



MLCA NEWSLETTER

CULTURAL EDITION

April 2021

SPRING HAS SPRUNG



Above, the seventh and eighth grades enjoy recess on a warm spring day. Below, artwork by June Winfield (second grade).

After a cold and snowy winter, we are grateful to welcome the sunshine and warmth. Yet in every season, the joy of learning has been present in our school community. In this edition of the MLCA Newsletter, we explore the life of our students in the months of February, March, and April. Thank you for connecting with and supporting MLCA!

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SOCIAL DILEMMA

Our school community prides itself on our resistance to kids spending time online. We ask our parents to limit screen time and to eliminate unsupervised access to any Internet-equipped devices. Sadly, the COVID epidemic has necessitated a dramatic increase in reliance on the Internet for all of us – both kids and adults. Since last March, even young children have had to rely frequently on electronics for basic socialization needs.

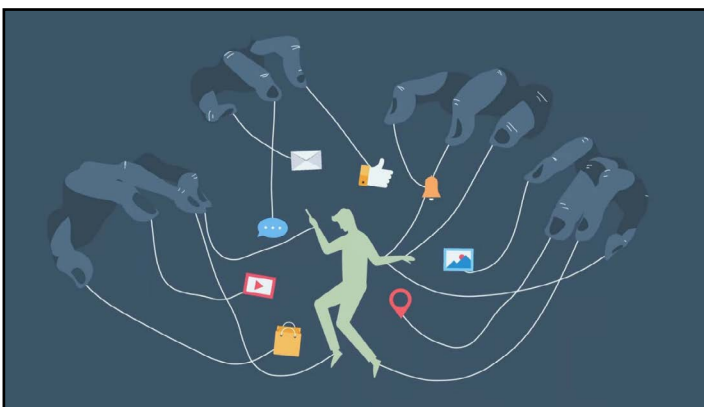
Recently, Asya Sigelman reached out to our community as a fellow parent, as Head of School, and as the founder of MLCA. Her goal is to address the fact that pandemic has opened to our students the floodgates of the web and that it is time for all of us parents to do something about it.

“The Internet is an incredible tool, but I am sure you will agree that it must be used with extreme caution. For example, some of the influences that our children are currently receiving via the open web are directly antithetical to the purpose and spirit of MLCA. It is my assumption that we all value the benefits which our school’s culture has for our children, and I am eager to work with you to

redirect our students’ attention from the online dross that so naturally attracts curious children to the great things which we seek to introduce to them in school.

In the coming weeks, the school, in partnership with the HSA, will be rolling out a school-wide web detox program, beginning with a movie screening and discussions that will help all MLCA parents, as a community, to gain a better understanding of how best to scaffold the interaction of tweens/teens with the Internet and how to protect our children from excessive screen time and its negative effects. The overall message that we want to send our students is that, while some amount of screen time is inevitable, they have better things to do than stare into a screen. No video game or Youtube influencer can rival a good book. It is cool to be unplugged.”

The first event of our web detox program was a community-wide screening of the 2020 Netflix movie, *The Social Dilemma*. All students in grades 4-8 watched the documentary with their parents in January. Then, Dr. Sigelman discussed it with those grades in school. Stay tuned for more as the effort continues at our school.



BOOK CLUB

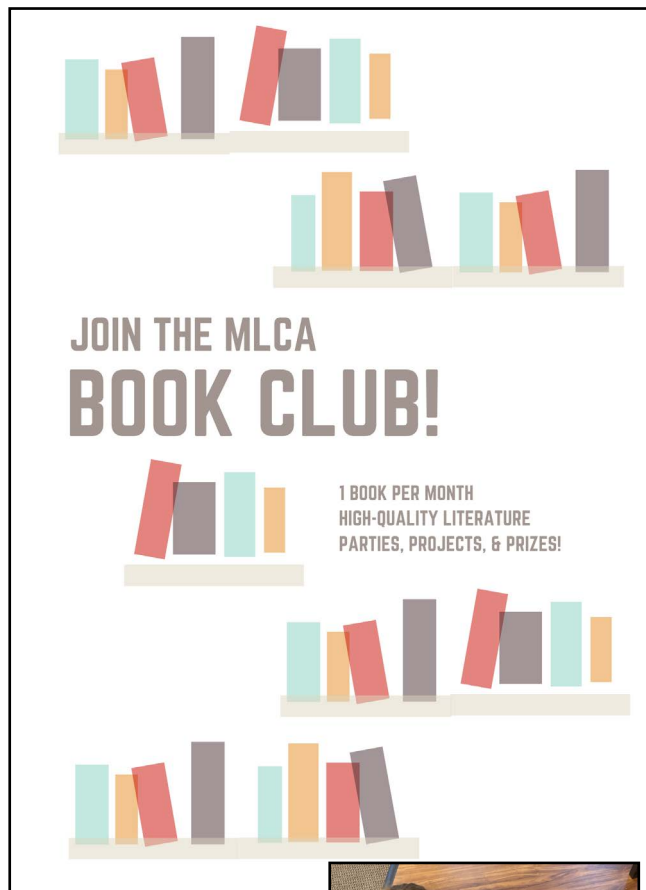
Dr. Sigelman is delighted to introduce a new MLCA initiative – the Main Line Classical Academy Book Club!

