

# MICDS

THE MAGAZINE

VOLUME 33 NO. 2 | SUMMER 2023

## Empowering Minds, Igniting Futures

MICDS Teachers Inspire a  
New Generation of Problem Solvers





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# MICDS

MARY INSTITUTE AND SAINT LOUIS COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

## OUR MISSION

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.

## ABOUT MICDS MAGAZINE

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MARY INSTITUTE &  
SAINT LOUIS COUNTRY  
DAY SCHOOL ALUMNI



## Dear MICDS Family,

Who is mightier, the Bengal tiger or the great white shark? Shere Khan or Jaws?

In *Family Instructions for the Yan Clan*, the medieval Chinese courtier Yan Zhitui imagines two men discussing the merits of cultivation of the mind. The first observes that warriors “use a strong bow and a long spear to punish evil and bring peace to the people, thus becoming a duke or a marquis”; that politicians “use elegance and official training to enrich the nation, thus becoming ministers or premiers”; but that “others who are well learned nevertheless have neither position nor income.” He concludes by asking, “What value is there in learning?”

“Failure or success in a person’s fate,” the other man responds, “is like gold, jade, wood, and stone. To cultivate oneself by learning and skill is like polishing and carving: the polished gold or jade is certainly more beautiful than the gold ore or uncut jade, and broken pieces of wood or stone are naturally uglier than the well-carved. Can you say that carved wood or stone is more valuable than the unworked gold or jade? You cannot compare the poor and humble condition of a learned person with the riches and nobility of the unlearned.” Wisdom and prosperity, according to Yan Zhitui, inhabit separate planes of being. You cannot compare the Bengal tiger with the great white shark.

Writing some 500 years earlier to his friend Lucilius in Sicily, the Roman statesman and philosopher Seneca the Younger made

a similar case for the value of learning independent of material gain. “I respect no study, and deem no study good, which results in money-making,” he wrote. “Such studies are profit-bringing occupations, useful only insofar as they give the mind a preparation. They are our apprenticeship, not our real work.” What, then, is our “real work” according to Seneca? “There is only one study that gives a person his liberty,” he declared. “It is the study of wisdom, and that is lofty, brave, and great-souled. Wisdom is a large and spacious thing. It needs plenty of free room. One must learn about things divine and human, the past and the future, the ephemeral and the eternal.”

We needed plenty of free room of our own for this issue of *MICDS Magazine*—room to showcase chemistry in the Lower School, architecture and essay composition in the Middle School, and robotics in the Upper School; room to highlight student participation and achievement in the National World War II Museum’s Normandy Academy program as well as our venerable Prize Speaking competition; room to tout the accomplishments of teachers like Summer Beasley, Changa Bey, and Charlotte Dougherty in places beyond our doors; and room to celebrate community milestones in the life of our wonderful school. Seneca’s “real work” is much to be discovered in these pages.

That learning for learning’s sake is indeed real work is a steadily diminishing contention in American life. In February, an essay in *The New Yorker* titled *The End*

*of the English Major* noted that nearly 30 percent of freshmen entering Harvard in the 1970s planned to major in the humanities, whereas only seven percent planned to do so in 2022. I cite this bellwether not to imply that learning for learning’s sake is unavailable to students in STEM fields—it most certainly is—but rather to suggest that the less obvious utility of the humanities as “profit-bringing occupations” explains their decline in popularity at a time when “education” and “occupation” are increasingly misunderstood as inhabiting the same plane of being. I cannot say for certain who is mightier, the Bengal tiger or the great white shark, but I do know for certain that if you put them together, either Jaws will asphyxiate, or Shere Khan will drown.

The joys of curiosity, creativity, discovery, and learning, and through these joys the attainment of wisdom, must continue to be our real work at 101 North Warson Road. As Yan Zhitui understood, whether fate fashions wood, stone, jade, or gold of our students’ lives, the work of learning ensures their lasting value and, as Seneca understood, ensures their liberty. “Wisdom is a large and spacious thing. It needs plenty of free room.” We have all the room in the world for our students at MICDS.

**Jay Rainey**  
Head of School



# 106 Years of Prize Speaking

A century-old tradition continued when the Upper School held its annual Prize Speaking competition. The 106th public speaking contest, sponsored by the English department, occurred during an Upper School assembly in December. Four students took turns on stage to individually recite a literary excerpt in front of the entire Upper School student body. These four finalists made it through auditions earlier in the fall to earn a spot on the Brauer Auditorium stage.

"The competition was steep this year," said **Nicole Trueman-Shaw, Director of Upper School Student Leadership**. "We had 14 students interested in being included and were able to narrow it down to four after auditions. All four finalists did an outstanding job, and I loved working with them on their pieces." Trueman-Shaw coached each of the finalists through three rehearsals.

Each competitor performed a memorized, well-rehearsed, one-and-a-half to two-minute monologue from a play or literary piece. Judges then selected the speaker whose

delivery best connected with the audience during the performance. Students were evaluated for their vocal choices, body language, and connection to the audience and the piece itself.

**Aanya Tiwari '23** delivered an excerpt from John Boyne's historical fiction, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, and was declared the 2022 champion. Her name was inscribed on the Dartmouth Cup, which remains on display on the MICDS campus. While the judges deliberated in the Hearth Room, **Grayson Marks '23** gave a stunning piano performance of a transcription of *Silent Night* by Clarence Kohlmann.

"Throughout the piece, I found my peers focused and engaged, which felt extremely rewarding in itself," said Tiwari. "This is now a core memory I take away from MICDS, and I could not be more grateful for it. I encourage everyone to be the voice of reason and change by way of their actions and reactions. As John Boyne wrote in my piece on the Holocaust, 'Their lost voices must continue to be heard.'"



# Pete Wilson '51 Fellows Present on Normandy Academy Experience



Three **Pete Wilson '51** Fellows for Normandy Academy, **Aanya Tiwari '23**, **Chloe Davis '24**, and **Abby Wyckoff '24**, walked in the footsteps of those who made history on June 6, 1944, and then shared their experience with the MICDS community.

The National World War II Museum's Normandy Academy is a 12-day educational journey that challenges students to learn from the choices made before and during the historic D-Day landings. Students visit New Orleans, Louisiana, and Normandy, France, to delve deeper into the experiences of the Allied forces throughout the Battle of Normandy.

Through the generosity of St. Louis Country Day School alum **Edward T. Baur '64**, these students received full scholarships (including flights, tuition, meals, etc.) to participate in the Academy.

Presenting to ninth-grade students, the fellows described the events, the strategy behind the invasion, the many sites of significance, and the people involved. "The success of D-Day came from the unparalleled bravery of Allied soldiers. Each person involved treated this operation with such dedication, almost like they were taking on D-Day by themselves. War is always people," they said.

They visited several cemeteries, including the American National Cemetery and German War Cemetery, leaving the Academy students with different emotions.

"The Normandy trip was truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Davis. "The experience of meeting American war veterans, a member of the French Resistance, and learning about D-Day through historical landmarks was incredible."

"Growing up, I was surrounded by war as I spent my childhood in Colombo, Sri Lanka, a nation ravaging through a civil war at the time," said Tiwari. "Not only did this trip allow me to constructively reminisce my memories of war, but I also better understand a monumental point in history that has led us to the present."

"I loved everything about this trip," echoed Wyckoff. "From exploring the beaches to meeting some really interesting people, Normandy Academy taught me so many lessons. I really think that what you learn on this trip fully immerses you in the history of the war and the fight for freedom. It also gives you a sense of independence and is an all-around amazing experience."







## Writing is Never Wasted: Author J.A. White Visits Beasley

Last October, children's author J.A. White visited with fourth-grade students. He told the students, "Writing is never wasted," explaining the value of all parts of the writing process and the value of determination throughout. Even if a story doesn't pan out the way we hope, it's always a process we can learn from to create more satisfying stories in the future.

In preparation for White's visit, **Lower School Librarian Thomas Buffington** worked with the students on writing prompts available through the author's website and shared, "I hope that students will continue to practice writing skills and incorporate some of his tips in their future writing at Beasley and as they grow into middle school."



A portrait of Dr. Bill Swartout, an older man with white hair, smiling. He is wearing a light blue button-down shirt under a grey tweed jacket with a red plaid pattern. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage and a building.

# Feeding the Machine for Good: An Intersection of Science & Creativity

*Dr. Bill Swartout '70 creates AI systems to inform, educate, and heal*

In the 1969–1970 academic year at St. Louis Country Day School, senior Bill Swartout navigated the catwalk in Orthwein Theatre numerous times, setting up lighting rigs for Troubadours and Masque productions such as Abbott and Loesser's *Where's Charley?* and N.F. Simpson's *One Way Pendulum*, pondering if he would pursue filmmaking or computer science after graduation. He ultimately chose computer science, but little did he know that his two interests would finally intersect two decades after landing his first role in the field.

Today, as Chief Technology Officer at the USC Institute for Creative Technologies and a research professor in computer science at the University of Southern California, Swartout is involved in developing artificial intelligence (AI) systems where he focuses on virtual humans, explanation and text generation, knowledge

acquisition and representation, intelligent computer-based education, and the development of new AI architectures.

When AI was a mere twinkle in the universe, Swartout entered seventh grade at CDS—immediately impacted by his science teacher, Mr. Fredrickson ("Mr. Fred"), who was highly skilled at engaging students, encouraging critical thinking, and involving them deeply in the subject. Later, it was a spark from Mr. Webb, who formed the first Computer Club where Swartout and his buddy Paul Anagnostopoulos had their first experience in programming computers. Swartout said, "Paul's dad worked in the research department at Monsanto then, and he had access to some computers. So we got to trundle down to Monsanto on the weekends with our little card decks to program the computer. And later, Mary



01/02. Images taken by Swartout of Troubadours and Masque productions in the 1969-1970 academic year

03. A snowy day image taken by Swartout for the CODASCO 1970 yearbook.

Institute got its own computer, and I remember getting permission to go over there and use it. So that was great fun."

At the same time, Swartout was using his creative and technical skills on the lighting and sound crews for Troubadours and Masque productions and as a photographer for CDS News and the CODASCO yearbook. "I was involved in many of the dramatic productions in Danforth Chapel where the lights were operated with dimmers with patents from the 1900s, and they would spark when rotated like something out of Frankenstein. When we moved to the "New Theatre" (now Orthwein Theatre), there were catwalks, and you could just go out and change the lights in a more straightforward way." Swartout nurtured his split interests in science and the arts, even creating a few films at CDS, one of which was a student film with his classmates Anagnostopoulos, Harold Bible, and Cappy Grossman about environmental issues. It won first place in a St. Louis area high school film contest. The film led to another project encouraged by CDS faculty member Bob

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**"One of the things I learned at Country Day was how to work on projects as a team and what you need to make a team work. The student movie we made was just one example of a year-long project. I looked back at it at the end and said if I knew how hard this would be when I started, I would never have started. All the best things I've done in my life are of that sort, things that seemed really daunting, but if you stuck to it, you got a good result."**

BILL SWARTOUT



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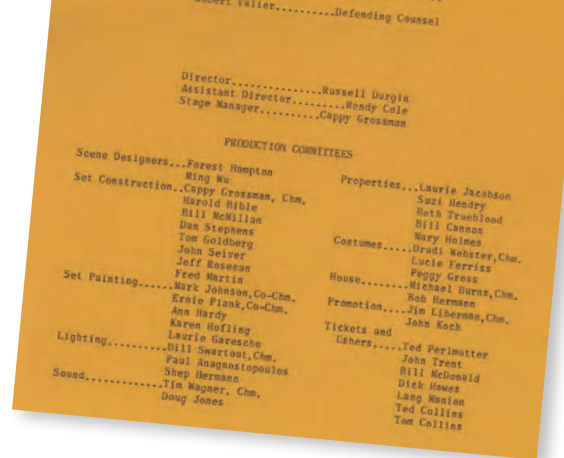
Simpson, who left CDS to work at the Social Health Association of St. Louis. "The organization provided sex education materials to public schools and needed a film to show at school PTA meetings to convince the parents that this was a good idea, so we made a film that demonstrated what material the students will cover in the class and to demystify it for parents. Years later, the organization got back in touch with me for a new copy because they had shown the sprockets off of the first one," he said.

As he approached graduation in 1970, the split interests felt more disparate. He said, "Do I want to become a filmmaker, or do I want to become a computer scientist? There wasn't much mathematics in filmmaking or much creativity in computer science. I remember talking to my dad, and he said in a good midwestern fatherly sort of way, 'Well, Bill, you know, if you go into computer science, you'll probably always have a job.' I was probably a little more talented in computer science, so I went in that direction but remained interested in filmmaking."

After CDS, Swartout attended Stanford and pursued his master's degree and doctorate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Swartout laughed and said, "When I was at Stanford, I kept trying to get into the filmmaking course, and I could never get in because it was only for film majors. So one summer, I volunteered as an assistant cameraman for KETC in St. Louis, which was a lot of fun. And at the same time, I got into the computer science and AI field because it seemed amazing if you could create a computer you could converse with."



Image of Swartout with camera from his 1970 CODASCO yearbook senior page and program from the 1969-70 Troubadours production of Abbott and Loesser's *Where's Charley?*



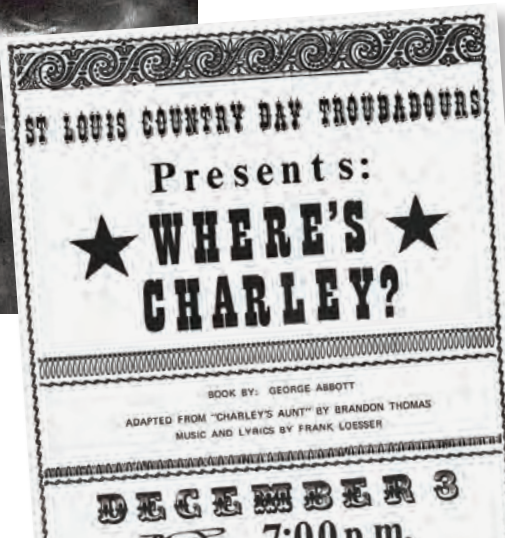
Program from the 1969-70 Masque production of N.F. Simpson's *One Way Pendulum*

Stanford also sparked his love affair with California and warm weather, and the brutal winters at MIT sealed the deal. Swartout landed a role at USC working in the Information Sciences Institute, which eventually started an AI division. Swartout became director of that division, grew it, and left to run a new USC entity, the Institute for Creative Technologies (ICT), where he remains more than two decades later. The ICT was established in partnership with the Department of Defense (DoD) to bring together research in advanced technology such as AI, computer graphics, virtual and augmented reality, and the learning sciences to work with creatives from the entertainment industry who know how to create compelling content, to develop the next generation of systems for training and education.

## The Birth of Artificial Intelligence

AI at the time of Swartout's graduation was different than today. "Instead of using machine learning that you hear about now, in the latter part of the 70s and early 80s, people used various rule-based architectures: if this condition is met, then take this action, and build from there. Earlier models used logic, having the computer do proofs that were very slow. The next idea on the scene was giving the computer a knowledge base about a particular topic. Then a big area became 'how do you represent knowledge in a computer?' It's like a database but different because it represents principles about the world, giving it a significant leg up in solving problems. Instead of deriving everything from scratch, it knew the answer based on the knowledge within," he said.

Swartout was also involved in the clinical decision-making group at MIT, trying to build AI systems to help physicians with diagnoses or therapies. "We created a system that offers a physician some advice about a patient," said Swartout. "But what's also important is to explain why that advice is a good idea. Which led to the area of knowledge explanation." He added, "The current technology is more of the machine learning / neural net approach, which considers many factors to produce a result. But it takes different activation levels of various things to make it





happen. It's hard to turn that into a natural language explanation, so naturally, people have struggled with it. Until we solve that particular nugget, it will limit the use of the technology because people won't know if they can trust the results they're getting."

## The Intersection of Science and Art

In the late 1990s, computers and video games started to look and play really well, and computers were getting much faster. "The military was noticing this and saying that these video games were better than some military simulations that cost millions of dollars and have to run on a computer the size of a refrigerator," Swartout said. So the DoD sponsored a study with the National Research Council to see if there would be something to gain by bringing together people from the entertainment industry, academia, and the military. The study found that to be a promising idea, and the next question was how to make it happen. Ultimately, the DoD determined the best approach would be to set up an institute at a university, which could serve as a meeting ground bringing together technology, the entertainment industry, and the military, giving rise to the ICT.

Swartout was thrilled. "When I heard about this, I was like, 'Sign me up!' My two interests could finally come back together again," he said. "Think about films these days; if you stick around for the credits, they've gotten a lot longer because of all the digital arts involved in filmmaking, and some of the technology we created at the Institute is actually involved in that." For example, his team built a device called a Light Stage, a large geodesic dome with LED lights inside. A person can be filmed under various lighting conditions in the dome, creating a 3D model of the person that can be animated and relit under arbitrary conditions. The ICT team has even won a few Technical Academy Awards for their work. "We've used this for the military and are talking about using it to create personalized avatars for people. So if you're in a simulation with your teammates rehearsing a maneuver, you have teammates that actually look like your real-life colleagues, and we can take into account their other skills like marksmanship, navigation, etc.," he added.

The Light Stage avatar work led to more projects with the military helping veterans and active duty soldiers with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Swartout's colleagues tackled the issue by assisting soldiers in reliving the traumatic experience using virtual reality accompanied by a therapist providing a safe context. "It's been found to be as effective as conventional therapy and works on people who have failed it. We had an early group in our study who had failed conventional therapy, and at the end of the ten weeks, around 70 to 80% were no longer considered to have PTSD," Swartout said.

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01. Bill hiking the Yosemite Falls Trail.

02. Bill with wife, Jane, off of St. John's in the Caribbean.



Pinchas Gutter, the first  
holocaust survivor recorded  
in the Light Stage.

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## Building a Better World

Swartout's pride and joy is a project with the Shoah Foundation, an organization that provides an opportunity for survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust to tell their own stories in audio-visual interviews and make them accessible for research, education, and outreach. "They came to us several years ago and shared that a highlight of going to a holocaust museum is talking to a living holocaust survivor and conversing with them. And the problem is, they're all getting a lot older, and we are the last generation with access to these stories," Swartout said. To preserve the stories, the ICT worked with holocaust museums to develop a list of questions that museum visitors typically ask, and they brought survivors into the lab. Using the Light Stage, the team asked questions and recorded the survivors' answers to create a database of questions and corresponding answers. They recorded 1,700+ responses and fed them into the natural language system on site, forming a predictive model with off-the-shelf speech recognition that provides the best-fit answer. "All this happens very fast, and it works well. When visitors start to feel that they are in a conversation, the AI technology behind it disappears as they engage in the stories being told. It has a real emotional impact on people," said Swartout. This technology has been exhibited at the National Holocaust Museum and is on permanent display at the Holocaust Museum in Skokie, Illinois.

Swartout is also excited about the scalability of this method. The same technology has been used to record military members who are survivors of sexual assault so that the Army can train counselors who treat people who have experienced assault. "The number of people willing to talk about their experiences is fairly small, and one willing to share it publicly is even smaller. But it only takes one to make it available on a larger scale," he said.

In addition to creating virtual avatars for storytelling and advice as mentors, Swartout is on a team starting up a new center on AI and learning to develop AI-based tools to tutor and educate individuals. The center will also develop content to train people on AI and help upskill them for future jobs that will require some AI literacy. He is also co-director of a new Center on Generative AI and Society that USC has just started that will research how generative AI may be used for good.

He said, "You see a lot of doomsday articles that say with ChatGPT, the term paper or college essay is dead. In education, there have been two main approaches to dealing with it. One is to try to detect and discourage when a student is using it. The other is it's here, and we've got to understand it. The analogy that's often drawn is to calculators. When those came out, all of a sudden, math educators panicked, and what happened was that math education changed.

"That's what has to happen here. We are building studies of best practices and other factors and creating a framework to improve a student's critical thinking skills. It's taking an approach I call 'authoring by editing,' creating an initial draft with something like ChatGPT, then looking critically at what's written. Are all the facts correct? Does the argument make sense? Are there other arguments to consider? Then you have to edit what's there and produce something better, and your edits get tracked and classified. And that forms the basis of your evaluation of that assignment. By moving away from grading an artifact, such as an essay, to grading the process, such as the edits that produced it, everything becomes more resistant to cheating and results in a grade that should better reflect the student's thinking. Hopefully, this will improve critical thinking skills from a larger society standpoint, which will be imperative going into the future because so much text will be produced mechanically."

To combat the doomsday feelings, students in today's world must be what Swartout refers to as 'AI literate.' He said, "It doesn't mean you have to know how to program AI, but you need to understand what it can and can't do, where it's going, and what the issues are."

