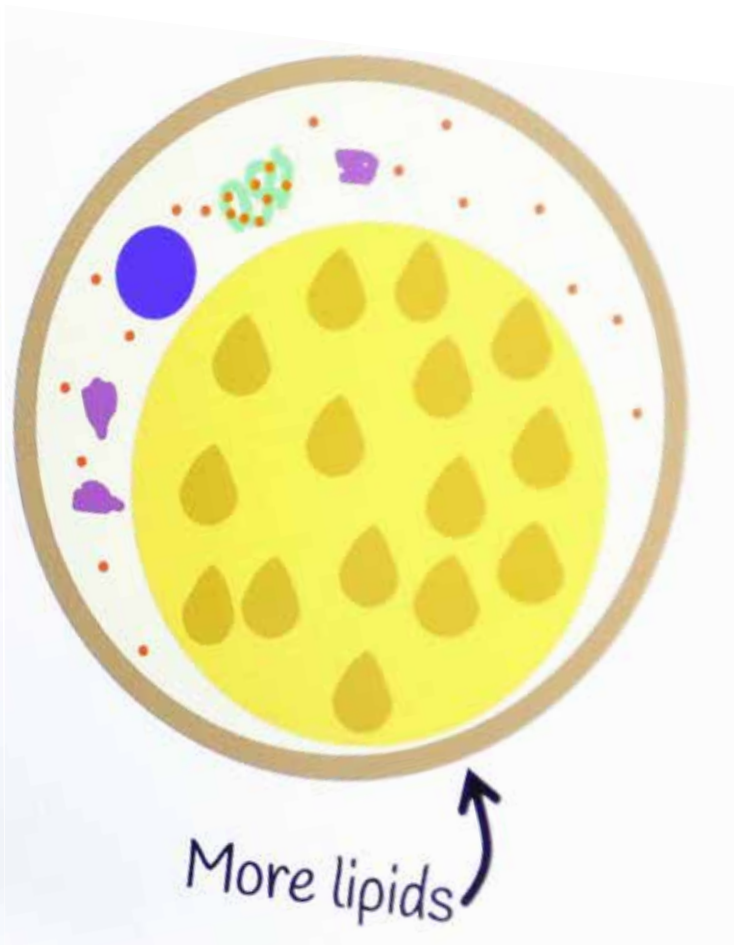
Our student-scientists were required to do a reflection journal at the end of each class period to think about what was accomplished and set the goals for the next class period. **Lola Compton '27** said, "During this project we learned about some specialized cells and what their purpose is. We also refreshed ourselves on the organelles of eukaryotic cells like animal and plant cells. My personal favorite part of the project is either the coding on Scratch or building the model."

"Although science is our subject and the students are sharing their knowledge of what they have learned, the process of working with others and breaking a large project into smaller, manageable goals are skills that they practice," said **Michelle Bouchard, Middle School Science Teacher**. "In addition, the same process that engineers, designers, and scientists use of sometimes failing at their original design and having to problem solve and redesign



is implemented. Watching and listening to the students problem-solve is probably my favorite piece of the whole project."

"What I learned is that it is possible to have fun while coding and creating an interactive project," said **Maahi Saini '27**. "I learned way more this way than I might have learned from a lecture or just reading a book. Because of this, it made this project actually fun. I really enjoyed the hands-on learning and how you got to create a model and connect it to a computer where you can code and apply your learning."



Cultivating Friendship

Lower School Students Plant the Seeds



Led by our **Lower and Middle School Counselor Susie McGaughey**, third- and fourth-grade students learned about the different stages of growing a friendship. "We talked about how gardens start from seeds, and we identified 'seeds of friendship' that we've experienced or noticed being 'planted' around our school," McGaughey said. "Students shared experiences of being new and having someone invite them to play or ask them their name. They shared gestures other students have made to be kind to them when they're upset."

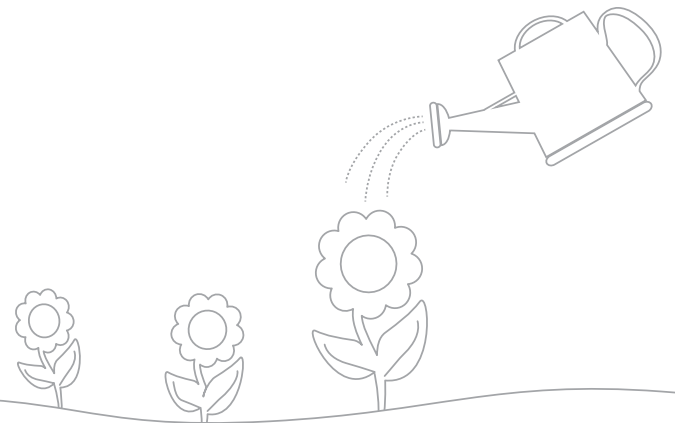
The blossoming friends talked about important qualities in healthy friendships, and they identified which traits they wanted to see grow in their classrooms. Each child was tasked with choosing one seed of friendship (i.e., kindness, respect, trust, empathy, honesty) to focus on growing in their own friendship gardens.

To bring this social-emotional learning project to life, students donned imaginary gardening gloves to plant their meaningful gardens in clever ways. Third graders decorated small, wooden seeds and planted them in flower boxes; fourth graders created a paper mural. They shared examples of what they wanted to grow in their gardens and how that looks. For example, if respect is growing healthy and strong in our garden, we might see students listening without interrupting when others are talking, and if belonging is growing, we might see students inviting each other into our games at recess.



“...Like flowers and plants, some days our friendships will look bright and beautiful, and some days they will be brown and droopy. But, it is possible to care for them, water them, and nurture them back into health. I hope they also learn that strong friendships can grow from the smallest seeds of kindness.”

LOWER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELOR SUSIE MCGAUGHEY



Students watched their gardens flourish as they grew in their understanding of how to be good friends with one another. They explored lessons on developing healthy relationships such as how to initiate conversations, how to welcome and invite people in, and how to communicate effectively with others. They talked about how to assess the health of our relationships—testing the soil periodically—noticing how they are displaying these friendship qualities in their daily interactions. They shared ideas for “watering” and nurturing friendships that are struggling and used the idea of “plots” and “fences” to learn about the importance of having some limits and boundaries with others and how to respect one another’s need for space at times. When weeds appear in their garden, they have techniques for dealing with conflicts.

“I have had so many students come to me because they fear that the friend that they had yesterday is no longer their friend today,” McGaughey said. “They see problems and conflicts as destroyers of friendship, and some students are worried because they don’t know how to make friends. Using the garden metaphor, students learn that growing friendships takes time and nurturing. Like flowers and plants, some days our friendships will look bright and beautiful, and some days they will be brown and droopy. But, it is possible to care for them, water them, and nurture them back into health. I hope they also learn that strong friendships can grow from the smallest seeds of kindness.”



Ninth Grade History Students re(Negotiate) a Treaty



In June 1919, World War I ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in Paris. The treaty codified peace terms between the victorious Allies and Germany and held Germany responsible for starting the war. Germany also faced harsh penalties through loss of territory, reparations payments, and demilitarization. The Treaty failed to resolve the underlying issues that led to war, and a humiliated Germany suffered economic distress and resentment. These feelings helped fuel the ultra-nationalist sentiment that led to the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party, and, eventually, a second world war.

To better grasp how the resolution of WWI ultimately led to WWII, ninth-grade history students embarked on a simulation of the Treaty of Versailles. Each table became one of the original Allied negotiating countries (United States, Britain, and France), and **Alex Rolnick, Upper School History Teacher**, added Germany as a negotiator even though they had no representatives at the table in 1919. He built the simulation based on materials that **Dr. Tanya Roth, Middle and Upper School History Teacher**, had assembled, and incorporated a video about President Woodrow Wilson's 14 Points and

the Treaty of Versailles, some maps, and follow-up information to help wrap up the exercise.

"The simulation allowed students to understand more deeply the perspectives of the varying actors they represented—the United States, Britain, France, and Germany—and to see how even allies in war had substantive disagreements about how the war should be resolved," said Rolnick. "These disagreements and the compromises they led to paved the way for future conflict." The ahistorical addition of Germany gave voice to German concerns that were not present during the actual treaty negotiations and allowed students to understand how the concerns of the losers of the war were not considered. The simulation also helped students to understand how complicated negotiations are, and the importance of working together to compromise.

Students reflected on the exercise and said it gave them new insight into the difficulties of negotiating, how imperative it is that all voices are heard at the table, that allies don't always agree, and that sacrifice is an important tool.





Alumni Veterans Visit Middle School

Sixth-grade students **JP Senneff '28** and **Drew Mills '28** had an idea: what if they could invite MICDS alumni and military veterans to campus to address their peers in recognition of Veteran's Day? They approached their class dean, **Middle School History Teacher Mark Duvall**, and lined out a plan to remember, honor, and thank the men and women who have served in our military. A few weeks later, three alumni visited their alma mater and spoke in Eliot Chapel.

Ryan Harbison '03 was a Super Stallion helicopter pilot in the Marines and spent ten years on active duty. He was stationed at Miramar, in Afghanistan, in Okinawa, Japan, and in the Philippines, and was also a flight instructor. **Ryan Maher '04** also served in the Marines as an infantry officer at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina and Afghanistan. **Charles Mullenger '06** matriculated to the United States Military Academy at West Point before being commissioned as a field artillery officer. He was stationed at Fort Lewis in Washington, Fort Collins in Colorado, and Afghanistan, Chile, France, and South Korea. All three alumni vividly remember being at school on 9/11, becoming determined that day to serve their country.





Jenny Moussa Spring '97 Lives at the Intersection of Art and Business

The moment Jenny Moussa

Spring '97 explodes onto the screen of a Zoom call, you know you're in for a fun chat. Her energy vibrates through cyberspace, and her contagious laugh and emotive expressions perfectly convey her creativity. What Spring learned to do at MICDS, and what she's continued through her professional life, is to marry creativity and productivity.

The Brand Strategy and Studio Relations Manager for Disney Publishing Worldwide is embedded at Pixar Animation Studios and works on the company's publishing programs. Those books your kids love that complement their favorite Pixar movies? Spring is responsible for bringing them to life. She thrives at the intersection of creativity and business, and loves every minute.

A self-professed quiet academic when she first arrived at MICDS, Spring took advantage of opportunities and relationships with teachers to find her way. In 1989, her family moved to St. Louis from Germany following her father's career path, and the transition from Europe to the United States—and from her home to a new house—was rough. "**Mrs. Kathleen Armstrong** was my fifth-grade teacher and she was so warm and welcoming. She, and many of my other teachers, offered a welcome to the school and to the country," she said. MICDS was the only school she visited, and she immediately fell in love. "I remember seeing Eliot Chapel and thinking, 'This place is so special. It's old and unique, and full of tradition.'" She



appreciates the stability and longevity of an institution that was around for a century before she arrived, and that continues to flourish after she graduated.

"I have so many good memories from MICDS; it's hard for me to narrow down," Spring said, before talking about her involvement in Troubadours throughout her time in the Upper School. She credits **Mrs. Carolyn Hood** with careful guidance toward confidence. She was a "Jet Girl" in *West Side Story* freshman year, and she earned the role of Linda Rosen in the freshman-sophomore production of *Up the Down Staircase* freshman year—not a main character but enough of a stage presence to give Spring a taste of performance and a stretch from her own personality. By senior year, she was ready to take on the role of Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes*, a lounge singer that allowed her to "go out with a bang." She reflected on the growth that happened those four years. "Senior year, everything came together, everything we worked for all those years. I was able to come into my own, and I thank Mrs. Hood for that," she said. "Being a confident adult, moving through this world...a lot of that has to do with those performances."

She enjoyed all the traditions that were so appealing to her as a prospective student: Lessons and Carols, Dance Club, Troubadours, and May Day. "I was able to do all four years of May Day and then I got to be the girl in the white dress!" She made connections with her teachers, and trusted them to steer her in the right direction. "I loved Mr. Houser, my Spanish teacher. He was the friendliest, kindest person. I skipped a couple of levels of Spanish at his encouragement and was successful. He was the teacher I brought my college essay to. He said it wasn't up to my usual standards and I trusted him and respected him. That feedback was extremely helpful." She participated in the alumni writing contest and submitted pieces to Greenleaves, the student literary magazine. She wrote



01. Jenny's parents included this photo in her senior yearbook ad.



02. Jenny's senior picture.

03. Jenny in the role of Reno Sweeney in the MICDS production of *Anything Goes*.

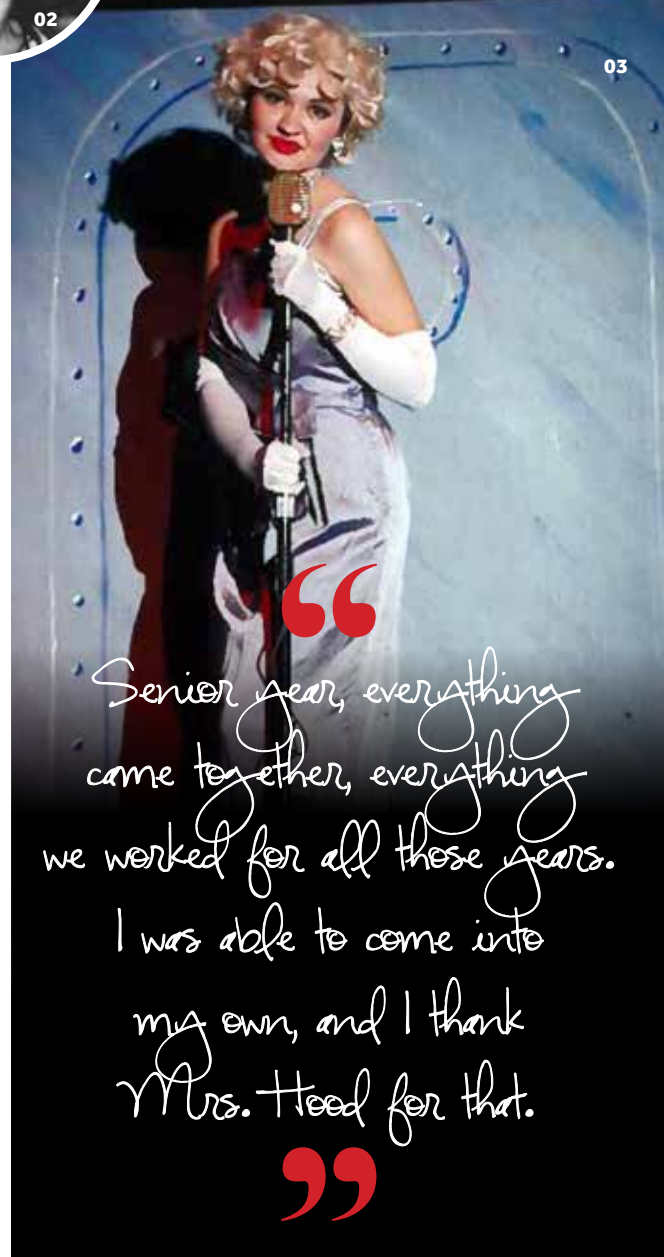
04. Jenny, lower left, gathers with other seniors at their final Lessons and Carols.

for the student newspaper. "I felt like every teacher was with me every step of the way, and I had so much support for learning as much as I could," Spring said. "I was happy to be a nerd!" Her favorite spot on campus was hanging out on a bench in the breezeway of Founders' Court. "I loved watching everyone coming and going. It was the crossroads and I loved seeing my friends and everyone throughout the day."

Those positive experiences, and a love of books, writing, and editing, led her to follow her heart in college. She earned a degree in art history and creative writing from Columbia University before starting a career that merges art and storytelling. She began at Penguin Publishing, working in international children's book licensing and Scholastic Book Fairs and catalogs, that culminated in going to the Bologna Children's Book Fair, the largest student publishing fair. "That was a wonderful time," Spring said. "It was a great first job to have."

By this point, she was dating Jonathan Spring. They were ready to move out of New York City, but not yet ready for California. The couple headed to Boston, following a career opportunity for the man who would become her husband. Spring enjoyed a year of a graduate program in children's literature—"I got my academic hat on, and I got to do a lot of writing." She found a role at Houghton Mifflin and then transitioned to the Museum

>> continued on page 22



“Senior year, everything came together, everything we worked for all those years. I was able to come into my own, and I thank Mrs. Hood for that.”



>> continued from page 21

of Fine Arts in Boston, leveraging her licensing experience. "I worked in the basement of the museum, which feels like a children's book in itself," she laughed.

Finally, it was time to go west. Spring had collaborated with Chronicle Books, one of the top independent publishers in the United States, while with the museum. She found a role there, working for several years on the sales team with a hand on the creative side as well, weighing the perfect balance of art and sales and business. "That's my throughline: business and creativity coming together and making it possible for these creative things to come out in the world," she said. Then her career took an unexpected turn.

"It was my lucky day when I came in for an interview at Pixar," said Spring. "I loved already working at the intersection of business and storytelling, and now it's storytelling and filmmaking. I hit the ground running and learned an entirely new business." The publishing division within a studio offers a fascinating opportunity to grow. There are always new things to learn, including the pipeline of making films and their various priorities. Her special power is in developing relationships and managing the brand strategies of Pixar and Lucasfilm as they relate to Disney Publishing.

Spring has been at Pixar for nearly seven years and still loves it. "There are always new films, new stories, and

I felt like every teacher was with me every step of the way, and I had so much support for learning as much as I could.

different sensitivities and priorities," she said. "It's never the same job twice, which keeps it exciting." She appreciates that Pixar values the creativity in all of its employees, not just the people making films. "Pixar offers a robust education and extra-curricular program that reminds me of my time at MICDS," Spring said. "You can take a writing class, join a band, learn filmmaking software...there are outlets to express yourself outside of work. It's a really fun environment." She's thrilled that her singing and dancing talents from high school are still being used in a band she formed with some colleagues. She reflected how her work environment mirrors her education: "At MICDS, your main job is being a student with all the academics, but you also get to lean into a wide variety of interests."