The purpose of the book club is to encourage our students to read and enjoy high-quality literature, so that reading serious books for leisure becomes second nature to them. Each grade is assigned one book per month. Each book club session concludes with a grade-level party at school, a game or project, edible treat, and prize.

The first book club session ran from February 15 to March 1. Grades K to 1 read *Hiawatha's Childhood* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The second grade read *The Apple and the Arrow* by Mary & Conrad Buff, while the third and fourth grades enjoyed reading "Rip van Winkle" & "Legend of Sleepy Hollow" by Washington Irving. The fifth through eighth grades read the following short stories by Oscar Wilde: "The Fisherman and His Soul" and "The Canterville Ghost".

The second book club session ran from March 22 to April 15. The students read stories that another grade had read the previous month. For example, Kindergarten and first grade read *The Apple and the Arrow* by Mary & Conrad Buff, while second grade read Oscar Wilde's "The Fisherman and His Soul."

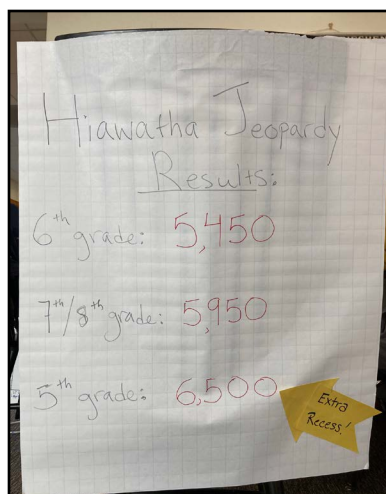
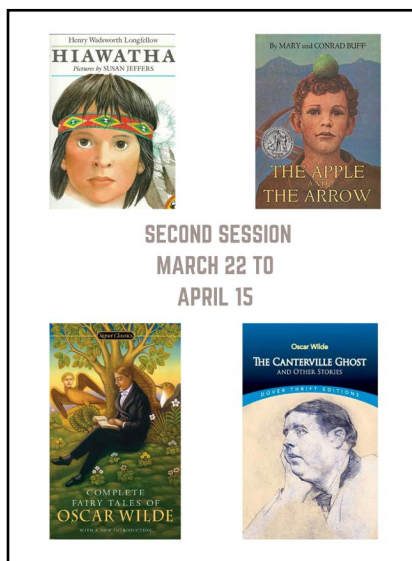
The third book club session will run from May 3 to June 3 and features all new books. The Kindergarten and first grade will read *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams, grades two through four will read *The Golden Fleece and the Heroes Who Lived Before Achilles* by Padraic Colum. Lastly, grades five through eight will read the classic *Ivanhoe* by Sir Walter Scott.



JOIN THE MLCA
BOOK CLUB!

1 BOOK PER MONTH
HIGH-QUALITY LITERATURE
PARTIES, PROJECTS, & PRIZES!

Right, Kindergarteners work on a giant coloring sheet from *The Apple and the Arrow*. Bottom left, fifth graders beat the sixth grade and the seventh-eighth grade in the inter-class Jeopardy tournament based on *Hiawatha*. Bottom right, the seventh/eighth grade in their book club party led by Dr. Sigelman.