In today's rapidly-changing world, one of the values Swartout employs and thrives on each day at the Institute was formed during his years at CDS: teamwork. He said, "One of the things I learned at Country Day was how to work on projects as a team and what you need to make a team work. The student movie we made was just one example of a year-long project. I looked back at it at the end and said if I knew how hard this would be when I started, I would never have started. All the best things I've done in my life are of that sort, things that seemed really daunting, but if you stuck to it, you got a good result."

Not knowing where his path would lead, Swartout's insatiable curiosity and passion for creativity led to a beautiful blend of work in science and creativity, always with a personal mission to preserve, elevate, and optimize the human experience through technology. Something he could never have imagined while adjusting lighting rigs on the catwalk in Orthwein Theatre.



*From the St. Louis Country Day School Magazine  
Spring-Summer 1970, Vol.17, No. 2*

SENIOR PROFILE BY RUSS DURGIN,  
CDS ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

*Purity of heart is to will one thing. Concentration in its willing one thing has purity of heart and mind. Only the genius and the saint know these things for sure, but all men have flashed intimations of these things.*

*Bill Swartout usually works with images of the eye, not images of the word. He creates with the camera lens and with 32 theatre lights as his searching, concentrating eye chisels blue lights on a black stage to render the design and the tone for wild Lear on the heath. Somehow, somewhere, sometime, at least a number of years ago, Bill began to see things differently; and he became curious about what light can do to the mind and feelings of people. For four years the people in the school have quietly become a part of the expanding vision of this concentrating eye.*

*Quietly and largely unknown—for the light designer, the lighting man, and the photographer work in the dark, often alone, and never in his own lights—Bill has become a master of his art in his passion for perfection. A hundred hours moving ellipsoidals and fresnels, edging areas, sculpting forms of light on the black stage or on the enlarging frame to create wonder: the writer is given a new focus for his work; the actor comes alive; reader and audience see new things or see old things new.*



*Bill is the last of our lone lighting men; he marks the transition from mad Wyndom to ten lighting workshop boys. In Danforth Chapel, lighting men improvised constantly, playing with inadequate circuitry, tempting fuses to many crises, losing lights, but finally winning in ways that couldn't be done; all off a six dimmer unit and little power.' Nine years of improvising on limitations taught Wyndom Hannaway, Boyd Ostroff, and Bill Swartout the art of juggling lights. And then, this year in the new Theatre in Orthwein Hall, Bill took over a new world, with thirty dimming units, thirty-two lamps, and a two-scene preset light console. Rather than simply delight in the beautiful new system, Bill, trained by limitations for challenge, continued to work intricately, with concentration.*

*Bill went beyond the self-mastery of knowledge to become a teacher to many students this year. First he worked with Paul Aganostopolous (Aggie) and actor Larry Lawless to wire the lamps and check-out the system; then he cleared Shep Hermann, Larry Reed and Jeff McFarland. This team designed the lighting for the Troubadours and the Masque, and two of them, Junior Larry Reed and Freshman Jeff McFarland, took over the lighting for the plays in the Arts Festival.*

*Bill also held lighting workshops at which some ten underclassmen learned the fundamentals of theatre lighting. Next year directors and teachers will have some fifteen students to operate the lighting console for English classes or to design and set lamps for productions. The era of the one light man has passed, partly because of the grand learning facility made possible by the devotion of alumni, parents, and friends of the school and by the labors of architects, faculty, and tech men, and partly because of Bill's attitude toward the new facility: that it be a learning situation for as many students as possible.*

*This is Bill's other excellence: he is a team and project man (and an after-hours man), and he has become a fine teacher. His knowledge and his patience are balanced by his sense of humor and the fun of it all. I still hear his uncat-like tromp on the cat-walk.*

# Mentoring with Sentences in Seventh Grade

Mentor sentences—examples of good writing that bridge student knowledge and guide them toward becoming better readers and writers—help Middle School students navigate the choppy waters of essay writing.

"The most difficult part of writing an essay is getting everything to flow together," said **Trip Scanlon '28**.

"Every single word in an essay matters, and it is really difficult to find the right words, evidence, and structure."

**Middle School English Teacher Andy Kay** uses mentor sentences in his classes. "The writing process can be overwhelming for young people as they cope with learning to process and synthesize large chunks of information," he said. "If I can help students angle into the process, they can chip away and build from there. A critical

**"Mentor sentences allow for greater clarity and appease the anxieties that come when students have to write multiple paragraphs."**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL  
ENGLISH TEACHER  
ANDY KAY**

component of figuring out the angle from which one should approach the material is to not only ensure that each person understands the targets that they are trying to hit, but that they also have a North Star they can follow."

His students explored maps of essays before crafting their



own works to summarize characters, plots, and themes from a book the class read together. They also reviewed essays from previous students and analyzed them with a standards-based rubric. Their evaluation of those essays helped them understand what is expected while providing an opportunity to understand the teacher's expectations.

"Mentor sentences allow for greater clarity and appease the anxieties that come when

students have to write multiple paragraphs," said Kay.

Sometimes sentences break the conventional rules, providing an opening for discussion and a deeper understanding. Students can make observations, identify parts of the sentence structure, explore the impact of the words, and create their own version. And mentor sentence discussions can be used with a whole class, in small groups, or in an individual setting, making it a universal and flexible format for teachers and students.

**Victoria Noble '28** enjoyed a creative yet methodical approach to developing her essay. She said, "We had open-ended discussions about the book, annotated previously written essays, and created organizers that help us craft our essays in a thoughtful, organized manner."







## Chilean Music Broadens Horizons of Upper School Students

Esteban Quito began playing the guitar at age 16 and was destined to be a voice for his people, using his instrument to author a conversation between himself and his country. Inspired by traditional Chilean rhythms and the need to highlight social injustices, his songs and voice took form over time.

Esteban was invited by **Christopher Barker, Upper School World Language Teacher**, to share his music, language, and culture with students studying Spanish. Barker said, "Even if the students don't fully understand the lyrics, they feel the passion, experience, and the different sounds of traditional Chilean music. It's not every day you get to listen to folkloric singers who are passionate about the lyrics and songwriting process."

# Actions and Reactions in Beasley

By Laura Pupillo, Lower School Science Teacher

Measure, pour—reaction time! Students in first and fourth grades explored reactions in class but with different goals in mind. First-grade students tackled their Earth, Moon, and Stars unit of study and began with a deep exploration of our very own planet. Fourth-grade students explored energy transformations.

Launching into our study of Earth, we read the book *Earth! My First 4.54 Billion Years* by Stacy McAnulty. The climate on Earth has changed dramatically throughout its history. Earth, in its youth, was explosive, hot, and gassy! Molten lava spewed everywhere. To help first-grade students think more deeply about this period, we built our own volcanoes. Students loved seeing the carbon dioxide bubbles flow out of our volcanoes as they combined baking soda and vinegar. They noticed that the baking soda was like magma since it was under the volcano, and the reaction was like lava since lava is what we call magma that has escaped the volcano.

As first graders continued their exploration, we learned about core samples and how volcanologists use these samples to determine when and where volcano eruptions occurred. We also discovered our own volcanic past by learning about Taum Sauk Mountain in Missouri, our highest elevation point. Taum Sauk was also once a volcano. Fourth-grade students studied reactions with an entirely different goal in mind. We have discovered that the amount of energy is fixed on the



*It is such a joy seeing our young scientists at work. The questions our students ask, and their curiosity about the world around them make our learning such a great experience.*

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LAURA PUPILLO, LOWER SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER



planet. You can't make energy, nor can you destroy it. You can, however, harness energy and transform it. We explored potential and kinetic energy through physical collisions and the impact of inclined planes and weight. We know energy can be transformed through sound, light, heat, and electric currents. Besides transforming energy using solid items, is it possible to transform energy during chemical reactions?

Our fourth-grade students were curious about this. Using baking soda, vinegar, and elephant toothpaste, we investigated endothermic (heat absorbing) and exothermic (heat releasing) reactions. Students hypothesized what would happen and carefully measured and recorded the starting temperatures of their liquids. After observing the reaction, they measured again. The combination of baking soda and vinegar was the most surprising. Students thought the release of carbon dioxide would cause heat with all the bubbles, but just by touching the side of the beaker, they could instantly feel the dramatic change in temperature. Moving on to elephant toothpaste, they found the opposite—an exothermic reaction. Exploring how chemicals store energy and create energy transformations led us to our next study of electrical circuits and batteries.

It is such a joy seeing our young scientists at work. The questions our students ask, and their curiosity about the world around them make our learning such a great experience.







# Fifth-Grade Architects Design & Build Loft Spaces

**Middle School Math Teacher Dustin Delfin** brought math to life by challenging his students to design their own loft spaces. The real-world exploration asked students to connect what they learned in class to this creative project. Working in pairs, the students tackled their loft designs after going over the main lessons and practice for the day. They used the information they studied and practiced 21st-century learning skills such as creativity, collaboration, and communication.

Each loft is made out of an 11x11x11 cube. Students worked at a scale of 1"=1' and ensured contributions to the loft matched the given scale. Phases include designing their building facade, a floor plan layout, buying and shopping for furniture, calculating how much paint is required, designing a loft railing, purchasing flooring, buying decorative items, selecting or creating wall art, and calculating the total cost of their loft. Finally, and perhaps the most fun for these budding architects and builders, they constructed their new loft spaces in the Middle School Makerspace.





## Phase 1: Windows

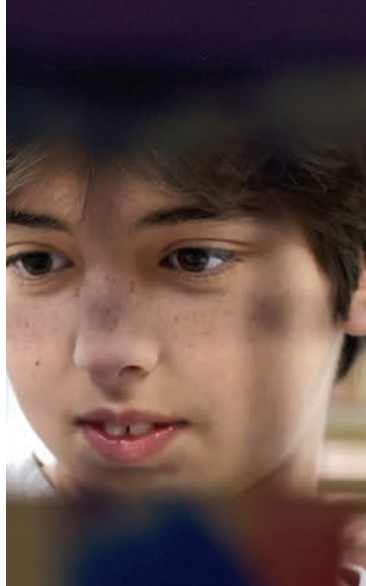
After learning about the place value system, students were given apartment numbers for their lofts and asked to design a window system that mimics the place value systems of ones, tens, hundreds, and thousands. Each window opening represents a digit within the column of each place value. "The idea is to be able to recognize any specific loft by looking at the front facade of the building," said Delfin. Students created their window designs on Google Slides and converted the files to a format suitable for a laser cutter. They sent their files to **Middle School Science Teacher Branson Lawrence** in the Makerspace, who uploaded them to the laser cutter.

## Phase 2: Floor Plans

Students then laid out the floor plan of their lofts, including deciding where to place their kitchen and bathroom fixtures. Students realized that their living space for two (some three) is a really tight fit, and they needed to use their critical thinking skills to ensure that their floor plan/furniture layout was functional. After these two phases, students went to the makerspace to assemble their cube lofts and kitchen and restroom fixtures.

## Phase 3: Furniture

Students shopped online for the large furniture they showed in their Phase 2 space plan, documenting their items and prices. They calculated their total furniture cost, which began the cost analysis process.



## Phase 4: Flooring

Students selected two different types of flooring (carpet, hardwood, tile, etc.) before calculating the entire floor space of the loft. They had to then break down the overall floor space calculation into measurements by flooring type.

## Phase 5: Loft Railings

Safety first! An open loft area needs a railing! Instead of square footage, students had to calculate linear feet. They had to remember variables like ensuring a 2.25' opening for the ladder and a gap between the railing and any glass/wall it may touch.



## Phase 6: Paint

It's time for color! Students had to estimate how much paint would be needed to cover the interior of their lofts. Each wall and the ceiling required a double coat of paint. Delfin offered a series of questions to get students thinking accurately about measuring wall and ceiling space: What is the estimated area of your window facade? What is the area of the remaining three walls of your space? What is the area of the overall ceiling? What is the area of the ceiling created by the loft? Students also had to determine which vendor they'd use, provide a reason for why, and calculate the minimum number of paint cans needed to paint their lofts.

## Phase 7: Decor

A loft needs decorative and personal items to make it a home, so students solved order of operations problems to find a budget to purchase things to liven up their space. Once each team solved each problem, the partners shopped for items that fit their budget. Every item the teams purchased was required to be shown in their models.

## Phase 8: Art

Those loft walls look pretty plain without the addition of wall art. Students created works of art for their lofts using prescribed dimensions. Each painting is divided into four different sections, with a different color comprising each section. Students had to use what they knew about area models and multiplication of fractions to figure out how much of each color they needed.

## Phase 9: Cost Calculations

Finally, these budding architects were required to calculate the total cost of the loft design, including furniture, paint, flooring, rails, decorative/personal items, and wall art.

## Phase 10: Design/Build!

At long last, the students saw all their hard work and calculations come to life. They fabricated, assembled, and painted their lofts, furniture, and accessories in the makerspace.

The project allowed these mathematicians, architects, and designers to show off their creativity in addition to their math skills.







# Eighth-Grade Chemical Engineers Develop New Bioplastics

While plastics are a popular and useful material, they have become a big health and environmental problem. “Basically, they were made to be too good at lasting a long time and now take hundreds of years to break down in landfills, resulting in pollution that is hurting wildlife and even finding its way into human food and drinking water,” said **Middle School Science Teacher William Bander**. In response, his eighth-grade accelerated science class set out to design and construct new bioplastics that can easily biodegrade.

The budding chemical engineers learned about using polymers to solve a problem by making a new material that would decompose in a relatively short amount of time and then experimented with making new materials. Bander encouraged them to see their failures in the trials more like “happy accidents.” “Sometimes a group of students would cook their bioplastic for too long and produce a very hard textured product,” he said. While this may not be a good substitute for plastic wrap, it could be used for making plastic toys and figurines. Such happy accidents are common in experimental science. A failed attempt at making a substitute for rubber resulted in the creation of the popular children’s toy, Silly Putty.

The students in Bander’s class used corn starch, vinegar, water, and glycerin—all-natural products—to create a new bioplastic. The lab procedure was purposely open-ended, allowing students to develop their own “recipes” for the bioplastic. They conducted three trials, each time tweaking their recipe to produce a better, more usable bioplastic. “This revision process is essential to the scientific method and is not unlike what real chemical engineers do when trying to make chemical products,” said Bander. “These chemical products could be anything from cosmetics to life-saving medicines.”

The goal? Produce a safe plastic to cover a container of food/liquid that keeps food fresh or liquid from evaporating. Students analyzed and interpreted data on the properties of substances before and after the interaction to determine if a chemical reaction had occurred (versus a physical change), and they had to define the criteria and constraints of a design problem considering the impact on people and the environment. They evaluated competing design solutions and analyzed data from trials to determine the similarities and differences among solutions, all





of which helped guide them to the best new solution. They also developed a model for testing their proposed tool/process, allowing for the achievement of optimal success.

"I really enjoyed the project as it gave us a chance to problem solve, collaborate on ideas, and work a little independently rather than having teacher-led experiments," said **Braden Waymire '27**. "We had so much fun trying out different reactions and then reflecting and trying to deduce the things we could improve upon. The assignment had just the right amount of variables necessary to make it challenging but solvable. It also helped us get closer to our group mates as we debated on what to add and had a good time laughing and reflecting upon our errors."

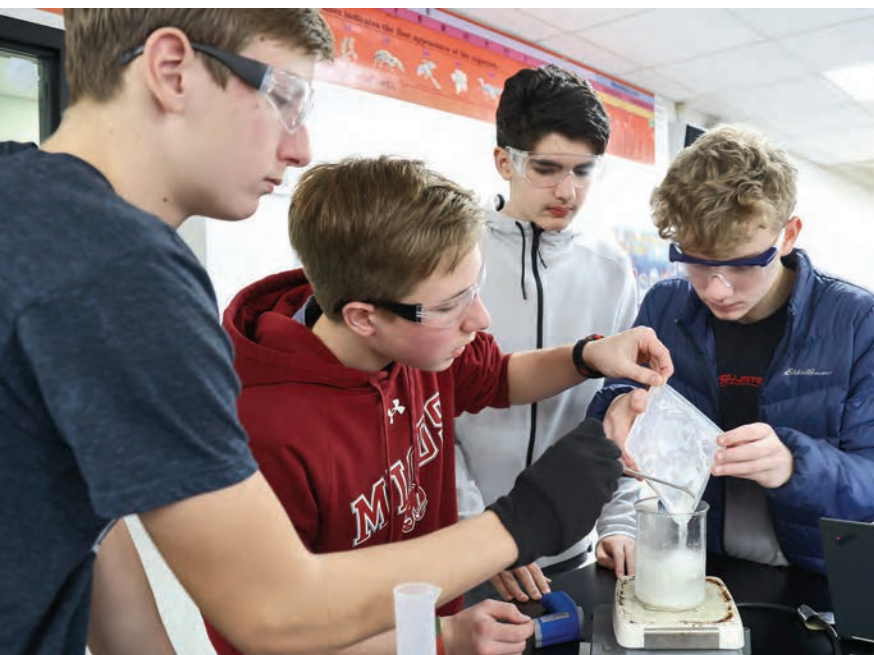
The experiments took place over several days, giving the scientists something to look forward to. "I thought the experience was fun because we got to test something out and see if it would work instead of just coming up with a theory," said **Navya Reddy '27**. "My favorite part was coming into class the next day and seeing how our experiment had worked and being able to come up with a new recipe the next day."

**Kaan Caliskan '27** enjoyed the engineering challenge, too. He said, "It was fun to use substances and items in new ways that we had never imagined before. I learned how easily substances can change into new unknown materials we can explore."

**"I thought the experience was fun because we got to test something out and see if it would work instead of just coming up with a theory. My favorite part was coming into class the next day and seeing how our experiment had worked and being able to come up with a new recipe the next day."**

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**NAVYA REDDY '27**



# Juniors Step Out of the Box for Literature



For MICDS juniors, the second semester English elective allows students to focus their literary efforts on an American region: Northeast, Northwest, South, and Southwest. The options are designed to engage students in expressing their critical and creative voices using speech, writing, and multi-modal presentations. Beyond immersing themselves in vocabulary and grammar, students create musical compositions and scripts, study film, poetry, and photography from the region, and even record podcasts.

Taught by **Upper School English Teachers Tex Tourais, Dan Sadicario, Dr. Michelle Rabe, Dr. Julia Hansen, Ryan Bueckendorf, and Courtney Check**, each approach differs from teacher to teacher. Still, the end goal is the same: to stretch students in their comprehension of the material and presentation skills, enabling them to amplify a deeper understanding of the text for their peers.



For example, in Literature of the Northeast, juniors **Mikaela Mikulec '24, Rachel Phillips '24, and Fabi Theodoro '24** ushered the class outside for an opening activity revolving around play and student attitudes towards play in a classroom setting and outside of it. "The goal was to assert that different spaces within societies have different rules and norms for behavior so that 'acceptable behavior' is not just determined by the action itself but where, physically, the action is performed. This was a jumping-off point for a 60-minute presentation on Transgression and the Role of Festivals in Judith Ortiz Cofer's *The Line of the Sun*," said Tourais.

Mikulec said they designed the activity as a way to shake things up on a Monday morning. "We wanted to get energy high so our peers would focus on our presentation. We started in the classroom and split into teams where they had to tap soccer balls between them.



The idea was to move the game outside (under the false pretense that the activity was too chaotic for the classroom), where we changed the rules to demonstrate the idea between accepted and unaccepted chaos, which we covered in our presentation. I think the class had fun with the activity, and it tied nicely into our themes!" Phillips added, "The game itself wasn't particularly challenging, except that we changed the rules when we changed locations. Suddenly people were being disqualified and punished for things that had previously been allowed. I think the activity really got the message of the source across and helped our classmates connect with the material in a meaningful but fun way."

In Literature of the Northwest, students read James Welch's *Winter in the Blood*, and the presentations included a volleyball activity where one team member would not talk to draw their

peers' attention to issues of communication and silence. Other presentations included discussions, debates, or freewriting exercises with thoughtful reflection and sharing exercises intended to solidify complex concepts in the minds of their peers. **Rishi Taraporeddy '24** appreciated the opportunity to expand on their presentation. "We tried to make sure that our classmates would actually learn from our lesson, so instead of just presenting, we took steps to make the class involved," he said.

In developing the presentations, students are encouraged to ask themselves, among other things, how the idea(s) in their criticism reshaped their understanding of what they have already read and what passages they didn't initially understand but now make sense. It is a deep practice of reading, writing, and critical thinking as a lifelong endeavor.