She encourages creative students to seek a degree that supports their passion. "A creative major has served me very well," she said. "If you're going to liberal arts college, they all have a tremendous amount of value. If you feel passionate about a particular area, go in and excel and then when you start your career, develop an expertise in whatever it is you're doing. There are so many different areas of my work, but publishing specifically is something I dove into head-first right when I first started." She learned the entire process, from working with

authors to understanding the logistics of how a book is ultimately published. "When you know how the whole ecosystem works, you're someone people will call on. Your education doesn't have to be about everything, but after you graduate, work to become an expert in your particular field."

An MICDS education set a firm foundation for Spring's success throughout her life. She notes, as many MICDS graduates do, that she learned to write well before college. She recounts an early class where a professor handed back graded essays while commenting, "These were dreadful. You don't know how to write." Spring had earned an A, thanks to MICDS. "I had it down pat from the start: a thesis, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion. I felt very well prepared." Later, her stage experience came in handy when she was launching



The Spring family enjoys Yosemite National Park in Summer 2021.

01. Celebrating with the Coco filmmakers and their Oscar.

02. A performance with her band, The Heuristics.



her career. "At job interviews, starting in a new position, each of these turning points, I knew how to carry myself. We had to make speeches at podiums, adhere to the dress code, learn poise. I knew how to maneuver in the world because of MICDS."

These days, Spring still pursues artistic outlets in her free time, what little she has with two boys, Henry, who is in fifth grade, and Tommy, in third. "Baseball season is picking up," she laughed. The Spring family had also adopted a dog a few weeks prior to our interview. Daisy, a big, black mixed-breed, "is like having another kid, which I didn't expect." Spring has been working from home during the pandemic, and while she misses the physical space of her office, she appreciates the flexibility to ensure Daisy gets all the walks she needs. She still practices and performs with her band, The Heuristics, and she pulled on one of her Pixar-sponsored creative classes of Pysanky (Ukrainian egg decorating) to start a new hobby. "I started drawing during the pandemic, when I found that all the things that normally felt comforting weren't enough," she said. "I was doing a picture a day but have slowed down now." She estimates that she has drawn about 150 mandalas, enough to paper a whole wall in her house. "You don't need to be able to draw. Just write, sit there and do these repeating patterns."

The repeating pattern of Spring's life is easily found in her ability to thrive where creativity meets life and business. The student labeled "Most Outgoing" by her senior class still likes to sit in the breezeway—whether it's online or in the office—and make connections with art and people.



“
At job interviews, starting in a new position, each of these turning points, I knew how to carry myself. We had to make speeches at podiums, adhere to the dress code, learn poise. I knew how to maneuver in the world because of MICDS.
”

Leanne Rohr Recognized by NBOA



Congratulations to MICDS **Director of Finance Leanne Rohr** for winning the National Business Office Association (NBOA) Professional Achievement Award. In her nine years at MICDS, Rohr has overseen accounting, accounts payable, student accounts, investment management, and food service. She has supported the reorganization of roles in the Business Office and has led productivity improvements and RFPs (Request for Proposals). These efforts were invaluable, especially when much of the Business Office worked remotely as needed during COVID. Her deep knowledge of the many restricted funds at MICDS means she can find ways to support initiatives that were not previously budgeted.

Chief Financial Officer Beth Miller said, "Leanne is a hard worker, supports daily activities with an eye on the long-term and how we can improve processes, and understands the complexities of fund accounting and restricted accounts better than anyone. To optimize the structure of the Business Office of the future, it meant shifting responsibilities and streamlining processes...in other words, a lot of change management. Leanne took on much of the oversight to make these changes successful. This was going on at the same time as the learning curve from implementing a new ERP system. Leanne was diligent in ensuring every report was 100% accurate. Then COVID appeared. The changes that

were put in place were immediately reaping benefits. Leanne was as productive, if not more, running the department remotely. In addition, she contributed to several COVID-related initiatives. Her historical knowledge based on her years of experience at MICDS makes her invaluable in explaining why some practices exist. Her support spreads beyond normal business office activities to supporting other departments, leading the student investment committee, and coaching Girls on the Run. In addition to her many professional attributes, I can count on Leanne for a funny story and a good laugh during difficult times."

NBOA is the only national nonprofit membership association dedicated to developing, delivering, and promoting best business practices to advance independent schools. The Professional Achievement Award recognizes invaluable contributions made by independent school business, finance, and operations staff members. These members have made significant and lasting contributions to their schools' operations or financial health. Recipients of this award exemplify high-quality performance and exceptional work ethic, and they demonstrate the highest standards of management, knowledge, and business acumen.



Missy Heinemann Appointed to Board of FPACF

Congratulations to **Missy Heinemann, Middle & Lower School Drama Teacher**, who was appointed to the Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation board.

The Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation (FPACF) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization with the mission of fostering, promoting, and encouraging young people in the St. Louis region to discover and participate in the joy and wonder of live performances. The Foundation hosts educational performing arts programs focused on young artists in the St. Louis region. Programs include the annual Teen Talent Competition, The St. Louis High School Musical Theater Awards, Kids Night at the Fox Theater, as well as a wide range of guest artist workshops that support the current and future artistic endeavors of young artists. Many MICDS performing artists have participated in and received recognition during these annual events hosted by the FPACF.

The Fox Performing Arts Foundation was established in 2002 by President of the Board Mary Strauss, co-founder of the Fabulous Fox Theater. Heinemann said, "As one of 10 members of the Board of Directors, my role is to support the mission of the Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation through a variety of activities including promoting its work and impact, identifying and cultivating strategic partnerships, setting annual goals and objectives, overseeing programs and activities, and providing financial oversight of operating and project budgets.

"I was nominated to the Board by my mentor and friend Dr. Marlene Birkman, VP of the Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation. Marlene is well-acquainted with my work in non-profit management, fundraising, and marketing, in addition to my artistic background and training. I was thrilled when she extended an invitation for me to join the Board of Directors, especially considering how closely this aligns with my current work and purpose as a drama teacher here at MICDS!"



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Librarians Create Museum

Our second and third-grade students enjoyed a "Museum Day" in the Lower School Library, which provided an engaging expansion of their studies of St. Louis and Missouri in the classroom.

The "museum," sourced and curated by **Lower School Librarian Thomas Buffington** and **Library Associate Nicole Liebman**, contained an arrangement of primary sources, secondary sources, and artifacts about St. Louis and Missouri (mostly the Ozarks) and included vintage maps, 1904 World's Fair memorabilia, newspapers, postcards, historical sports souvenirs, arrowheads, and more.

"While working on their family history projects, third graders learned about what it means to be a 'curator' and how we can use primary sources and artifacts to gain a better understanding of the past," said **Third Grade Teacher Meg Mottl**. "It's wonderful for students to have the opportunity to see actual Missouri artifacts and make connections between their own lives, the lives of their ancestors, and what they are learning in the classroom."

Buffington added, "Students were especially interested to learn about artifacts such as antique fishing tools from the Missouri Ozarks, original arrowheads from Missouri Native American nations, and 1904 World's Fair souvenirs and relics. Of course, they were also very excited to page through St. Louis sports history with newspapers, game programs, and photographs."





The Kids Are Alright

Mental Health at MICDS

Isabel Woodard '22

"I didn't get to where I am today without being willing to work on myself and without a support system at home and MICDS."

—Isabel Woodard '22

As **Isabel Woodard '22** prepared to visit more than five colleges over spring break, she was both excited about embarking upon the field of genetic counseling and embracing a modified skill she calls "intentional procrastination." Isabel has struggled with anxiety for nearly a decade, so she chooses not to overthink what life will be like in college. She clarifies that it's not denial or avoidance; she simply knows that spinning her wheels on the unknowns of college experiences is not best for her mental health. Instead, she chooses to stay in the present.

While mental health challenges in children and adolescents are not new, the pandemic seems to have exacerbated them. Several pediatric organizations have declared children's mental health a national emergency in the last two years. Ask any parent, and they will share that their anxieties often blend with their children's. While a holistic approach is necessary at any age, individually addressing issues is more important than ever to the MICDS Student Support Services team.

Director of Student Support Services Vicki Thurman frames the current conditions, "The analogy I've used is a stove. Some of us have the burner always set to two or three and others four or five. The pandemic turned up the heat and took those twos to fours and so on. Students with average levels of social anxiety welcomed virtual learning and in some cases, returning to the classroom created challenges. Others lost their social lifeline and the energy of a regular school day. Additionally, students

have had to temper their hope when making plans for events, assemblies, and gatherings due to the risk of being canceled or postponed."

Woodard said, "I feel like I was a lot more prepared than other people for COVID because of the support system and the skills that I already had in place. My burner is turned pretty high already, so I'm used to handling that kind of stress, but it was an adjustment. Now I see everyone else having trouble with that burner turned up, so if my story can help anyone, I want to share it."

Knowing that there are many factors at play in students' mental health, pandemic or otherwise, the Student Support Services team uses the MICDS Mission statement as a baseline guide "to enable students to meet the challenges of this world with confidence." Pre-pandemic, the team formed a developmentally appropriate scaffold of mental health and wellness initiatives for individual students in the JK-12 environment and as an essential part of ensuring the well-being of the school community as a whole.

When the School Counselors work collaboratively with the Learning Specialists and School Nurses, the Student Support Services team at MICDS knits an extraordinary support network for students through social-emotional programming and academic services such as the Wetterau Learning Center in the Middle School and the Academic Center in Upper School.

The Support Network

Mental and physical well-being is deeply tied with academic performance, so the four members of the MICDS counseling team are committed to developing nurturing, trusting relationships with students to provide a basis for support, advocacy, and guidance. Through a partnership with parents, faculty, and administration, the counselors offer programs and resources to develop awareness and explore issues affecting students' emotional well-being and academic success.

The counselors manage student programming through classes, advisory, and community time and provide small group and individual support for students' social and emotional needs. The support environment and foundation at MICDS help set students up for success in self-awareness at a minimum and with specific tools to manage challenges as they arise.

Upper School

There was a documented rise in students' anxiety levels before the pandemic, and specific aspects of life during COVID undoubtedly contributed to concerns. Increased obstacles to connecting with friends, classmates, extended family, the fears or realities of COVID illness, the variability of expectations around in-person vs. Zoom, masking, and interaction with peers contribute to feeling less stable and predictable. The counseling team reports that these factors, and likely others, escalated the already existing rise in students' (and adults') mental health concerns.

Upper School Counselor David Hotaling said, "Anxiety shows up in a variety of ways in daily life. The biggest change I've seen is the number of students experiencing test anxiety.

Some report feeling a little more anxious but still manage to get through, while others are shutting down and at times unable to complete the work."

Hotaling shared how the holistic approach comes in. "When helping students manage their anxiety or other challenges, I look at a number of factors in addition to the specific concern that brought them to me: how are they doing overall at school, academically, and socially? How have they overcome challenges in the past?



Upper School Counselor David Hotaling's office provides a comfortable hang-out space for teens to escape from the regular school day.

What support do they have in place (peers and adults)? How well are they taking care of themselves physically and emotionally? I spend a lot of time shoring up these areas to provide a solid foundation to address concerns." The faculty at MICDS also emphasize forming personal connections with each student and paying attention to students' needs. Since the onset of the pandemic, more teachers are taking time to practice calming and mindfulness practices, checking in with students more regularly, and having conversations about self-care. The School has implemented additional Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) activities and is working to offer more flexibility and grace around assignments and assessments, meeting kids where they are, and being patient with those who are struggling.

This enduring effort seems to be met with success. Hotaling added, "The good news is that the majority of our students seem to be doing just fine. They've

"Mr. Hotaling has helped me just by being there, and I'm learning to solve my problems on my own simply by talking about them."

—Isabel

demonstrated perseverance and resilience in the face of these obstacles. I've seen plenty of compassion and care between students, as well as determination to overcome challenges. It's become much more commonplace for students and adults to keep self-care practices at the forefront of their minds by using apps or calendar notifications to practice mindfulness, gratitude, and exercise."

One of Woodard's first efforts upon her transition to Upper School was to sit down with Hotaling and share her experience. He helped her craft an email to teachers letting them know of her anxiety issues. These messages informed them, allowed them to get to know her better, and helped them learn how to more quickly and accurately "read" her. She now takes action at the beginning of each school year to advocate for her desire to feel seen, heard, and known by her teachers and to feel safe. "Mr. Hotaling has helped me just by being there, and I'm learning to solve my problems on my own simply by talking about them," Woodard said.

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"The Middle School counselor was amazing and worked as a team with me and my parents to find a new psychiatrist, get on the right medication, and set up the support system that I needed."

—Isabel

Middle Schoolers engage in several social-emotional activities each year.

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Middle School Grades 6–8

In Middle School, a partnership between grade-level teams, the Counselor, the Learning Specialist, and parents delivers a program that addresses friendships, anxiety, and the many changes adolescents experience. All students experience stress and anxiety at various points in their school career, and not all stress and anxiety are negative.

For Woodard, Middle School was a challenge. "Middle School stress for me showed up as not being able to handle stuff, wanting to get out of there, rapid breathing, accelerated heart rate. I didn't have the healthiest coping mechanisms; I would isolate myself and refuse to get help to address my problems. I would go to the bathroom and stay there, and I even did some self-harm at times. I was on medication, but it wasn't working, so I had to go on medical leave halfway through the year. The Middle School counselor was amazing and worked as a team with me and my parents to find a new psychiatrist, get on the right medication, and set up the support system that I needed," she said. Ana Woodard, Isabel's mother, further explained, "It's so helpful that parents understand the importance of a family-school partnership regarding mental

health. Whether it be due to lack of understanding, fear, or pride, a parent's refusal to engage will negatively impact even the best efforts of the student and school." A short while later, after engaging her newly-designed support system, Woodard found Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) which helped her switch to better coping habits.

In addition to 1:1 work with students like Woodard, the Middle School Student Support Services team addresses with the entire student body what behavior is okay and what's not, what a healthy community looks like, appropriate technology use, and leadership. With a more recent focus on developmental and social maturity and social norms, the heart of the work centers on connection and community.



Erin Sutherlin, Middle School Counselor, characterizes how stress commonly shows up in the Middle School grades. "We're not seeing a huge increase in depression or anxiety," she said, "but issues

that fall under broad developmental maturity or social maturing. When kids aren't able to interact and play with each other, they miss opportunities to socially police each other and work through juvenile issues of sharing, being mean, or gossiping."

For example, with current sixth and seventh graders, their last in-person year was cut short, and the following

year had a mix of in-person or entirely virtual experiences. Sutherlin explained, "When they were in person, they weren't able to be physically close to each other. This year with everyone back full time in person, in boys alone, a few injuries occurred in PE because they don't have the physical, social awareness of their bodies in space after being physically isolated during a critical developmental time. Also, academically, seventh grade is a unique entry point with an influx of students from other schools and students who were virtual all last year. There was a learning curve, so they needed to trust the process. We teach them how to interpret teachers' requests, use Canvas, and identify learning gaps. Upper School peer tutors are a tremendous help in closing that gap and getting them back on track. We're also employing programs like The Social Institute's #WinAtSocial program, which covers topics like a healthy mindset or when to communicate in-person versus text."

Eighth-grade students have worked hard to connect, troubleshoot relationships, support each other, and create community. They learn the evidence-based practice of DBT, which addresses mindfulness, distress tolerance, negotiation, compromise, and emotional regulation. Sutherlin added, "Empowering them with these tools sets them up for coping options and success. They're excited to launch into high school."

In general, Middle School students are happy to connect in person again. Sutherlin makes sure they have opportunities, activities, and purpose in advisory and that the students have fun through decompression and self-care efforts.

Lower School & Middle School Grade 5

Like Middle School, the Lower School strives for connection as a community and building family-school partnerships. Students are eager to receive and spread kindness, and the community embraces opportunities to help students use their gifts and creativity as a vehicle for connectedness.

Ashley O'Toole, Lower School Learning Specialist and Counselor said, "With increases in anxiety in adults over the past two years, we've, not surprisingly, seen an increase in childhood anxiety, student fatigue, emotionality, and challenges with motivation, stamina, social relationships, and problem-solving skills."

For anxiety, in particular, the Lower School team incorporates JK-4 SEL lessons to teach students more explicit ways to practice mindfulness; the connections between thoughts, feelings, and behaviors based on tenets of cognitive-behavioral therapy; and strategies for building communication, active listening, executive function, friendship, and social problem-solving skills using role-playing. In addition, fatigue, motivation, and endurance are addressed through creative scheduling, lesson design, and more frequent breaks and check-ins with students. The team is also running a series of SEL small groups, which offer more time for individual students to learn and practice these skills. Students also receive more feedback and build closer peer relationships through this process.

To further bolster the level of support in the upper Lower School and early Middle School grades, a position was created for an additional counselor, and MICDS welcomed

Susie McGaughey, Middle & Lower School Counselor for Grades 3-5, this year. Data from prior years demonstrated an uptick in the number of mental health needs appearing in sixth grade that typically hadn't shown up until seventh or eighth grade. To become more proactive, the Student Support Services team proposed increasing the capacity for another counselor to provide for more frequent and intensive social-emotional learning and additional resources at every Lower School grade level and serve as a bridge between Lower and Middle School. Employing interventions late in elementary school can further ease the transition to Middle School, a challenging shift in academic and social pressures. A generous gift from Lower School parents Meg and **Richard Riney '00** helped make this additional role possible. (Read more about this gift on page 32).



McGaughey provides another perspective of the resources in elementary grades. "Third and fourth-grade students eagerly fill out 'Let's Talk' slips to come to the counseling office to chat, and fifth graders can sign up to meet in my office with peers they are having difficulty getting along with or figuring out how to talk to their teacher about stress. So many of our students, even at such young ages, are open and ready to accept help. And the faculty and staff here are working as a team to get support for them at every turn and to embed more mental health practices into their classrooms."

O'Toole has found silver linings in the clouds. "We've learned to be very efficient with time and creative scheduling," she said. "We can borrow 10 minutes of lunch and 10 minutes of recess for students to join me in a group once every six days so that no homeroom or specialist learning time is compromised. We've also utilized our beautiful campus to engage in learning opportunities outside."

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"You can't advocate for yourself if you don't know yourself, what you need, how you function, what your stressors and triggers are, and what will help you succeed."

-Isabel



Lower School students engaged in a social-emotional learning activity.