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
HIAWATHA
Illustrated by SIOBHAN DUFFELL

By MARY and CONRAD BUFF
THE APPLE AND THE ARROW

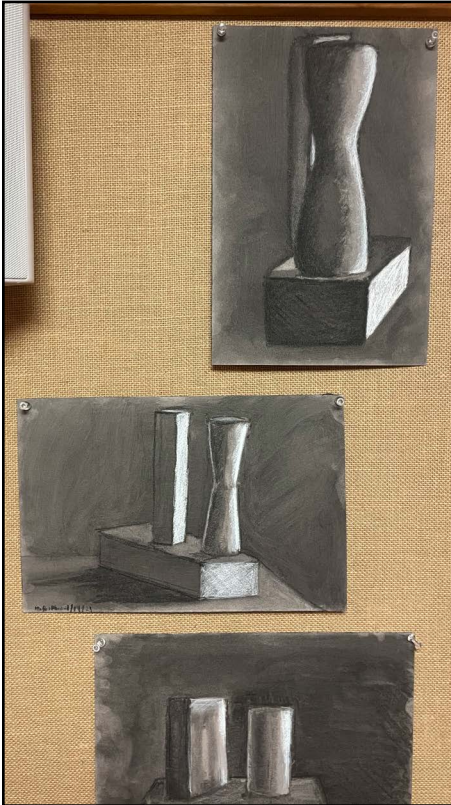
SECOND SESSION
MARCH 22 TO
APRIL 15

COMPLETE FAIRY TALES OF
OSCAR WILDE
Illustrated by JAMES HARRIS

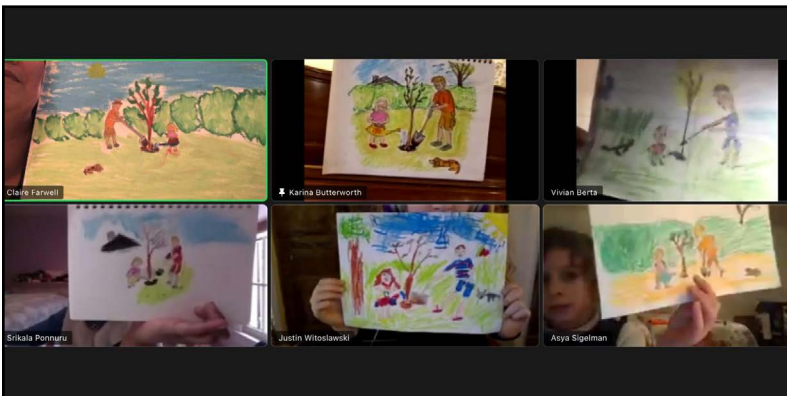
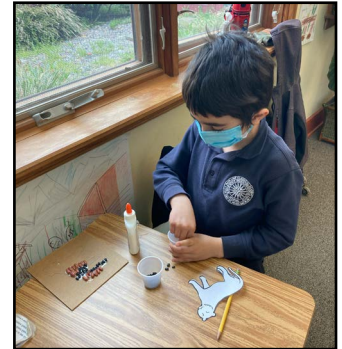
Oscar Wilde
THE CANTERVILLE GHOST AND OTHER STORIES
Illustrated by JAMES HARRIS

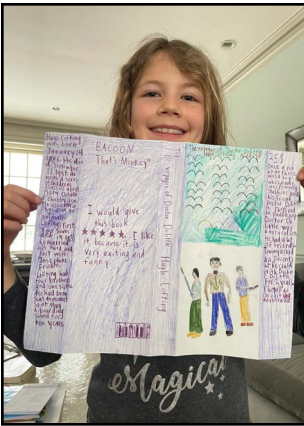
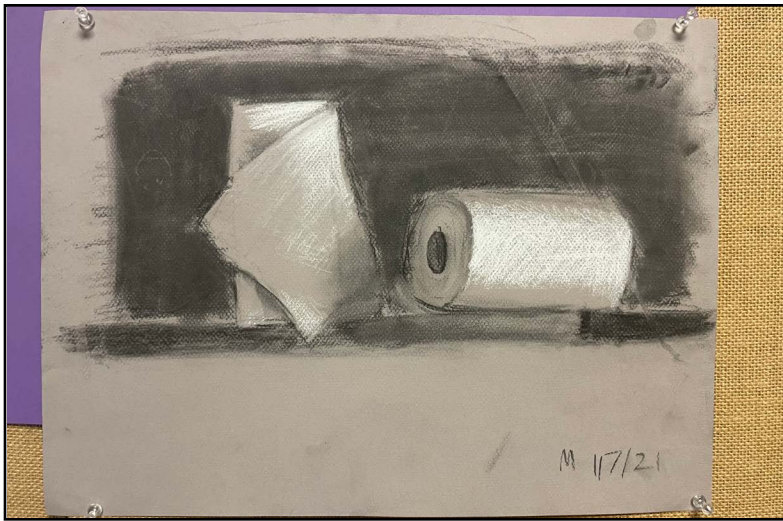