# Coding With Robot Friends

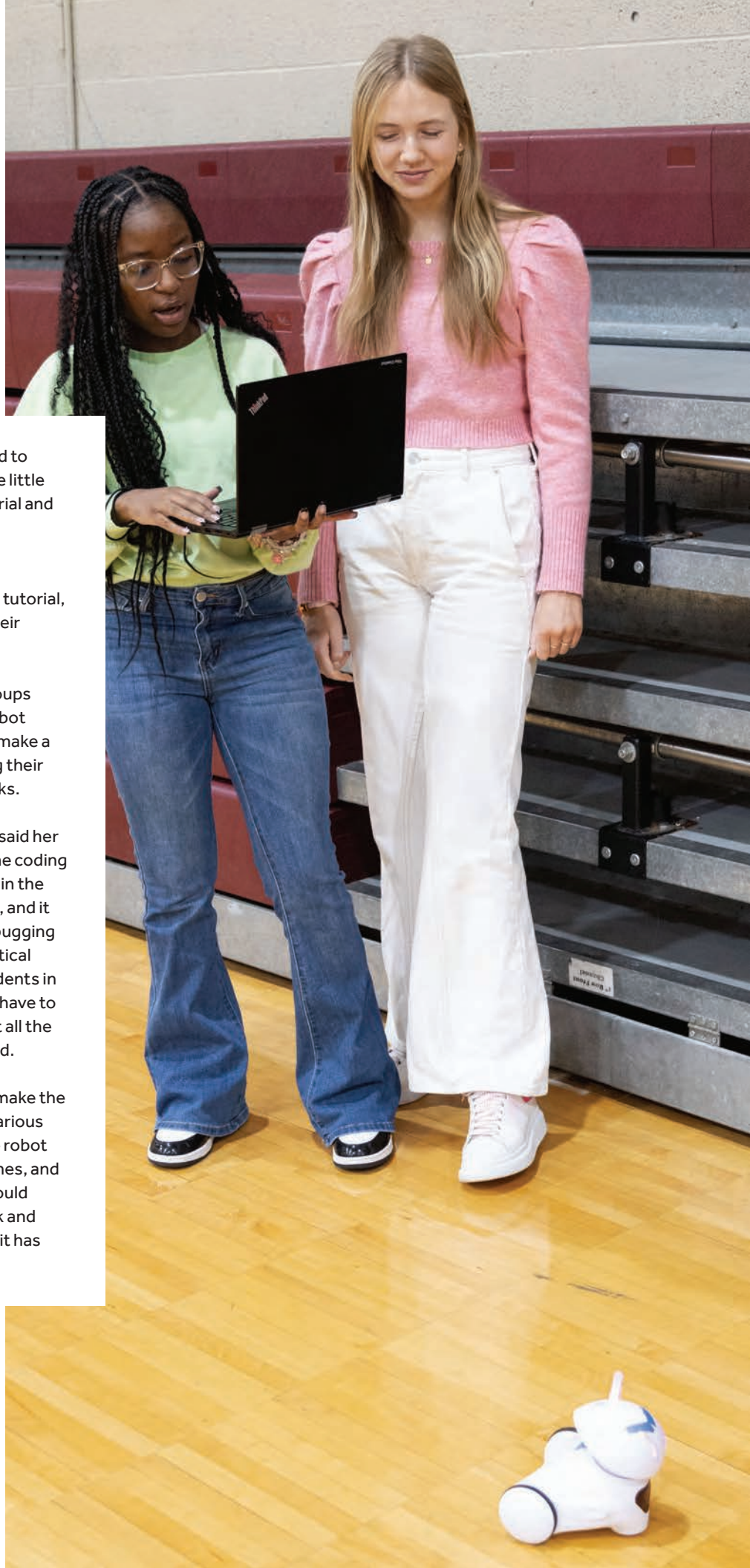
Ninth-grade science classes used a new tool friend to learn how to code: Photon Robots. These adorable little tech creatures inspire students to learn through trial and error, often the best way to gain knowledge.

The classes learned the basics of Python coding using Jupyter Notebooks, a website that acts as a tutorial, and completed assignments designed to refine their coding skills.

Once coding basics were understood, student groups coded the actions of the Photons. Each Photon robot can move in various directions using sensors and make a variety of sounds. Their final challenge was coding their Photon robots to navigate a maze of wooden blocks.

**Andi Galluppi '10, Ninth Grade Science Teacher**, said her students were excited to work with the robots. The coding unit is one of her favorites. "I love the visible pride in the students when they run code that they've written, and it does what it's supposed to do. The process of debugging code is also great for developing resilience and critical thinking, and I've noticed a lot of growth from students in those areas in a short amount of time. When they have to comb through their program for errors, it makes it all the sweeter when they accomplish their goal," she said.

"While working with them, we figured out how to make the robot make sounds, change colors, and move in various directions," said **Morgan Macam '26**. "Getting the robot to do what you want is definitely challenging at times, and can take a lot of trial and error, but with help, we could complete various tasks. Coding is not an easy task and takes a lot of time, brain power, and patience, and it has raised my respect for computer science."







"In the past, I've had some opportunities to try coding before, but it was never like it is here at MICDS," said **Dalton Costick '26**. "Here, it was taught really well, and I felt I was able to excel at it. I was able to go really far with my interest in it, even outside of what was regularly taught, with great encouragement from my teachers! All the Science 9 teachers were happy to support me and gave me the opportunity to experiment with things in coding that I didn't think would be possible to start looking into at the beginning of the unit. It gave me a great opportunity to learn and build great coding skills that I plan to continue to expand going into the future!"

**Ninth Grade Science Teacher Brian Rueckert** enjoyed watching his students have fun while learning critical skills. "Computational thinking is not only a crucial skill for modern-day scientists but is really a transferable skill across all disciplines," he said. "While we have a lot of fun in our coding unit racing robots through mazes, the thinking and problem solving required to parse out the step-by-step instructions to get a robot from point A to point B help students develop this skill. It's exciting to see students come up with a wide variety of ways to approach the tasks we challenge them with while at the same time watching them become teachers before our eyes as knowledge mobility occurs and they collaborate to perfect a solution."





# Jen Van Dyken's Not So Hidden Talents

Benjamin Franklin published many wise aphorisms in his *Poor Richard's Almanack*, including "Hide not your talents, for use they were made. What's a sundial in the shade?"

**Fourth-grade Teacher Jen Van Dyken's** talents shine in her classroom, to the great fortune—and delight—of her students. It's also an apt description since Van Dyken loves Franklin, and spreads her enthusiasm to her students through her Ben Franklin socks, shirts, and of course, books.

History is not her only passion, though. This polymath enjoys sharing her love of reading, her excitement over writing, and her dogged determination that everyone can not only handle but enjoy learning math; it just takes the kind of slow, deep thinking that she studied for her master's program.





A natural-born teacher, Van Dyken fought this path initially. "My whole family is teachers," she said. "My mom, all my aunts, my in-laws...everyone." She studied English, Spanish, and international affairs in college, planning for a life of reading and editing and quieting the side of her that has always loved children. She started babysitting "as soon as people would let me take care of their kids," and was a nanny through college. After earning her bachelor's, she lived in Ecuador and taught English through World Teach. It was her first formal teaching experience, and still, she rejected education as a long-term career. After returning home to the United States, she joined a company that makes educational supplies. It was a valuable learning experience. "I hated being in a cubicle," she said. "Corporate America and working my way up is not for me." She began substitute teaching during the day, earning her credentials at night. She finally admitted what her heart had known all along: she was born to teach.

Van Dyken has now taught at a variety of levels in her 21 years of education, and in two languages. Her first role was teaching kindergarten in Spanish. Since then, she's delved into first and fifth grades before settling into fourth grade at MICDS four years ago. Originally from California, she and her husband, Steve, followed a wonderful opportunity for him at Washington University, where he now runs an immunology research laboratory. She had never been to Missouri, much less St. Louis, but she leaped with both feet and she loves it. They bought a house that needed some attention, sight unseen by her, in an area they wanted, helped by a realtor who is also an MICDS grandparent. "It was a big lifestyle change," she admits, "but we were able to buy a house here versus renting in San Francisco, and we have a more low-key, family-friendly place



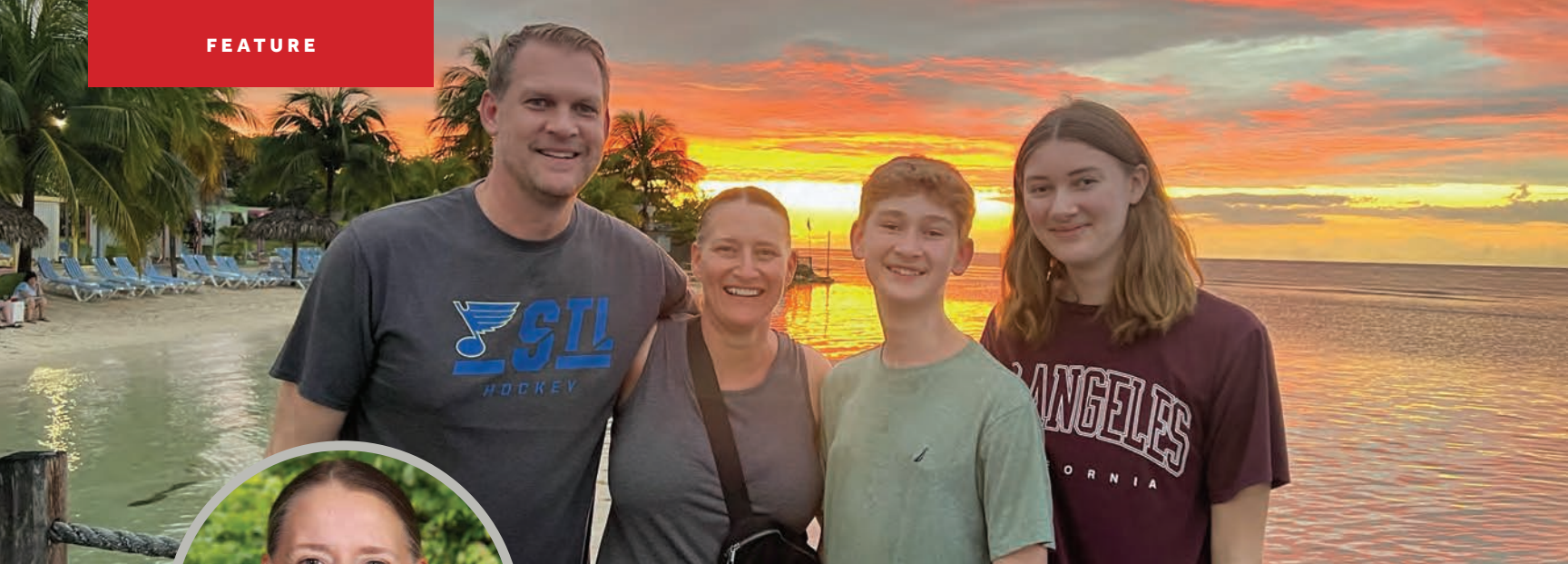
to raise our kids." They've spent the last five years fixing up their home and enjoying all the amenities their new home has to offer. "We have done all the St. Louis stuff, and everything is free here: the Zoo, the Science Center." They've hit Grant's Farm and her daughter, as part of a chorus for school, has sung at a Cardinals game. Van Dyken had decided to take a break from teaching when they moved, but soon found she missed leading a classroom. Volunteering at her children's school just wasn't enough.

She has worked hard to create a vibrant space where students can thrive in fourth grade. "I always loved school. I'm a rule follower and a really good student. When I was in high school, I always loved reading, writing, and English," she said. "I had an AP English teacher

>> continued on page 26







**“...I started making a real effort many years ago to read things that are not my story. We talk about books as being mirrors and windows; kids want to see themselves in stories but you also want windows into experiences that are not your own.”**

FOURTH-GRADE TEACHER JEN VAN DYKEN

>> continued from page 25

and got a B+ on something and I was devastated. She told me, ‘If you want an A, you have to earn it,’ and it was life-changing.” Van Dyken realized that things were going to get harder and required effort. It was a healthy push that she aspires to pass along to her students today. Teaching has also given her a love of new subjects. “I love U.S. history, but I didn’t fall in love with it until I started teaching it.” She appreciates that U.S. history at MICDS starts in fourth grade, not fifth, and was one of the reasons she was excited to join the Lower School teaching team.

Now, she’s thrilled to share her passion for the colonies, and Ben Franklin of course, with her students. “He was a lifelong learner,” she said. “Open to changing his mind, learning from his mistakes, and the only Founding Father to be involved in every aspect.” She focuses time on Franklin each year and jokes that a former student had told her when she was pregnant with her son that she should name him after Franklin. Benjamin Van Dyken, now 12, was born shortly after, joining Annika, now 15.

The Van Dyken family loves musical theater and making music. Jen sings, Steve plays classical piano, Annika sings, and Benjamin plays the viola. Their leopard gecko, Leo, hasn’t found his musical talent yet. “There’s always music going in our house,” she said, “and we blast music in the car and sing along.” Like most transplants in St. Louis, she likes toasted ravioli and gooey butter cake but takes a pass at Imo’s pizza. They like to travel and explore new places; Van Dyken has also lived in Costa Rica, spent a semester in London with the Florida State theater department when she was an undergrad, and has gone SCUBA diving and snorkeling in Mexico and the Caribbean, each experience opening windows into different communities and cultures. At home, they enjoy visiting The Fox for musical theater and attending Annika and Ben’s shows and performances. The family is always on the go.



Van Dyken's classroom is full of this sort of energy. She created Classroom City, in which every student citizen has a job. "We have a mayor, city council, and other more traditional jobs like snack person, library crew, office assistant, and tech crew," she explained. "We have a currency—scholar dollars—so students can learn about profit and loss and taxes through our own little classroom economy." Students earn scholar dollars for doing their jobs and answering tricky questions. "As much as I hope they're intrinsically motivated, it helps with nine- and 10-year-olds to have some rewards." The class banker keeps track of money, while the student store manager keeps track of a shop that offers small items such as stickers, 3D animal erasers, and gel pens. The entire class enjoyed auctions for which students brought items from home. "You cannot predict what's going to go or for how much," Van Dyken laughed. The system creates routine and predictable procedures, which helps her class run itself while keeping students engaged.

While she loves teaching history, writing, and math, the "read-aloud" is her favorite part of the school day. She keeps up on new middle-grade fiction, mixing in new releases with old favorites that snag students' attention and holds their interest. Her students love this time, learning to engage with literature on a purely pleasurable level while connecting with characters and each other. "It's ok to have emotions when reading books," as Van Dyken models when tearing up during an emotional scene or giggling with the class over a funny passage. She follows middle-grade literature trends on social media through Twitter and BookTok and participates in the Global Read Aloud that uses one book each year to connect students from around the world. "You can Zoom with other classes and try to guess their location, send and receive postcards from other states and countries; kids are blogging to each other and they're all connecting over the same book," she said.

Her love of reading extends beyond her classroom; she's constantly recommending books to her colleagues and often to **Lower School Librarian Thomas Buffington**, who is carefully curating a collection of newer books to supplement old favorites. Her students enjoy small group book clubs in class, tackling a new book every three weeks. Van Dyken will choose a theme or category, so all the book clubs are reading the same topic, such as the Revolutionary War, or genres such as realistic fiction or fantasy. "They meet with their book club on Fridays and the kids love it," she said. "The groups get them reading things they may not have chosen on their own."

Van Dyken says it's important to be careful about recommending appropriate books based on age, but it's also important to know your children. "Sometimes you need life experience," she said, "but bans worry me because we learn so much as humans through books and stories. I started making a real effort many years ago to read things that are not my story. We talk about books as being mirrors and windows; kids want to see themselves in stories but you also want windows into experiences that are not your own."



She's adept at introducing new experiences into her classroom environment, too. "My goal this year was to develop a 'Thinking Classroom,' so I implemented a Monday Math Challenge and a Friday STEM challenge," she said. Her students worked together in small groups to complete difficult challenges or solve problems, including cup stacking with rubber bands; building a slow marble track; and creating structures with spaghetti, marshmallows, index cards, toothpicks, and Dots candy. She infuses her lessons with humor, leveraging her self-described "big personality" to incorporate songs and jokes into learning. Her students love it, and feed off her enthusiasm for school spirit (she never misses an opportunity to dress up) and learning.

All of that fun is woven into a classroom that ensures every student learns every lesson, and every problem is solved by the end of the unit. Students receive clear instructions and expectations, and know that Van Dyken will follow every missed answer with the work necessary to reach the right conclusion. "The kids figure that out really early on, that everything is checked and mistakes will need to be corrected," she said, "and you see them start slowing down, checking their own work, and asking for help when they don't understand." Individualized instruction supports a whole-class goal of moving forward together, and together, they create a culture of learning by doing the work.

By the end of the year, Van Dyken's students are prepared for the next leg of their educational journey (the Middle School), armed with enthusiasm, perseverance, and a healthy appreciation for new experiences. Benjamin Franklin said, "The doors of wisdom are never shut," and neither is Jen Van Dyken's classroom.

## Changa Bey Presents at the People of Color Conference



**Changa Bey, Upper School History Teacher**, presented *Leveraging the Diversity of Your Faculty and Staff: Using Religion to Have Critical Conversations Around Race and Politics* at the 2022 National Association of Independent Schools' People of Color Conference (PoCC). This was his second time presenting at the conference. "The session focused on the Teachers Talk program I have been working on for the last few years. This program aims to bring faculty and staff from diverse subjects and backgrounds to talk with or hold conversations in front of students in connection to what students are working on in that particular history or social sciences class." Unsurprisingly, Bey's session was well-attended, and the reviews were positive. "It was great to get that appreciation and recognition from fellow educators. Also, the ideas and programs presented seemed to resonate with the audience as I have had multiple requests to present at other schools and review similar programs at other institutions."

Bey was also accepted into the National Humanities Center's Teaching African American Studies Winter Institute. The program will provide an immersive, hands-on learning experience to better understand the approaches and historical perspectives required to create and teach African American studies.

## Charlotte Dougherty Brings Playback Theater to Charlotte Latin School

**Charlotte Dougherty, Middle School Drama Teacher**, visited Charlotte Latin School in Charlotte, North Carolina, to share her experience with Playback Theater. She was invited by former MICDS faculty member Erica Moore who now serves as Charlotte Latin's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Director.

"Playback is different from traditional theater because it is based on the audience's stories. It is truly interactive," said Dougherty. "There is no fourth wall as in most staged plays. There is also no script. Playback has a set of forms, or stylized improvisation techniques, used to act out a teller's (an audience member's) story. Playback helps build community; it is an opportunity to share stories about a common happening, a tragic event, or just to get to know one another. It can also be healing and very cathartic."

Dougherty's goal for the visit was to introduce the faculty to Playback and show them how it can be used to build community. "I love Playback and the opportunities it offers a community. It was exciting for me to share," said Dougherty. "I was greeted with such enthusiasm and kindness by the faculty and students."





# Summer Beasley Performs with Karlovsky & Company



**Summer Beasley, Middle & Lower School P.E. Teacher,** and alumna **Elise Ringenberg '10** performed as company members with Karlovsky & Company Dance for the company's 10th anniversary last fall. The show, *RECAPTURED*, was held at the Grandel Theater and celebrated a decade of dance, highlighting memorable excerpts from earlier performances and including live music and spoken word. The retrospective concert offered a range of choreography from the company's founder and director, Dawn Karlovsky.



## School Nurses Earn National Certification



Stephanie Presson,  
Lower & Middle School Nurse



Michelle Fox, Upper School Nurse

**Stephanie Presson, MICDS Lower & Middle School Nurse,** and **Michelle Fox, Upper School Nurse,** recently passed the National Certification in School Nursing (NCSN) exam. There are less than 4,800 school nurses with the NCSN certification nationally, which will add to their already high level of credentialing.

Nurse Fox said, "Attaining this certification has been my personal and professional goal. Becoming a nationally certified school nurse is an accredited credential that validates my specialized knowledge and expertise as a school nurse. I've met the highest national standards

for school nursing care, and I am excited to share my knowledge and experience with our community."

Everyone in the MICDS community is grateful for their tireless work in helping students with health needs that arise, and both embody all of the characteristics one would want in a school nurse: warmth, compassion, student-centeredness, and professionalism. The certification is another testament to their desire to support our school community at the highest level each day.



# Celebrating 30 Years of MICDS

Mary Institute and St. Louis Country Day School merged thirty years ago to form one school, MICDS. Even as the School evolves and innovates, it remains committed to its many traditions. It shapes future leaders who can contribute to a more positive, successful, global society by growing the skills and strengths unique to them as individuals.

Enjoy these archival images alongside photographs taken this past year. Look how far we've come in three decades! Here's to many more.

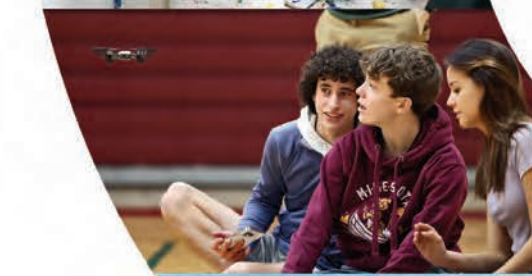


## Then...





*Now!*







## Turkey Train Rolls Into its 19th Year of Giving

*Thank you to all MICDS Rams who supported those in need during the Thanksgiving season!*

The MICDS community launched its 19th year serving St. Louis through the annual Turkey Train. Students and families in all divisions contributed bushels of canned goods and non-perishable food items for the St. Louis Area Foodbank. On the final day of collections, Upper Schoolers brought frozen turkeys to donate and engaged in a spirited activity of passing a line of turkeys from one end of campus to another, all to be loaded into a Foodbank truck to feed those in need.