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The Student Perspective

As partners in the process, students share in supporting the wellness of their peers in the MICDS community.

The Peer-to-Peer program (P2P), now in its fourth year with 52 active members, is designed to help Middle Schoolers learn from Upper Schoolers about important topics for healthy relationships, decision making, and being prepared for life in Upper School. The cross-divisional groups meet several times a year to dive deeply into troubleshooting different scenarios in teen life, such as bullying, peer pressure, managing social media, or simply how to quickly leave a party when feeling uncomfortable.

Peer-to-Peer Co-Head and Upper School peer tutor **Sanchi Vishwakarma '23** has always felt passionate about helping others and appreciates the value of creating bonds between Middle and Upper School students.

"Stepping into an older sibling-like role for Middle Schoolers, we can take an awkward topic and offer students a variety of ways to handle uncomfortable situations," she said.

Peer-to-Peer Co-Head **Kasia Gorzko '22** notes that by opening up and sharing their stories, the Middle Schoolers

develop trust, which opens pathways to more sharing that proves mutually beneficial. "As I form connections with the Middle Schoolers, I see how my actions affect others. I understand the importance of leading through example and how impactful having an older mentor can be."



The Peer-to-Peer program is designed to help Middle Schoolers learn from Upper Schoolers about important topics for healthy relationships, decision making, and being prepared for life in Upper School.

Transformational Support

Lower School parents Meg and **Richard Riney '00** explored ways to support MICDS beyond annual giving and asked **Head of School Jay Rainey** about the most significant issue facing schools. They were dismayed to hear Jay's concerns about the potential emotional and social toll on children and adolescents through the pandemic, and in general, in demanding educational environments, and that these concerns are shared by the vast majority of school leaders.

The Rineys wanted to ensure that MICDS has the resources to provide the level of care students need while also dismantling the stigma around mental health.

"I think the stigma stems from people just not understanding mental health. It's the opposite of the word 'shrink.' Learning how to regulate,

process, and develop self-awareness can be transformative. And, kids need to learn at a very young age, especially now," Meg said.

The Rineys established an endowed fund to support an additional counselor position to serve Grades 3-5, launch data collection efforts, and develop a think tank to prioritize programs universally for students.

Beyond the parent perspective, Richard shared that self-awareness and regulation skills come into play in all walks of life. "In the financial industry, there is so much to manage that's not math-based," he said. "We have to have sound emotional regulation watching the market, and we take risk tolerance tests every few years. There is a constant reevaluation for my work in the world and how stable I am to handle it."

"We value the importance of therapy and mental health, and self-awareness in age-appropriate ways. We chose to send our boys to MICDS, and if they can benefit from these programs, the whole community benefits."

MEG RINEY



Siri Battula '22
and Shelly
Bhagat '22,
Co-Heads of
MIST.

Mental Illness Support for Teens (MIST) is a 100% student-led initiative founded in 2019 by **Shelly Bhagat '22** and **Siri Battula '22** to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health issues. Now a national organization with several chapters around the world, the MIST premise is that although 17% of teenagers face a mental health issue, more than half do not receive help, mainly due to societal stigma. Projects include local and international presentations, a newsletter, and a podcast with student perspectives on various mental health topics and interviews with mental health professionals.

Bhagat explained the impetus behind forming MIST. "Pre-pandemic, we noticed how mental health was not handled well by our generation, and we both knew many people impacted by mental illness. Our families are immigrants from South Asia, where mental health is stigmatized. This sparked the formation of MIST. We were surprised at how many people were interested in speaking up about it." Battula added, "What we've seen since we started is more students talking about academic and cultural pressures, LGBTQ issues, depression, and isolation. The MIST newsletter and podcast share many student perspectives, which has helped normalize other students' experiences."

*"I still have anxiety, and
it's gotten a lot better.
And, I'm a work in progress."
—Isabel*



Woodard shares in the solidarity of being open about mental health struggles. "After a bad breakup at the end of spring break in ninth grade, I took time to reevaluate myself, work on these skills, and make a change. When 11th grade started on Zoom, I practiced those skills with open arms. I would tell myself, 'Just be as present as you can, have your camera on all the time, show the teachers that you're there too because it's difficult for them to teach right now, and it encourages other students as well.'" She added, "As an introvert, it was nice to be out of school, but you can also get stuck in your own mental mess. I was ready to get back [to school in person], even with the anxiety that comes with it."

She advises current students to form a support system, reach out to teachers, and get to know themselves. "You can't advocate for yourself if you don't know yourself, what you need, how you function, what your stressors and triggers are, and what will help you succeed." Another way that Woodard has contributed to the mental health conversation is by speaking at a recent Cultural Competency class for faculty and staff on neurodivergent students, led by the Student Support Services staff. She said, "In addition to anxiety, I have ADHD, dyslexia, and other learning differences, so it felt good to educate teachers on students with issues like mine."

For parents, Woodard shared that being open to listening to your child in a supportive way and not coming at issues with judgment is paramount. Being willing to try many things and patience is helpful. "You can give your kids the tools," she said, "but they have to get to the point where they want to get better and help themselves."

Feeling a sense of accomplishment has been essential to Woodard's journey. From presenting in front of a class to trying on clothes in a dressing room, those small victories add up and evolve into significant achievements. Her biggest win so far was performing at Blue Whale Cafe this past winter. She sang with her boyfriend and, at first, was very nervous. Near the middle of the song, the audience turned on their phone flashlights and swayed them back and forth. "To feel the whole crowd doing that, I was shocked by the huge confidence boost. It was a great feeling to be in the moment and appreciate that."

As for college, after AP Biology lit a fire in Woodard, she decided to pursue genetic counseling for its blend of art and science and helping people. "I didn't get to where I am today without being willing to work on myself and without a support system at home and at MICDS," she said. "I still have anxiety, and it's gotten a lot better. And, I'm a work in progress."

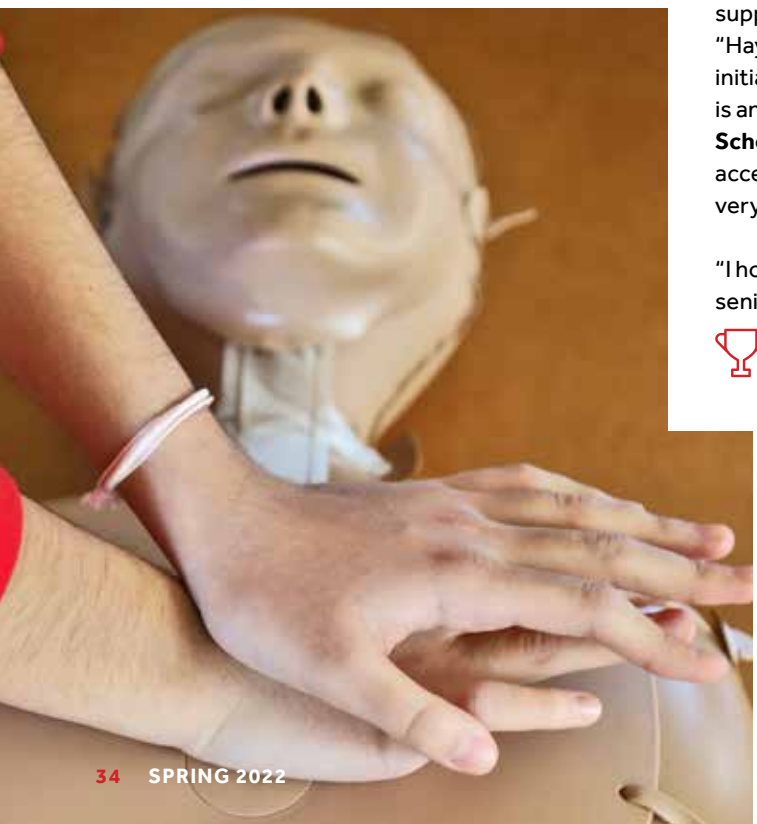
Facing the challenges of today is no easy task and supporting the well-being of each student is foremost in staying true to the MICDS Mission. Thurman provides another analogy, "In any normal student or adult experience, we encounter speed bumps where you have to pause and ask, 'What do I have going on and what do I need?' and then you level out. But some of us experience potholes that are harder than speed bumps to predict or anticipate. Our team works to fill in the holes that students need so that they have a smoother road ahead."





“I believe it’s important as the seniors leave for college that they know how to perform CPR in case of emergencies. CPR while waiting for medical assistance drastically increases the chance of survival for a person.”

HAYLII SONDROL '22



The Class of 2022 Learns How to Save Lives

By the time students hit senior year at MICDS, they’ve studied a wide variety of topics across their curriculum. This year, they added a new subject: how to save lives using CPR, or cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. CPR is an emergency lifesaving procedure performed when the heart stops beating. The immediate application of CPR can double or even triple the chances of survival after cardiac arrest.

The class was the brainchild of **Haylii Sondrol '22**, who was partly inspired by her own experience learning the technique. “I came up with this idea after taking lifeguard training over the summer and also hearing from a teacher about her needing to perform CPR in her adult life,” said Sondrol. “I believe it’s important as the seniors leave for college that they know how to perform CPR in case of emergencies. CPR while waiting for medical assistance drastically increases the chance of survival for a person.”

According to the American Heart Association, 475,000 Americans die from cardiac arrest each year, and more than 350,000 cardiac arrests occur outside of a hospital or clinical setting each year. Unfortunately, only about 46% of people who experience a cardiac event outside of a hospital receive immediate help before first responders arrive. This makes it imperative that as many people know how to respond and perform CPR as possible.

Sondrol researched the proper materials needed for training and the cost of supplies, then worked with school faculty to pitch and plan the CPR training. “Haylii approached me about it and I was happy to support both the student initiative and, more importantly, the recognition of how important CPR training is and what a great opportunity it would be for our students,” said **Head of Upper School Scott Small**. “CPR is such a meaningful skill (read: literally lifesaving) and accessible to everyone eager to be a positive force in the community, so I was very grateful that Haylii helped make this possible.”

“I hope that this training will provide a basis for the knowledge of CPR for all the seniors, so they are well prepared for situations in the future!” said Sondrol.



Way to go!

Students Selected for Metro 8 Honor Bands

Students from the Metro 8 District—which includes St. Louis Public Schools, private/independent schools, and Fort Zumwalt and Francis Howell School Districts—prepared music and auditioned for the St. Louis Metro District 8 Middle School Concert Band. This year, auditions were held at MICDS and were blind; the judges could only hear the students play.

Please join us in congratulating **Mike Elvin '23** (bass clarinet), **Nina Hamilton '22** (flute), and **Chloe Cheng '23** (clarinet) on their successful audition experience and placement in the 2021 Metro 8 District Honor Band!

These students rehearsed and performed with an all-star band made up of Metro 8 District students. "I'm so proud of our students for working hard and taking on this additional challenge,"

said **Becky Long, Middle and Upper School Performing Arts Teacher**. "The music required for the audition is very challenging."

In addition, five Middle School students made the Middle School Honor Band: **Meredith Mack '26** (Flute), **Daniel Kuhlman '27** (Clarinet), **Hannah Wang '26** (Clarinet), **Grant Falk '26** (Trumpet), and **Joy Chen '26** (Flute).

"These students have gone above and beyond," said **Josh Baumgartner, Middle and Upper School Performing Arts Teacher**. "They have shown dedication and growth and represented MICDS well because of their resilience and willingness to step up to the plate. I'm so proud of them!"



"These students have gone above and beyond. They have shown dedication and growth and represented MICDS well because of their resilience and willingness to step up to the plate. I'm so proud of them!"

JOSH BAUMGARTNER, MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS TEACHER

01. Middle School Honor Band Students Meredith Mack '26, Daniel Kuhlman '27, Hannah Wang '26, Grant Falk '26, and Joy Chen '26.

02. Mike Elvin '23, Nina Hamilton '22, Chloe Cheng '23.



Botany Students Sow Seeds of Campus Plant Life

QR Codes Help Others Identify Flora

With so many plant species on campus, walking through MICDS is always beautiful and can often leave you feeling curious about the flora.

Upper School Science Teacher Laura Bradford and her Exploratory Botany class recently began labeling various plants in a growing effort to identify the foliage and educate people about the interconnection between the plant types and their importance in the environment and society.

"When everything was first planted, identifying the types of plants was often discussed," Bradford said. "We knew the School deliberately planted native Missouri plants, but we hadn't yet developed a strategy to identify them." Bradford and her class designed plaques with QR codes placed in the landscape to help people quickly and easily learn about plant life.

Students used a master document from Centerbrook Architects to identify the plants and decide which ones they wanted to research for the project. As part of their course work, students had to study phenomena such as growth, reproduction, anatomy, morphology, physiology, biochemistry, genetics, ecology, and the plants' contributions to the scientific community. Before the plaques were placed outside, students used Google Slides to build web pages. "I assigned each student a blank page. They were totally responsible for researching the plant, learning its common and scientific name, and for the photography," Bradford said. "In addition to just learning the name of the plant, students found an example of the plant in some form of art. It might be a

poem, or a book, or artwork, but they worked to find an engaging example of that plant in the real world."

Students were excited to discover how the material connects to the larger environment and their own lives outside of school. "I have gotten so many positive remarks from my students about this—one student told me about how she was running outside and literally stopped in her tracks because she noticed 'her plant' growing on the side of the road!" Bradford said. "She was so excited to tell her friends that she knew just what that plant was, that it was native to Missouri, and all she had learned about it."

Perhaps appreciation for the plants that surround us every day will deepen as we know more about them. "Many of us take advantage of the walking trail out in front of the STEM building, and now when we see a pretty flower or an interesting tree, we can start to learn what it is," Bradford said. "Each year, we will add to the herbarium by choosing more of the plants. I don't know that we will ever be able to document every single plant, but I'd like to get a majority of plants and trees identified over the next few years."

You can visit the herbarium online, but the project is best experienced by taking a walk around the MICDS Upper School, where you can enjoy the scenery and learn more about our beautiful campus.

Visit the online herbarium:
<https://bit.ly/3CKCm2p>



Kindness Ripples Through the Lower School

Classes Surf a Kindness Wave

Have you ever heard of a “kindness wave?” It’s a sweet, thoughtful, and often fun gesture from one to another that is rooted in compassion and care to express—you guessed it!—kindness. Thanks to **Lower and Middle School Counselor Susie McGaughey**, all of the MICDS Lower School was swept up in a Beasley wave of kindness this year.

In the fall, McGaughey challenged each class to surprise another with a student-directed act of kindness once it became their turn. “One tiny ripple of kindness,” she explained, “can go on to create a huge wave.” Only one class gives the act of kindness at a time to another special class of their choosing. Once the kindness act is received, the receiving class then takes the kindness baton, dreams up the next act of kindness, and picks the subsequent lucky class of recipients with which to share kindness.

To kick everything off, the kindness wave began in **Chris Brennan’s** fourth-grade class, which surprised students in **Kelly Hummel’s** Senior Kindergarten class with a fun game of “flames and candles” to celebrate Diwali. Hummel’s SK class then made homemade gingerbread and sparkly blue playdough to give to **Maggie Kraushaar’s** second-grade class through a fun scavenger hunt. Next, Kraushaar’s second-grade class decided to spread the kindness wave to **Bridget Wallace’s** Junior Kindergarten class, where students crafted slime and “stress” balls. The Junior Kindergarteners then invited **Jen VanDyken’s** fourth-grade students over to remind them how fun JK is with playdough, board games, baby dolls, and coloring.

“So many of these acts revolve around creative thinking and using little more than your own creativity as a gift to someone else,” McGaughey said. “Students can feel empowered to continue using their unique gifts and talents to spread kindness to others and to experience the joy of giving and receiving those gifts from others. It is vitally important as we work to move through this pandemic that our students learn to reconnect with others and rebuild community in our schools. I love the notion of doing that through sharing and receiving acts of kindness and making the whole experience fun and surprising!”

The kindness wave continued to splash through the Lower School. Thank you to Ms. McGaughey, the Lower School teachers, and our fun-loving students for making sure kindness stays very much afloat throughout Beasley.



Four Rams Selected to All-State Choir

MICDS had four students selected by audition to perform with the prestigious Missouri All-State Choir—a school record! Four students from throughout the St. Louis Metropolitan area were selected for each voice part, and two alternates per voice part, following a challenging audition process.

In round one of the blind audition process, each student performed a 90-second solo for a panel of three judges. They were evaluated on their tone quality, intonation, rhythm and pitch accuracy, diction, and overall musical effect. In addition, each student had 20 seconds to study and perform two challenging sight-singing examples. The top 20 students in each voice part from throughout the St. Louis Metro area then advanced in the audition process.

Later, MICDS hosted the Missouri All-State Choir auditions. During this second round of blind auditions, each student prepared the same choral work, *O Sing Joyfully* by Adrian Batten (1591-1637). Students were judged on the same criteria from round one, with their first-round scores added to the scores in round two. The top four students in each voice part were then named to the Missouri All-State Choir.

Congratulations to the four MICDS singers selected for the 2022 Missouri All-State Choir:

Sebastian Ashman '22, Tenor

Lauren Douglas '22, Alto

Samantha Iken '22, Alto

Alizeh Jawaidd '23, Alto Alternate #1

The Missouri All-State Choir performed at the grand finale of the 2022 Missouri Music Educators Association Conference and Clinic in Osage Beach, Missouri.



Seated: Sebastian Ashman '22. Standing (l-r): Lauren Douglas '22, Samantha Iken '22, Alizeh Jawaidd '23.

Congratulations!



2022 Bond Lecture: Monica Howard Douglas '90

Every February, MICDS holds the Bond Lecture in observance of Black History Month. The lecture, in memory of **Erik L. Bond '77**, brings a noted African American to campus to address Upper Schoolers. **Monica Howard Douglas '90** is senior vice president and general counsel of The Coca-Cola Company. She spoke about the importance of emotional IQ and told students, "Everything is built on relationships and context."



Painting in the Dark

By Sarah Garner, Lower School Visual Arts Teacher

Fourth-grade artists had the unique opportunity to transform the art studio into a black light studio to create self-portraits. The artists learned about the Fauvist movement and drew inspiration from artists in history from the French word "wild beasts" to draw self-portraits with thick, bold lines and bright colors painted with energetic lines and texture.