IN-SCHOOL CULTURE



Left, selections of students' work from seventh and eighth grade Studio Art. Above, the first grade classroom transformed into a jungle while reading *The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling. Top right, the Hundred Acre Woods in oil pastel and water color by Calvin Krellner-Oathes, kindergarten. Right, Ediz Goktas, first grade, works on a bean mosaic tiger. Left and below, first graders enjoy lunch outside. Right and below, MLCA welcomes Mr. Soto back to school. Bottom left, a virtual second grade art class. Bottom right, "Sea Creatures" in oil pastel by Sasha Weiner, first grade.





On this page: students' work from Studio Art and Story Time. Clockwise from top: artwork by Maria Butterworth, seventh grade; Asha Ponnuru, second grade; Rosie LaRue, first grade; Viking ship made by June Winfield, second grade; model of Trojan war by first grade; poster of China made by Francesco Grigoli, second grade; Nadiya Posner, third grade. In the middle: Calvin Krellner-Oathes, kindergarten, and Elea Portier, kindergarten.

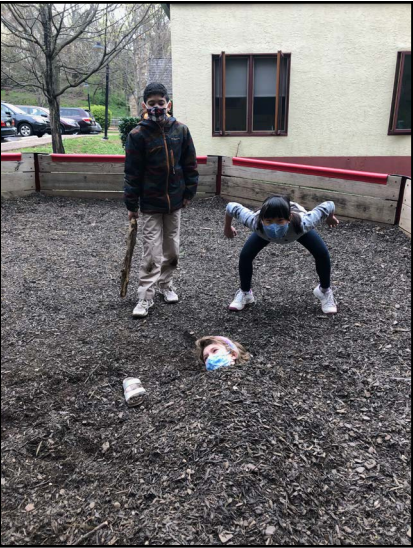


RECESS FUN



All the grades enjoyed playing in the snow this year! Due to the epic amount of snow, the students were able to create a network of tunnels through the snow and build massive snowballs. On bad-weather days, students stay inside for recess and can play with toys individually. On page 7, the students enjoy playing outside in the Spring weather. They have been able to build houses using branches, play soccer in gym class, bury each other in wood chips., and explore the Discovery Trail.





RECESS FUN



SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS

DAFFODILS DAY
APRIL 15, 2021



On April 15, the school celebrated Daffodils Day. On this day in 1802, William Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy came across a field of daffodils, and this encounter inspired him to write the famous poem "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud". The school celebrated with bright yellow cupcakes and decorations.



"I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud"
by William Wordsworth

I wander'd lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils,
Beside the lake, beneath the trees
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretch'd in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced, but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee: -
A poet could not but be gay
In such a jocund company!
I gazed - and gazed - but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought.

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills
And dances with the daffodils.



JUDAIC STUDIES EVENTS

PURIM

FEBRUARY 26-26, 2021

In preparation for the Jewish holiday of Purim, Gur Aryeh students engaged in close study of the text, storyline, and Jewish practices surrounding the holiday of Purim, in which the Jews miraculously escaped the murderous plot of the wicked Haman, as detailed in the biblical book of Esther.

In addition to in-depth study, Gur Aryeh students held not one but two celebratory, educational events to mark the holiday. The day before Purim, a number of older students read from the Scroll of Esther, using the traditional cantillation sung in synagogues until today. In addition to singing a number of traditional Purim songs, students and faculty wore crazy hats in celebration of the day, traditionally a day when people dress up in costume. Additionally, since gift-giving fostering unity and generosity is another way in which the holiday is observed, students prepared and distributed safely-wrapped gifts to their peers.

