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In the eighth-grade musical *Bye-Bye Birdie*, Ariyanna Easter (class of 2019) plays Conrad Birdie, one of the main leads, and Kim MacFee, another lead is played by Cormick Stockham. *Bye-Bye Birdie* takes place in Sweet Apple, Ohio, and Conrad is the iconic rock star of the time who is well known by many. Historically, the story is based off Elvis Presley being drafted to war and how it affected our culture and people (mainly the teen society). Kim MacAfee (Cormick Stockham) plays the average teen girl at the time who is chosen to kiss Conrad before he leaves. This musical has taught everyone how to work together. It has been really fun creating the production. In fact, one cast member remarked, “One thing that I really like about the musical is that I have been able to talk to people that I usually don’t talk to, and I have been able to make really great friends from the production.” said Sara Grace Aldis (Albert).

Also, the musical is a great time for the parents as well. “I have really been able to meet girls and parents that I didn’t really know before,” explained Cormick Stockham’s mom, Kiersten Stockham. The musical experience has been really fun to other eighth graders for different reasons, too! Penelope Picagli shared, “I really like when they fix my hair in the super complicated hairdo’s, and the stage makeup is so different from what I apply. It is super funny and entertaining seeing all the girls in complicated hairdo’s and heavy makeup.” Eighth graders have not only become close to others, but also attached to the musical itself. Sarah Landry said, “The end of the very last performance was emotional… honestly. Throughout this experience, I have really learned to love the rehearsals, and all the work that we have put in in the musical is just gone. It is over: we have no rehearsals. Although the memories will be with us forever, it is still sad that this is done!”

The eighth-grade musical is an event full of excitement. From the beginning of fifth grade, all the girls look forward with anticipation to this event. According to the eighth graders, it continues to be a special moment, even better than imagined. Thank you to Miss Bonnie Jean, Miss Wortley, Mr. Kallos, Ms. Sullivan, and Miss Hubbard for teaching us so much and providing a memory we will never forget!
**Question:** Do you think your personality is similar to Conrad’s/Kim’s?

Ariyanna: “Yeah, we are pretty similar in some ways. I can also sing low notes well which helps it seem more realistic, and also he is super laid back and I am as well!”

Cormick: “Well, sometimes we are alike with wanting space and trying to grow up a little too quickly, but, mostly she is more dramatic while I am more relaxed and go with the flow about stuff.”

**Question:** Have you had singing experience before this?

Ariyanna: “I have had singing and theater experience before at my old school. I also enjoy dancing as well.”

Cormick: “Well… when I was in 4th grade I was the lead in my opera which was a super fun experience, and I have been in the choir club since 5th grade.”

**Question:** How much time did you spend rehearsing / practicing after school?

Ariyanna: “It took about an hour to memorize song lyrics. Memorizing the script lines sticks with me more easily.”

Cormick: “Every day after school I spent about 30-45 minutes memorizing lines and practicing songs.

**Question:** Who is your favorite character?

Ariyanna: “My favorite character in *Bye-Bye Birdie* other than myself,*laughs* is Mrs. Peterson (Momma played by Parker Waters). Mrs. Peterson is really funny, and Parker does a great job playing that part.”

Cormick: “My favorite character would probably be myself… but if I had to pick someone else I would probably pick Conrad because Ariyanna is such a good actress: she is so funny and such a good singer.”

**Question:** What is your favorite scene?

Ariyanna: “‘A Lot of Living To Do’ is my favorite. It’s a fun scene with lots of dancing and moving around which makes it fun.”

Cormick: “When Ariyanna sings “Honestly Sincerely” in the mayor’s room, and I get to faint into Hugo’s arms. That part I think that was really fun.”

**Question:** What were your first thoughts about having one of the leads in the musical?

Ariyanna: “At first I was shy, but after a while I got comfortable with singing and performing in front of people. I became more excited than nervous.”

Conrad: “I was super excited and a little nervous. I definitely was ready to play the part though.”
Fall Sports

By Mary Gum and Abby O’Brien

The fall sports for 2014-2015 had a great season. Seventh-grade field hockey was undefeated, Seventh-grade volleyball was undefeated, and so was cross country. As you can see, Hockaday students are very athletic. They enjoy the challenges that come with each sport, not only athletically, but also academically as well. All of the players of these sports go to practice or a game every day after school except Friday. On several occasions the games are away, and some of the schools are fifteen to forty-five minutes away. In field hockey, there were over thirty students on the team, and in volleyball over fifty! In cross country, there were about twenty people who joined the team, and they ran every day after school about two miles each time! Overall, Hockaday has very talented athletes, and all work very hard and had a well-deserved good season!

We interviewed some of the players for the teams, and here is how some of them responded.

Anna Clark, who ran eighth-grade cross country, answered the following questions

Question: What position do you play?

Anna: There are no positions in my sport as it is an individual sport rather than a team sport.

Question: Why do you enjoy your sport?

Anna: I like running because it gives me a lot of time to consider some thoughts about which I otherwise do not have much time to think.

Question: What is your favorite part of your sport?

Anna: I like the bond that the team has and how we all support each other.

Question: How well is your team doing this season?

Anna: Our team is great! We have been undefeated for two years in a row.
Gina Miele, who was on the seventh-grade field hockey team, was interviewed and here are her responses

Question: What position do you play?
Gina: I play right defense.

Question: What is your favorite part of your sport?
Gina: My favorite part of the sport is stealing the ball.