Painting in a dark studio with black lights provided an alternative perspective to painting in the light. The portraits take on a very different appearance when viewed in natural light versus black light.

Students analyzed the different feelings between painting in the light and dark and wrote inspirational quotes about the two opposing forces that exist together. They developed thought-provoking ideas, like this quote written by **Meira H. '30**, "Dark stands out when it is by light and light stands out when dark is near. Even though they are opposites they work together." **Ahmed B. '30** wrote, "You can see things differently in light or in the dark. It's just like the opposite perspective." **Sana R. '30** reflected, "You can always find light even in the darkest of times. When it seems dark, find light. The light will greet you like an old friend."



"You can always find light even in the darkest of times. When it seems dark, find light. The light will greet you like an old friend."



Eleven Art Students Chosen for 100 Neediest Cases Contest

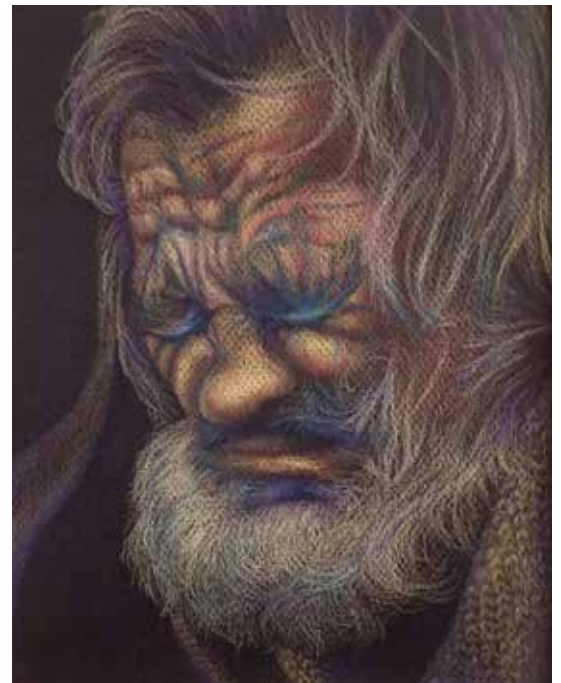
MICDS Upper School Drawing, AP Drawing, and Painting students created meaningful works of art for the St. Louis Post Dispatch's 100 Neediest Cases campaign competition. The campaign brings awareness to the United Way's efforts to support needy families during the holiday season, and volunteers select the artwork from area schools that are paired with the stories. Artists in the top 40 have their work published in the *Post-Dispatch* alongside the 100 Neediest Cases stories through mid-December.

Congratulations to our talented student artists listed to the right and below.

Zoe Carter-Konate '22
Ava Guirl '24
Hailey Kim '22
Mia Krieger '24
Alex Kulczycki '22
Alice Ma '23
Lucy Zimmer '23



Laine Tompras '22



Nikitha Ada '23 – 2nd place



Angelina Shen '24



Hannah Keener '22

Tea for Five Ceramics students showcase work

Five Upper School ceramics students participated in the 18th biennial high school teapot exhibition at Spiritas Gallery at Ladue Horton Watkins High School from January 21 through March 25.



Mady Britt '23–Tiny Teapot
Zoe Carpenter '23–Leopard Print
Addison Koontz '24–Plant-style Teapot
Rachel Li '24–Turtle Teapot
Dominic Weaver '23–Black Bamboo Handle Teapot

Love, Feuds, and Grief

Shakespeare at MICDS

One of William Shakespeare's most famous plays, *Romeo & Juliet*, is more than the story of a set of "star-crossed" lovers. It's also the story of a family torn apart by parental expectations for their daughter and a community torn apart by people whose love for their house is expressed through hate for the "other."

In early 2020, the MICDS theater department was poised to start "off-book" rehearsals (where the actors have memorized their lines) when the pandemic shut everything down. Cut to 18 months later, when many of our student actors were ready for the reboot. For all actors except one, **Harrison Brown '22** as Tybalt, this was the first time they would perform on the Orthwein Theatre stage.

Abby Gray '24 and **Ash Aranha '23** played the young lovers. Their plot to marry was assisted by faculty members and theater veterans, **Middle School Dean and Drama Teacher Charlotte Dougherty** and **Middle School Math Teacher Steve Looten**. Looten also played a unique role in the production as the fight choreographer. **Upper School Fine & Performing Arts Teacher Patrick Huber** remarked, "This was our first Shakespeare production since 2016's *Macbeth*, so their leadership and generosity were invaluable in working with our new actors."



Huber and **Upper School Performing Arts Teacher Carolyn Hood** effused passion for Shakespeare in equal measure. Hood created unique costume designs for this play from the 1500s. "I had some of the most fun I have ever had designing hordes of Fellini-inspired 1960s Italian fashions," she said. "Juliet had nine costume changes, and we learned to use 'bump-its' and loads of hairspray to emulate Ann Margaret and Rachel Welch hairstyles. The younger male roles were inspired by the street gang looks of *West Side Story*, and the older males were based on my memories of detective shows starring George Peppard." Huber added, "I'd almost forgotten the joys that come with producing Shakespeare at MICDS. There is little that compares to working with students as they get their minds and hearts around Shakespeare's text."

Original music is composed for all Shakespeare productions at MICDS. **Grant Hylen '23** and **Miles Rainwater '23** created a beautiful soundscape for the production. In addition, Seldom Scene, the backstage crew for all MICDS theater productions, developed an aesthetic that was dramatic and allowed the actors and the Shakespearean language to remain the focal points. The set even included a nod to the MICDS campus by using a chandelier removed from the newly redecorated Blanke Room.

For the character of Juliet, Gray embodied the role (and nine costume changes!) with enthusiasm. "*Romeo & Juliet* was a fantastic experience," she said. "I learned and grew so much by working with such a talented team. I loved playing Juliet; she's such a complex character with some great lines and costumes!"

Aranha said, "I enjoyed the fight choreography that we did on stage because I had never learned how that works, so it was really

fun to try. Mr. Looten did an amazing job choreographing our fights and making them look realistic. This was my first time doing a show in Orthwein Theatre due to the pandemic. It was challenging at times to understand exactly what some parts of the script meant, but Mr. Huber was good about explaining it. I had a great time doing the show, and we couldn't have done it without the help of our techs, **Raina Compton '23**, **Eliza Dorf '23**, **AJ Turnell '23**, and **Greysen Brown '24**. All in all, it was amazing getting to perform again for a crowd, especially for my friends and family."

Sam Lustgarten '22, who played Mercutio, shared similar sentiments. "Playing the chaotic and cynical comic relief known as Mercutio was a fantastic experience. It was wonderful bringing him to life with some extra little 'flourishes,' and I am extremely grateful to Mr. Huber for directing an exceptional return of Shakespeare to MICDS."

Congratulations to those who helped reboot this production and bring it back to a live theater audience!





Music Fills the Winter Season

Band, Choir, and Orchestra Performances Awe Audiences

WINTER BAND CONCERTS SPARK HOLIDAY MAGIC

Seven hundred and twenty-eight days after they last set foot onstage in Orthwein Theater, our Middle and Upper School band students were elated to bring their annual winter concerts back to a live audience.

Under the direction of the **Middle and Upper School Instrumental Music Instructor Josh Baumgartner**, the sixth and Seventh-Grade Beginning Band kicked off their concert with renditions

of #25 *Jingle Bells*, #31 *Dreydl, Dreydl*, and *Dragonfire*. The Seventh-Grade Advanced Band, who gained most of their experience through online instruction last year, performed #32 *Chorale*, #48 *Chorale*, and *Presto!*

After a short break for an audience changeover, **Middle and Upper School Band Director Becky Long** welcomed the Eighth Grade Band onstage. They performed *Bb Major Scale*, *Chorale #25-26*, *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*, and *Drive* before combining briefly with the Upper School Pep Band for the MICDS *Rally Song*. The young musicians then made way for the Upper School Band, who performed some Pep Band classics as selected by Juniors and Seniors, and *All of Me* with the MICDS Jazz Band. Finally, the band performed the holiday favorites *Sleigh Ride* and *Deep Winter's Night* to close the show.

Long said, "These students are so impressive in their growth as musicians, especially considering we only had one rehearsal with all five groups for this performance."



CHOIR CONCERTS CAPTURE THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAYS

The Upper School Choirs presented two performances of the thirteenth annual Winter Masterworks Concert on December 15 in Orthwein Theatre. Upper School Choirs are directed by **Dana Self, Upper School Performing Arts Teacher.**

The eighty-voice choir and professional orchestra presented *Missa Festiva*, a contemporary choral masterwork by John Leavitt. *Missa Festiva* is considered by many to be one of the most important choral works of our time. Each of its five individual movements is beautifully set with strength and dignity. The Latin texts from the Mass Ordinary provide a vehicle for excellent choral singing and teaching.

This marked the sixth year that the choirs added a secular holiday favorite to the program, which have quickly become audience favorites. *Sleigh Ride*, *Deck the Hall*, *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, *Winter Wonderland*, and *Jingle Bells* (as recorded by Barbra Streisand) were each featured on the program. The 2021 addition was a playful arrangement of *Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!*

The eighth-grade choir, under the direction of **Jason Roberts** and accompanied by **Nicholas Bideler**, also gave a wonderful performance. The Class of 2026 featured *Gaudeamus Hodie* by Earlene Rentz, *Al Shlosha D'varim* by Allan E. Naplan, *Turn the World Around* by Harry Belafonte, and *Homeward Bound* by Marta Keen.



WINTER STRINGS CONCERT FILLS BRAUER HALL WITH MUSIC

Delicate and delightful music filled Brauer Hall on December 8 for the Winter Strings Concert. The three-part concert featured two Middle School Strings and the Upper School Strings programs. Led by MICDS **Strings Faculty Nicole Kovaluk and Erin Hamill**, the show was a welcome return to the acoustics of Brauer Hall and the warmth of a live audience for MICDS Strings.

The Middle School Beginning Violin group kicked off the night with five pieces, including *Cuckoo Clock* by Lauren Bernofsky and with a guest appearance by Mikey Gutchewsky on bass. Next, the Middle School Intermediate Strings performed an engaging set with *Double Trouble*, *Dragon Slayer*, *Night Shift*, and *Music for the Renaissance Fair*. To close out the evening, Upper School Strings performed pieces from Hayden, Beethoven, Saint-Saens, and Tchaikovsky before rounding out with music from *The Avengers*.

Thank you to the MICDS Arts Backers and all who have helped make our winter concert programs at MICDS a success. Bravo to all of our talented student musicians for delightful evenings of musical enjoyment!



#RamNation

Rams Rewind

2021-2022 WINTER SPORTS SEASON RECAPS



Girls Varsity Squash

Head Coach: Robyn Williams

US Squash High School Nationals Tournament
Division III Champions

The Girls Varsity Squash team, led by co-captains **Ria Patil '22** and **Harper Graves '22**, had an incredible ending to their season by winning the School's first-ever National Championship. After not playing an official US Squash sanctioned match in two years due to the pandemic, the team pulled out all the stops at the Philadelphia US Squash High School Nationals tournament. The first two matches of the tournament saw straightforward wins by the Rams, winning both matches 5-2. The semi-final match was a battle in which four of the seven matches went to five games. The Rams held firm and clinched the win 4-3 to head to the finals for the second time in program history. The final proved to be high drama with MICDS and Berkshire trading wins until it was 3-3 with one match remaining. **Rhea Patnana '23** played calm, cool, and collected squash to secure the victory for the Rams. This was a great team effort with

strong performances by each player. **Abby Derdeyn '25**, **Annabelle Medler '24**, and **Patnana** ended their season on a high note, going undefeated at Nationals. Throughout the season, the varsity squad showed a high level of team camaraderie, sportsmanship, and determination both at practices and in the few local matches played against mixed, boys, and adult teams. The varsity squad bids farewell to three seniors who have considerably impacted the girls' squash program: **Patil**, **Graves**, and manager **Cecily Taylor '22**.

Girls Swimming

Head Coach: Chris McCrary

Undefeated in Dual and Tri-Meets This Year

This year, the deeply talented girls' swimming and diving team went undefeated in dual, and tri meets. Led by senior captains **Sophie Henriksen '22**, **Anna Scott Baur '22**, and **Lexie Reeb '22**, the Rams won the Metro League Conference title and capped their season off with a 5th place finish at the Class 2

State Championships. **Henriksen** rebroke her team records in the 200 Free and 100 Back at State. Juniors **Juliette Phillips '23**, **Mikaela Mikulec '23**, and **Erica Engelhardt '23**, sophomores **Isabel Phillips '24** and **Everdine Ferguson '24**, and freshmen **Grace Coppel '25**, **Lindsay Naber '25**, and **Nina Schuerer '25** raced for that State squad. The girls' team was bolstered by the first-year diving of sophomore **Thisbe Diamond '24** and freshman **Bennett Baur '25**.

Boys Basketball

Head Coach: Travis Wallace

Class 4, District 6 Champions

This year, the Boys Basketball team had a fantastic season with an overall record of 24-4. The team was ranked in the Top 5 by the Missouri Basketball Coaches Association and the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*. The Rams won the MICDS Holiday Tournament, the Fort Zumwalt North Invitational, and the Class 4 District 6 Championship. The team graduated six seniors: **Brandon Mitchell-Day '22**, **Colin Koch '22**,



01



02



03



04

01. Head of School Jay Rainey surprised the Girls Varsity Squash Team at the National Championship in Philadelphia.
02. Sophie Henriksen '22 rebroke several of her own records at the Class 2 State Swimming & Diving Championships.
03. The Boys Basketball team took home the Class 4, District 6 Championship.
04. The MICDS Girls Basketball team finished the season with an impressive 20-6 record.

Tony Nunn '22, Jack Hayes '22, Reagan Andrew '22, Mark Mintzlaiff '22, and Xavier Asher '22. Next year two starters, **Marcus Coleman '23** and **Jayden Banks '24**, are returning. Also returning will be **Jason Klutho '23** and **Mason Swartz '24**.

Girls Basketball

Head Coach: Scott Small

Holiday Tournament Champions and 2nd Place at Districts

Led by senior captains **Zaire Harrell '22, Alden Small '22, and Ellie Gira '22**, the MICDS girls basketball team finished the 2021-2022 season with an impressive 20-6 record. Despite being seeded fourth, the Rams won the MICDS Holiday Tournament in December. The team also had an inspiring run to the district championship game, including an upset win against Lutheran Saint Charles in front of an electric crowd in the semi-finals. Harrell, who will continue her basketball career at UMKC next season, was recognized with All-Conference 1st Team status. Gira and **Binta Fall '23** were 2nd Team honorees. **Brianna Desai '23, Chelsey Nwamu '23, Genesis Starks '24, Ashley Cooper '23, Abby Wyckoff '24, and CeCe Harris '25** all return along with Fall next year after making significant contributions to the success of the team this year, as will **Ava Moore '24** who missed most of the season due to injury. Newcomers to varsity this year—**Ella Etherington '24** and **Julianna Resch '24**—are also poised to support the continued success of the program next season.



01. The Rams Ice Hockey team landed 4th in the Central Division of the MidStates High School Hockey League.

02. Nine of the 11 dances in the season-ending performance were choreographed by students.



Ice Hockey

Head Coach: John Mattingly

Competitive Season Promises a Bright Future

The 2021-2022 Rams Ice Hockey Team finished the season with a 9-9-2 record, landing fourth in the eight-team Central Division of the MidStates High School Hockey League. Highlights of the season were breakout years from **Harry Kohler '23** and **Holt Tipton '23**; the addition of one of the area's top young goalies, **Miles Jensen '25**; and the always-exciting play of one of the league's top scorers, **Ameer Hajji '24**. The Rams were competitive every game, winning contests against rivals John Burroughs and Clayton and staying within two goals of Ladue (last year's Wickenhauser Cup Champions) and Priory (this year's champions). The Rams are very optimistic for the upcoming season, losing no seniors to graduation. The team has paid its dues as one of the youngest teams in the area these past few years leaving them prepared for a long playoff run in 2023.

Dance

Head Coach: Summer Beasley

Performance Featured Original Student Choreography

The 2022 MICDS Dance In Concert featured six upper school students: **Shelly Bhagat '22**, **Azael Mayer '24**, **Paige Naughton '22**, **Angel Pura '23**, **Emma Scally '22**, and **Meihua Stansberry '23**. The concert showcased eleven dances in various styles, including ballet, Indian, K-Pop, contemporary, and jazz. Nine of the 11 dances were choreographed by students. The dancers enjoyed being back in the studio, creating, and collaborating. This year's stage lighting was designed by **Raina Compton '23**. The season wrapped up with a successful 45-minute performance on the Mary Eliot Chapel stage.



03. The Boys Squash team had exceptional individual showings at the Nationals championship in Philadelphia.

04. Nat Bilderback '22 placed 4th in Districts and advanced to the Class 2 State Championship.

05. Thirty Junior Varsity and Varsity cheerleaders supported the winter basketball season with impressive stunts and relentless spirit.



Boys Squash

Head Coach: Nolan Clarke

Promoted to Division III; Exceptional Individual Showings at Nationals

Captains **Carson James '22** and **Haadis Amin '23** led our remarkable Boys Squash team this year. The team hosted matches against John Burroughs School, McCallie School, and JCC. The Boys Varsity team was promoted to Division III and finished the season in Philadelphia at the U.S. Squash High School Nationals, earning 8th place in Division III. James, Amin, and **Henry Byrne '23** had exceptional showings at Nationals. The Boys Varsity Squash team record for the season was 4-3-2. Congratulations to Byrne for earning the top spot in the Men's U-19 St Louis High School ranking this season. He is the inaugural recipient of the Avery Cup. The varsity squad bids farewell to three seniors: James, **Aariz Ahmad '22**, and **Baz Cosmopoulos '22**.

Wrestling

Head Coach: Vito Krischke

Three Regular Season Dual Wins

The MICDS Wrestling squad had another competitive season, winning three regular season duals and advancing wrestlers to postseason competition. Multiple wrestlers were able to place in the different tournaments throughout the year. Senior **Nat Bilderback '22** finished his wrestling career at MICDS on a high note, placing 4th in Districts and advancing to the Missouri State Class 2 Championship tournament.