The first school day after Purim, students and faculty came to school wearing the costumes that they wore on Purim. Costumes included the wicked King Pharaoh, the villainous Haman, the virtuous Queen Esther and righteous Viceroy Mordecai - and even someone dressed as a bottle of ketchup! Finally, students and faculty enjoyed hamentashen, the traditional Jewish three-cornered cookie with scrumptious fillings including raspberry, apricot, poppy seed, and more!



JUDAIC STUDIES EVENTS CONT.

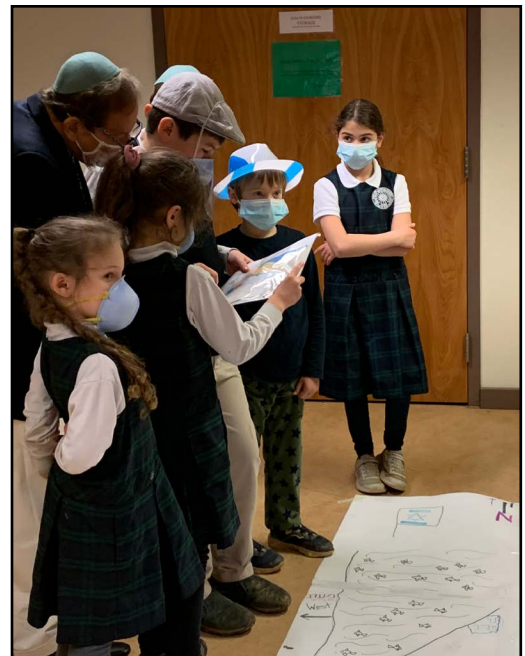


YOM HASHOAH HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY- THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021

In preparation for Yom HaShoah, which was observed on Thursday, April 8, Gur Aryeh students in 4th grade and above researched stories about their families' experiences during the Holocaust. On Yom HaShoah, students shared family stories and artifacts with their classmates, lit candles in their memories, stood still during a minute-long siren in memory of Holocaust victims, and recited texts from the traditional memorial service honoring the memory of those who were murdered. At the same time, students sought to integrate the lessons of their forebears, as well as our mandate to identify and combat evil wherever she rears her ugly head.

YOM HAZIKARON AND YOM HAATZMAUT (ISRAELI SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL DAY AND ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY) APRIL 14-15, 2021

On the Israeli calendar, the memorial day for fallen soldiers intentionally precedes the celebration of Israel's independence. Students in 4th grade and above held an in-class memorial program in which they learned stories and songs about Israeli war heroes who died in action. All students learned about the essential sacrifices that were made to ensure the founding of the state, including the war that broke out on May 14, 1948, the day Israel was declared a country. Students learned the fundamentals of how the State came to be established, the role of major figures such as David Ben-Gurion, the founding prime minister of Israel, and numerous songs for the holiday. Our celebration culminated with a special early afternoon celebration of Israel's independence, featuring Israeli-themed posters, tablecloths, and food, live music in celebration of the holiday, and a special competitive game encouraging students to demonstrate their knowledge about Israel by stepping into the correct location on a large, decorated floor map of the modern State of Israel.



JUDAIC STUDIES EVENTS CONT.

PASSOVER

MARCH 27 TO APRIL 4, 2021

The lead-up to Passover featured some of our students' most intensive Judaic studies of the academic year. Students received individualized copies of the Haggadah, the traditional text recited at the Passover Seder, and learned its most memorable traditional melodies.

Two days before Passover, after having studied the narrative and texts, students and faculty participated in an energetic Model Seder. First, we reenacted the story of the Exodus. Students played the role of the various plagues that smote the Egyptians, and crossed the Sea as the Egyptian chariots drowned in the water while in pursuit. In celebration, students sat at a large table and acted out the central elements of the Seder night, including the four cups, four questions, unleavened bread (Matzah) and bitter herbs (Maror).

Armed with in-depth knowledge and a memorable first-hand experience, students participated in - and even led parts of! - their family Passover Seders, exemplifying how knowledge can foster practice, empowerment, and a profound sense of community belonging.

