



# Adolescent Program

Guides: Jack McArdle, Alex Pape and Caren Ross.

2021 Fall Edition

Even we guides, who live this with the students every day, are a little amazed at all the different things the adols do here. We see it when we assemble this twice-yearly collage. Many moving parts & nice surprises – “Did you guys really just make muffins for everyone? Thanks.”

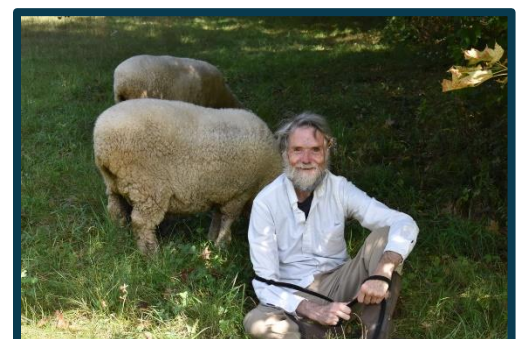
From observing the herd, to building things needed on the farm, to making products that people want to buy, we stand back at newsletter time and see the incubator society that Maria Montessori talked about - where adolescents do real work and feel their worth, where students fulfill her observation that heads and hands working together is the natural and wholesome mode for humans.

“OMG, we need newsletter pieces Friday! Would each of you guys please write a paragraph about something that we do? – just put your name with a topic on the board so we can avoid too much overlap.”

A light check for the more egregious grammar errors - the ones that would embarrass our students - but never at the expense of destroying the charm, the tone that invokes memories of your old friend, your childhood.

Sit back now, relax, and enjoy this part of the life you so lovingly provide for your children.

Jack McArdle  
Adolescent Teacher



# Student Articles

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## Sales Report by Riley Christopher

Over the first month of school, we spent our Micro-E classes gathering materials, canning jellies, and drying herbs.

Additionally, we harvested fresh produce and flowers from our garden to sell. We



prepared the register and chip reader and then transported the goods to the West Hartford Campus. We had three sales during the younger students' garden parties, and we set up two tables at the entrances. We had around five students at each sale with one of our teachers helping us. We sold a variety of items including honey, maple syrup, jalepeño jelly, mint jelly, grape jelly, dried herbs, tea, greeting cards, tote bags, sheep's wool blankets, goat's milk soap, and fresh produce. We had a target profit of about five hundred dollars per sale. We are grateful to have surpassed that goal and we are looking forward to talking as a class on how we would like to invest that money back into our Micro-E-business. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our Micro-E-business and we look forward to having more sales in the future.

## End of Day Chore Schedule for October:

White Board: Fred

Mudroom Sweep: Selena

Disinfect Tables: Jacob & Grace

Disinfect Kitchen: Liam

Ice: Logan

Disinfect Bathroom faucets and knobs: Riley

Classroom Floor: Tallash

Laundry: Colleen

Care of Eggs: Kosi

Fill animal's water buckets and check gates: Abbie & Levey

Disinfect Utility Table: Myles

Disinfect Bathrooms: Arthur

Disinfect Mudroom: Rose

Supervisor: Selena



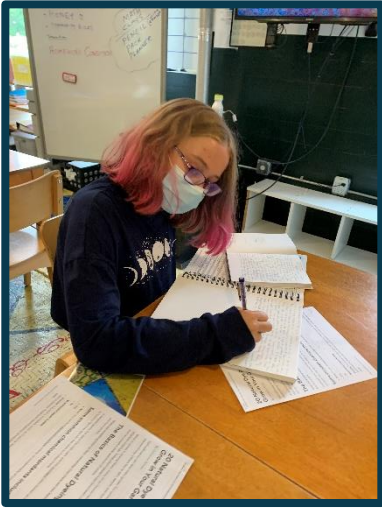
## The Universe by Myles Low

The adolescent students have been busy studying the universe. We started with the Big Bang Theory, which was when everything was hot and exploded from a very tiny space. Then things cooled down and made atoms and stars. Asteroids and comets circling the sun started to crash into each other at very high speeds. Those collisions caused the forming of the earth's core 4 billion years ago.

We then started studying about nuclear power and the splitting of atoms, which is called nuclear fission. To me the best part of studying the universe

was learning about the ice age and glaciers. The ice age was when the earth was covered in ice, in the form of glaciers.