Cheerleading

Head Coaches: Emilee Lemp and Sydney Eisenstein

An Extended Season of Post-Season Cheer; Athlete-Led Choreography

More than thirty cheerleaders participated in the Upper School Cheerleading program, supporting the Boys Varsity Basketball team through the sectional playoffs. The winter squad continued to elevate their stunting skills and choreographed an impressive joint JV and Varsity full-length routine during post-season play. It was a successful season led by team captains **Keller Goldstein '23** and **Ella Chamberlain '23**. This summer, the squad looks forward to a live-in cheer experience at a Universal Cheerleaders Association camp and tryouts in August.

MICDS Football Program Inducted into Missouri Sports Hall of Fame

The MICDS Football Program was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame on Sunday, November 14, during a wonderful event. **Director of Athletics Josh Smith** accepted the award on behalf of the program. Several coaches, including current **Head Coach Dr. Fred Bouchard**, some alumni players, **Maggie Holtman** (wife of the late **Ron Holtman**, former Head Coach), **Head of School Jay Rainey**, and two of our current captains, were also there to celebrate. Way to go, Rams!



Football captains **Reagan Andrew '22** (left) and **Gus Baisch '22** (right) with Maggie Holtman, wife of legacy Football Coach Ron Holtman.



Photo by Paul Baillargeon.

Varsity Ice Hockey Coach Ices 500th Game

Congratulations to **Varsity Ice Hockey Head Coach John Mattingly** for coaching his 500th high school game on November 27! Alum **Riley Clinton '21** called him "The best coach in the state and a great role model for his players. I've been lucky to get to know him on and off the ice over the course of my playing career and beyond."

Director of Athletics Josh Smith adds his compliments: "Coach Mattingly has poured his heart into Rams Hockey and our MICDS student-athletes. I want to congratulate him on reaching this milestone and let him know that we are the lucky ones who have been fortunate to have him at the helm. Here's to 500 more!"

Our Rams are so fortunate to have you, Coach!

Congratulations, Coach Mattingly

Student-Athletes Commit to Colleges

Fourteen student-athletes from the MICDS Class of 2022 signed symbolic letters of intent at February's annual college signing day assembly. Parents, coaches, teammates, and friends cheered them on as they committed to continuing their athletic careers in college.

"What I love about MICDS is the opportunities our students have in the classroom, in the arts, and on the fields that allow them to pursue passions that open doors for future accomplishments," said **Josh Smith, Director of Athletics**. "This group has spent thousands of hours practicing, working out, playing in field sessions, and even rehabbing injuries to get to this point. We are pleased to recognize them for their efforts."

"Today is a testament to your outstanding achievements both in the classroom and in your chosen sport. I know every single one of you will be a wonderful representative of MICDS wherever you go," added **Matt Essman, Director of College Counseling**.

Students signed their letters in unison and then donned their respective college hats provided by the MICDS Athletic Department.

Go, Rams!

*Congratulations
to our 2022
student-athletes!*

Reagan Andrew '22
Football, Butler University

PJ Behan '22
Lacrosse, Brown University

Brecken Calcari '22
Field Hockey,
University of New Hampshire

Landon Gelven '22
Lacrosse, St Joseph's University

Bogdan Hamilton '22
Fencing, Columbia University

Zaire Harrell '22
Basketball, University of Missouri –
Kansas City

Sophie Henriksen '22
Swimming, University of Pennsylvania

Alex Johnson '22
Lacrosse, Rhodes College

Anna Lochhead '22
Field Hockey, Colgate University

Ryan Mauney '22
Swimming, Middlebury College

Brandon Mitchell-Day '22
Basketball, Dartmouth College

Lee Naber '22
Swimming, Virginia Tech

Jack Niedringhaus '22
Baseball, Xavier

Riley Noonan '22
Cross Country/Track & Field,
Occidental College

Kate Oliver '22
Field Hockey, Harvard University



Another Successful MICDS Madness



In March, alumni from 1998–2017 battled it out during MICDS Madness, our annual young alumni challenge. Twenty classes competed for the participation crown, and this year's competition was wild and windy with daily lead changes, twists, and turns. In one of the most engaging Madness campaigns in recent history, 75% of the classes met, exceeded, or came within ten gifts of their individual class goals! And volunteer class representatives consulted their playbooks and pulled out all the stops to lead their class to victory. When the dust settled, the mighty class of 2002 once again claimed the top spot—their fourth consecutive win! Texting, emailing, smiling, and dialing right up until the midnight deadline, they were determined not to give up their championship belt.

Madness is a fun-spirited challenge that gives our young alumni the opportunity to give back while also reflecting on their own experiences at the School and the impact it has had on their lives. Their generosity supports the MICDS Fund, and a good number of gifts were made in honor or memory of beloved faculty and classmates.

Tiny drops of water make the mighty ocean: even though they were competing against each other, 1998–2017 came together to achieve 18% overall participation—in only seven days! And their participation immediately impacts the MICDS student experience.

A tip of the hat to our loyal group of alumni Madness class representatives who tirelessly engaged with their classmates to encourage participation. We are extremely grateful to our volunteers, and Madness wouldn't be nearly as successful (or fun!) without you! Our students and faculty, who are the direct beneficiaries of your support, thank you.



PARTICIPATION RATES OF THE TOP 5 CLASSES



One Successful Day for MICDS



"One Day for MICDS," a 24-hour campaign to support the MICDS Fund. Gifts to MICDS enrich the School community and support everything from special program expenses and athletic gear to faculty support and tuition assistance.

The goal was to increase parent participation and inspire 222 donors to give on 2/2/2022. Current parents heeded the call, and overall parent participation increased significantly through their generous support! But the good news doesn't stop there. The community also beat its donor goal, and despite—or

MICDS parents, alumni, parents of alumni, grandparents, and friends rallied around the School on February 2 for

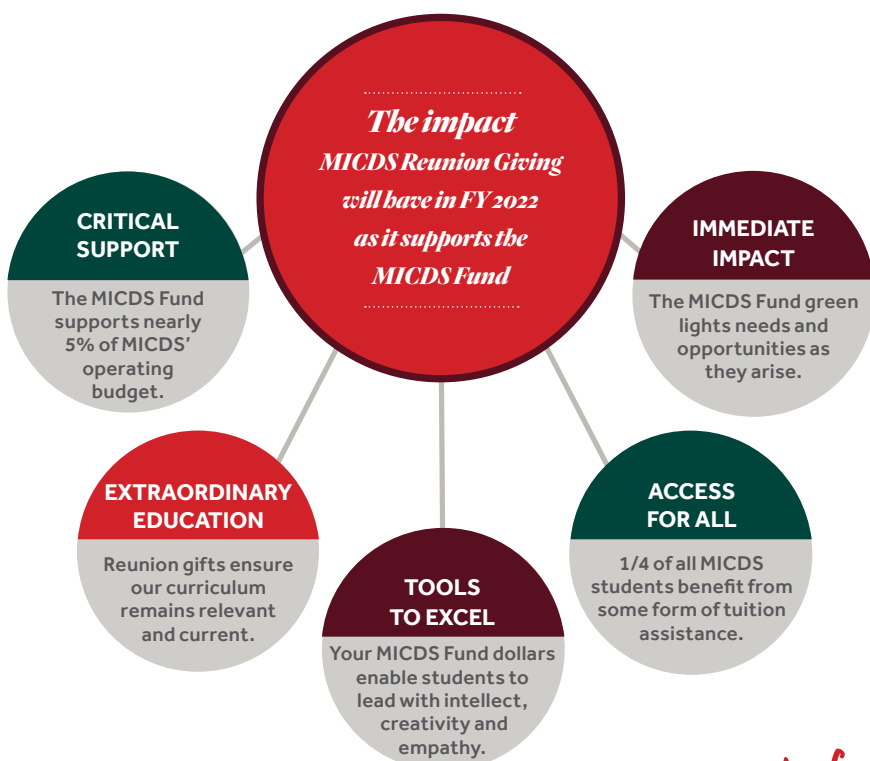
maybe even because of, all the snow that day—287 generous members of the MICDS community donated more than \$101,000 in one day! Our intrepid **Associate Director of Development—Annual Giving, Sue Ann Stanton**, made her way to campus to monitor results and grab some great snow photographs for the campaign. She even updated the campus signs to "One SNOW Day for MICDS!"

Gifts to this campaign have an immediate impact on the day-to-day experience of MICDS students, and donors were able to designate their contributions to the areas most meaningful to them.

Every gift makes a difference! We are deeply grateful for your support.



Invest in the future with Class Gifts



Each year, MICDS alumni bring new life to the longstanding tradition of giving back in honor of their reunions. The Class Gift is an opportunity to show support for MICDS as a class while striving to reach new heights, with both the amount raised and the highest class participation. This year, everyone celebrating a reunion is asked to honor this commemorative year by making a special class gift, hopefully in the form of a multi-year commitment.

Multi-Year Reunion Giving Commitments—The Power of 5!

Multi-year giving commitments allow MICDS to look beyond the present and plan for a vibrant future for today's students. Gifts made over five years allow smaller gifts to add up quickly, and the entire amount will count in your Reunion Class Gift total:

- **COMMITMENT:** In celebration of your Reunion, make your MICDS Fund commitment today and fulfill it over five years.
- **CONVENIENCE:** You can schedule monthly or annual charges to your credit card.
- **CONSISTENCY:** MICDS can rely on your continued MICDS Fund support until your next Reunion.
- **EFFICIENCY:** Expenses saved by not sending solicitations over the years will be redirected to student and faculty needs.
- **IMPACT:** There is no required dollar amount, and each gift has an IMMEDIATE IMPACT on the student experience.



Thank you in advance for your support of MICDS in honor of this milestone occasion.

Class Notes

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

The following pages reflect
notes submitted through

January 24, 2022

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

Births and Adoptions

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING CHILDREN TO OUR MICDS FAMILY.

KC Stahlhuth Holthaus '07 and Turner Holthaus '07,
Carter Richard Holthaus, July 8, 2021



Weddings

01. Frances M. Jones '10 and Samuel M. Winkler,
September 18, 2021

02. Berkley Frost '09 and Spencer Minton '08,
November 6, 2021



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!

Remembering Louise Morgan

Louise Morgan joined the Mary Institute community in 1987 as a faculty member in the English department and became Director of College Counseling when Mary I and Country Day merged. She left an indelible impression on the institution by the time she retired in 2011.



She designed MICDS's four-year, comprehensive college counseling program and was instrumental in the founding of the Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools, an organization that supports the professional development of this unique subset of counselors. She served as a member of the School's administrative team and the curriculum committee. In 2006, she was appointed Interim Head of School after the departure of Matt Gossage, before moving to the position of Head of the Upper School when Lisa Lyle became Head of School.

Upon her retirement, she established the Louise Morgan Staff Appreciation Fund, which was supported by gifts from herself and alumni, parents, faculty, and staff who wished to honor her. The purpose of the fund is to provide resources for annual merit awards to MICDS employees representing mid-level managers, office staff, housekeeping, grounds, security, maintenance, and other similar positions, recognizing the fact that MICDS educators could not be successful without the support of those men and women who work mostly behind the scenes in positions that create

little opportunity for public acknowledgment from the larger MICDS community.

Andrea Brownstein joined the college counseling team under Morgan and worked closely with her for many years. In addition to their college counseling work, they designed and co-taught a course in Ethical Thinking, which helped students wrestle with dilemmas that needed clear thinking and guided decision-making. The women became fast friends, remaining in touch and lunching regularly with other former colleagues. "She was the best boss I ever had," Brownstein said. "She was fair and straight with you." Brownstein recalled her wonderful sense of humor and her penchant for hosting themed birthday parties in the office. Morgan's tenacity was legendary, and Brownstein shared a story about four seniors applying to Dartmouth one year. Morgan wrote one letter for all four students that was so compelling and convincing that the university accepted all four of them.

Upper School Science Teacher and Head Athletic Trainer Stacey Morgan shared her thoughts. "Louise and I bonded over our common last

“(Louise) was a loyal member of the MICDS community and would go wherever her community needed her. She wanted the best for MICDS and no matter her role, she made this institution better.”

**UPPER SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER AND HEAD ATHLETIC TRAINER
STACEY MORGAN**

name but it quickly became a relationship of friendship, respect, and trust. She was a loyal member of the MICDS community and would go wherever her community needed her. She wanted the best for MICDS and no matter her role, she made this institution better. She appreciated the role everyone played in the community. She was missed upon her retirement, but even more now.”

Jan Jacobi, former Head of Middle School, also shared a reflection. “I was Louise’s colleague and friend at MICDS through the merger and the years following. I worked closely with her during her year as interim head of school. She was not one to just preside; Louise dedicated herself to an important project: to tackle the inequities in faculty salaries. She set the School on the right road, and today’s faculty are the beneficiaries. That and the Louise Morgan Fund for staff recognition are her enduring legacies. In just one year, she did more than some heads do in their entire tenures. Louise not only talked about doing the right thing, she did it. May she rest knowing we love her for her fighting spirit.”

Upper School English

Teacher Tex Tourais added his memories: “The day I met Louise Morgan, she clearly articulated to me where the English department was, where she wanted it to be, and the kind of teacher she was looking for. That clarity—clarity of vision, clarity of speech, clarity of personality—never waned in my interactions with her. I will always think of her as lead glass: a combination of steely resolve and utter transparency.”

Lucy Ross ’11 was a senior when she spoke at Morgan’s retirement ceremony. She said, “It was Ms. Morgan who taught me one of the most essential lessons of all: the lesson of the art of leadership—decisiveness, compassion, untiring devotion to the people you’re leading, innate sense of fairness, the ability to both clearly define the rules and then bend them where necessary. Ms. Morgan used her authority to influence, challenge, and encourage every student she’s met and this institution as a collective to reach their full potential.”

Louise Morgan is survived by two daughters, Jill Patterson and Jan Michaelree, their spouses, and four grandchildren. She is also remembered by three siblings.

Alumni/ae Deaths

THROUGH APRIL 1, 2022

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

Jane Pfeifferberger Luer ’40, December 8, 2021

Joan Freund Newman ’43, December 8, 2021

Alicia Tyson Dolan ’45, July 14, 2021

Anna Lea Ellermann Kerckhoff ’54, January 28, 2022

Clifton McMillan III ’57, March 4, 2021

Theodore Desloge Jr. ’57, March 2, 2022

Melinda Knight Mouquin ’58, December 21, 2021

L. Churchill “Chip” Matthews Jr. ’59, December 21, 2021

Nichola Mitchell Gillis ’59, January 4, 2022

Hugh McPheeters ’60, January 26, 2022

John Primm ’62, November 29, 2021

Nancy Kropp Grote ’62, December 23, 2021

Susan Perry Morgan ’67, January 5, 2022

Brian Suffian ’88, March 9, 2022

Faculty Deaths

Louise Morgan, Former English Teacher,
Director of College Counseling, and Interim Head of School



1952 CDS

WARREN B. LAMMERT JR.
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I regret to report the deaths of three more of our classmates: **Adie Dietz** on August 5, 2021; **Tom MacMahon** on October 18, 2021; and **Bob Smith** on October 23, 2021.

On October 10, 2021, 10 class members met by Zoom. It was nice to not hear any reports of problems with COVID-19. Otherwise, as **John Lipscomb** used to report, “nothing of importance was discussed.”

A recent report states that the market value of the Class of 1952 Band Fund has grown to about \$400,000, as compared to a value of about \$300,000 in 2018.

1954 MI

SUSAN SPOEHRER ELLIOTT
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Mary Vollmer Rassieur writes: Just a quick note to let you know that many of the class of '54 are well and alive. We have tried to keep in touch with each other by way of Zoom. We've enjoyed conversations about Christmas, families, and COVID-19. We are all lucky to be able to communicate with each other. We miss many of our classmates. I do hope that those I don't hear from are fine. My family is healthy. Most of the grandchildren and grown children have had COVID-19 but all quickly recovered. My oldest child, **Dan McDonald '80**, is an M.D. in St. Louis. His practice puts him in the middle of the pandemic. **Missy McDonald Medary '81** is a judge in Texas and is surrounded by COVID-19 but luckily hasn't gotten it, and **Carrie McDonald Arneson '84** is in St. Louis and has also been affected by it.

Susan Spoehrer Elliot: We are still in Florida and loving every minute of it. **Howard '52** goes to the fitness center with a trainer seven days a week, while I play golf, bike, and work

out regularly. Also, we carry out dinner every night. As to our family, Howard and I were blessed to celebrate our 60th Anniversary on September 2. Our daughters, **Kathryn Elliott Love '84** and **Elizabeth Elliott Niedringhaus '87**, are both great and busy. Updates on our three Love granddaughters: **Elizabeth '16** is a graduate of Princeton, **Amelia '18** is a senior at Notre Dame, and **Helen '21** is a freshman at Boston College. As for the two Niedringhaus grandsons, **Thomas '19** is a junior at Boston University and **Jack '22** is a senior at MICDS, the last of the fifth generation graduates of our school! We Zoom with our former classmates monthly: Talbot, Mydie, Estie, Mary, and Carol Clarkson Coffin, which is so special.

1957 MI

MARGOT MARITZ MARTIN
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Sixty-five years ago many of us were anticipating, with sadness, excitement, and trepidation, our final months at Mary Institute. Some of us, known as The Old Guard, had spent the majority of our lives wandering the halls and classrooms, beginning in Pre-K at the Beasley House and then on to the Big School next door as we entered first grade with Miss Shea. Through the years we gained and lost some classmates to other schools, made lasting friendships with one another, and shared in one another's joys and losses.

As for Class News updates, I heard from **Louise Bartlett Franklin**, who had the misfortune of contracting Omicron in December despite being vaccinated and boosted. Unfortunately, she missed seeing her little Dallas grandsons over Christmas. Louise plans to go to Dallas in March and April to celebrate five family birthdays.