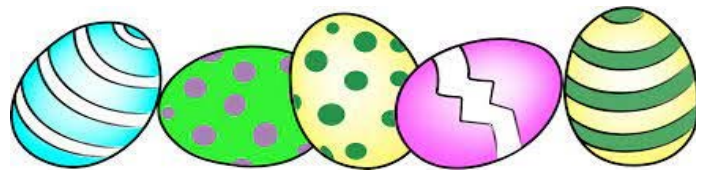


CHRISTIAN STUDIES EVENTS

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021

Easter is the Christian celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, on the third day from his crucifixion. Easter is a day of hope and life; those who trust in Jesus' death and resurrection believe that Jesus is truly the Son of God and that death has been defeated. The third grade Christian studies students celebrated by reading the Easter story in the book of Mark and by participating in an egg hunt. Below are pictures from our students who celebrated the holiday at home.

Right, cousins Catherine Zafiriou, fourth grade, and June Winfield, second grade, with Easter baskets full. Below, Olivia Välimäki and her sister participate in the Finnish tradition, where children dress as witches (hats scarves aprons and moles on their faces) and offer a willow stick with blessings of health well being to their neighbors on Easter Eve. Below and right, Nadiya Posner, third grade, on an egg hunt. Bottom, Mme. Le Pichon, Noah Posner, seventh grade, and Matteo Posner, fifth grade, enjoy a sunny Easter day.



AT HOME & AT THE PARK



Thank you to MLCA parents who have arranged playdates and park trips to help maintain the MLCA community spirit outside of school hours. Clockwise from top: Fifth grade girls get together to bake; Seventh grade boys attend zoom class together; the Ponnurus take a trip to the colonial plantation and learn how to use a well; third grade boys go snow tubing; fifth grade girls on a snow day; families go sledding together; fifth graders spend a snow day together; Francesco Grigoli, second grade, making Chinese dumplings; June Winfield, second grade, and brother make Norwegian treats; Rio and Kai Singh, third grade, on a trip to Savannah; Mme. Le Pichon and Nadiya Posner, third grade, enjoy an Easter treat.



BIRTHDAYS _____

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR FEBRUARY, MARCH, AND APRIL BIRTHDAYS!!

February

Raica Tarr 2/2
Ediz Goktas 2/12
Alex Weinstein 2/15
Antonella Tarr 2/15
Dr. Nagelberg 2/21
Keelen Cooke 2/24
Newsa Butterworth 2/24
Catherine Zafiriou 2/28



April

Mrs. Butterworth 4/2
Mara Ankenman 4/3
Elijah Mencin 4/9
Olivia Jorge 4/12
Dr. Fradkin 4/12
Evelyn Silio 4/18
Malcolm Weinstein 4/24
Vikram Ponnuru 4/26

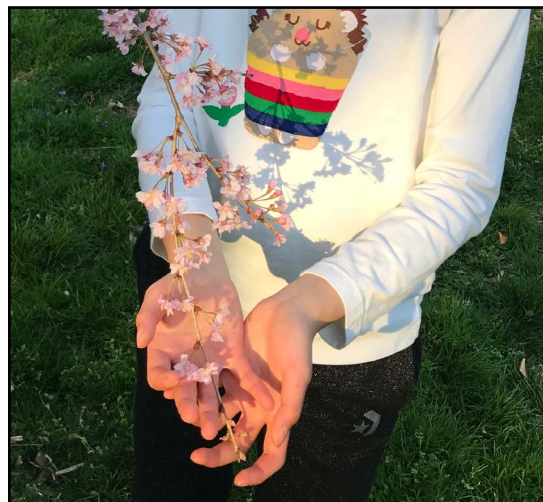
March

Mrs. Martindale 3/8
Isabella Greenfield 3/18
Abigail and Benjamin Vuernick 3/29

THANK YOU, MLCA! _____

Avery Zhang, fifth grade, was in Scott Arboretum on April 7th. Impressed with the beauty of the garden, she wrote the following free verse poem:

Dappled light comes through the sweeping branches.
Pink petals flit in perfect harmony onto the purple bedsheet.
Bees and other insects fly around bringing pollen to flowers, daffodils open their buds to soak in sun.
Green grass ripples but twigs if stepped on will hurt one's feet.
A little creature creeps on a blade of grass, freezing when I move.
Green trees and blue sky adorned with clouds and sunlight finish the scene with birds tweeting their beautiful spring songs.



Thank you, MLCA, for encouraging and fostering a love of poetry and beauty!