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### **Pintar el Piso** by Rose Bourdeaux

Cada tres años más o menos, los estudiantes en la granja tienen la oportunidad de pintar el piso de la sala de clase. Esto ha sido una larga tradición que ha existido desde que MSGH se unió con la granja. Nuestra profesora de arte Priscilla nos guió a través del proceso de grabar nuestros diamantes, limpiarlos y lijarlos, y aprobando nuestros diseños individuales. La pintura duró un par de días, y terminó con nosotros lijando los diamantes para fijar la pintura. Mientras el piso se secaba, nosotros dimos clases afuera. Fue un buen comienzo del año tener clases afuera, y especialmente por COVID. Ahora, estamos

completamente de vuelta en el interior con nuestro hermoso piso, ¡y disfrutando de nuestras clases!

English Translation:

### **Painting the Floor**

Every three years or so, the students at the farm have the opportunity to paint the floor of the classroom. This has been a long-standing tradition that has been around since MSGH joined the farm. Our art teacher, Priscilla, guided us through the process of taping our diamonds, cleaning and sanding them, and approving our individual designs. The painting process lasted a couple days, and ended with us priming the diamonds to set the paint. While the floor was drying, we held classes outside. It was a nice start to the year with classes outside, and especially because of COVID, it was a great set-up. We are now fully back inside with the beautiful floor, and enjoying classes!

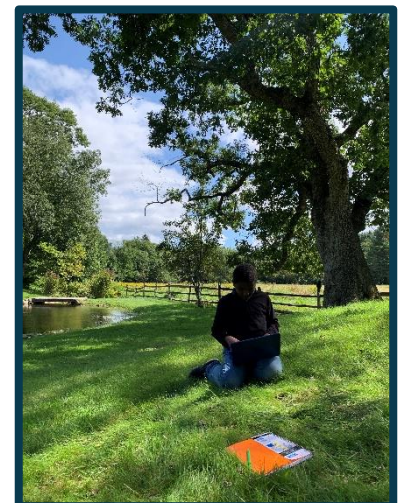
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### **Bees and Honey** by Kosi Eyisi

At Millstream Farm, not all of our animals are inside the barn, as we have many honeybees. Ms. Brenda harvests the honey from the bees



and helps us prepare for each season by doing certain things with the bees, like smoking the bees out to keep ourselves from hurting them. We recently made a new "hive box" for the bees with Brenda. It is interesting to see how the bees help each other, defend each other and sacrifice their lives for their hive. We have spring honey and summer honey, and





each of them have different textures and slightly different tastes. The summer honey is thicker and richer, while the spring honey is thinner.

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### **Lord of the Flies** by Levey London

In this year's Literature class, the first book we've read and studied is *Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding. Through *Lord of the Flies*, we have learned about the symbolism behind different objects, such as glasses, conch shells, and fire. We have also learned about the importance of leadership, society, and order by studying why the civilizations in *Lord of the Flies* failed. Now we are writing formal essays by learning how to write in MLA format, utilizing quotes as evidence, analyzing texts, and becoming better writers. Additionally, we did creative activities that related to *Lord of the Flies*. One activity was using primitive tools, and even a pair of glasses, to try to make fires in order to fully appreciate the difficulty of lighting fires on a remote island. We were unsuccessful and the process was frustrating. Now that we are finishing up our essays, we are getting ready to start our second book of the semester, *Look Both Ways* by Jason Reynolds.

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### **Music Class** by Fred Faulkner

Here at the farm, we have an amazing music program where we learn songs and culture from all around the world. We learn dances, routines and even just regular songs to sing in the barn while doing chores. We have an extremely gifted music teacher, Mrs. Colleen, who not only teaches us music but helps us identify songs from different cultures, teaches us history of music and is an expert in all of the genres of music. We are currently learning about the old songs that whalers sang on boats while working together and pitching in to help their community.



### **Millstream Farm Chickens!** by Abbie Hawkins

Here at Millstream, we have nine full-grown chickens. They live in our back coop and we have a variety of breeds. Such as Amariconas, Austalorps, Buff Orpingtons, Lavender Orpingtons and many more! Our most loved chicken in the back coop is Panther. She is an Austalorp with feathered feet, which is quite

rare. She also has a scissor beak, which is a condition chickens are born with. The bottom and top of the beak make a scissor formation. She is a Millstream miracle! We are so lucky she survived with her condition, which she has been managing with since 2019 when she hatched. About every year, we get chicks and raise them ourselves. It's fun to pick out these really cool breeds and watch them grow up to be beautiful laying-hens.