The Foodbank supports more than 500 hunger-relief programs and local agencies, including soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and residential programs. They respond to hunger in communities across 26 counties in Missouri and Illinois by distributing food to more than 392,000 people yearly. MICDS students, parents, faculty, and staff stepped up in a big way and contributed 4,410 pounds of turkey, 3,204 pounds of non-perishable food items, and \$5,299 during the virtual food drive. The combined food and monetary donations provided 27,211 meals for the St. Louis community.



**Director of Global Learning & Upper School Community Service Erin Hamill**, said, "This year's Turkey Train was another resounding success. Upper School students braved the wind and cold temperatures and had fun passing the turkeys within their advisories. We are so grateful to our generous families for their food donations, despite rising food costs and a turkey shortage, and for the online donations directly to the Foodbank."

The train ended with an all-school assembly where the MICDS Band played uplifting music, and the big screen projected notes of gratitude from the School community. **Head of School Jay Rainey** began the assembly and introduced the **Upper School Community Service Committee Co-Heads, Nikitha Ada '23** and **Sanchi Vishwakarma '23**, who shared the importance of the Turkey Train and serving the St. Louis community before turning the podium over to a Foodbank representative who expressed thanks and appreciation for the outpouring of support.

Thank you to all MICDS Rams who supported those in need during the Thanksgiving season!



The combined food and monetary donations provided  
**27,211 meals**  
for the St. Louis community.





# Chill Day Celebrates Seniors

What do seniors do when the stress of sending in college applications is finally over? They chill out! Last fall, seniors were treated to “Chill Day,” the annual celebration encouraging them to relax and catch their breath before final exams begin.

The Class of 2023 enjoyed being cozy in their matching pajama pants provided by the Parents Association, and more than 30 parents volunteered for the special day by decorating the Steward Family Aquatic Center and providing breakfast, lunch, snacks, and games. “The PJ bottoms—and the day—are a wonderful reminder to students to relax and enjoy the company of their classmates,” said **Diane Gioia, Upper School Dean of Students and History Teacher**. “The day helps seniors build community beyond their advisory and makes them feel like the whole senior class is together.”





# Hundreds of Smiles on the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School

On February 3, Senior Kindergarteners celebrated the 100th day of school by dressing up like centenarians. They sported fake beards, gray-haired wigs, faux wrinkles, eyeglasses, and at least one life-alert necklace. "They were in character all day, walking around the room all hunched over and complaining about back pain," laughed **Senior Kindergarten Teacher Kelly Hummel**.

Honoring this milestone is an excellent way to break up the year and celebrate achievements. Students rotated through 100-themed centers and played games such as Race to 100 and cup stacker. Teachers helped them use the Aging Booth app to advance their photos 100 years into the future. Students also practiced their counting skills at home, collecting 100 small everyday items in a baggie such as goldfish crackers, plastic googly eyes, mini marshmallows, Skittles, coins, seashells, and beans.





# Your Story: Seventh and Eighth Graders Enjoy Ram Impact Summit

Earlier this year, seventh- and eighth-grade students enjoyed a variety of activities designed to help them learn more about the backgrounds and perspectives of their peers. The whole day was a wonderful opportunity for self-reflection and community building.

The theme of the seventh annual Ram Impact Summit, or RISE, was "Your Story." Students thought about and shared their stories with each other, and built a stronger and more inclusive MICDS community.

## "THE PARTY"

What's it like to meet someone from a different culture? How do you learn about them and their beliefs? A fun simulation game brings these questions to light and asks students to explore the interaction of two cultures, one outgoing and casual and the other more reserved and formal, with very different social norms.

Students divided into groups and learned about their "new culture." They were either outgoing, extroverted, and democratic or they were insular, formal, and introverted, with very

different social norms such as needing a chaperone or not being allowed to make eye contact. Then, both groups gathered socially and tried to learn more about each other through observation and behavior description, developing an understanding of how our cultural values influence the way we view other groups.

## PLAYBACK

What's it like to see your experience acted out on stage by others? Students shared vulnerable stories and watched as their classmates acted them out on the stage in the black-box theatre of

the Freeman Arts Building. Carefully guided by **Middle School Dean and Theater Arts Teacher Charlotte Dougherty**, students were invited to share stories that let their peers see a bit more into their personal lives. Participation was optional, and Dougherty reports that brave students stepped up over and over, sharing experiences as difficult as navigating the death of a loved one. Every student learned from the exercise, both about their peers and about themselves, and created a space of empathy and support that encouraged classmates to open up.





## ADVISORY POEM & EMPATHY DISCUSSION

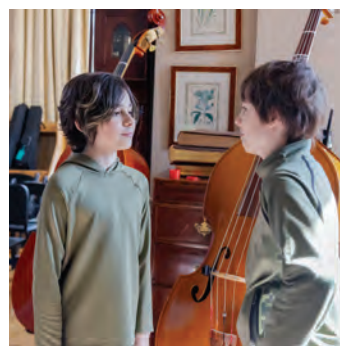
Students gathered by advisory to work on poems about themselves before sharing them with classmates. The poems are based on a template guiding them through identifying all the parts of themselves.

Advisory discussions were grounded with intention and students were encouraged to say their truth and speak from the heart, listen for the truth in others and expect differing opinions, and to

honor privacy. Together, they watched a video on empathy and discussed how one can interact with others better, knowing that others may be dealing with issues and the various cultural norms they bring into school every day.

## THE PIECES OF THE PUZZLE

The day closed with each student creating a large paper puzzle piece on which to write their story in words or images. Once the puzzle pieces were interlocked, it showed students that their own stories are integral parts of each other's. All the puzzle pieces make up MICDS, a rich tapestry of people bringing their own cultures and talents together in community each day.





# Eighth Graders Give Back Through Community Service Day

A vital component of the MICDS Mission is for students to lead “lives of purpose and service,” with an expectation in the eighth-grade year to complete 20 hours of community service. To support students in achieving that goal, the eighth-grade dean and advisors engaged students in a full day of service at five different St. Louis non-profit locations and on the MICDS campus.

## North Side Community School

A group of eighth grade students traveled to North Side Community School, a small K-6 charter public school serving predominantly low-income, urban, at-risk students. Students served as teaching assistants for the day in first through fourth grades and in P.E.



## St. Louis Area Foodbank

Two advisories volunteered at the St. Louis Area Foodbank, an organization committed to increasing access to nutritious food while improving the quality of life for Missouri and Illinois neighbors in need. Students helped package produce, and their work provided approximately 30,000 meals.







## Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry

Two advisories volunteered at the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry, a non-sectarian organization serving approximately 5,000 people annually by providing food, personal care items, and community resource referrals. Students sorted food donation shelves and canned donations, removed expired food, packed 350 individual donation bags, and sorted and packed frozen meats and baked goods.

## MICDS Campus

Three advisories stayed on the MICDS campus to tackle projects such as cleaning, organizing, minor repairs, and landscaping. They also added special touches like assembling puzzle pieces from the "My Story" activity from the previous week's Ram Impact Summit (RISE) on the bulletin board outside Eliot Chapel.



*Big thanks to our eighth-graders  
for the day of service to our community!*



## Gateway 180 Homeless Services

Several students volunteered at Gateway 180 Homeless Services, Missouri's largest residential emergency shelter serving women, children, and families experiencing homelessness. Students spent time stocking and organizing the shelter pantry with toiletries, canned/dry goods, and sorting clothing. They also sanitized and cleaned the cafeteria and hallways. Students enjoyed the additional time to mingle with employees and families at the shelter.

## Youth & Family Center

A group of eighth graders joined the Youth and Family Center team. This United Way agency supports youth, seniors, and families in having the necessary resources to live healthy, stable, independent lives. Students cleaned spaces in preparation for an upcoming inspection. Other duties included organizing games and toys in the youth programs center and cleaning offices and other administrative areas by sweeping, mopping, and dusting.



# Lunar New Year Celebrated from Lower to Upper School

Lunar New Year was celebrated throughout the MICDS campus from Lower to Upper School; among the dragons, lions, red envelopes, and yo-yos, the Year of the Rabbit was embraced among the Rams community.

First graders marched through the Beasley Cafeteria for the annual Dragon Parade. They wore red, played drums, and snaked their paper dragon through the Lower School community to help ring in the new year. The celebration ties into a first-grade learning unit about China, where students enjoy virtual field trips, books, discussions, and hands-on activities and learn about the language, food, culture, landmarks, and celebrations of Chinese culture.

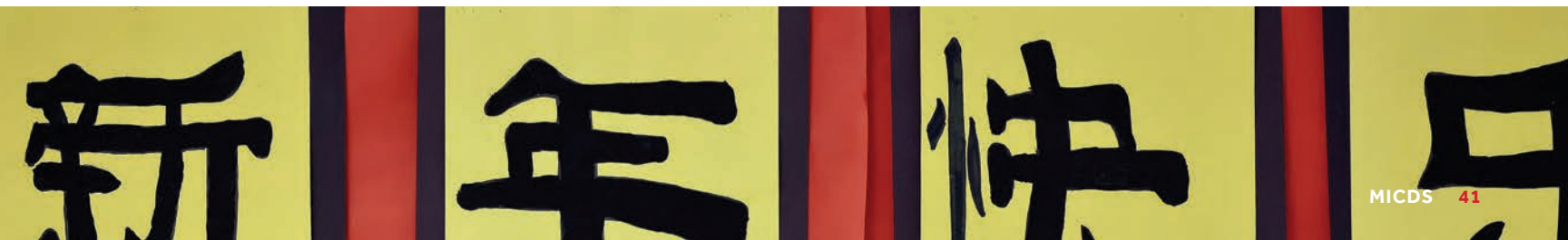






In Upper School, six students participated in an assembly as lion dancers, including **Jeremiah Clay '24**, **Camden Miller '24**, **Jada Greer '24**, **Cade Miller '26**, **Mac Froedje '25**, and **Taaj Saddler '25**. Two students, **Eliza Dorf '23** and **Elizabeth Schmidt '23**, played the drum and cymbals while the lions danced. At the end of the dance, **Head of School Jay Rainey** presented a red envelope to the lion dancers to symbolize good luck in the year ahead.

After the lion dance, YoWU, the yo-yo club at Washington University, gave an impressive performance of yo-yo skills and tricks. MICDS parent **Zhui Chen P'26** gave a tai chi performance, and the event closed with **Jason Klutho '23** and **Jacob Genin '26**, representing the Asian Student Association, delivering an informative Lunar New Year presentation.





# MICDS Troubadours Take on Queen Bees in “Mean Girls”

Last fall, when the licensing rights to *Mean Girls—High School Version* became available, it was an utterly “fetch” opportunity for MICDS to rise to the occasion. As the first school in Missouri to perform this version, the MICDS Troubadours did not disappoint!

Based on the hit 2004 film, *Mean Girls* tells the story of Cady Heron, a teenage girl who finds herself in a suburban Illinois public high school after years of being home-schooled on the African savanna. Cady is determined to rise to the top of the popularity pecking order, but she has to take on The Plastics, a trio of frenemies led by the charming but ruthless Regina George. But when Cady and her friends devise a “Revenge Party” to end Regina’s reign, she learns that you can’t cross a Queen Bee without getting stung.

The fiercely hilarious musical is from writer Tina Fey (*30 Rock*), lyricist Nell Benjamin (*Legally Blonde*), and composer Jeff Richmond (*Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*). *Mean Girls* was nominated for a staggering 12 Tony Awards, and the high school version allows schools to tailor the show’s content according to their unique school community preferences.

**Carolyn Hood, Upper School Performing Arts Teacher**, was thrilled at the opportunity to present *Mean Girls* to sold-out, energetic, and appreciative audiences. She said, “The cast and crew worked diligently over three months, and the payoff was a hilarious and touching rendition of Tina Fey’s brainchild. Bravo to a very dedicated and extremely talented cast and crew!”

# Bravo!



**Natalie Benoist '25** played Cady and said, "*Mean Girls* has been one of my favorite movies for such a long time, and when I saw the musical, I fell in love with it. I couldn't be more proud of the people involved in this show; it really did turn out great," she said.

In the final Troubadours production of her high school career, **Keller Goldstein '23** enjoyed the opportunity to tell an iconic story through the eyes of real-life high school students. "It was challenging at times because it was the first production of *Mean Girls* in Missouri, so we didn't have other productions to reference. It was sort of like we were doing a new musical! But the overall experience was amazing. The cast was extraordinary, and we formed an incredible bond," she said.

Tap choreographer **Noah Macam '23** played the role of Christian and also found the production challenging and rewarding. "There were a lot of technical elements in play (light panels, regular lighting, fog machines, etc.)," he said. "Along with the tech elements, just the sheer size of the show—*Mean Girls* runs over two hours—required a lot of attention and focus during tech week, but it was all worth it with the reaction and praise we received."

**Grant LaMartina '25** played the character Damien and enjoyed the production and bonding with the cast over several weeks. "It was challenging for me to take on a lead character that combined singing, acting, and dancing at a high level. I tested out many different options to play Damien, not only in terms of acting but also in dance and vocal decisions. The acting was the most difficult out of these three because I had to become bigger in movements and expressions than I had previously done in past productions. In the end, however, I found a balance that fit the character well. This show taught me a style and high level of acting that I felt I could not do before and I appreciate the support from Ms. Hood, the production crew, and the cast," he said.

Offstage, a robust Seldom Scene team created the elaborate sets and some of the most challenging lighting setups in school history, building custom LED panels that framed the stage and served as the main backdrop. Below the stage, they unearthed and refurbished the dormant orchestra pit for the musicians. Stage Manager **Eliza Dorf '23** said, "I really enjoyed being the stage manager for *Mean Girls*. Tech week was especially challenging since the show is built mainly around lights and projections, and making sure every cue was recorded in the right place was more difficult than in other shows. However, I'm thankful for the cast and crew's hard work and enthusiasm."

Bravo to the cast and crew of *Mean Girls*. "The limit does not exist!"



**"The cast and crew worked diligently over three months, and the payoff was a hilarious and touching rendition of Tina Fey's brainchild. Bravo to a very dedicated and extremely talented cast and crew!"**

**CAROLYN HOOD, UPPER SCHOOL  
PERFORMING ARTS TEACHER**





## A Hilarious Farce, *How the Other Half Loves*, Warms Hearts in Orthwein

The Upper School production of *How the Other Half Loves* was a first for MICDS. The farce, the first of that genre to be seen on the Orthwein stage, presented the actors and director **Carolyn Hood, Upper School Performing Arts Teacher**, with a challenge. The script was tight and engaging, but “farce is probably the hardest style of acting,” said Hood. Getting it all to gel on stage was rewarding, given that the material has highly choreographed comical moments, intricate timing, and over-the-top but lovable characters.

Written in 1969 by British playwright Alan Ayckbourn, *How the Other Half Loves* sees three couples pulled together to deal with and try to cover up an affair.

**Alice Ma '23** describes her character as “always very nervous and anxious, so I envisioned her to be fidgety all the time, [but] I didn’t have to calm myself down before the shows because embracing the nervousness and stress actually helped me stay in character,” she said. Still, the play’s style demanded a learning curve. “The comedic elements of this show made it more difficult to act because I had to learn to find a balance between doing enough and not overdoing things.”

Hood knows just how successful the actors made the production. “These six actors brilliantly conquered this style, and our audiences were treated to a hilarious and delightfully clever weekend of performances,” she said.







# First and Fourth Graders Become Clay Sculptors

First- and fourth-grade students tried sculpting with clay this past year, learning different concepts from **Sarah Garner, Lower School Visual Art Teacher** to create cupcakes and functional art sculptures.

In first grade, there's no sweeter way to work with clay than by making cupcakes! Students created these artistic desserts by forming a pinch pot for the base of the cupcake. Next, they used the coil method to create the icing and used a technique called "slip-and-score" to combine the base and the icing. The artists finished their masterpieces by adding a cherry on top.

Young artists in fourth grade used clay to design functional art sculptures. "Fourth graders began this challenge thinking about what makes art functional and if functional items can be art," said Garner.

"The challenge was to use the slab construction method in clay, building on skills from previous years, to design a functional wall hanging of art." The slab construction method is when the sculptor rolls the clay to an even thickness and then cuts, folds, bends, manipulates, and joins shapes from the slab to form a final object.

Ultimately, students created wall hangings that functioned as planters for small succulents or air plants. Some artists also created pencil holders, small mugs, spoon holders, and more. Whether creating cupcakes or functional art from clay, Garner said, "As you look at the world around you, remember that art is all around and can connect us all."







# Beasley Artists Inspired by Pop Art and Artist with Down Syndrome

Fourth-grade artists in **Lower School Visual Arts Teacher Sarah Garner's** class learned about and created fiber art and pop art inspired by fiber artist Judith Scott.

Fourth-grade students first read the book *Unbound: The Life and Art of Judith Scott* by Joyce Scott. Judith Scott is an internationally-recognized fiber artist who also has Down Syndrome. She created over 160 sculptures and pieces of art at the Creative Growth Center in Oakland, California. The center is an art studio for people with disabilities to explore their creativity, and their artists are recognized not for their disabilities but for their potential as communicators through art.

After learning about Scott, the fourth-grade artists developed a concept that art can connect us all. To illustrate this idea, Garner challenged them to create pieces inspired by Judith Scott, which embody how Scott created with lots of layers, materials, and repetition.

"The pieces that our Beasley artists created have three layers," said Garner. "The first layer consists

of repeated shapes and colors, followed by a layer of more shapes and added texture with felt cutouts for the first layer. Finally, the finishing layer incorporates repetitive movement with yarn across the piece to think about using multi-media to create a cohesive piece that draws inspiration and pays homage to Judith Scott."

At the same time, students were introduced to the Pop Art movement by studying various artists and learning about the common themes found in Pop Art: bold color, from popular culture, and mass-produced. The artists had to problem solve and design a Pop Tart label for a new or favorite flavor that included the characteristics of Pop Art.

The 2-D design that each student created of their logo was the jumping-off point for creating a soft sculpture of a Pop Tart, using the sculptures of Claes Oldenburg as a reference and stitching felt to construct their soft sculptures. How wonderful to see these inspiring examples of art connecting us in such bright, creative, and expressive ways!





# Musicians shine in local competitions

## Students Selected for Missouri All-State Choir & Orchestra

Two MICDS students were selected by audition to perform with the 2023 Missouri All-State Choir: **Alizeh Jawaid '23**, Alto, and **Livi Thomas '23**, Soprano. Along with Jawaid and Thomas, one MICDS musician was selected by audition to perform in the 2023 All-State ensembles: **Ellie Chen '26**, All-State Orchestra, Cello.

In the vocal audition rounds, each student performed a vocal solo for a panel of adjudicators, where they were evaluated on their tone quality, intonation, rhythm and pitch accuracy, diction, and overall musical effect. Following their solo audition, each student had 20 seconds to study and perform two challenging sight-singing examples and identify two randomly selected key signatures.

This marks the second year Jawaid has been selected to the Missouri All-State Choir. She said, "Auditioning for All-State was nerve-wracking since everyone is so good, but it was also heartwarming at the same time." Thomas said, "Preparing for my audition required me to practice every day."

Congratulations to the MICDS singers who were recognized with an Honorable Mention: **Ben Iken '24**, Bass, and **Rebecca Sennaraj '24**, Alto.

"The All-State Orchestra was definitely a big challenge, and playing alongside the best musicians from Missouri was very nerve-inducing!" said Chen. "Our repertoire, comprised of the *Romischer Karneval/Roman Carnival Overture* by Hector Berlioz and *Billy the Kid Overture* by Aaron Copland, was very difficult to master. Though it was hard, it was an amazing experience and fun as well! The orchestra was always energized and humorous, and the fact that we could put on an amazing performance in three days was very inspiring to me. The entire experience was life-changing, and I hope to receive the honor of performing with the All-State Orchestra again in the coming years."

**Dana Self, Upper School Choir Director**, said, "These three musicians were strong representatives of the MICDS community, not only while at the conference and performances but throughout the highly competitive audition process that ultimately lands them a highly coveted spot in an all-state ensemble. The entire MICDS music faculty is so proud of their accomplishments and the outstanding work and leadership they bring into our classrooms daily."



- 01. Alizeh Jawaid '23
- 02. Livi Thomas '23
- 03. Ellie Chen '26
- 04. Ben Iken '24
- 05. Rebecca Sennaraj '24
- 06. Chloe Cheng '23
- 07. Daniel Kuhlman '27
- 08. Joy Chen '26

## Band Stars Shine in the Metro District 8 Honor Ensemble Concerts

Two MICDS band students, **Chloe Cheng '23** and **Daniel Kuhlman '27**, participated in the 2022 Metro District 8 Honor Ensemble Concerts.