Julie Meier Schmitt and her husband moved to a retirement community seven years ago. She reports, “We enjoy everything about it! Lots of activities, good food, and good friends. We are so thankful!” Their daughter Peggy has been in dental practice for 31 years, and their

daughter Ellen works with a large estate sales company in Atlanta. Their four grandchildren are teenagers. “We enjoy attending the school activities and watch with interest as the two juniors think about college.”

Barbara Kaufman Wood reports she and her husband are fine. They walk daily and go to the gym three times a week.

Condolences to **Bonnie Barton Wolfarth**, whose husband, Al, passed away in July. “A sweet, smart, loving husband. I miss him greatly but am staying in my home in St. Louis and enjoying being near my family.” Her granddaughter Caitlin is a first-year student at Washington University Law School on a three-year, full-tuition scholarship.

DeDe DeWitt Lambert's granddaughter, **Lambert Perkins '20**, is a freshman at Washington U. “We have three more in different colleges and two still at MICDS. All our grandchildren are such a joy.” I had a brief conversation with DeDe, who is wintering in Florida and is happy to be in warm weather. She is doing okay and is looking forward to our reunion.

Another painful loss and condolences to **Barbara Blake Putnam** whose husband, Pete, (Augustus Lowell Putnam) died in November. “He died days after a joyous 94th birthday with all seven children, including those who came in from Morocco.”

Ann Lortz Brightman spent the winter in Vero Beach, Florida. “Very lucky to be in mild weather and am able to be outside a lot of the time.” Her children like to visit. There are a number of younger MI grads in Vero whom she enjoys seeing. Ann's oldest child is about to turn 60 and the youngest 50. “I'm not sure how this can be happening.” Ann's grandchildren range from age 29 to three. Ann reports, “Life is interesting and good for me.”

Penny Gray Howland writes, “In days of yore, I couldn't believe those ‘fossils’ still existed. But here we are looking pretty good. Does age dim the truth?” Penny has lived in Milwaukee for 52 years and has 15 grandchildren in five

states ages 17-32. Penny is still selling Carlisle and Freida Rothman jewelry. In addition, she volunteers, works in the garden, and loves to cook. "I haven't mastered yellow rolls." Penny travels as much as possible.

Cookie Ellermann Arneson had a rough December. While attending the Villa Duchesne Christmas Program, where two of her granddaughters (**Drees '87's** daughters) are students, she had an accident as she tripped and fell, breaking both her elbow and her right shoulder. "Much time in the hospital and at Brookings Park to recuperate." Fortunately, she is now home, out of her cast/sling, and almost 100%. "I did manage to have our Christmas family dinner with much help from all. Arne, **Peder '84**, and Drees and families are all fine."

Pat Doughton Anderson: "We moved into our new apartment in our retirement community on October 25, my husband's birthday! It is on the 16th floor with a beautiful view of downtown Sarasota, down the inland waterway with the barrier islands on both sides, and the Gulf of Mexico. My three children came to visit us for Christmas, and it was fabulous. We go skiing with Jim's children and some grandchildren in Park City in March."

Suzanne Chapman Stolar: "Flexibility. As the 'new normal' morphs into a newer normal, Henry and I are venturing into museums, theater, symphony concerts, and al fresco dinners with friends, though sometimes these have been canceled or rescheduled. Vaxed, boosted, and masked, we're trying to play COVID-19 hard-to-get and planning future travels from our home in Miami Beach. Good health to all!"

Our class sends its condolences to **Cookie Ellerman Arneson** on the death of her sister, **Anna Lea Ellerman Kerckhoff '54**.

My life has been very quiet. Fortunately, I have ample places to walk and neighbors with whom I can visit. I also fill the time with books. My 14-year-old adopted toy poodle is a joy and great company. Winter prompted me to get rid of the myriad of unnecessary things that have been housed in my basement. I did not dispose of the MI Chronicles from 1946-1957, a

green MI sweatshirt with gold lettering, or the yellow t-shirt from our 25th reunion. Pleasant reminders of days long gone.

Best wishes to all for a healthy and happy year ahead.

1958_{MI}

MARY KOENIGSBERG LANG
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LIBBY HALL MCDONNELL
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We are sad to report that **Melinda (Nini) Knight Mouquin** died December 21, 2021, after a long illness and many serious health issues. She had been living in Maui, Hawaii. Nini was in our class very briefly for ninth and 10th grades and then went to boarding school. She will definitely be missed by her family, friends, and classmates.

Laura Rand Orthwein Jr. is busy with Lauraxinstitute.org which consists of one remaining collection at Pilgrim Church where she works and stays (www.pilgrimucc-stl.org/). These are materials about her own participation in the 22 social movements which she documented. Her collections are at St. Louis Public Library, Missouri Historical Society, State Historical Society of Missouri/UMSL, Carondelet Historical Society, Washington University Law School, University of Illinois, Northwestern, University of Houston, Radcliffe/Harvard, New York Historical Society, University of California-Berkeley, and more.

1958_{CDS}

DAN FEINBERG
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Maurice (Bud) Hirsch has exhibited several of his images at Webster Arts, Art Saint Louis, St. Charles Community College. Four of his prints were in the *Photography from Abroad* exhibition at St. Charles Community College. He hopes

to travel to Europe for more photography as the year progresses. He also has done presentations about aspects of photography for the St. Louis Camera Club where he serves as its newsletter editor.

1959_{CDS}

ARTHUR LUEKING
arthurl@msn.com

I've said before that reporting on the deaths of my classmates is the most unpleasant duty of a class agent. Reporting the passing of **Chip Matthews** is especially difficult for me. A little more than 10 years ago, Chip phoned me and said, "Let's have lunch." From that call came a regular Monday lunch which took place in spite of weather, holidays, and pandemics. It was a pleasure and a sacred duty. After a few years, we were joined by **Jim Schneithorst** (we were, after all, lunching at Schneithorst's) and later by **Butch Welsch** and **Julius Frager** (when he was not in Florida). For many years these were the local regulars joined by **RK Barton** and **Nat Griffin** as they passed through town and subsequently at irregular intervals by **Fred Hanser**, **Mike Latta**, **Norman James**, **Luke Fouke**, and probably by others I have forgotten (please forgive me).

This is a long way to get to my point: Chip and I were not particularly close at CODASCO; he hung out with the athletes and I didn't. Meeting and eating with him every week for years, I came to appreciate and admire what a remarkable person he was: loving husband and father; war hero; patriot; man of faith; humanitarian; and loyal friend—the list is endless. On behalf of the many members of the CDS Class of '59 who knew Chip, I extend our sympathy to **Muffy '63** and their daughter, **Marka Gioia**, and pray that the knowledge that his was a life of consequence brings them some measure of comfort. I will miss him, but every Monday at 10:30 my phone will continue to beep and remind me, "lunch with Chip."

1960 MI

GAY ARMSTRONG BRYSON

gaybryson@comcast.net

Well, some of us have emerged from pandemic seclusion to share their more interesting goings-on since we last convened. COVID-19 has certainly impacted our fun times, but we remain the indomitable Class of 1960, and although most of us are now octogenarians, we manage to carry on and are doing just fine.

Lucy Schmitz Morros has been elected the chair of the Board of Directors of the Alliance Française in St. Louis and reports that their membership is thriving. Of course it is, Luce! Lucy is soon to give a lecture on *Napoleon: the good, the bad and the ugly*. (Not "the short?") Presumably this will be in French, but our girl can handle this with ease. Her keyboard probably has all those French accents, and she wears heels every day...elegance and style!

Janice Hutto Hoyle laments the lack of travel and theater in her life but happily has her family, her bees, her cat, and her garden to keep her busy while COVID-19ing along with reading and cooking. We all are doing more of that, right? Personally, I've opted for eating more.

Carol Willis Clifton let me know that she had just been released from the hospital after a stroke. She is home now, doing well and planning to ride pillion on her honey AI's motorcycle soon! We need pictures! Sending so much love her way!

Sarah McDowell, who, like all of us, is impacted by the COVID-19 mess, is still going strong...she is entertaining the residents of senior homes with piano renditions of their favorites and when she's unfamiliar with a request, she's talented enough to improvise! Her joyful spirit is, I'm sure, so healing for them. Sarah has spent some time with her family and is grateful for her continued good health and hopeful that traveling will return as an option soon.

Caro Smith Schneithorst is wintering at her home in Vero Beach and has invited ALL of us to come and stay with her and **Jimmy '59** any time. Actually, she didn't say that at all but I may go anyway. Her granddaughter has received a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Alabama which, considering the current state of our world, may be useful for us. Is there a sign-up list?

I wish I could just reprint **Deedee Kessler Ostfeld's** notes verbatim. The passion, the dedication, the angst. This woman is a front-line defender of women's health issues, voting rights for all and anti-censorship of books. And she's doing this in Texas, ladies! Yet she doesn't despair but keeps on keeping strong in the same COVID-19 nightmare we all share waiting for the day when we can see each other freely.

Leanne Abramson Schneider and her Harvey are hunkered down at home as is everybody else. Leanne allows as how she is totally over cooking (aren't we all?). Family visits for birthdays and Thanksgiving were great, and they both long for more travel while remaining cognizant of the suffering around them.

We hear from **Roberta Bartlett Logan** that she has weathered the COVID-19 mess pretty well despite her Crohn's-trashed immune system which makes this whole pandemic thing scary for her. No travel, but bridge and luncheons with suitably masked participants are still on the table (haha) but no Warriors' games, theater, or travel. Apparently, Thanksgiving was a bit of a disaster but that's why we have kids, right? To jump in and fix things, right? Let's hear it for our kids!

Carol Thomas Ruikka gets the good classmate award for just wanting her voice to be heard. She says she has nothing interesting to report but still....she is there, wishing us well and hoping that we can connect soon as a class once again. What more can we ask?

Jan Schonwald Greenberg and Jill Evans

Petzall have elected to write in together which makes us all very happy...long story. They are still hanging out with the boys (see the picture) still making much art and mischief and having fun savoring how old we have grown together, and how important and deep our friendships grow, too.



Jan Schonwald Greenberg '60 and Jill Evans Petzall '60.

I, **Gay Armstrong Bryson**, have been spending my pandemic months working at the California Academy of Sciences caring for the animals there and at Wildtracks, a rescue, rehab, and release facility in northern Belize where I work with baby Howler monkeys. I clearly have become a monkey junkie and am fortunate to have been able to go back and forth without any issues. If it wasn't for the work I do, I might have lost my mind...what there is left to lose. I'm finding that as I enter my 80th year, the search for relevance becomes critical as physical energy declines. It is so important to keep on going, keep pushing forward, to keep finding purpose out here. We are mostly 80 now which at one time sounded like the end of life as we knew it and yet, here we are. My girls! My beloveds! Strong women, all of us.



Gay Armstrong Bryson '60 with Etti, a baby Howler monkey, in Belize.

1960 CDS

DENNY WEDEMEYER

dennywedemeyer@gmail.com

Harry Weber was commissioned by St. Louis and its sister city, Nanjing, China, for two sculptures. The concept was to have Adam Wainwright pitching from Nanjing and have a Chinese batter about to hit the pitch in Ballpark Village in St. Louis (a distance of 7,200 miles). “Wainwright” was installed just before the pandemic in 2019. The Chinese player installation was to be in the spring of 2020 but got delayed by the virus. It will be installed this year if baseball gets up and running.



Russ Messing: Life goes well out here in the getting-encroached-upon boonies. We have six grandkids from 21 to four. Arlene and I are so blessed to have four of them near, and the other two, college students, in Berlin and Paris. I am pleased to have finished my fourth book of poetry, *In The Corner of the Afternoon*, and am pleased. If anyone is interested, I am more than happy and willing to send you a copy. **Tom Singer** and I talk and visit often. We were incredibly blessed to have escaped the recent fires. As always, if any of you get out this way, don't hesitate to let me know.

1961 MI

CHARLOTTE ELLIS

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Unfortunately, three members of our class passed away in 2021: **Barbara Dean Butler**, **Bliss Lewis Shands**, and **Tricia Ernst Woo**.

Hopefully by the time this comes out some of us will have met up at our delayed 60th reunion.

Claire Foster Evans reports they still live in three places: Atlanta; Vero Beach, Florida; and Vail, Colorado. She plays a lot of poor golf and bridge and teaches Bible study. She and Marshall have 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren with another expected soon. Life is good, and they are both healthy. She is grateful the Lord has blessed them in so many ways.

Fo Hatton Logan took her kids and most of her grandkids to the Florida Keys in July. She and **Top '58** are healthy so far. She says hi to all. After 18 years in South Carolina and eight in California, she still misses St. Louis.

I have made several trips this year to visit my daughter and son-in-law in Madison, Wisconsin. They moved there in July from Salt Lake City so I'm happy to have them much closer. My church merged this year with another church, and I spent part of the year on a committee helping to facilitate the merger. I'm working on a program about women writers with St. Louis connections that I'll present to both the church women and my sorority alum group.

1961 CDS

Ashley Gray: Charla '62 and I are doing very well in our own quiet way. We have both been fully vaccinated and boosted but find the resumption of our travel activities to be less than desirable at this point. Our middle son, **Michael '90**, celebrated his 50th birthday in Atlanta, and we had fun participating in that event, albeit from St. Louis. We continue to enjoy our grandchildren, four adorable girls.

Youngest son Peter's **Abby '24** is at MICDS and, believe it or not, his youngest, Kate, is at JBS! Both Charla and I have personal trainers and are doing the best we can to maintain our reasonably good health.

1963 MI

ANN KEELER POUCHER

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We need to report some sad news: **Muffy Culver Matthews'** husband **Chip '59** died in December, 2021. We send our love and condolences to Muffy. Muffy doesn't do email, but if anyone wants to send her a note, we can get you her address.

Emy Young Boag and Bill have so far successfully navigated the COVID-19 landscape. Two of their grandchildren were sick but are fine now. Just as I was writing this column, she chimed back in to say that her eighth grandchild had just been born—Eleanor Josephine Boag, the only one accessible to her in Pittsburgh.

Another grandchild arriving on the scene belongs to **Becky Atwood Patton**. Her daughter Ellen had a son, Ethan Nash Patton, in August 2021, bringing Becky's total grandchildren to 10! Ellen and her twin, Frances, both single and both working for Facebook, live near each other, as do the other three sisters, so there is lots of help with the baby. Becky reports that Ellen “has never been so happy and fulfilled.” Becky and Landey were able to spend Christmas with four of their five daughters.

Suzanne Franklin Corry is trying to keep her head down and avoid COVID-19. She loves being retired but is distressed over the present direction of the country. **Debbie Downs Hirst** is staying close to home in Maine, “all quiet here on the Eastern front,” but says she is “boring, but not bored” at home watching the birds on the feeder and studying them. **Nancy Lungstras Broadfooot** is hunkered down in Atlanta but glad that all kids and grandkids are there and healthy.

Hila Hampton Green and Dan traveled a bit last summer, including to St. Louis where they were able to see their two sons and five grandchildren for the first time in almost two years. Hila is still designing jewelry, and Dan is busy with his art. They celebrated their 51st anniversary in December. Well done, Hila!

Dudley Roulhac Grove and **Jim '62** were also able to reconnect with family as 15 of them gathered in St. Louis for Christmas.

Peggy Blanke Henderson managed to get in some family time. After quarantining in Colorado for 1.5 years, she went back to North Carolina and reconnected with her daughter and four grandchildren. They were able to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas, as well as lots of birthdays. In Colorado, Peggy enjoys singing with the Unitarian choir and filling her backyard with native plants. Her six degrees of separation news is that Susan McClelland Mosse's nephew's wife (another Susan McClelland!) sings in her choir.

Speaking of **Susan McClelland Mosse**, she is still working and busier than ever. She traveled to Massachusetts to oversee the installation of a ceramic collaboration Nicholas Mosse Pottery did with artist James Turrell. An accompanying book should be out sometime in 2022. She just designed a Valentine's mug and proclaims that she is really enjoying her seventies.

Speaking of books, **Nancy Rodgers McGrath** has fun news. Both her husband Chip and son Ben have books coming out this year. Ben's is titled *Riverman: An American Odyssey* and Chip's (Charles) is *The Summer Friend*. Both are published by Knopf and are available to preorder on Amazon—jump on those computers and order one of each! Nancy is still plugging away on her family history for the kids and grands, and learning new facts along the way.

Suzanne Williams (now) Broaddus has happy news: she has married Bill Broaddus, a widower she has known for a long time. They were able to have a small wedding in June with family members present and pulled off not one but two honeymoons—way to break out of the COVID-19 morass!

Marjorie Johnson was finally able to travel to her beloved Santa Fe to hear chamber music and opera and visit with friends. She lost her golden retriever of 13 years, “partner in life” Lucas, but still has two cats. **Jane Lewin Steinger** adopted “a darling, Velcro-like, clownish, six-year-old Havanese.”

Roxie Pool is still selling houses in Denver, but “at about 1/4 speed.” She continues to ping-pong between Mexico and Colorado, and spent Christmas in Dallas visiting her brother and nephews whom she hadn't seen in two years.

Barbara Martin Smith has been keeping in touch with her grandchildren through Zoom and FaceTime. At ages two to seven, they are healthy and growing and mostly learning from home.

Nettie Orthwein Dodge is still ranching in Wyoming. She is involved in all sorts of organizations such as Wreaths Across America and Food Pantry, and organizing a pinochle marathon all winter to support Shriners Hospital—I mean, what else would you do in Wyoming in the winter? She had three family weddings in 2021.

I, **Ann Keeler Poucher**, managed to pull off some traveling—my passion—in 2021. Ralph and I took our daughter Claire and the two grands (Tala, 19, and Keeler, 17), to South Africa in July with no harmful aftereffects but lots of fabulous animal viewing. Then we went hiking in Maine in October with some friends, which was great fun. I am in my bubble in Florida for the winter. Nettie and I send out all good wishes to you.