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## Montessori Adolescent Practitioners Symposium Presentation

by Colleen Mathias

Two students at Millstream have created a presentation on our Micro-Economy and presented it to the MAPS seminar (Montessori Adolescent Practitioners Symposium) which is a global conference where Montessori adolescent students share their Montessori stories and experiences. They introduced Millstream and what it is, our honeybee hives, the processes of our maple syrup, our garden, and our barn animals, and how they all come into play with Micro-Economy.



## Making Hot Sauce in Micro-Economy

by Liam McWhite

We have done a ton of different things in Micro-E this fall already. We've done work in the beautiful garden, jarred honey, made fermented hot sauce, dried and sold different herbs, made jelly, and prepared for sales. My

favorite activity was making fermented hot sauce. First we had to pick some fresh, red jalapenos from our garden, then we chopped them up and put them in a sealed jar with brine and garlic. We let it ferment for two weeks and then it was time for them to be blended and strained. This is just one of the many things we make in Micro-E. Micro-E is very fun and every day I'm excited for it.







## Spooky Stories by Logan Hebert

At Millstream, we have a fun tradition where we write a spooky story to get into the Halloween spirit, as well as strengthen our writing capabilities. We take three to four weeks to work on them. We then read them on the closest school day to Halloween in the hay loft. The hay loft is a dark, spooky, dirty area of the barn that really captures the spooky atmosphere of Halloween. In past years, we have dressed up in our Halloween costumes and made treats including zombie flesh pasta, finger breadsticks, strawberry brain jell-o, and a massive graveyard cake with gummy worms and gravestone biscuits.

At the end of the day, we retire home, spooked out and ready to go trick-or-treating.

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## Building the Chicken Tractor by Jacob Gottfried

This fall, we have been making a new chicken tractor made out of wood. This tractor is a great way to let the chickens forage in the grass outside while being protected by aerial predators. In the beginning, I was very surprised how long it took just to screw one piece of wood to another. Jack made sure a couple of us could use the drill, and then we showed other people. We quickly picked up the pace, and the chicken tractor has finally been built. We partially stained it, and we're 80% there but we still have some work to do.



## Geology and Field Trip by Grace Grano

At Millstream this year, our science class, taught by Caren Ross, has been exploring the world of Connecticut geology. We have learned about the crack and crunch of CT's landscape as well as types of rocks that can be found in the state. In tandem with geology classes, our first field trip of the year took us to Roaring Brook Nature Center, where we went on a nature walk to see the types

of rocks we had learned about and The Old Newgate Prison & Copper Mine, where we went down into the mine following a vein of copper.

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## **Art Class** by Arthur Tittmann



This year we have done a variety of projects led by our wonderful art teacher, Priscilla. Using our surroundings, we have learned about dyes and what natural resources produce which colors. Once we made the dyes, we painted with them. We have also tie-dyed shirts using a variety of different techniques and designs. Aside from dying, we have also made prints. First, we used rubber blocks and special tools to carve handmade stamps of things at the farm such as butterflies, mushrooms, and goats. Additionally, we have worked with watercolors, painting the farm and animals, and have used leaves to make prints on paper. On top of all of that, we have learned techniques and methods to enhance our sketching and painting skills. One thing I particularly enjoy is sketching my classmates while they work, and I am looking forward to improving.

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## **New Chicks** by Tallash Sarfo-Mensah

This year we needed new chickens because the other ones became too old and egg production slowed down. We went to Murray McMurray Hatchery's website in order to research all the wonderful chicken breeds. The students looked at different breeds and evaluated them for cold tolerance, disposition, and the egg size, color, and production. We ended up choosing Ameraucanas, Barred Rocks, Black Stars, Buff Orpingtons, Delawares, Red Stars, and a light Brahma! We ordered ten chicks in total, and when they arrived we were surprised to realize that there were eleven chicks instead of ten! As the chicks age and grow their adult feathers, we will try to work out what sort of chicken they are. Overall, they have all been very fun to take care of and to play with!

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