"These students prepared a lengthy set of music for an audition early in November. Then, they were selected among the top students from all St. Louis public and private schools and the Fort Zumwalt and Francis Howell Districts in St. Charles County," said **Becky Long, Middle & Upper School Performing Arts Teacher**.

Kuhlman, who played clarinet for the Metro District 8 band, shared, "It was an honor to be selected again this year for Metro 8. It was a fun and rewarding experience playing with some of the best kids in the St. Louis area."

Cheng also played clarinet and said, "What I most enjoyed about participating in Metro 8 were the high expectations all the students held for themselves and how well everything was executed, especially since we only practiced three times before the concert," said Cheng. "It meant a lot to me to play at such a higher performance level, and I hope to do something like it again in the future."

In addition to Cheng and Kuhlman, **Joy Chen '26** was selected as an alternate for the high school honor ensemble concert.



# Winter Music Performances Warms Hearts

## *Choir, Orchestra, and Band Concerts Spark Holiday Magic*

### **Winter Masterworks Concert Fills Hearts with Music**

Last December, the Upper School Choirs presented two performances of the 14th annual Winter Masterworks Concert in Orthwein Theatre under the direction of **Dana Self, Upper School Choir Teacher.**

Accompanied by a professional orchestra, the choirs performed selections from Part One of George Frideric Handel's famous oratorio, *Messiah*. Featured soloists included seniors **Ella Chamberlain '23,**

**Noah Macam '23, Alizeh Jawaid '23, and Livi Thomas '23.** The choirs also performed several traditional holiday favorites, including *Sleigh Ride, Winter Wonderland, It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year, Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!*, and *Jingle Bells* as recorded by Barbra Streisand, and a new addition to the program, Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*. The show closed with an invitation for guests to join the choir onstage, singing Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*.







## Winter Band Concerts Deliver Holiday Cheer

The MICDS Middle and Upper School Bands performed a magnificent holiday show for family and friends in Orthwein Theatre.

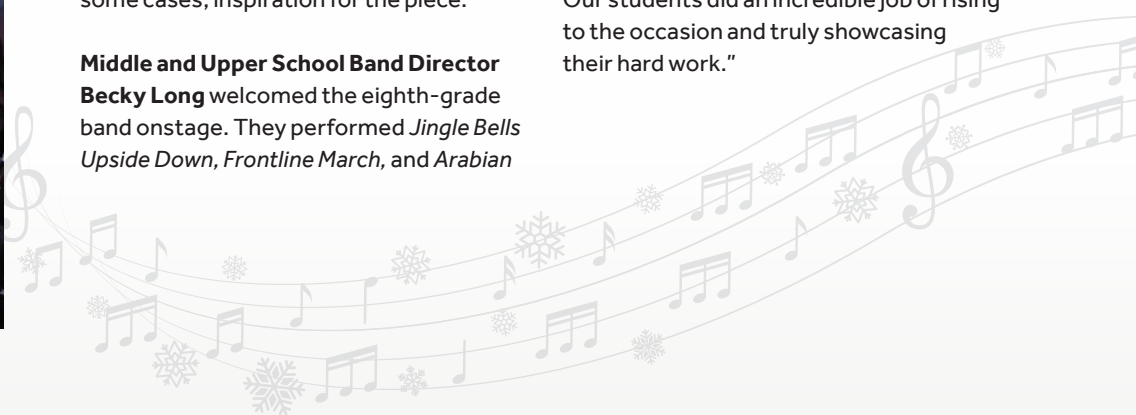
Under the direction of **Middle and Upper School Instrumental Music Instructor Josh Baumgartner**, the sixth-grade band performed *Jingle Bells*, *Dreydl, Dreydl*, and *Shepherd's Hey*. Then, the seventh-grade band played *Reason to Rock* and *The Dreaded Devious Diabolical Dotted Dragon* before joining the sixth graders to round out the show with *Blizzard Blues*. Students introduced each number, providing background on the composer, song, and in some cases, inspiration for the piece.

**Middle and Upper School Band Director Becky Long** welcomed the eighth-grade band onstage. They performed *Jingle Bells Upside Down*, *Frontline March*, and *Arabian*

*Dances*. They switched places with the Upper School Band, who played *Fanfare & Hymn for All Nations*, *Sparks*, and *Sleigh Ride*. The two bands combined and rocked some of the MICDS Pep Band's Greatest Hits.

A quick stage reset ushered in the MICDS Jazz Band. Under the direction of Baumgartner, students played the rock anthem *Born to be Wild*, the jazz standard *St. Louis Blues*, and a solo-filled *Funk Zone*.

Long said, "It is such a joy to be a part of the synergy created through live performance! Our students did an incredible job of rising to the occasion and truly showcasing their hard work."



## Winter Orchestra Musicians Delight Rams Community

The MICDS Winter Orchestra Concert was filled with fun and beautiful music. The strings and orchestra students from Lower, Middle, and Upper Schools performed spectacularly for their families, friends, and the greater MICDS community.

Under the direction of **Nicole Kovaluk, MICDS Strings Instructor**, and **Dr. Jo Nardolillo, JK-12 Arts Department Chair and Orchestra Director**, and **Assistant Director Erin Hamill**, the winter concert was the debut performance for the newest MICDS strings students who started earlier in the fall. From the beginner strings students to our senior musicians, attendees enjoyed a wonderful selection of music that filled Brauer Auditorium. The audience enjoyed songs such as *Open String Blues* by Lars-Erik Sundell, *Into the Sky!* by Brian Balmages, *Aspen Glow* by Susan Day, and *Symphony no. 7 II Allegretto* by Ludwig

van Beethoven. Students loved the music selections.

Concertmasters **Syeda Harvey '28** and **Maria Wansong '28** did a marvelous job leading the seventh-grade orchestra. The eighth grade added special zombie effects, including a scream solo by **Elinor Verdine '27**, to their *Rosin Eating Zombies from Outer Space* performance by Richard Meyer. Featured soloist **Ava Janes '23** played a pyrotechnic virtuosity in the Mozart concerto performed by Upper School. There was an MICDS Trio performance of *Phantom of the Opera*. All musicians gathered for the grand finale performance of the theme from *Game of Thrones*.

"It was exhilarating to be on stage with these young musicians who invested so deeply in taking the audience on a fantastic musical journey!" said Dr. Nardolillo.



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>> continued from page 49

## Beasley Winter Concert Brings Warmth and Smiles to the Rams Family

Beasley students started the holiday season full of cheer and joyfulness with their concert, *Winter's in the Air*, directed by **Lower School Music Teacher Dr. Katy Nichols**.

To open the program, students sang the title song, *Winter's in the Air*, where students wore matching scarves, and Junior Kindergarten through fourth-graders sang in two-part harmony about the excitement of the onset of winter.

Beasley students sang seasonal favorites and songs representative of various winter holidays, including Diwali, Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. Across grade levels, students also recited poetry between each of the pieces. The final songs of the program were accompanied by a Middle School string and piano ensemble—**Grace Maher '27** on violin, **Nolan Ma '28** on cello, and **Emmaus Tzeng '28** on piano—led by Dr. Nardolillo.

The program ended with *Circle the Earth (with Peace)*, affectionately known as “The Peace Song.” To top off the special finish, **Head of School Jay Rainey** shared his gift of playing piano by accompanying the students in this final song.

Upper School design students, under the direction of **Patrick Huber, Upper School Fine & Performing Arts Teacher**,

created several paper program designs. “Mr. Huber invited me as a client to his design class,” Dr. Nichols said. “I described the aesthetic we wanted for our winter program design and gave them the program information. Each of the students created a design of their own. Then, our fourth-grade students voted on the final two winning designs printed for the performance, which were created by **James Morey '25** and **Jack Jerlecki '24**.”

To magically “let it snow” during the show, Seldom Scene, the Upper School theater design team, under the direction of Huber and **Brian Purlee, Upper School Theater Technical Director**, designed and created a snow mechanism for Mary Eliot Chapel. The Seldom Scene crew assembled and hung the snow apparatus in Mary Eliot Chapel and loaded it with fake snow. The mechanism worked on a pulley system so that when the mechanism was pulled, it shifted back and forth, enabling the snowflakes to fall through the apparatus. “This created a special snow effect for our song, *Christmas Canon*. The delight on the students’ faces was evident as it began to snow inside,” said Dr. Nichols. The performance would not have been complete without the help of sound and lighting volunteers from the Upper School, **Ash Aranha '23** and **Raina Compton '23**.





## Middle School Choir Presents “American Tapestry”

MICDS Middle School students and parents were treated to two beautiful day and evening winter choir concerts by our talented Middle School vocal music students. Sixth, seventh, and eighth graders presented *American Tapestry: How Can I Keep From Singing*, a program that follows the journey of American music and poetry, with musical selections encouraging our young singers to stretch and grow.

**Middle School Vocal Music Teacher Jason Roberts** curated the pieces around a central theme of connection and gratitude and said, “These songs demonstrate the virtues of American goodwill and heartfelt thanks and prompt us to search for meaning in the

depths of challenging times and the heights of victories. We have so much to be thankful for; how can we keep from singing?”

The grade-level choirs performed individually and combined, offering the audience entertainment such as the American standard, *The Star Spangled Banner*, poetry by Emily Dickinson, and even the singalong song that took TikTok by storm, *Fifty Nifty United States*. Piano accompanist Nick Bideler and violinist and Dr. Nardodillo supported the vocalists.

Congratulations to all of our young musicians for a beautiful season of performances!





#RamNation

2023

# Rams Rewind

WINTER SPORTS SEASON RECAPS



## Girls Basketball

### Head Coach: Scott Small

*Class 4, District 6 Champions*

The MICDS Girls Basketball team, led by seniors **Binta Fall '23**, **Chelsey Nwamu '23**, **Brianna Desai '23**, and **Ashley Cooper '23**, finished an injury-plagued 2022-2023 campaign with a 14-14 record. The Rams persevered through these challenges to not only earn big program wins against St. Joseph's Academy, Visitation, and Lutheran North but, most impressively, won a District Title, the seventh in program history. The Rams lost in the Sectional Round of the State Tournament to eventual champions, Vashon. Fall was named First Team All-Conference and **CeCe Harris '25** was named to the Honorable Mention team. **Genesis Starks '24** and **Abby Wyckoff '24** both bounced back from injury to finish the season and join **Julianna Resch '24**, **Ava Moore '24**, and **Ella Etherington '24** as next year's senior leaders. Harris, **Lilly Loeb '25**, **Mac Froedge**

**'25**, **Addie Small '25**, and **Addi Farmer '26** look to step up in increased roles next year to offset the loss of our departing seniors.

## Boys Basketball

### Head Coach: Travis Wallace

*District 4 Champions & Metro Conference Title*

This past year was a season of growth. The team had a lot of young players experiencing their first varsity season. Our overall record was 23-7. The Rams won the MICDS Tip-Off Tournament and took the District 4 Championship and for the third time in four years, they won the Metro Conference Title. The team was led this year by three seniors: **Marcus Coleman '23**, **Brin Lewis '23**, and **Jason Klutho '23**. Next year, the team returns with a good nucleus of players led by **Jayden Banks '24** and **Mason Swartz '24**, followed by a good group of sophomores who are anticipated to carry the program for years to come.

## Cheerleading

**Head Coaches:**  
**Emilee Lemp Ivie '06 & Sydney Eisenstein '05**

*Building Stunting and Choreography Skills into Post-Season Play*

This winter, the Varsity Cheerleading program had 24 talented athletes who rallied around the Boys Basketball team during quarterfinal playoffs. Building on their impressive stunting skills, the squad crafted two stunning full-length routines for the Coaches vs. Cancer game and Senior Night, which wowed audiences and showcased the team's versatility. The coaches and squad will miss the senior leadership team of **Ella Chamberlain '23**, **Maya Dickinson '23**, **Keller Goldstein '23**, **Keely O'Connell '23**, **Emily Podgorny '23**, **Meredith Purlee '23**, **Sanchi Vishwakarma '23**, **Belle Wood '23**, and **Lucy Zimmer '23**. The season was a resounding





success, with the team demonstrating impressive teamwork, dedication, and enthusiasm. The cheer squad attended the annual Universal Cheerleaders Association summer camp, where they worked with top-notch coaches, honed their skills, and bonded as a team. These Rams are ready to take their skills to the next level.

## Dance

**Head Coach: Summer Beasley**

**Two performances showcase original choreography**

The 2023 MICDS *Dance In Concert* featured five Upper School students: **Helen Li '23**, **Ella Lin '26**, **Azael Mayer '24**, **Angel Pura '23**, and **Meihua Stansberry '23**. The concert showcased a variety of dance styles, including jazz, modern, and K-Pop. Lin and Mayer co-choreographed a duet titled *Lemon Boy*. **Harper Clark '26** also co-choreographed a piece titled *Good Old Fashion* with head coach Summer Beasley. There was an evening performance for family and friends in Mary Eliot Chapel. The dancers also performed for Middle School students during an assembly.

## Ice Hockey

**Head Coach: John Mattingly Jr.**

**MidStates Central Division Champions**

The Ice Hockey team ended the season with a 19-3-6 record, one of the best in school history. The Rams took home the MidStates High School Central Division Championship and reached the Final Four of the Wickenhauser Cup. The season highlights included: 3-0 record against John Burroughs, 19 straight games without a loss, wins against Challenge Cup Teams Lindbergh and Parkway South, and the team's first Final Four appearance since 2014. The Rams were lead by 11 seniors, including captains **Harry Kohler '23**, **Holt Tipton '23**, and **George Herron '23**. Goaltender **Deren Pellegrini '23** was one of the top netminders in the area with top five finishes in goals against average, save percentage, and wins. Although the Rams fell short of their State Championship goal this season, no one would argue this season's ice hockey team will go down as one of the best ever to wear an MICDS sweater. The future remains bright as a tremendous group of freshman players learned valuable lessons this season from a tremendous group of seniors. Juniors **George Williamson '24**, **Henry Cordes '24**, and **Amir Hajji '24** will carry the tradition on for an extremely talented youth movement in the coming years.

01. Binta Fall '23 looks to pass.

02. Jayden Banks '24 dribbles through a Whitfield defense.

03. The cheerleaders debuted two new full-length routines.

04. The dance concert showcased a variety of styles.

05. Ameer Hajji '24 clears the puck. (photo credit Will Bramlett)



01



02



## Girls Squash

**Head Coach: Robyn Williams**

**3rd place finish in Division II at the US Squash High School Nationals Tournament**

The Girls Squash team, led by co-captains **Rhea Patnana '23** and **Kareena Kanumury '23**, had a fantastic season, continuing their strong run from the previous year. The team kicked off the season with a win at the Tom Flanagan Invitational Tournament held in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. After the winter break, MICDS hosted The Ashes Invitational Tournament, where the team emphatically won all four matches, securing the tournament title against teams from Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Georgia. The team then embarked on a trip to Connecticut, winning all their matches, including impressive victories against a strong Choate Rosemary Hall team and Loomis Chaffee. At the US Squash High School Nationals tournament, the team was promoted to Division 2 and seeded fifth, a testament to their excellent performance throughout the regular season. **Charlotte Medler '26**, **Abby Derdeyn '25**, **Annabelle Medler '24**, and **Charlotte Derdeyn '24** had exceptional individual performances at Nationals. Overall, MICDS had a remarkable season and demonstrated a high level of skill and determination. For the first time in MICDS squash program history, the team broke into the top 20 squash schools' national rankings. The varsity squad bids farewell to four seniors who have considerably impacted the girls' squash program: Patnana, Kanumury, **Nikitha Ada '23**, and **Evelyn Lui '23**.

## Boys Squash

**Head Coach: Nolan Clarke**

**Great determination and resilience for a 14-7 record**

The Boys' Varsity Squash team had an incredible season this year, playing an unprecedented 21 matches, a program first. This year, **Haadis Amin '23**, **Henry Byrne '23**, and **CJ Goot '23** led the team, which showed great determination and resilience throughout the season. Their hard work paid off as they finished with an impressive record of 14 wins and seven losses. Hosting the School's very first tournament was undoubtedly one of the season's highlights. Seven teams participated, providing a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate our skills and sportsmanship. Throughout the season, the team faced some tough opponents but never gave up and always fought until the end. The season concluded with the team participating in Division 3 of the U.S. Squash High School Nationals Tournament. Byrne deserves a special mention for his remarkable achievement of winning all his matches at the High School Nationals, a truly outstanding feat. The squad bids farewell to seven seniors: Amin, Byrne, Goot, **Maxwell Birkel '23**, **Peter Grace '23**, **Jackson Chou '23**, and **Owen Zhang '23**.

01. Charlotte Derdeyn '24 aims for a solid backhand.

02. Maxwell Birkel '23 readies for a hit.





## Girls Swimming and Diving

### Head Coach: Chris McCrary

Second Place in Metro League Conference

The Girls Swimming and Diving team finished the year with great results off the blocks and off the boards. The girls were second in the Metro League Conference and ended up 6th at the MSHSAA Class 2 State Championship meet. **Juliette Phillips '24**, **Lindsay Naber '26**, **Mikaela Mikulec '25**, and **Grace Coppel '26** combined to win the 200 Free Relay and set a new team record at State. State scorers included J. Phillips, Naber, Mikulec, and Coppel. **Nina Schuerer '26**, **Isabel Phillips '25**, **Erica Engelhardt '24**, **Everdine Ferguson '25**, **Thisbe Diamond '25**, **Sophia Goodwin '26**, and **Bella Anadkat '27** also competed at State. Diamond and **Sarah Mills '26** also represented the Rams at the MSHSAA Class 2 Districts diving competition.

## Boys Wrestling

### Head Coach: Cory Reichert

Team records 16 dual meet wins

Captains **Grayson Marks '23** and **Brian Schlafly '24** led our exceptional Boys Wrestling team this year. The team as a whole won 16 dual meets, a vast improvement from three the year before. **Jaxon Abernathy '26**, Schlafly, **Lachlan Murray '24**, **Max Charnond '25**, and **Grant Nicholson '24** were named First Team All-Conference. **Ben Petersen '26** received Second Team All-Conference honors. **David Osborn '24** and Marks were Honorable Mentions. At the end of the season banquet, Abernathy was named Rookie of the Year, Charnond earned Most Improved, and Schlafly named Most Valuable Player. The future looks bright for the Boys Wrestling team.

01. Girls Swimming takes 2nd place in Metro League Conference.

02. Grayson Marks '23 helped lead Rams Wrestling through an outstanding season.





## Kate Haffenreffer Earns Women's Commitment Award



**Varsity Girls Head Lacrosse Coach Kate Haffenreffer** was recognized by the St. Louis Chapter of the USA Lacrosse Hall of Fame for earning the Women's Commitment Award. "Haff" has coached MICDS girls lacrosse to four state championships and six final four appearances and has had three *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* Players of the Year. She played at Dartmouth College, earned two Ivy League championships, had two NCAA Elite 8 appearances, and earned All-Ivy and All-American Honors. Several of Haffenreffer's MICDS players surprised her at the award ceremony. Congratulations, Coach Haff!

# Congratulations!

## Scott Small Named District Coach of the Year

In Girls Basketball Class 4 District 6, **Head Coach and Head of Upper School Scott Small** was named District Coach of the Year by the Missouri Basketball Coaches Association. Congratulations, Coach Small!



## MICDS Paints It Pink to Support Cancer Awareness

Last January, McDonnell Gym was awash in pink for the annual Coaches vs. Cancer basketball game against John Burroughs School to support the mission of the American Cancer Society. Rams fans purchased special event t-shirts with proceeds supporting the American Cancer Society and showed up in force to support the Rams team and a great cause.

For nearly 30 years, the Coaches vs. Cancer program, in collaboration with the National Association of Basketball Coaches, has united coaches and fans nationwide to help the American Cancer Society defeat a common enemy: cancer.

"It was amazing to see two large rival crowds joining together to support a wonderful cause!" said **Ashley Cooper '23, Athletics Council Co-Head**. "When you walked into the gym, the overwhelming support was obvious, with the entire Rams community showing up in their pink!"

Linda Sodemann, Coaches vs. Cancer volunteer, said, "What an awesome atmosphere for the MICDS-JBS basketball game! I loved the pink shirts everywhere and the incredible school spirit on display! We are grateful that both MICDS and JBS have joined the Coaches vs. Cancer team, supporting the mission of the American Cancer Society. We look forward to working together again next year."





## Fifteen Student-Athletes Commit to Collegiate Play

Fifteen student-athletes from the Class of 2023 signed symbolic letters of intent at the February annual college signing day assembly. Parents, coaches, teammates, and friends cheered them on as they committed to continuing their athletic careers in college.