1963 CDS

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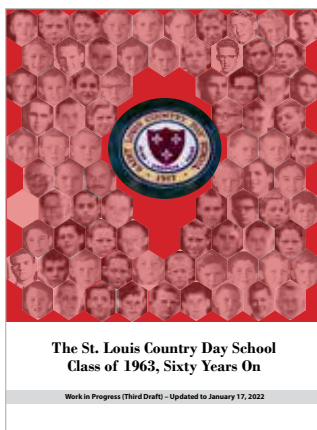
The fiftieth reunion of the CDS Class of 1963 was a wonderful event. It revived old friendships and established new ones. In anticipation of our sixtieth (in 2023), the class has embarked on a project to collect our life stories, both as reminiscences for ourselves, family, and friends, and as prep for the reunion (relax, men, there won't be a test!). The collection, compiled by **John Allman** and **Mark Webber**, is titled: *A Remarkable Group: The St. Louis Country Day School Class of 1963, Sixty Years On*.

In addition to classmates' life stories, the collection contains a section documenting the class' time at the Old and New School from issues of *The NEWS* (shout-out to **Cliff Saxton '64** for making those archives available); reunion photos and commentary; a section on then-Headmaster Ashby T. Harper; an In Memoriam section commemorating the lives of classmates who have died; and an index of classmates and teachers who appear in the book. Here's how things stand: over the course of the eight years the class was at the school, 80 boys were members. Of those 80, 67 are still alive. And of those 67, we have been able to locate 60 and establish direct contact with 58.

The January 2022 edition of *A Remarkable Group* contains In Memoriam entries for all 13 classmates who have died, and submissions by 43 of the 60 classmates we have been able to locate. Two more classmates have indicated that they are working on their life-notes but need a bit more time. So far, then, the collection, now approaching 170 pages, contains entries by and about 58 of the 80, or 73% of the total class.

A new, expanded edition is already planned for early 2023 to start off the reunion year. John and Mark tell us they have another surprise or two up their sleeves for that edition, but as of this writing (January 2022), our lips are sealed.

In the meantime, we encourage those who have not yet submitted a “life-note” to consider doing so; and those who have already written to let John and Mark know about whatever changes and updates they would like.



The St. Louis Country Day School
Class of 1963, Sixty Years On

Work in Progress (Third Draft) - Updated to January 17, 2022

1964_{MI}

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Ladies: We have made an executive decision not to solicit copy from you for this issue of Class Notes. We do intend to bug you before our next deadline (July 18, 2022) and promise a news-filled column.

We do have some sad news. **Helen Vollmar Diepenbrock's** wonderful Tony died last May. Helen said she got through Christmas by focusing on her “grands” and having a surprise-filled “country western” celebration which they all loved.

Due to a computer glitch, MICDS had lost touch with **Mimi Ferriss Wilson**. Luckily **Jane Cox** and Louise Jones in the Development Office were able to get everything straightened out. So, welcome back, Mimi.

Finally, **Judy Hennessey Sommerschild** was hard at work when I called her at Hoohobbers before Christmas to order a rocking chair for my newest granddaughter. She sent greetings to all.

Remember, if for some reason you need to send a blast to the class, contact Jane or me. Otherwise, plan to come up with news for us in early July. Best to All, Jane and Anne

1964_{CDS}

JAY MARSHALL

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Tee Baur reports that he and Shellie took their family group of 18 to South Africa with plans to embark on a Christmas-time safari. They made it as far as the Capetown airport where two of their granddaughters tested positive for COVID-19, causing the whole group to turn around and head for home, with plans to hopefully return in the future. On a cheerier note, Tee's oldest grandchild, **Trey '14**, got married January 8 in Naples, Florida. Trey lives in Philadelphia and works for the Phillies doing analytics for the players and negotiating player contracts.

Paul Henderson shared that he's celebrating his 75th birthday early with an extended self-crewed sailing adventure in the Caribbean. He mentioned Belize, the Cayman Island, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and the BVIs as stops on his itinerary.

Ken Strassner is doing consulting work on sustainability and climate change issues, splitting his time between Atlanta and Naples, Florida.

Keep in mind that we are just two years out from our 60th reunion!

1965_{MI}

PEGGY DUBINSKY PRICE

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There wasn't much news this month, so I asked for book recommendations. Lots of varied offerings.

Irene Leland: I was thrilled to get a voiceover booking, narrating a video for Merck Pharmaceutical at Clayton Studios in January. Happily, the ad execs, “Zooming” in from New York, and the client loved my reading! I am immersed in being the voice for my audiobook, *The King's Kid*, which is a tedious job but very enjoyable!

Bobbi Buell and I both read *The Broken Heart of America* by Walter Johnson about racism in St. Louis. According to Bobbi, there were “too many names I recognized.” The book is long but well worth reading.

Charlotte Rust Dix: Have you read *The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn? It's amazing, as is *The Wild Silence*. Nature's voice finds us all in some way.

Jane Atwood Whitehead: I was so excited to be taking part in the figure skating event at the Winter Olympics until my doctor grounded me. He informed me that my sciatic and balance issues would not enhance the team chances for a medal. I thought I could switch to downhill racing, but he reminded me I'm scheduled for knee replacement in March. Is there a Special Olympics for over 70? What's the sport that uses a broom?

Christy Franchot James: Recently I realized that my grandchildren, who call me Kiki, are all taller than I! My dear partner of 25 years, Alan Wheeler, died in November. Happily, our families are nearby. I continue as president of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Missouri and trek to Ste. Genevieve weekly to tend the gardens. Ste. Gen is a designated National Historical Park, and our site, the Centre for French Colonial Life, is always ready to welcome visitors.

Jan Shapleigh Mackey: Thirteen family members traveled to HF Bar Ranch last summer. Fun to be together for daily rides, fly fishing, and skeet shooting. **Robin Ewing Engler '66** and **Cindy Ruprecht Beams '67** and their families were also there. **Christy Love '66** lives on her ranch next door. I spent the rest of the summer at Mishaum Point, Massachusetts. Had fun spending time with **Connie Shapleigh Martin** and family. I've been in St. Louis all fall working on a kitchen/family room remodel.

Alice Langenberg Abrams: I've traveled to see family, mainly to California. I continue my ceramic work, creating a frog series in '21. Fully vaxxed and boosted, I still caught a mild case of COVID-19, which became an Omicron Christmas plan disrupter. Books that linger in my mind are *Townie* by Andre DuBus III; *Inheritance* by Dani Shapiro; *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*. I'm a fan of Libby, an app thru my local library. Hope you all are supporting yours.

Connie Bascom McPheeters: Bowood and Katherine's (**Katherine McPheeters '99**) store, Holliday, is doing well. Paddle St. Louis/Big Muddy opened their guide shop at one of our properties at Bowood. They run canoe and full moon dinner trips on the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. Chef Gerard Craft has taken over the former Cafe Osage, and it's now Bowood by Niche. We're thrilled.

Elizabeth Kendall: Greetings to all classmates! I'm teaching writing workshops as usual. It's moving to make connections with students in these weird times. I spent five wonderful weeks in Finland last July-August, including an Eastern Finland road trip.

My favorite books of 2021 were *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell, *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead, and *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. I tripped over a door threshold in October and ruptured my Achilles tendon which required surgery. Not a fun injury. Hoping to be out of the boot and visiting grandchildren again by late February. Watch where you walk!

01. Grandchildren Lanie and Catie Boyle, Matthew and Meagan Zimmerman with Christy Franchot James '65.

02. Susan Donnell Flanigan '65 with Irene Leland '65.

03. Jan Mackey '65 and family in Wyoming.

04. Alice Langenberg Abrams '65 with her latest creation, a ceramic frog.

05. Amelia Bee Kendall-Beauchamp, great niece of Elizabeth Kendall '65.

06. Oldie but goodie: MI '65 modeling their handmade skirts in sixth grade.



1966 MI

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Thanks to all those who were able to respond to our plea on such short notice! The rest of you, please keep all your news for next time, and enjoy reading about the ladies who reported all happenings great and small.

We'll start near St. Louis, in central Missouri, where **Jane Fordyce** has consolidated her life into one brief message to us in January 2022: "I am tempted to pour hot coffee in my shoes to keep warm and am dreaming of warm sea breezes." We get it, Janie!

Speaking of cold weather, **Sally Lewis Kennedy** is in Denver and has managed to fight isolation by gathering with her neighbors on her front porch for a beverage and a chit-chat. She is teaching poetry at Graland School and loves spending time with her three grandsons reading, biking, and wrestling. Sally was visited in November 2021 by **Sally Jones Foley** who took the train from California to Denver and stayed with the Kennedys for a few days.

Noel Messing Hefty and husband Terry celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June 2019 by traveling to Slovenia and then to Croatia where they sailed around the boot of Italy to Sicily, ending in Geneva. They fit in a trip to Jordan and Egypt where Noel drove a camel rather than Terry's fancy sports car. Terry has stopped racing but still tours and rallies in Europe. Tara, their daughter, has taken over Terry's wealth management business. Noel has three amazing grandchildren.

Tauna Urban Durand is happy to report that she has avoided any of the COVID-19 variants. She hoped to venture to Maui at the end of February. Tauna keeps up via Facebook with **Mary Bagby Wyatt**, **Pam Morris**, and **Susie**

Meyer Cornell. Her hope is that we will do another class gathering via Zoom as we did in "early COVID-19." It was a great success, so we'll work on that! Tauna feels fortunate to have had two of her three sons home for Christmas.

We are thrilled to hear from **Mary Schlapp Thistle** that she has reached every one of her goals since she underwent brain surgery a couple of years ago. She is fully walking, talking, and feeding herself, and has even taken up salsa dancing to improve her balance. Mary has also returned to the accordion, and has rejoined her band that plays at multiple venues throughout the summer. Unfortunately, she was forced to withdraw from the international knitting competition after making it to the finals.

Going north, we visit Connecticut where **Ellen Griesedieck Posey** is in the final stages of her seemingly lifelong mural project. Take a look at the photo of Ellie painting from scaffolding, which shows the enormity of this project. It might look almost done, but she tells us there are 1,500 pieces of artwork still to be added from children across the country. We are all sure to be equally impressed by whatever project she chooses next.



Ellen Griesedieck Posey '66 working on her mural project.

Further north, in Maine, **Nan Eliot Ulett**, is safe in the quiet winter on Bar Harbor. She got COVID-19 but had no symptoms and kept busy last summer working with a friend's rental properties. Nan keeps herself busy doing a bit of artwork, rug hooking, and cat training. Her son Teddy was with her last summer, and older son Eliot lives in St. Louis with Nan's two grandchildren who plan to visit Maine in July 2022.

Moving across the country to sunny Houston, **Jayne Schneithorst Land** says she had an epic beginning to 2021 when she chose to visit Colorado during a 36" snowstorm. She went to see her new grandson, his two-year-old sister, and Jayne's sister **Jackie '70's** family. Jayne then returned to Houston just in time for the famous February freeze where she lost electricity and all her pipes froze. Everything had better improve in 2022. Fingers crossed.

Kris Beam Dewees and her husband are very happy in the Houston area, where they are now living in their new house which they bought after losing their home in a 2020 fire. Kris enjoyed having her family for Christmas, and they look forward to an Alaskan cruise in May 2022 to celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary.

Abby Martin Packer and John now own a home in Hailey, Idaho, near Sun Valley. They sold their Pennsylvania lake house after John had triple by-pass surgery, then a pacemaker/defibrillator, then spinal stenosis. Fortunately, much of his pain has been relieved by successful back surgery. Abby, you are married to the Bionic Man! Their daughter Cameron was married in July 2021 on the banks of Silver Creek in Picabo, Idaho, and Abby made 110 ceramic wine cups for the occasion.

Out in California, **Patty Glaser** has had no problem continuing her Alaskan fishing adventures. In July 2021, she hooked an amazing 75 lbs. of salmon, halibut, and cod. That's enough to feed the whole class, Patty—we'll be right over. We send our condolences to her on the loss of her mother, who passed away at 94 in September 2021.

Our other California girl, **Becky Egle** von Schrader, and husband, **Eric '66**, have been writing up a storm. Eric is on his second book and Becky is writing her book on early parenting about the *Miraculous Dances of Parent and Baby*. From what we remember of childbirth, *Twist and Shout* should be one of the dances, Becky! She got to see her kids and grandchildren last year, and her eldest granddaughter, **Taylor Gast '27**, adores

seventh grade at MICDS. Thank you, Becky, for the great photo of several classmates at Eric's July 2021 St. Louis book reading.



Lesley Knowles McIntire '66, Lee Lawless '66, Eric von Schrader '66, Laura Kloos Justiss '66, and Becky Egle von Schrader '66.

Far, far away, **Lark Upson**, is still loving her life in France with husband, Jack, and their little dog. She was able to reprise her gig as tour guide at the Vatican last June. Lark is in her studio working on several portraits, four of which are commissions. Last fall, she visited **Claire Keeler Beck** in Vermont where there was much laughter and fond memories shared. Our condolences to her on the loss of her stepmother, Jeanne Walker Myers, who died at 102.

Even further afield is **Liz Douglas**, who survived a world record lockdown in Australia and then stormed Qantas Airlines offices demanding to be let out. She successfully visited two of her four children, three grandsons, and one new granddaughter in California. We are so happy she was stateside, but we're sorry we missed her.

Diane Deal Parks also remarks that COVID-19 has put a damper on her busy life in Australia. However, she continues to farm her urban plot of tomatoes and eggplants, so large that she counts lifting them as weight training. She tells us she is going to be brave and will soon attempt a night at the theatre in Sydney. Bring your hazmat suit, Diane!

Leave it to our president, **Ginny Limberg**, to put an appropriate label on our shared current situation by calling her life in Australia "The Hermit Kingdom." She wishes we could all get together and have a big, joyous party with lots of music and dancing. Amen to that, Ginny!

As these notes are written (January 2022), **Gale Rutherford Dunlap's** community has just experienced the most destructive wildfire in Colorado history. Gale's daughter, Kate, her family, and their house were spared. The only sometimes amusing part of the mass evacuation was when Kate, her husband Kyle, two grandsons, one cat, and two guinea pigs moved in with Gale and Sandy for a week. Their son Will and his fiancée Sophia were engaged over Thanksgiving 2021 and will marry in 2022. Life can change so quickly—every day we are reminded of that!

Claire Keeler Beck spent the early part of the year helping her niece Betsy and Betsy's husband, Mark, relocate to Colorado after losing their home to the Healdsburg, California fires. While fully vaxed and boosted, she held insanity at bay by remaining in rural Vermont, riding and building a flower garden. As you read this, she will be recovering from her second knee replacement surgery and looking forward to riding her horses this summer and skiing next year pain-free.

1968_{MI}

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Sue Essen writes: I've been mostly at home since March 2020, but lots of text/email/FB, some calling, so not a total recluse! I did take four flights last June (Wisconsin and back) to see **Holly Bobe Erker** at her family cottage on the lakeshore. Holly manages intently the challenges of keeping all in trim. It was alien, wearing a KN95 topped with a bucket hat edged in a large see-through visor, disinfectant wipes at the ready. But it worked! I'm feeling a great deal of empathy for healthcare workers these days. Wishing extra wellness to us all!

1969_{MI}

PHOEBE SCOTT BURKE
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Catherine Harrison Gidcumb: Jim, who is now retired, and I continue to divide our time between St. Louis and Kiawah Island, South Carolina. Kiawah has been a wonderful place to escape from the pandemic and to also spend time with my oldest buddy from our first day of kindergarten: **Kathy Goltra Wood**. Sadly, Kathy lost her dear husband, Clark, in October. I know all send their condolences to Kathy and her son, Chet, who lives in Charleston.

1970_{CDS}

PAUL ANAGNOSTOPOLOUS
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Hearty salutations to all the classmates, family, and friends reading this installment of the CDS '70 Class Notes. I hope you are staying healthy as we continue to endure the pandemic. Is there a light at the end of the tunnel? You'll be the judge of that.

Ernie Planck reports, "My daughter **Laura '03** and family sold their house in Cleveland and bought a house in Kansas City. They moved in June 1, 2021. My son-in-law is still working with Marshall Goldman Motor Sales. It's now only a 3.5-hour drive instead of nine, allowing me to spend even more quality time with them."

Mark Johnson writes, "Checked off a lifelong bucket list goal this past fall when I went on a cattle drive as a hired wrangler on a northern Arizona ranch. Should be off the crutches and fully recovered in time for the May reunion."

I heard from **Bill Sprich**, who tells us that his daughter gave them another grandson on August 26, James David Walters Kovach. Congratulations, Bill!

I was pleased that **Tom Barad** reported in with his required news. “Jill and I now have two grandchildren, a girl who is three and a boy who is eight months. A friend asked how we like being grandparents. I said, ‘If I knew it would be this much fun, I would have done it sooner.’ My friend replied, ‘No, you mean you would have done it first.’” Congratulations, Tom!

Parker Smith sends his greetings. “Happy New Year to all. 2021 was a momentous year for the Smith family. We welcomed two new granddaughters in June. That makes six grandchildren, with the oldest being six. We took everyone to Hilton Head Island in October. Much nonsense with all the kids but great to see our legacies growing up. Everyone is happy, healthy, and looking forward to a return to normal (hopefully) life in 2022.”

John Fox writes that he has been appointed to a four-year term as Voting Commissioner of the St. Louis Art Museum.

Bob Hermann sent me news about various classmates. “Rumor is the band is getting back together for reunions, and will include **David Oetting** and Ernie Planck, but not for the great and illustrious Class of '70...for the Class of '71. Maybe we can sneak in for a listen! **Cap Grossman** is available for consultation, bank loans, weight training, baseball lessons, and life advice now that he has sold his company to Nucor steel. **Jack Thomas** wowed the crowd, judging at the Cavallino car event in Palm Beach and speaking on Ferraris, about which he has become a very knowledgeable driver and collector.”

Cap Grossman then reported in to confirm Hermann's news. The deal with Nucor was closed in September. Cap also reports, “All else is well. Jack is still working for Wells Fargo, albeit remotely, which is getting old. Jacob is in 8th grade at Chaminade.”

Speaking of the next reunion, we have grand plans for May 2022. Our twice-postponed 50th reunion will take place during MICDS reunion weekend, May 5–7. We have three events planned for our class, and the school has events on campus that we can attend. Here's hoping

that the pandemic cooperates and allows our 50th to take place!

All is well here in Carlisle, with yours truly about 80% retired. I'm a member of the Carlisle Governance Task Force, voted into existence at the last town meeting. Our charter is to investigate ways to improve government in Carlisle. It has been quite entertaining so far.