"What a wonderful opportunity to recognize a group of our student-athletes who have earned placement to continue to chase their athletic passions," said **Director of Athletics Josh Smith**. "The ability to play at the collegiate level highlights the drive of these young men and women who have worked hard at MICDS to excel in both the classroom and their athletic competitions. We are thrilled to keep watching to see what they will achieve as ambassadors of our programs in the near future."

At the assembly, **Head of School Jay Rainey** addressed the group. "All of you, and our community, are so varied, diverse, and interesting in your very enriching pursuits individually and collectively. I am incredibly proud, on behalf of our school, of everything you've achieved and the bright future that awaits you at the collegiate level."

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

### Congratulations to our 2023 student-athletes!

**Maya Anderson '23**,  
University of Kentucky, Track & Field

**Michael Elvin '23**, Grinnell College, Football

**Steven Hall '23**, Lindenwood University, Football

**Michio Kamimura '23**, Denison University, Football

**Nathaniel Ly '23**, Yale University, Crew

**Winston Moore '23**, Colgate University, Football

**Zara Nourie '23**, Ithaca College, Soccer

**Juliette Phillips '23**, Binghamton University, Swimming

**Eric Podgorny '23**, Xavier University, Baseball

**Julia Ray '23**, University of Tennessee,  
Cross Country and Track & Field

**Dorian Reddic '23**, Monmouth College, Football

**Devyn Rodgers '23**, Augustana College, Track and Field

**Jack Rollo '23**, Denison University, Baseball

**Parker Scheele '23**, Indiana University, Soccer

**Nathan Yao '23**, Carnegie Mellon University, Soccer

*Go, Rams!*



# Friday's Tree

## Notes on Philanthropy by Jay Rainey

Last fall, **Head of School Jay Rainey**, received a letter from a member of the CDS Class of '55. "Dear Mr. Rainey," it read. "I have enclosed a modest gift for the general needs of MICDS. This amount recognizes the 75 years since I first matriculated at Country Day in 1947, aged 10. My eight years there provided a wonderful academic foundation upon which I built a solid adult life. I appreciate those years at Country Day, and hope, over time, that those at MICDS have a similar experience."

During the seniors' last week of school, Jay had the opportunity to speak with the Class of 2023 about philanthropy and shared the letter with them. "I can think of few more compelling

proofs of the success of our educational project at MICDS," he told the soon-to-be-graduates, "than that, at age 85, in the year 2090, one of you would be so thoughtful, as that CDS alumnus has been, to write such a letter to the Head of School at that time—a person who has probably not even been born yet—and to give such a gift to express your gratitude for the 'wonderful academic foundation' provided to you here, and the 'solid adult life' that you have built upon it."

Philanthropy essentially means "love of humankind." In our present day, when such a concept is increasingly

SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

Dear Mr. Rainey,

I have enclosed a modest gift for the general needs of MICDS. This amount recognizes the 75 years since I first matriculated at Country Day in 1947, aged 10. My eight years there provided a wonderful academic foundation, upon which I built a solid adult life. I appreciate those years at Country Day, and hope, over time, that those at MICDS have a similar experience.

Sincerely yours,

CLASS of 1955

**"These trees which he plants, and under whose shade he shall never sit, he loves them for themselves, and for the sake of his children and his children's children, who are to sit beneath the shadow of their spreading boughs."**

**FRENCH THEOLOGIAN  
HYACINTHE LOYSON**

countercultural, it is all the more important that we embrace and sustain it on behalf of future generations. To the Class of 2023, Jay explained that approximately 80% of the total cost of an MICDS education is funded from tuition while the remaining 20% is funded from other sources—income from invested endowment gifts most notably, as well as donations to the MICDS Fund. "One way to think about this," he said, "is that, for as long as you have been a student here, your families have paid for every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, but other people—many of them still living, but many more of them now deceased—have paid for every Friday."

In closing, Jay shared the following words of the French theologian Hyacinthe Loyson in praise of the philanthropist: "These trees which he plants, and under whose shade he shall never sit, he loves them for themselves, and for the sake of his children and his children's children, who are to sit beneath the shadow of their spreading boughs." Planting trees that one will never climb, under whose limbs and leaves one will never enjoy shade—is there any more fitting embodiment of love of humankind than this? At MICDS, every fifth tree—Friday's tree—is such a gift, and we are ever grateful for it, and committed to planting Friday trees for our successors.







## Hoops, There it Was!

### MICDS Madness has another championship year



This past March, alumni from the 5th to 15th reunion classes came together for MICDS Madness, our annual fun-spirited virtual young alumni participation challenge. Working together and using all matters of communication possible throughout the week, the classes of 2008-2018 were laser-focused on coming out on top at the annual MICDS Big Dance. When the party was over, the class of 2009 claimed the top spot (their first-ever Madness Championship) by achieving 170% of their individual class goal!

At the end of a very closely fought week with daily lead changes, 82% of the classes met, exceeded, or came within two gifts of their class goals. And, just like seasoned organists pulling out the stops so more air flows through the pipes and the volume increases, Madness volunteer class reps turned up the volume daily to encourage their classmates to participate.

MICDS Madness is always a lively and fiery challenge that gives our young alums a chance to reminisce about their time on campus while also uniting to give back to the School. And, even though they were competing against each other, 2008-2018 came together to generate 181 gifts to the School, achieving 120% of their overall participation goal—in only seven days! Their generosity supports the MICDS Fund, and many donations were made in honor or in memory of teachers and classmates who impacted their lives.

And MICDS Madness wouldn't be anywhere near as successful without the dedication of our loyal and devoted Madness Class Reps, who tirelessly engaged with their classmates to encourage participation. We are extremely grateful to our volunteers, and Madness wouldn't be nearly as successful without you! Our students and faculty are so grateful.

### TOP FIVE CLASSES

(BASED ON CLASS PARTICIPATION GOALS)

1

2009

2

2008

3

2011

4

2013

5

2012



Check your email in late August for  
more information!

# Save-the-Date

## MICDS Homecoming Weekend



**September 22-23, 2023**  
**MICDS Campus**

**Friday:**  
School-day pep rally,  
food trucks, and bonfire

**Saturday:**  
Fun Run, carnival, picnic,  
and athletic contests

**Join us!**

## One Day for MICDS

Another successful One Day for MICDS is in the books! The far-reaching Ram community came together for an online challenge supporting the students and exceeding our goals. We are excited to report that 454 alumni, parents, grandparents, parents of alumni, and friends collaborated to raise over \$179,000 in a mere 24 hours. The entire day was a phenomenal show of support and school spirit. Several generous donors issued matches and challenges throughout the day and night, and our MICDS family stepped up every time. Participants even tackled a challenge that pushed us to more than 400 donors. On behalf of our students and faculty, who are the direct beneficiaries of your support, we say a hearty Thank You!





# Class Notes

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

The following pages reflect  
notes submitted through

**April 1, 2023**

Submit your news for the next issue to:  
[classnotes@micds.org](mailto:classnotes@micds.org)



## *Births and Adoptions*

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING CHILDREN TO OUR MICDS FAMILY.

**01. Lindsay Haffner Eagleton '00 and Mark Christopher Eagleton '00**, twins Alice Gervaise Eagleton and Bridger Thomas Eagleton, *December 2, 2022*

**02. Dana Weston Graves '00 and Cornelius,** Blake Cornelius Graves, *March 3, 2022*

**Steven Kofkoff '03 and Nicole,** Harold "Harry" Kofkoff, *September 27, 2022*

**03. Mary McGehee Holbrook '08 and Steven Tyler Johnson '07**, Steven Tyler "Tee" Johnson Jr., *May 26, 2022*



## *Weddings*

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING ALUMNI ON THEIR RECENT NUPTIALS.

**04. Richard Sant '09 and Kerry Rom**, *August 22, 2022*

**05. Katherine "Kaci" McAllister '06 and Daniel J. Scheuler**, *December 10, 2022*







#### **GETTING MARRIED? EXPECTING?**

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



# Alumni/ae Deaths

THROUGH JUNE 5, 2023

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

Lesley Ann Cherbonnier Knowles '40, March 13, 2023

Briggs Alexander Hoffman Jr. '40, April 25, 2023

Hilda Young Jones '43, December 17, 2018

Shirley Steffen McGill '43, April 20, 2015

Nancy McMillan Peggs '43, February 23, 2018

J. Shepard Bryan '43, June 10, 2019

James C. Shapleigh '44, February 20, 2015

Joseph O. Rand Jr. '44, August 5, 2021

John Van Raalte '44, May 7, 2022

George David Stifel '44, May 20, 2023

Suzanne Siegel Harbison '45, January 31, 2023

Doris Waltke Percy '46, May 22, 2023

Douglas Lilly '48, March 17, 2023

Dian Chandler Schock '48, June 3, 2023

Jane Bridges Evans '51, October 21, 2022

John Bryant '51, December 29, 2022

Helen Mare Dean '51, April 18, 2023

Ann Corby Hemenway Dolan '51, May 31, 2023

Cynthia H. Allen '52, January 3, 2023

David B. McFarland '53, January 31, 2023

Audrey Wallace Otto '54, April 18, 2023

Jackson D. Waterbury II '55, January 14, 2023

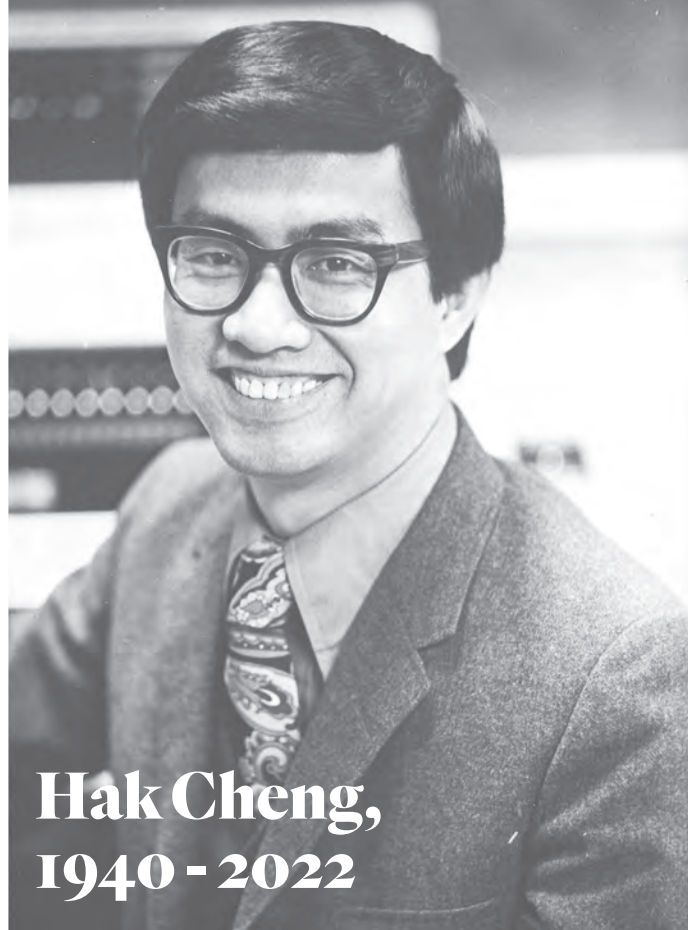
Brooks Dyer '55, February 12, 2023

Douglas Wheeler '55, December 22, 2022

Joseph Larimore '55, February 13, 2023

Hord Hardin '55, April 19, 2023

>> continued on page 65



**Hak Cheng,  
1940 - 2022**

*"An incredibly kind man."  
"His students adored him."  
"Couldn't want a better human  
being." "A very devoted  
teacher."*

Student and colleague comments, some recent and others from 30+ years ago, help tell the story of **Hak Cheng**, a beloved faculty member of Mary Institute and MICDS. Mr. Cheng passed away on December 30, 2022, in Celebration, Florida, where he had resided with his wife, Susan, since mid-2021. He was 82.

Mr. Cheng, a native of Hong Kong, came to Mary Institute in September 1968 and, for the next 31 years, played a variety of roles in school life, both official and unofficial. He taught mathematics and Upper School science classes, and he was also the Beasley School shop teacher. Outside of the classroom, he was known for applying his woodworking skills to such

activities as constructing booths for the MI charity fair. A quiet man, he earned his students' trust and love through his long tenure at our school.

Hak Cheng was born in Hong Kong in 1940, the oldest of 12 children. His father owned a large truck and barge transportation company and decided to further his son's education in the United States, where Hak was enrolled at the University of Cincinnati at the age of 20. In college, his favorite subject was meteorology. He married a classmate, Judy, and the Cheng family, moving to St. Louis after graduation, soon grew to include a son, Lee Paul, and a daughter, May Lynn. After they divorced in 1981, Mr. Cheng continued his career at MI and married Susan Colburn, a research scientist at Monsanto. They traveled extensively, often visiting family members in the U.S., Canada, and Hong Kong.



**“Talented, hard-working, caring—only mildly describe your energetic attitude toward the class of 1974...We would like to thank you...for teaching us what it means to love and be loved.”**

#### 1974 MI CHRONICLE'S DEDICATION TO THE CHENGs

Following retirement from MICDS in 1999, Hak and Susan moved to her family home in Auburn, Alabama, where they cared for Susan's mother while also continuing to take trips around the country and around the world—to Hong Kong, England, Scotland, Canada, and many of America's national parks. Hak continued his passion for woodworking and home improvements in his retirement, helping many family members tackle their own remodeling projects.

In June 2021, they moved to the Orlando area to be closer to Hak's family in Florida and took up residence in a retirement community. In their new home, they enjoyed being able to spend more time with granddaughter Lily, son Lee, and daughter-in-law Kelly, and their location facilitated more frequent visits from out-of-town family members.

Hak's impact on Mary Institute and MICDS has extended far beyond his years on our faculty. The MI 1974 graduating class dedicated its senior yearbook to Hak. It also established the Mary Institute Class of 1974 Hak Cheng Financial Aid Fund which continues to "ensure that all of our MICDS students have access to extraordinary educational opportunities" by benefitting faculty, staff, and various aspects of the curriculum.

In the 1974 MI *Chronicle's* dedication to the Chengs, the yearbook editors saluted Hak: "Talented, hard-working, caring—only mildly describe your energetic attitude toward the class of 1974...We would like to thank you...for teaching us what it means to love and be loved."

Robert Smith '57, March 4, 2023

Threde Saylor Edison '57, November 13, 2020

Julie Kassebaum Eggleston '57, May 5, 2023

Judith Jones Motley '57, May 15, 2023

Laura Grant Peters '57, Unknown

Mary May Waldheim Lemmon '58, April 12, 2022

Anthony Buford Jr. '59, February 1, 2023

Arthur Lister Scharff '59, July 26, 2022

Denny Wedemeyer '60, April 1, 2023

Leslie Gardner James '61, February 8, 2023

Sallie Williams Neubauer '65, January 12, 2023

Mary Turner Pattiz '65, May 9, 2023

Margaret "Pandy" Giessler Resier '67, January 4, 2023

Cynthia Trauernicht '71, February 22, 2023

Roger Brodsky '73, March 18, 2023

Margaret Cornwell '76, January 10, 2023

## *Faculty Deaths*

Richard Bess, CDS Science Teacher and Department Chair,  
June 5, 2023

Hak Man Cheng, MI Science and Math Teacher, December 30, 2022

Gregory Foster, MICDS Staff Member, February 19, 2023

Nancy Debra Linn, MI Physical Education Teacher, March 22, 2023

Jeffrey Spector, MICDS Math Teacher, July 13, 2022



## 1952 CDS

## WARREN LAMMERT

lammertwarren@att.net

Roger Reynolds is back on the ski slopes and preparing to return to Aspen's Snowmass.

## 1954 MI

## SUSAN SPOEHRER ELLIOTT

sselliott@sseinc.com

Our family is well, and our special upcoming event is our first granddaughter, **Elizabeth Love '16**, daughter of **Kathryn Elliott '84** and **George Love**, getting married on September 30, 2023 to David Slear! Our second granddaughter, **Amelia Love '18**, is working in Chicago for Boston Consulting Group. As for the sons of **Elizabeth Elliott '87** and **Hunt Niedringhaus '86**, **Thomas '19** is captain of the lacrosse team at Boston University and they have even asked him to stay and play an additional year instead of graduating this June.

Our "new normal" is to Zoom with our classmates. We have a super chat with **Talbot Leland MacCarthy**, **Mydie Baldwin Sant**, **Estie Veron Pruett**, **Mary Vollmer Rassieur**, and **Carol Clarkson Coffin** once a month!

**Mary Vollmer Rassieur** reports: My younger sister, **Jane Vollmer St. John '57**, passed away last fall. **Anne Stupp McAlpin '64** and **Carol Kent Diggs '58** made up a scrapbook for Jane's family. They dug into her records at MI. Her daughters and grandchildren were so happy when they received the album. Thank you, Anne and Carol. Several of us in our class have dinner or lunch together. We are all trying to work on our health. My granddaughter was married last fall. We certainly are in the wedding and babies stage.

**Jeannie D'Oench Field**: In July, I visited my sister, **Gloria D'Oench James '49**, who lives in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. We had some lovely hikes, though it is hard to keep up with Gloria. I was better at stopping to enjoy the wildflowers. I took a fifteen-week

virtual course given by the Tropical Audubon Society for their Ambassador Program. It was challenging and fun. One of the highlights was a field trip to the Everglades which is truly awesome!

**Almira Baldwin Sant**: In 2022, we had two weddings of grandchildren. **Mary Sant '13** married Michael Hardegraver in April, and **Richard Sant Jr. '09** married Kerry Rom in August in Harbor Springs, Michigan. (Our family has gone there our whole lives.) Our youngest grandchild graduated from college this May and is looking for a teaching job in early childhood education.

## 1956 MI

## ANN LUEDINGHAUS CASE

annicase7@gmail.com

On a sad note, our class sends its deepest sympathy to **Priscilla Hocker Claman**. Her husband, Victor, died before Christmas. She is recovering from a broken kneecap that occurred the day she called in Hospice. She said that her kids were taking good care of her.

**Nancy Noland Kurten** visited her sisters, brother-in-law, and sister-in-law in Vero Beach, Florida, in January: **Betty Noland Caravati '59**, **Jody Noland Old '62**, **Ted Noland '67**, and **Lou Horan Noland '68**.

**Nancy Green Maune** is teaching Mah Jongg at her retirement home.

**Page Sharp Jackson** attended the graduation of her granddaughter, Mimi, from nursing school in New Orleans in early December. Page also hosted a surprise 85th birthday party for **Jody Noel Dietz**. In attendance were **Mary Vollmer Rassieur '54**, **Estie Veron Pruett '54**, **Mydie Baldwin Sant '54**, **Elizabeth Swarts Wood '55**, **Carol Culver Bitting**, **Ellen Armstrong Wallace**, and myself.

My news is that a book written by The St. Louis Herb Society, titled *Herbs Around the Mediterranean*, has been published by the MBG Press. I helped edit, proofread, and check horticultural information for it.

## 1956 CDS

## TOBY JAMES

ptjames@swbell.net

**Mike Humphreys** reports, "No particular news from us, with my being only a remote member of CDS Class of 1956. **Sheila '59** and I were in St. Louis for the annual lectureship she and her brothers, Kevin and **Peter Morrin '63**, set up in memory of their mother, Helen Clanton Morrin; it took place April 7. Thanks for being the herder of cats!"

**Dave Martin**, a Pittsburgh resident for many years says, "Ellen and I haven't downsized as we know we should. After moving eight times in our first 14 years of marriage, twice to foreign countries, we've enjoyed not moving for 50 years. Ellen is still working at nearby Sewickley Academy, as she has for almost 50 years. I still do some bank consulting and enjoy it. Health? Pretty good for old people: relatively few ambulance rides and hospitalizations. No complaints here."

**John Shewmaker**, our middle-of-Missouri resident, advises that he's feeling pretty good after a quadruple bypass four years ago. "Never had a heart attack, so I may be around for a while yet. I am pretty good at washing dishes, which is useful, if not worth writing about. I tried playing golf once and hit my ball into a lake. It was a Titleist and was the only ball I had. It did not occur to me to get another, so I quit, avoiding further losses."

**Chris Layton** and **Adele** have survived all the nasty weather in California and are still busy up in Wine Country.

As for your class agent, I am feeling pretty good, still active in the community as I have been since graduating from Lehigh. I received the Lehigh Alumni Award and am a founding member of the St. Louis County Parks Foundation. Lost my third wife a couple of years ago. Finally, I am still working four days a week for a CPA firm specializing in tax returns. Many thanks to the four of you who responded to my search for class info.



## 1958 MI

**LIBBY HALL MCDONNELL**

elizabeth@mcdstl.com

**MARY KOENIGSBERG LANG**

mopa7@comcast.net

Ladies, be on the lookout for the next MICDS Magazine—there will be pictures and reports of our great 65th reunion!

## 1958 CDS

**DANIEL FEINBERG**

dbfeinberg@sbcglobal.net

**Hugh Bartlett** and Jane were in South Padre Island. Hugh said the fishing was not too great, but the weather was great.

**Warren Boeschstein** retired from University of Virginia. Boesch continues to live in Charlottesville in the house he designed earlier in his career, adapting it now to their elderly needs. He still tries to paint and practice architecture, mostly for the consumption of his family, including two nearby daughters. They hope to travel more. Boesch said one of these days he will get back to St. Louis and will hope to see you all then.

**Frank Elliott** reports, "Fifty-seven years of marriage has allowed us to accumulate lots of 'stuff.' Daily we think about downsizing, which we are getting to be pretty good at. Trying to give to our children and grandchildren items handed down from parents, grandparents, and great-great-grandparents. Karen and I have always thought we had so many valuables to share, but now they remain only as memories, and that's ok."

**Bud Hirsch** in 2022 traveled to Europe twice with his son, Jeff, on photographic journeys, first to the Mediterranean from Barcelona to Rome, second from Prague to Budapest. Bud continues to have images accepted in juried art exhibitions. He resumed his photography of his granddaughter, **Anna Speller '20**, who

competes on the women's gymnastics team at Southeast Missouri State University where she is a junior. His grandson, **Jake Speller '17**, is director of football operations at the University of Dayton.

**Charlie Valier** reports that his stepson, **Andrew Ribaldo '94**, was married recently in Atlanta to Catherine Inman. His youngest daughter, **Stephanie Valier Schwendinger '92**, has moved back to St. Louis and works at Nestlé Purina. Her two daughters are enrolled at MICDS—**Sloane '29** and **Suzanna '35**. Charlie recently published an essay, *Seeking Asphaleia* (ἀσφάλεια), at Yale and has been the subject of two filmed interviews. The first covers his years in the legislature and the governor's office. The second covers his time on the board of police commissioners. They can be accessed at Yale62.org. Patsy and Charlie are now spending six months/year in Charlevoix.

**Kent Ravenscroft**: I live and sculpt October-June in Washington, DC, in my home studio. In the summers, I live on Martha's Vineyard and work at Featherstone. I retired from psychiatry in 2007, moving to Paris for 10 years with my wife, Patti. I discovered sculpting there in 2011. I worked in Paris under the expert eye of sculptor Marie La Varande in her unique studio, Atelier Marie La Varande.

## 1959 MI

**SHEILA MORRIN HUMPHREYS**

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**Anne Scherck Morrison** convened a Zoom call for our class on February 3. Eight of us joined the lively call for an excellent visit: **Amy Uptegrove Wheeler**, **Carol Jacobs Montag**, **Janet Beeler Nesin**, **Meredith Ittner**, **Lydia Long**, **Sally Curby Johnston**, **Anne**, and **Sheila Morrin Humphreys**. Several others wanted to join, but schedules prevented their joining: **Sue Forney Boyd**, **Margi Cardwell Higonnet**, **Carol Wenthe Palmer**, and **Quinta Dunn Scott**. Anne summarized: "We had a terrific time and agreed to schedule another Class of '59 Zoom call much sooner." Any volunteers willing to organize?

During our call, Janet mentioned that she saw **Carolyn Wilson** and **Quinta** during a stopover in St. Louis. Janet lives mostly in Alabama but summers, as always, in Rex Terrace, Michigan. She has mostly retired from her physical therapy practice. Lydia reported that she has recently moved from one condo to another, and the process was difficult. Meredith is planning to move to a retirement community north of San Francisco sometime soon.

From **Josephine Christian Weil**: Richard and I are totally involved with our nine-year-old grandson, **Sammy '32**, and are at MICDS at least once a week in one way or another. I love the school. Totally diverse today! Our daughter, Amelia, has moved from Florida to Colorado Springs for support for her two-year old, who has learning issues. We went there for spring break to ski and then went to Southern California. I flew into Palm Beach, Florida, to attend the funeral of **Jeannie Hamilton Pearman** before returning to my family down in Key West. It was a nice send off for Jeannie.

**Carol Bodenheimer Loeb** continues to teach and stay engaged in education (a role model for me). She taught an ACT math preparation class of 25 juniors at MICDS.

From **Carol Wenthe Palmer**: No complaints, as I continue to follow my grandchildren's successes in Denver and San Diego, and still never seem to slow down from all the fun living in the best Sun City anywhere...and many ways to enjoy friends in our great Georgetown, Texas! There is a St. Louis club here but no one from Michigan. Planning to return to Ajijic, Mexico, for a much cooler summer. Guests welcome! Blessings to all!

From **Betty Noland Caravati**: We are still raising cattle on our farm a half hour from Richmond. Happily, most of our family live in the area, although most of our 10 grandchildren live elsewhere on the East Coast. For six months of the year, we're in North Carolina or Vero Beach. Very thankful to be avoiding the Home and staying active.

From **Margi Cardwell Higonnet**: My news for the year is that our daughter Ethel had a son, Max. She sends a daily photograph with



new outfits. On the more serious side, she will receive the award Chevalier de Ordre national du Mérite in May in Paris, recognizing her work for the environment. Otherwise, we have been transfixed by politics and war this last year.

**Carol Jacobs Montag** had just returned from a lovely January trip to Paris with her husband, Jonathan, to see old friends and the children of the family with whom she lived in Paris in 1961. They stayed in their customary favorite hotel and ate very well at different restaurants every day. Carol visited Long Island to observe her grandson Charlie's sixth birthday. "I was able to visit the boys' school, which I have never seen due to the pandemic."

From **Jane Simmons Bickford**: I live full time in NOLA. Retirement has meant travel: camping in Greenland and on tiger safari in India. My son, Louis, still works in human rights and teaches at NYU and Columbia. Eli, Louis' eldest, lives in Cuba. Tolo goes to college in New York. My daughter, Elisabeth, lives in Vermont, works as a nurse practitioner and teaches at UVM. Her kids are 16 and 13. I still have a little house in the Adirondacks, where I flee when it's hot.

From **Sheila Morrin Humphreys**: I am still very happily engaged at UC Berkeley as an Emerita academic staff member. On February 11, 2023, I was honored to participate in a joyous celebration of the 55th-year anniversary of two Black-student STEM organizations: Black Graduate Engineering and Science Students (BGESS) and Black Engineering and Science Students Association (BESSA). It was fantastic to reconnect with alumni I knew well during their student days.

On our class Zoom call, **Amy Upthegrove Wheeler** spoke candidly about the challenges of widowhood. Her husband, Dick, passed away one year ago. She lives in Winchester, Virginia, where she and Dick moved after several decades in Ithaca.



▲ **Anne Scherck Morrison '59** shared this photo from her daughter Nina's swearing in as a federal judge for the Eastern District of New York in August 2022. From left to right: Alan Morrison, Nina's daughter Anya, Nina, and Anne.

## 1961 MI

### CHARLOTTE MASTIN ELLIS

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**Pam Mesker White** has been expanding her art business and has a wonderful new website: [www.pamwhiteart.com](http://www.pamwhiteart.com). I hope you all will take a look. She has some lovely works.

## 1962 CDS

### JOHN HENSLEY

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**Landon "Lanny" Jones** reports: "I have a new book that was published on May 9. Its title is *Celebrity Nation: How America Evolved into a Culture of Fans and Followers*. The publisher is Beacon Press. It's available on Amazon and in most bookstores.

## 1963 CDS

### JOE CAMPAGNA

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### JAY HENSLEY

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Well, it has certainly been a tough couple of years, and I hope this writing finds all of you in a better place. Our two amazing classmates, **John Allman** and **Mark Webber**, finished the compilation of biographies from many of our classmates who attended CDS for as little as a year up to those that had an eight-year ride. What is really remarkable is that the total stands at 50 mates who have contributed a biography. Well done, you two, and to the 50 who contributed.

On to class news. I talked with **David Elliott**, who shares Naples, Florida, with me during the winter months. He and Susan enjoyed watching their daughter Kathryn compete in this past New York marathon. David, you might recall, has, himself, participated in the Boston marathon several times, mostly back when we were young. Kathryn lives in New York and works at Bloomberg Financial. David seems to spend a fair amount of time over on the East Coast visiting both his brother and **Ollie Hickel**.

I recently tracked down **Steve Schmitt** by telephone, expecting to get a message that he was wake surfing or wake boarding behind some ski boat somewhere in the Southwest. I was close. Steve claims he still hangs out on the end of a rope attached to a ski boat but mostly the boat is pulling him around on a ski and he is doing his best to just stay up. Steve spends half of the year in Tucson and the other half a bit north of Spokane, Washington.

As always, I made a point to reconnect with **Rush Shapleigh** as soon as I arrived in Florida in November and had an opportunity to lunch with Rush and Marky. They were right in the bullseye for Hurricane Ian and chose to scoot away from the West coast in favor of daughter



Kelly's home on the East Coast. While their home suffered pretty extensive damage, they have been able to live in it while it is under repair.

Several months ago I got a call from **Harold (Gig) Giger**. He and Joyce had just returned from a visit with **Roxie Poole '63** in Mexico and have enjoyed a longstanding friendship with Roxie.

As for me, Jay, I am still somewhat healthy and mobile and can still form an F chord on a guitar. I volunteer as a boat captain/docent for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, an environmental organization that advocates and educates for the land, water, and animals in Southwest Florida. It keeps me busy running 10 guests at a time on an electric boat up the Gordon River and the Golden Gate canal and talking about issues that threaten this paradise.

**Joe Campagna** reports: Caroline and I had lunch in Seattle with **Hank Schlapp** while visiting family. He looked great, and we traded some old stories. He was in our wedding 54 years ago and he hadn't seen Caroline since then. Hank has been married since then, too. He divides his time between Seattle and Phoenix; they are thinking about choosing just one.

I also had a chance to talk to **Peter Kirstein**. For the first time in over 50 years, he has a semester off from teaching political science at St. Xavier University in Chicago.

On a personal note, I'm still pushing ahead with our nonprofit, Yellow Wolf Advocacy Project. The idea of retiring is not in the picture for as long as possible. My other goal for 2023? As a dues-paying member of the U.S. Track and Field Assn., to compete in a sanctioned senior event (discus, javelin, maybe 50 meters) and try not to embarrass myself.

## 1964<sub>MI</sub>

### JANE COX

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### ANNE STUPP MCALPIN

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Jane and I have nothing to report for this issue, but we want to remind you: Next year will be our 60th reunion! The celebration will be May 2-5. At least three dinners and a brunch are already planned and paid for. Now we need your attendance to make the reunion weekend a Happening. Plan now. Be there or be square!

**Carolyn Michel Hirsch**: I just completed a sold-out run of *Family Secrets* by Sherry Glaser, where I played all five members of a funny and sweet Jewish family, at the Sarasota Jewish Theatre. So still working occasionally to these many years later. Fun to trod the boards! My niece, **Jennifer Lieberman '85**, lives here in Sarasota, as does my nephew, Hal Lieberman. Both are the now-adult, middle-aged offspring of my sister, the late **Gay Hirsch '55**. My husband is doing well; he is 92 and directed the play I was in. I walk four miles and lift free weights every day to try to keep in shape, and then there is a glass of wine after the show.



Carolyn Michel '64 played five different family members in a production of *Family Secrets* by Sherry Glaser.

## 1965<sub>MI</sub>

### PEGGY DUBINSKY PRICE

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Our class has been reliving our seventh-grade play, *The Wizard of Oz*, thanks to my husband's project to convert our slides to digital. Who were you? Because our class was so large, we had six lions, four scarecrows, and three tin men. **Donna Schultz Heidbreder** remembers being allergic to the straw used to stuff her scarecrow costume. **Connie Shapleigh Martin** says she was one of the flying monkeys. **Linda Glick** was one of three cast members dressed in orange, along with **Connie Bascom McPheeters** (munchkins?). **Charlotte Rust Dix** remembers her orange costume being too small. **Wendy DuBois Brockman** even wrote to say that she was a flower and had one line. She had bigger parts in Upper School! **Janie Atwood Whitehead** was a squirrel and remembers her one line: "Chee! Chee! If you just follow the yellow brick road, you will get to Oz soon enough!" Fortunately, there was only one Dorothy (and one Wizard, **Jane Ruwitch Mitchell!**), and my dad took the photo of our curtain call.

**Ingrid Nordqvist Le Roux**: It is great to be in touch. Warmest greetings from warm and sunny Cape Town.

**Mimi Johnson Severs**: I had a wonderful visit from my two sons and their families at Thanksgiving. Our family tradition is to celebrate both Thanksgiving and Christmas on the same day, as we are not together at Christmas, and in 2022, Thanksgiving fell on my birthday. It was a triple celebration! Wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2023!

**Alice Langenberg Abrams**: I'm still working in clay ([www.aliceabrams.com](http://www.aliceabrams.com)) and getting together with family at various locations across the country, from Vermont to Seattle to San Francisco. We spent Christmas week at the Fairmont Mayakoba in Mexico with our children and the five grandchildren. No cooking involved! What a treat.



**Diana Davis Madsen** from her winter home in Naples Florida: I am now 75 and celebrated 50 years with Peter in March! Where did those years go?

**Irene Leland:** I am pleased that two major music libraries/sync licensing companies, Pond 5 and Music Supervisor, have accepted several of my songs. I was honored to have a cover/feature article in *Clouzine, Contemporary Music Magazine* in November. I completed a new album, *A Star Is Missing!*, before the holidays. I'm currently working on the final proofing process with my illustrator (in Bangladesh) for my two children's books.

**Susan Caspari Carnwath:** The news from Cambridge, England, is that I am leaving and going to number two son's family in Alameda, California! I'm bracing myself for culture shock!

Sad class news to report: **Sallie Williams Neubauer** passed away in January after battling cancer. Sallie dedicated her life to saving Elysian Park in Los Angeles and served on its board. **Elizabeth Kendall** remembers, "It's tragic that Sallie has died. I remember her playing Prospero in our *Tempest*, and I, Prospero's daughter Miranda. She was a much better actor than I was." **Alice Langenberg Abrams** writes, "Sad news about Sallie. I remember she was a really good actress. We shared a passion for sling-back kitten heels (from Bakers!) and trotted around in them spring of senior year as a symbol of sophistication." Our condolences to Sallie's husband, Bob, and her stepchildren.

More sad news: **Mary Turner Pattiz** lost her battle with cancer in May. Mary, who was known as "the Burner," was a well known DJ in Los Angeles and hosted an oldies show on TWA. Later she served on the board of the Betty Ford Institute. Her husband, Norman, passed away in December, 2022.

Spring book recommendations: *Demon Copperhead*, by Barbara Kingsolver and *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, by Shelby Van Pelt.



01

01. Janie Atwood Whitehead '65 with daughter Hadley and family at Manatee Park, Fort Myers.

02. Mimi Johnson Severs '65 and family: Matthew, Carter (10), Mimi, Emmitt (10), and Jenny.

03. May Day 1955 with Susan Dubinsky Terris '55, Henry Dubinsky, and Peggy Dubinsky Price '65.

04. Alice Langenberg Abrams '65 and Weezie Legg Deland '65 mall-walking.

05. The Class of 1965's seventh-grade production of *The Wizard of Oz* in 1960.



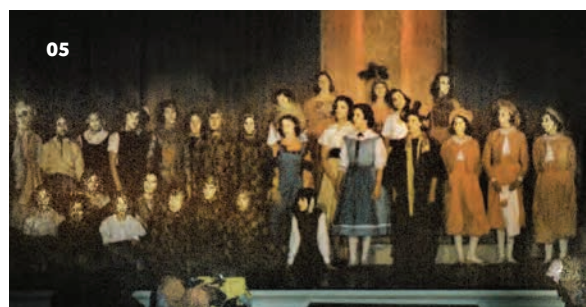
02



03



04



05



1966 MI

**CLAIRE KEELER BECK**

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**GALE RUTHERFORD DUNLAP**

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Hello, Classmates. It was interesting to read so many messages that included a plethora of comments about our turning 75 this year. Each of us is confronting this reality in different ways.

As an example, our California girl, **Becky Egle von Schrader**, says she is finding pure joy from nature walks, breathing exercises, cold showers, and spontaneous dancing. Becky did a rain dance many months ago (during the drought) in her nearby salt marsh and look what happened last January: no more drought around Santa Barbara. Becky's new book, *Family Dance*, is about "the discovery of innate movement flows that support pregnancy, birth and early infant nurture."

Many classmates have chosen to travel, now that COVID restrictions are being lifted. **Noel Messing Hefty** and husband, Terry, attended a few car events in the U.S. Then, with their three grandchildren and daughter, Tara, they traveled to Mexico, Africa, and Portugal on multiple trips. Then to Italy with a niece, continuing on to California for an early Thanksgiving, followed by a trip to Wisconsin. Noel returned to Mexico to celebrate her 75th birthday—then home for a hip replacement!

**Leslie Knowles McIntire** decided to travel to the Inner Hebrides of Scotland for a pilgrimage to Iona. This trip included a visit to Fingal's Cave, which reminded her of Mendelssohn's gorgeous Hebrides Overture that Mr. Arnatt performed at one of his concerts. Leslie also mentioned how lucky she was to celebrate her mother's 100th birthday in November 2022. (Our condolences to Leslie, who lost her mother on March 13.)

**Tauna Urban Durand** and husband, Doug, are excited to start their traveling again with a one-week Caribbean cruise. This will be followed by a month-long trip to Norway and Great Britain. Tauna mentioned that all four of their grandchildren will be in college at the same time (Yikes). Doug and Tauna spent Thanksgiving 2022 in Atlanta with all three sons and their families, totaling 22!



▲ **Patty Glaser** continues to travel annually to Sitka, Alaska, to fish for salmon, halibut, and black cod. She obviously doesn't just sun herself on the deck because she often comes home with 50-75 lbs. of the freshest fish you can imagine. Otherwise, she is in California in the Bay Area with her very best catch—her pup, Mishka.

Like everyone else, **Laurie Kloos Justiss** says she is crawling out of the COVID era with hope and trepidation. She had a fabulous trip to Western Ireland and hopes to visit Northern Ireland in 2023. A major highlight for Laurie was attending Lesley's mother's 100th birthday and then celebrating Christmas with Lesley's family. Laurie ends by saying, "Thank you all for being my family all these years."

**Anne Steiner Manning** put it best in her email by saying "our runway is getting shorter" and now is the time to consider what are the best ways to spend the time we have left. Anne still teaches courses in creative thinking at Harvard, and she plays tennis. Amazingly, Anne and a co-worker are about to launch a restaurant blog, so look out, Chuck E. Cheese and KFC! She tells us to contact her if we are ever in Miami in winter and/or Martha's Vineyard in summer.



▲ **Ellen Griesedieck Posey** continues to work on her life's work: the American Mural Project. We decided to google it to get the specs: "It is the largest indoor collaborative artwork in the world. It is 120 feet long and five stories high." Incredibly, over 15,000 children and adults have participated in creating the project. Ellen says she is close to getting our class involved in one of these collaborative events which harkens her back to the days of collecting bottle caps. We're behind you all the way, Ellie.

**Abby Martin Packer** and her husband, John, have taken the plunge and moved away from their Pennsylvania digs. Abby is now a full-time resident of Hailey, Idaho, near Sun Valley. She has a new grandson born in September 2022 to her daughter and son-in-law, who live nearby. She says her grandson will keep them young and limber. A couple of states away, Abby's son and family live in Frisco, Colorado.

**Nancy Eliot Ulett** reported that her younger son, Teddy, left to live with older brother, Eliot, in St. Louis, and she misses him terribly. Nan manages three vacation rentals on the island during the summer. Otherwise, she is working on a long-neglected rug hooking project which we are sure includes a replica of the state seal for the Maine House. She is also going through boxes of old papers but swears none of these papers are classified.

Great news from **Susan Frelich Appleton**: her fifth grandchild, Henry, was born in January, 2023 to **Seth '00**. Her other son, **Jesse '97**, celebrated the birth of his son, William, in May 2022. Susie continues to teach, write, and speak on reproductive rights. This important work has taken her to San Diego, Chicago, and Lyon, France, where she dazzled her colleagues with her perfect MI French. She continues to serve on the boards of Planned Parenthood of St. Louis and the Guttmacher Institute.



So good to hear from **Kris Beam Dewees**.

Like so many of us, Kris remembers our Mary I teachers, class members, and even events that took place over 57 years ago but remain close to her heart. She says, "They surface for sweet reflections at the most unexpected moments." Kris, we think our whole class appreciates that we were members of the Class of '66.

Great news from **Liz Douglas**: her widowed son has found a wonderful California girl. Their soon-to-be blended family visited Melbourne for Easter 2023. Liz's youngest son, his wife, and their one-year-old daughter were there from California. This is Liz's first biological granddaughter after seven grandsons. Her extended family of 22 will all be together for the first time since 2017.