1971_{MI}

LAURIE JACOBSON PROVOST

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01. Rob and Cynthia Avon Bennink '71 with their son Andrew and his bride Karenn, and their younger son, Nat, last September.

02. Dana McBride Von Kohorn '71 with husband, Ken, is all smiles at the wedding of her daughter, Brooke.

03. Lanny and Lele Woolsey Springs '71 with their twins, Tyler and Andrew, at Tyler's summer wedding to Justine Steele.

04. Laurie Wolff Miller '71 (with antlers) celebrates the holidays in style with daughter Margot '06, sons Mason '01 and Daniel '99 and Daniel's wife Anne Hunt '00, and grandkids, Charlie and Mary, at their annual Imo's Pizza-fest!

05. Dr. Tori King '71 assists an earthquake victim in Haiti and returned to Guatemala for her annual sojourn to repair cleft palates.



1971 CDS

NELSON HOWE

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l-r (clockwise): Mike Minton '71, Peter Wilson '71, Dave Oetting '70, and Jay Jarvis '71 (kneeling) at the wedding of Berkley Frost '09 and Spencer Minton '08.

1974 MI

CASEY MALLINCKRODT

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Becky Howe Hailand: We are lucky to have two of our three kids back home. Our daughter **Elizabeth '07** is working on the philanthropy team at Edward Jones and is expecting our first grandchild. **Arthur '10** married a dentist; they have moved back from Chicago and bought a dental practice in Kirkwood. Our youngest, **Henry '12**, still lives in Chicago working residential real estate. I have been seeing Holly quite a bit lately swimming laps at the Clayton Center and recently had dinner with Susie, Susan, and Alice. Hope you are well.

Margot Lyman Sprague: Chris and I finished a long-imagined update of our newly full-time house in Dublin, New Hampshire. Daughter Emmy is living with her partner, Matt, north of Boston, running their company and doing a year of graduate study. Jay married his lovely Vanessa this past August. These COVID-19 days are filled with organizing new space, learning bridge, paddle playing, personal writing, and singing with a group of similarly gray-haired women!

Cathy Mellow Goltermann: I am working with the adorable “Nuggets” at St. Peter’s Playgroup and nannying. I will be a counselor at Burr-Oak Camp again this summer. Christen is working for Peter at American Medicare Counselors. Catherine married Bradley Clark on October 16—our 39th anniversary—and is teaching at Hixson Middle School. Woody is working with a law firm in New York. Chris has moved to Commerce Bank in Clayton. We have all avoided COVID-19.

Laura Brooks Meyer is happy to report being “Grammy” to four beautiful grandchildren.

Trudi Glick Carey: My news is that I am building a new home for myself. My son Sam and his wife, Gabrielle, are expecting their first child—a boy! Still laughing with family, working, playing lots of tennis, cooking, and riding my bike. Come visit Santa Barbara when out our way.

Cynthia Graham Landis: Steve and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary in 2021. We live in Rowayton, Connecticut, very near our two daughters: Carrie, who has two daughters, and Libby. My mom, Carolyn Graham, passed away in November. In November I retired after 25 years in real estate management. Steve and I are involved in sailing, both cruising and racing, and have a 42' Grand Banks. I'm finally learning that it's more important to reach out and try to make the most of now.

Lyn McCandless Hopkins: In 2021 I had two wonderful visits to St. Louis to be with my mother, **Ann '51**, and my brother, **Sandy '75**. I also got together with Christy, Holly, Cathy, and **Linda Loeb Bearman '76**. Always a highlight to be with such great pals.

Mimi Johnston Vangel: The Vangels have moved back to Kansas City following Dave's retirement from Smucker's. After a five-year stint in Ohio, we're enjoying being closer to friends and family again.

Joan Hagedorn Ball: Canceled all travel the past two years. I am working two days a week at Sign of the Arrow. I run into Holly and Vicki there, and **Jane Spivy Keough** sends her

needlepoint in for finishing which leads to more fun conversations. **Roger '72** is retired and enjoying having time to chill and do projects. Daughter **Jessica '05** and her fiancé Justin just moved from Brooklyn to Minneapolis. Son **Chris '07** is in St. Louis doing ecommerce for Dr. Brown's baby bottles.

Muffy Roulhac Sewall: Despite the pandemic (or maybe because of it), I have had the pleasure of seeing or emailing with old classmates. I have seen **Peggy Daniel Deehan**, **Jane Spivy Keough**, **Cindy Kohlbry**, **Cathy Goltermann**, **Robin Wurdack Lynch**, **Sarah McCleery Striler**, and **Alice Wuertenbaecher Sedgwick** at different times over the last year! We have spent a lot of time in New York this past year with our daughter and her family. Our 18-month-old granddaughter keeps me going! While I am essentially retired, I am spending time advising and mentoring med-tech startups companies through the University of Minnesota. I also continue to teach teams interested in starting a business. I am playing more golf and really enjoying it.

Nina Primm McIntyre is head-over-heels in love with her first grandbaby, Charlie von Reyn. Living in Dublin, New Hampshire, full-time means lots of visits with Margot and Casey, as well as glimpses of Jane, Lynn, and Sally, who are all nearby. COVID-19-sanity strategies: gardening, staying busy with full-time work and two nonprofits, and reading.

Harriet Travilla Reynolds: We are up to four grandchildren, two in Norfolk and two in New York, and get to see all of them on a pretty regular basis. I am still working—concentrating in tax credit and community development projects—but see retirement in the not too distant future. Hope that anyone passing through Virginia will come and see us—we love having visitors. Here's to a happy, healthy 2022 for all.

Karen Post: After postponing her wedding for a year due to COVID-19, my daughter Willow got married this past June in Glacier National Park. She and her husband, Hunter, live in Missoula, Montana. I still live in Steamboat and play hockey, though keeping up with women 40 years my junior is work! I took up

curling this summer, and I'm hooked! It truly is chess on ice.

Casey Mallinckrodt: Thanksgiving and Christmas 2021 with my daughter, Leeds, and her partner, Dave, who live and work in Denver were wonderful. I continue to enjoy work as the objects conservator at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum in Hartford, Connecticut, and am a proud co-author of *The Arts of Africa: Studying and Conservation of the Collections; Virginia Museum of Fine Arts* published in January 2021. I remain a trustee of the excellent College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine, and spend time on Mount Desert Island.

1975_{MI}

LISA COULTER

lcoulter2244@aol.com

KAT SCHNEIDER-CLARK

katc@swbell.net

From **Celeste Dubuque Sprung:** I continue to enjoy retirement and focus on lifelong learning. The pandemic has honed my culinary skills. This past October, I went on an adventurous pheasant hunt in South Dakota with my husband, Ed. My affiliation with The St. Louis Herb Society, the Boxwood Society of the Midwest, and the Rowena Clarke Garden Club are all quite rewarding. In 2021, I became a Missouri Master Naturalist intern in a program sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation and the University of Missouri Extension.

1977_{CDS}

TOM TIPTON

ttipton@sbgstv.com

Mike Matheis writes: After 26 years of raising our family in Darien, Connecticut, my wife Dana and I are moving to Bonita Bay, Florida, while continuing to spend our summers in the northeast. Our oldest three, Case, Mariah, and Campbell, live and work in New York City. Our youngest, Holt, is a freshman at Georgetown

University, where he plays on the lacrosse team with recent MICDS grads **Graham Bundy Jr. '19** and his brother, **Crawford '21**.

Bill McCandless writes: I'm still in McCall, Idaho, with my wife, Susan, enjoying seasonal activities with our Jack Russells. Had a fun visit in St. Louis in November. Fun keeping up with the gang via texts (especially during Blues games). If ever in our neck of the woods, give a shout. There are plenty of fun things to do.

Tom Tipton writes: I'm beginning my 30th year at KDNL-TV and celebrating the ownership of Expressions Furniture (going on 15 years) with Charlie and Andi's mom! Stop on by. Really enjoyed watching the MICDS Rams football team this fall. What a dominant team! Congrats to all the players and coaches.

Rob Pierce and his wife are spending time in a tree house in Costa Rica without the children or mother-in-law...just a group of Howler monkeys. I guess that's what vets do? He and his wife Dawn sold their veterinary practice in Sandpoint, Idaho, and are now contemplating retirement; a new concept!

Dave Apted writes: Everything is awesome on my front. My sons have already produced three granddaughters in the last few years and they are kicking butt in real estate development. My daughter is at CSU and loves it. I'm still playing hockey and spending less time in the penalty box! Like everyone else, I'm playing pickle ball. I find that hitting people with the ball is not nearly as much fun as hitting people in tennis; my best doubles partner Mike Matheis can confirm that.

One reminder: this year marks our 45th anniversary of graduating in June 1977. Anyone feeling old?

1980_{MI}

FIFI LUGO

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Barbi Cady Macon '80 and **Bill '77** sold the family home of 59 years in April and spent the summer loving life and dog walks in Old

Town Clayton before finding a forever home and moving in November 2021. A lot of Mary I memories and celebrations at 32 West for the classes of 1976 and 1980 that will be treasured for sure! Barbi continues to stay busy with portrait photography when not putzing at the new digs or enjoying her first grandchild, who arrived on January 20, 2022—William Hartwell Macon IV.

1983_{MI}

Anne Livingstone Kirsch: I am happy to announce the birth of my second granddaughter in 2021. Novah Aguilar, born May 16, 2021, joins her older sister, Mariana, who is 18 months old. I am loving every moment of it. I am still working for the Texas Department of Public Safety. I am responsible for contract management and writing as well as project management. Working for a law enforcement agency is more gratifying than I ever thought.



Anne Kirsch '83 with granddaughters Mariana and Novah.



Anne Kirsch '83 with four generations of women in her family: her mother, Judy Livingstone Klutho, her daughter Caroline, and her granddaughters, Mariana and Novah.

1986 CDS

Tom Schott: Excited to report that my sixth book has been published, *100 Things Purdue Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die*. I also continue to do freelance writing for the St. Louis Cardinals. Looking forward to the reunion in May.

1987 MI

DREES ARNESON CLINE
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In November, **Julie Hullverson Barnato**, **Julie Garagnani Jones**, **Kaki Rohan Lanchulev**, **Sarah Baker**, **Tui Kenny Browning**, and I went cruising on the Virgin Scarlet Lady through the Bahamas. We even met up with Johnny Brown, Julie's old pal from senior spring break. He took us out on his boat to Rose Island for a glorious beach day. The cruise far exceeded our expectations and we had an absolute blast. We've all decided that we need to do this more often—all that laughter and goofing around is good for the soul! So lucky to have these old friendships, thanks to Mary Institute.



1989 MI

Libby Curtis McCandless: After 21 years in Kirkwood, we found our dream house in the woods of High Ridge, Missouri, and are loving life out here. Our dogs and cats especially love it. I'm still doing freelance marketing and French tutoring, and I volunteer with Moms in Prayer International and The St. Louis Children's Choirs. A recent highlight for me was participating in the MICDS Lessons & Carols Sing-along—even if I can't hit those high notes anymore! Hugs to the class of '89!

2002 MICDS

Kendall Krummenacher reported: My 2002 classmates got together recently at Polite Society for dinner. **Marty Toth** (bottom left) was in from Marin, California. **Ryan Hanley Goldstein** is next to him, and she lives off Geyer here in town. Top left is **Kathryn Minton**, who was in from Kansas City, Kansas. On the right hand side is Rohan Castelino, who is married to **Katie Littlefield** (right middle) of University City, and there I am in the upper left, Kendall Krummenacher of Clayton, Missouri.



2003 MICDS

Kristine Kamper Sontheimer: I was married to my husband, Gerald "Nick" Sontheimer, in 2013 and had our first son, Gerald Nicholas Sontheimer IV, in June 2014. I transitioned from a seventh-grade life science teacher in Fort Zumwalt after seven years to ninth-grade physics at Chaminade College Preparatory School. In 2020 we were blessed with our son Carlos. His adoption was legalized on March 15, 2021, right after I completed my Doctorate in Teacher Leadership from Maryville University. After seven years at Chaminade, I'm exploring new options for my future career!



Kristine Kamper Sontheimer '03 with her family: husband Nick and sons Gerald and Carlos.

2008-2009 MICDS

Berkley Frost '09 and Spencer Minton '08 shared this fun photo taken at their November 2021 wedding at Lambert Airport. From left: Elizabeth Moore Coulter '08, Marysa Monterubio Boggeman '05, Grace Monterubio '10, Nora Minton '99, Brian Holekamp '08, Mimi Mudd Stauffer '10, Hayley Frost Freeman '10, Will Freeman '08, Marty Toth '02, Olivia Anderson '10, Brendan Lyss '08, Andrew Rapp '08, Michael Minton '71, Nick Hawes '08, Berkley Frost Minton '09, Spencer Minton '08, Michael Goldenberg '08, Elizabeth Galanis '09, Callie Rapp '08, Audrey Hawes '08, Caroline Coulter '08, Walker Harbison '08, Will Mueller '08, Jake Miller '08, Krissy Wymore Waterbury '08, Chris Waterbury '08, Jack Anderson '05, Steve Anderson '08, Chris Coulter '05, and Bartow Hawes '06.



Save the Date!



Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

All 2022 Hall of Fame inductees, as well as all Hall of Fame members, will be honored at a ceremony on:

Friday, September 23, 2022
MICDS-JBS Homecoming Weekend
Celebration of Athletics at MICDS
5:30-7:30 p.m. - Brauer Hall

Check your email this summer for more information!

Florida Alumni Welcome Jay Rainey

Palm Beach area alumni gathered on February 15 to visit with one another and hear from **Head of School Jay Rainey**. Graduates from the classes of 1960-2013 mingled over hors d'oeuvres and enjoyed Rainey's remarks on the state of the School. We are grateful to **Signa** and **Bob '70 Hermann** for hosting this lovely event at their home. The party atmosphere continued to Naples, Florida, where alumni and parents of alumni attended an MICDS reception at the Royal Poinciana Golf Club. Attendees, including alumni from the classes of 1951-1992, were able to speak one-on-one with Rainey throughout the evening before he shared his reflections and opened the floor to questions. Many thanks to **Shellie** and **Tee '64 Baur** for sponsoring the event.

Palm Beach

01. Kay Kim, Dora Kim Baer '83, Amy McFarland Dove '85
02. Signa Hermann, Ted Gamble '71, Susan Stupin
03. Girard Brownlow '69 and John Rosenheim '69
04. Jay Rainey, Marianne Schultz Galt '64, Elizabeth Mauzé
05. Sandy Galt '60, Merrill Hermann '13, Bob Hermann '70, Ruth Rainey, McCaig Dove '13, Joe Rechter '69, Hugh Scott '67
06. Jay Rainey, Ruth Rainey, Bob Hermann '70, Merrill Hermann '13, Signa Hermann



01



02



03



04



05



06



Naples

01. Sally Driemeyer, Page Sharp Jackson '56, Ruth Rainey, Carol Kent Diggs '58

02. Lee Trueblood Pommer '60, Walter Diggs '54, Terry Franc '54, Marjorie Franc, Judy Gissler Adair '56, Jerry Adair

03. Derick Driemeyer '52, Suzanne Williams Broadbuss '63, Bill Broadbuss, Torrey Foster '52

04. Jay Hensley '63, Tee Baur '64, Kevin Maher, Lynn Koeneman, Ed Ryan

05. Page Sharp Jackson '56, Linda Perry '82, Judy Perry, Anne Baldwin Wetzel '60

06. Shellie Baur, Tee Baur '64, Carol Kent Diggs '58, Walter Diggs '54, Jim Burford '68, Anne Baldwin Wetzel '60, Diana Davis Madsen '65

07. Matt Brooks '92, Deb Brooks, Tee Baur '64, Jay Rainey





01. Cindy Shoenberg Peters '67 and Lotsie Holton '67 were featured in *St. Louis Magazine* as members of the Explorers Club St. Louis, which encourages scientific exploration and field research.

Bill Wallace '78 was featured in a *St. Louis Business Journal* article entitled "Improving Life for Local Vets." Wallace is president and executive director of Missouri Veterans Endeavor, a nonprofit that aims to provide resources for local veterans experiencing homelessness. "There is a wonderful amount of support for the veterans in St. Louis," he said. "There are so many business leaders and professional leaders who love to sit down with veterans and hear their stories, find out what they're interested in, and help them get engaged in their individual company or their business community."

02. Leah Thomas '13 released her new book, *The Intersectional Environmentalist*, and launched a book tour.

03. Rebecca Dubis '14 served on the crew of "Steven Raichlen's Project Fire," a PBS cooking show. The show spent two weeks in St. Louis,

exploring the city's barbecue history. Thirteen episodes will air in May, although we won't see Dubis on the screen as she and the other students worked behind the scenes. However, Raichlen did use a loaf of brioche Dubis made and mentioned her by name while filming.

04. Kendall Work '18 was profiled by the University of Southern California Viterbi School of Engineering for his efforts in the Viterbi Scholars Institute, as a student leader on the board of USC's chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers, and for spearheading educational initiatives at the USC Viterbi K-12 STEM Center. The article says, "Work has been an exemplary case of how investment in self and community unlocks potential." The senior graduated in May and headed to Microsoft as a hardware program manager.

In the photo above, **Kendall Work '18** mentors young students.

05. Graham Bundy '19 was featured on the cover of *Lacrosse Magazine* and is a preseason first-team All-American.



Young Alumni Visit the Class of 2022

On January 4, three young MICDS alumni returned to campus to share their experiences as college freshmen with the Class of 2022. **Walter Ralph '21** (Southern Methodist University), **Jack Morris '21** (Brown University), and **Gretel Wurdack '21** (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) came to talk about insights into the transition to college along with sharing tips and tricks. They spoke about living at and navigating college, learning to be independent, what it's like to be at a large school, connecting with professors and peers, time management, the importance of sleep and nutrition, and laundry skills.



MICDS

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NOW



Gordon Raymond was a St. Louis Country Day teacher who ran the Manual Arts class. Today, students from the Lower School through the Upper School take advantage of several makerspaces on campus to supplement their learning from science and math to history and social sciences.