^ **Diane Levy Jacobson** is still doing a bit of writing and speaking. She and her husband, Paul, work on ecological issues, including eco-justice, regenerative agriculture, and wise shopping and packaging. She also serves on several boards centered around education, music, and community service. Their great joy is spending time with friends and their dog at their place in northern Minnesota. The joy of fishing is evident in Diane's great smile in the photo she sent.

**Pam Morris** still lives in South Carolina but traveled to Texas to celebrate her sister's 60th wedding anniversary. She attended the annual Beach Week in Edisto Beach and then went to Mexico and California. Pam loves her move to a retirement community where it's like living on a cruise ship without the water. She teaches and plays mahjong several days a week and is enjoying water aerobics. Her dog O'Malley also loves the new home.

**Sally Lewis Kennedy** and **Sally Jones Foley** went to Cabo San Lucas to celebrate their husbands' birthdays. Sally K. continues to pick up her grandsons twice a week from school, and spends lots of time reading with them. She tells us that she and Noel, with their husbands, went to a superb dance production, *Wonderbound*, in Denver. Because Noel knows lots of dancers and choreographers, they were happily part of the in-crowd.

**Ellen Roos** checks in from Loveland, Colorado, where she takes long morning walks, talks to her local army of wild turkeys in her "black fuzzy coat—so they think I am their alpha." Ellen, we can just see you! Don't get arrested.

One member of our class, **Polly Roulhac**, is fighting off the dreaded 75 by falling in love with pickleball, which it seems has taken over the nation. Polly still lives in D.C. and hopes classmates traveling in the area will come by for a visit.

For the first time in forever, we hear from **Nancy Knoll Lacey** in Baja, Mexico, where she says she's living the dream in a small "pueblo magico." Quesito, her rescue dog, and Tequila, her horse, go for long rides, including on Pacific Ocean beaches and amongst the cactus in the surrounding mountains. She has competed in several beautiful and challenging open-water swims in San Francisco Bay, Mexico, Turkey, and Greece.

And now from your scribes. **Gale Rutherford Dunlap**: 2022 was a good year, celebrating our son Will's wedding with 100+ of Will and Sophia's friends—and my three MI buddies: **Claire Keeler Beck**, **Mary Schlapp Thistle**,

and **Sally Lewis Kennedy**. I feel physically and mentally fine, so am grateful to spend time in all seasons hiking in the foothills above our house and biking and swimming in the warmer months. I closed my business this year and am now grant-writing for two nonprofits. Sandy and I spend time with our family and friends, and travel when we can.



(l-r) Claire Keeler Beck '66, Gale Rutherford Dunlap '66, Mary Schlapp Thistle '66, and Sally Lewis Kennedy '66.

**Claire Keeler Beck** is trying very hard to remember what she did in the last twelve months. Oh yes, I rehabbed my new knee for most of the spring and rode my horse three months after surgery. Felt like a human again. I spent most of the winter in Colorado skiing in knee-deep powder with Sandy, Gale's husband, which was glorious. I had a delightful visit in Vermont with **Lark Upson** last fall. She and her husband, Jack, are still living in France. Happiest of birthdays to all of you!



(l-r) Laurie Kloos Justiss '66, Susan Froelich Appleton '66, Noel Messing Hefty '66, and Lesley Knowles McIntire '66.

1969<sub>MI</sub>**JILL GOESSLING DOWD**

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(l-r) Phoebe Scott Burke '69, Jennifer Limberg Royal '69, and Alice Beckers Muckerman '69 celebrate a reunion in March 2023.

1970<sub>MI</sub>**TINA RUTLEDGE VERALDI**

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**Sunie Lasky** is in the midst of spending a month in Portugal at the time of these notes. She's having a blast and says that New Year's Eve was absolutely spectacular!

**Genie Cannon Guilliams** is thrilled to announce that her daughter, **Emily Newport '02**, has had beautiful new twins who have added even more joy into life. Traveling to visit family and hosting a steady stream of house guests have become regular highlights on the calendar.

**Vicki Huntman Brock** has shared links for much beautiful music, including the historical Irish *Wexford Carol*, sung by Alison Krauss, accompanied by Yo-Yo Ma. Actually, listening to this has become a new Christmas tradition for me.

**Wendy Cole Dixon** has written a memoir of her life for her family, sharing words of wisdom and such a wide range of experience.

**Ellen Langtree** is enjoying the solidly completed renovations of her home that keep it warm and cozy during the Vermont winters,

just right for curling up with good books. In fact, she has made several recommendations, most recently *Nature's Best Hope* by Douglas Tallamy.

1974<sub>MI</sub>**CASEY MALLINCKRODT**

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**Holly Hermann Gulick** and **Dave '72** traveled to Normandy, France, in September 2022, using guidebooks and wisdom from Deb and **Rand Sommer '72**. They visited WW II battlefields, museums, and cemeteries while gaining a greater appreciation for what Holly's father and many other brave people experienced during that frightening yet amazing time in our history. Then they were off on a barge trip through the Alsace region of eastern France with sons **Drew '02** and Clint and their wives to celebrate wedding anniversary #42. Three grandchildren keep them busy and help stave off creeping age-related inevitabilities. Holly volunteers with her church and for a driving service for seniors and the visually impaired.

1975<sub>MI</sub>**LISA DENNIG COULTER**

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**KAT SCHNEIDER-CLARK**

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We are heartbroken for **Lisa Avis Auffenberg** and her husband, Bob, who unexpectedly lost their precious daughter Annie in January. Annie was "loving, smart and blessed with a heart of gold," and we know she will be deeply missed. There are simply no words of comfort for this loss, but we send all our love and sympathy to Lisa and her family.

**Peggy Collins Rassieur** is "very happy to report that our oldest daughter, Karen Rassieur Grudzien, and family have moved back to St. Louis. They have two children, Margaret and Mac. Thrilled to say that our other

daughter, Emily Rassieur, married **Danny Orthwein '06** on November 12. A wonderful celebration filled with lots of family and friends. Very grateful that both our daughters and families live in St. Louis."

**Celeste Dubuque Sprung** shared "I am thoroughly enjoying my retirement. I am actively involved with The St. Louis Herb Society. I was certified as a Missouri Master Naturalist and volunteer at the Litzsinger Road Ecology Center and Babler State Park. I am involved with the Boxwood Society of the Midwest and the Rowena Clarke Garden Club (with **Frances VanDyke Burkham!**). I enjoy volunteering at the Campbell House Museum. I have taken up pickleball and try to play outdoors year-round. I start each day playing Wordle and walking our two dogs."

**Lisa Dennig Coulter** is so excited to report that "my daughter **Caroline Coulter DeCola '08** and her husband **Blake '05** had a baby boy, Blake Foster DeCola Jr., on November 20, 2022. I love being a grandmother and am so lucky to have both my grandsons living close by. We celebrated Mom's (**Geraldine Froemke Dennig '50**) 90th birthday in January. Mom had all her children, grandchildren and even one of her great-grandchildren there for a really fun weekend. We all loved celebrating her milestone birthday and are looking forward to her 100th!"



Geraldine Froemke Dennig '50 celebrated her 90th birthday with friends Barbara McAfee Wohltman '48 and Terry Disbrow Shepley '49, and four generations of family, many of whom are MI, CDS, and MICDS alums.



1976<sub>MI</sub>**DIDI MCKEE NOELKER**

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**Melinda Levitt** writes: I continue living and working here in DC where life has returned pretty much back to normal since COVID first struck us. Last year brought sadness as I lost both of my basset hounds to old age, but I am looking to start the dog mamma adventure all over again this spring/summer with new puppies. In September I was home briefly and got to see **Ellen Bates Scott** for an evening of catching-up, and then in November I saw **Betsy Knowles** in NYC while I was there on a theater-going jaunt.

**Linda Wunderlich Dybus:** Our son, Steven, returned to St. Louis to become active in the family business. Erin is a teacher in Seattle, Washington. She has one son. Adrienne is a fitness instructor and owns her own facility in Omaha, Nebraska. She has three children. Alanna works for Schindler Elevator in the DC area. I retired and have enjoyed traveling and time with my husband, children, siblings, and grandkids, as well as with a cousin and my aunt.

**Didi McKee Noelker** writes: I taught science at Villa Duchesne until I retired at the end of this past school year. While I love my students and colleagues, it was time to pivot. My husband, Tim, retired last year and is looking forward (as am I) to more traveling. It also allows me more time with our grandchildren—two in St. Louis and two in Tulsa. With a sister in England, another in Virginia, and a brother in Connecticut, I also look forward to visiting them as well.

1980<sub>CDS</sub>**ERIC FINCH**

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▲ With **Geoff Brooksher '80** in town, a small group got together at the Trainwreck. From Left: **Dick Sant '80**, **Terry Erwin '80**, **Eric Finch '80**, **Page Hereford '80**, **Jim Frost '80**, **Derek Rapp '80**, **Brooksher**, **Don Meissner '80**, **Mitch Jacobs '80**, and **Tiger Wurdack '80**.

1981<sub>MI</sub>**JEANNIE ROBB HUBERT**

jeannie@huberts.us

**Lucy Wohltman:** After 15+ years at Zillow, I felt I had another startup in me. I am now working at Pacaso, which was founded by some former Zillow executives. Pacaso makes second-home ownership possible for more people with its fractional ownership model. Check it out if you've been dreaming of a second home. To add to the craziness, we will be welcoming a second dog to our home this Spring! I get to St Louis several times a year and always enjoy seeing old classmates.

**Laura Challoner Wright:** In September I was promoted to senior director of donor relations at UK HealthCare/UK College Of Medicine, supporting an office that raises about \$50 million annually. ♥



Laura Challoner Wright '81 in the middle of her team at a donor event celebrating the 25th anniversary of Kentucky Children's Hospital.

**Elizabeth Homeier:** I'm a volunteer translator at a food pantry serving Haitian immigrants. Most clients speak French, Creole, and Spanish, so they are helping me prepare for making the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage. I participate in four book clubs, saw the Northern Lights, rode a pony, and was chased off a glacier by a white-out snowstorm in Iceland. I took an archaeology cruise on the Adriatic, with a stop in Albania. I continue to work in Investment Risk Management at the Public Employees Retirement System of Ohio.

## 1982<sub>MI</sub>

**Louise Green O'Farrell:** I'm enjoying life in St. Petersburg, Florida. I've just survived my third bout with ovarian cancer since 2015. I'm now on maintenance drugs to help keep me in remission longer. I keep my days full with exercising, running a cancer support group, and hanging with my hubby, family, and friends.

## 1989<sub>MI</sub>

**Libby Curtis McCandless:** We have been settling into our new home in the woods of High Ridge this past year and love it! After being in Kirkwood for 21 years, it's taken a while to get used to the longer drives (a 20-minute round trip for coffee or groceries instead of 5). I'm still doing freelance marketing and French tutoring, and volunteering with Moms in Prayer International and The St. Louis Children's Choirs. Celebrated milestone birthdays for our girls recently; they are now 21 and 18.

## 2000<sub>MICDS</sub>

**LINDSAY HAFFNER EAGLETON**  
lhagleton@gmail.com

**Dana Weston Graves '00** and her husband, Cornelius, had a baby boy, Blake Cornelius Graves, on March 3, 2022 in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Blake and his big brother, Weston, are excited to visit St. Louis soon.

## 2001<sub>MICDS</sub>

**Manning Kalish** moved with his wife and kids back to his old stomping grounds of Seattle, Washington. He went from MICDS to UW.

## 2008<sub>MICDS</sub>



Godparents Don Johnson '05 and Lizzy Holbrook '12 celebrate the baptism of Steven Tyler "Tee" Johnson, son of Mary Holbrook Johnson '08 and Tyler Johnson '07.



# The Mystery of the Vintage Codasco Coat

OFFERED: A handsome maroon coat bearing the original St. Louis Country Day School emblem and the numerals 1944, neatly encased in a heavy shadow box, up for bid in a Goodwill online auction in Minnesota—minimum bid: \$7.99.

In January, the MICDS Marketing and Communications Office received an email alerting it to this unique item's availability. The Country Day Archives placed what turned out to be the only bid, and for a total of \$12.02, the professionally framed artifact was ours.

But what was it? Who had owned it? Once the coat was transported to St. Louis, the unmarked frame was opened,

and except for two moth holes, the elegant garment was found to be in perfect condition. On the inside pocket is a tag from J.W. Losse Tailoring, 807 North 6th Street, St. Louis, with the handwritten name "T. Stovall" and the date 4/24/43. The COUNTRY DAY NEWS website provided some answers. Adam Tonquin Stovall III graduated from Country Day in 1944 and went immediately into military service, like many of his classmates. In the fall of 1939, Country Day had authorized a custom-tailored school coat "similar to college and eastern prep school blazers" for purchase by boys in Classes IV through I (grades 9-12). It is believed approximately 30 of the jackets, "wine color with white piping and white pearl buttons," were ordered at \$16.25 each (the equivalent of \$283 today). At the time of his death in 1988, Mr. Stovall resided in suburban Minneapolis. Clearly, he prized this memento of his years at Country Day.

And as for the mysterious informant who told us about the 80-year-old jacket, he turns out to be a retired Florida police officer and U.S. Marine Corps veteran. His online hobby is "finding homes for things that need to find their home." To him, we are grateful! And to today's CDS alumni: Does anyone else have one of these rare, costly jackets?



**If you can provide additional information about these coats or if you have one you could photograph for us, please contact Louise Jones in the MICDS Alumni and Development Office ([ljones@micds.org](mailto:ljones@micds.org)).**



## MICDS Visits Vero Beach, Florida

Alumni spanning five decades from 1957 to 2007 gathered at The Boathouse at Quail Valley River Club in Vero Beach, Florida. Thank you to **Allison Ritter '86** and **Billy Simpson '95** for hosting such a lovely event. The beautiful weather allowed for guests to mingle outside and enjoy the evening while connecting with friends old and new.



01. Ted Noland '67, Terry Scherck '62, Suzy Grote, Denise Scherck, Noel Volkman Cooke '64, Betsy Payne Biggs '64, Lou Horan Noland '68, and Elaine Burkhardt.

02. John Banks, Sarah James Banks '86, Allison Ritter '86, Bob Ritter, and Karen Ritter.

03. Terry Pflager '80, Ann Lortz Brightman '57, Billy Simpson '95, Alden Pflager, and Julie Levy Plax '57.

04. Doug Jones '71, Gale Thompson McMullin '62, Ben Miller '58, and Carter Noel Miller '64.

05. Concie Noyes Fowler '81, Dave Deibel '64, Barbara Merollis Bishop '78, Randy Old, and Bob Bishop.

06. Allison Ritter '86, Dede DeWitt Lambert '57, and Middy Wolfarth Perkins '88

07. Cynthia Avon Bennink '71, Derek Meier '61, Jody Noland Old '62, and Kress Meier.

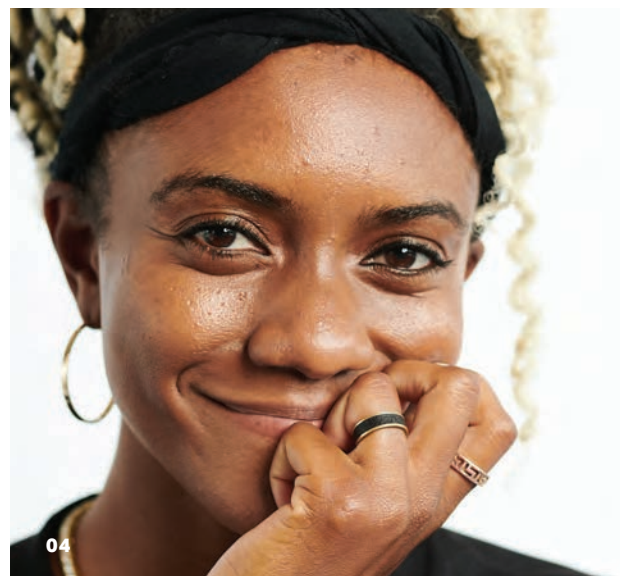
08. Daniel Goldman, Katie Burkhardt Goldman '04, Steve Burkhardt, George Burkhardt, Kasie Burkhardt, Jack Burkhardt '07, and Elaine Burkhardt.







State Representative Jasmine Crockett '99, candidate for U.S. House District 30, addresses a crowd at her watch party. Photo courtesy of Spectrum News 1.



**01. Peter Tao '75**, Chinese American Advisory Group Chair for the Missouri History Museum, penned a blog series, *Hop Alley and Beyond: Untold Stories*, about the Chinese American Experience in St. Louis. Tao said, "These stories intend to tell a different story by sharing untold or little-known histories. These human stories provide insights into the diverse group of people who make up Chinese American history—people who aren't solely represented by an alley or a small urban area." Read more at [mohistory.org/blog](http://mohistory.org/blog).

**02. Dave Steward '95** was awarded the National Arts Icon Award at the 2023 Arts & Education Council's St. Louis Arts Awards for his work with Lion Forge Animation, a leading Black-owned animation studio recognized for creating and introducing authentic content focusing on underrepresented groups. Steward's Lion Forge Animation partnered with Nine PBS in St. Louis to create *Drawn In*, a new multimedia literacy initiative for kids, where stories are shared through animated shorts, comic books, educational games, and more. Steward was also recently named one of the "75 Most Powerful People in Kids' Entertainment" by the Hollywood Reporter.

**03. Jasmine Crockett '99** won the Texas U.S. House District 30 race in 2023 and will officially carry the torch handed down by retiring Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson. A lawyer for the past 16 years, Crockett shared that running for Congress was a huge decision, admitting she loved practicing law and trying cases in court.

Are you a fan of the Oscar-winning film *Everything Everywhere All at Once*? **Tim Eulich '99** was the stunt coordinator, designing complex and out-of-this-universe action sequences. Check out his stunt highlight reel at [imdb.com](http://imdb.com).

**04. Cami Thomas '11** was named one of six local St. Louis business founders who make up the newest cohort for UMSL's DEI Accelerator and endeavor to help local small businesses scale. Each company in the 10-week program will receive a \$50,000 nondilutive capital infusion and mentoring from UMSL staff, faculty, and other business owners, and will be assigned two UMSL interns to help with the operations. Thomas' company, *My Friends and I Made This*, is a visual storytelling and video production company founded in 2016.



Mann with MICDS coaches and athletes at the Festival of Miles in St. Louis

**05. Jordan Mann '11** and **06. Amos Bartelsmeyer '13** continue to succeed at the highest levels of competitive Track & Field and Cross Country. Mann competed in the mixed relay at the World Athletics Cross Country Championships in Bathurst, Australia, and finished 1:18 behind Kenya's gold medal relay. In addition, Mann will represent Team USA in two international championships.

Bartelsmeyer recently set the German indoor national record in the mile at 3:50.45 at the David Hemery Valentine Invitational and followed up that performance with a win at the German Athletics Indoor Championships. Bartelsmeyer was born in Germany and represented that country at the European Athletics Championships in March. Mann and Bartelsmeyer aim to qualify for the IAAF World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary, in August 2023.

**07. Michael Scherer '12** was recently named UNLV's football program's defensive coordinator and linebackers coach. He previously served as a linebackers coach and assistant coach for the Arkansas Razorbacks. UNLV Head Coach Sam Pittman said, "His experience as a student-



athlete and then as a coach will be valuable to the foundation of our program at UNLV. His position group produced All-Americans for consecutive years, and his knowledge of our defense and understanding of the development of student-athletes makes Mike an ideal fit to serve as our defensive coordinator, which is imperative to our team's success."

**08. Joshua Darrish '21**, a University of California Santa Barbara student, was recently published in the *Tri-Co Law Review*, an undergraduate journal from Haverford, Swarthmore, and Bryn Mawr Colleges. His paper is titled *Privacy, Quartering, and the Living Constitution: Analyzing the Third Amendment in Contemporary America*. Darrish said, "The Third Amendment expresses the United States' foundational values that place people's privacy at the forefront of political life."

**09. Tommy Hall '22** was named to *Forbes Magazine's* 30 under 30 list for his work with Beyond Creative, a game studio he cofounded that uses the Fortnite Creative platform to make new games and experiences for brands. The company has worked with brands such as the NFL, Timex, Chipotle, and more.





# MICDS

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In 1993, a spotlight shone on the first post-MI and CDS merger Troubadours production: *Cabaret*. Thirty years later, student actors took the stage for *Mean Girls—High School Edition*, performing to sold-out crowds in Orthwein Theatre. This shining moment highlighted a 97-year-old tradition and the School's enduring commitment to the arts.

Over the years, students have explored all aspects of theater arts, with world-class faculty coaching performers to be confident solo and ensemble artists and teaching technical theater skills, including lighting, set, and sound design. The MICDS theatrical experience inspires all students to become lifelong patrons of the arts. Take a bow for 30 years of vibrant arts at MICDS, and here's to decades more on and off the stage!