Question: How well is your team doing this season?
Gina: My team is undefeated!

Meghan Shimer, who played seventh-grade volleyball, was interviewed and responded with the answers below.

Question: What position do you play?
Meghan: I am a setter.

Question: Why do you enjoy your sport?
Meghan: I enjoy volleyball because it is different from most sports that I play.

Question: What is your favorite part of your sport?
Meghan: My favorite part is hitting and setting.

Question: How well is your team doing this season?
Meghan: My team is undefeated!
The New Science Building

By: Lacy Green and Ava Franklin

The new science building is a great addition to the school. This environment will teach us more about the earth, ocean, energy and the biosphere. All of the students appreciate the new science building and all the workers who spent hours making the building a safe learning environment for all of us.

We spoke with some fifth graders who participated in the fifth-grade sleepover in the new science building. We gathered their opinions and responses, and we have included some highlights below.

Question: What was your first impression of the science building?

It is very fresh and contemporary. An amazing building! I love the pendulum. Really cool! Something you would find a couple years in the future. It would be really cool to live in the science building!

Question: Share some of the events you enjoyed during the science sleepover.

Responses: I liked the thin films!
It was really interesting that the nail polish spread in the water.
The UV bracelets were my favorite. They changed color in the sun. Some turned pink and purple and some turned yellow.
The watermelon experiment was so exciting. We threw one watermelon off the roof! It was interesting to see what happened to it.

The State Fair of Texas

By Claire Trochu

This year the State Fair of Texas ran from September 26 to October 19. A ton of people went this year! Here are some fun facts about the fair:

- The State Fair of Texas celebrated its 125th anniversary this year.
- It is frowned upon by corn dog purists to eat anything but mustard on top of a corny dog.
- The Texas Star Ferris Wheel at the State Fair of Texas is the second tallest ferris wheel in America.
- The State Fair of Texas has been held in Dallas every year since 1886 with five exceptions. In 1918 the fair was cancelled because of World War I and in 1942-1945 due to World War II.
- Some of the oddest fried delicacies available at the State Fair of Texas include fried beer, fried Coke, and fried Cadbury Crème Eggs.
- Big Tex, Dallas’ famous 55-foot cowboy, was destroyed in a fire during the final weekend of the 2012 State Fair of Texas. A replacement was created in 2013 for a total cost of $500,000.

Seventh Grade Lock-In

There are many words that come to mind when describing the Seventh-Grade Lock-In. Fun, exciting, tiring, entertaining, and most of all, memorable. This event is something that will stick with the class of 2020 forever! When asked about how much they will remember it on a scale from one to ten, three seventh graders answered with very promising responses. “Ten! Definitely!” Allison Cooper said, “Two million, five hundred sixty four!” Lily Forbes exclaimed, ignoring the range of one to ten. Another interesting focus of this event was the theme. It was a hot topic, and everyone in Middle School had an opinion the week of the event. To Mrs. Bourek’s dismay, the theme was not hedgehogs. There were guesses from Frozen to Broadway to the 1980’s. The theme turned out to be Lock-Inpalooza, for which we were assigned a band. The band selections ranged from One Direction to Bastille. In addition to the theme, the stations were another cherished part of this grade-wide sleepover. The favorites were the Baby Board, Photo Booth, and Community Service. All-in-all, the Hockaday Seventh-Grade Lock-In was a fantastic experience that everyone will cherish for years to come.

Fifth Grade Trip to Allaso Ranch

Allaso Ranch is located in Hawkins, Texas. It has fun activities, including zip lining, canoeing, swimming in the lazy river, water slides, biking, high ropes, low ropes and more.

There were four advisories that camped in the cabins in each village. The fifth graders were fortunate to have our fifth grade teachers and advisors along with Mrs. Kramer as chaperones. Allaso Ranch was an interesting and enjoyable experience for everyone.

Sixth Grade Trip  Washington DC and Williamsburg
In the Spotlight

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State Fair Fun

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Sixth Grade Trip  Washington DC and Williamsburg
It was a crisp morning on November 12th at the Hockaday School as all of the faculty, staff and students headed towards the gym. There was a buzz in the air as everyone was motivated to start our day of serving and giving to others within our community. A sense of pride and anticipation swept through the building as girls from every grade level, from our little first graders to seniors, were in attendance for the sole purpose to contribute and share our talents to benefit others. Miss Wargo spoke first with an introduction for Miguel Solis, Dallas Independent School District (DISD) Board President. Mr. Solis gave a moving speech and inspired us all to start our Day of Service. All of us had important jobs to do that day.

One group went to DeGoyle Elementary School. Upon arriving, we were all touched when a small child from the school approached us and said, “I’m so glad you came today!” We immediately started sorting through books and had the chance to provide a book to some of the students. Some of us even had the chance to read a book to the children. The DeGoyle students were attentive and enjoyed the story. At the end of the book, some of the children clapped and smiled. Over 500 books were donated that day! Now that’s a great way to encourage reading!

Other groups stayed on campus and made phone calls to DISD supporters, learned about guide dog training, made placemats for Meals on Wheels and sorted food for the North Texas Food Bank. You may have thought we were done, but the day continued with letters to elementary students encouraging them to read, cards to Meals on Wheels recipients, and Operation Gratitude drafts of encouraging letters of thanks for those serving in the Armed Forces. Many other activities again reinforced the numerous ways in which we as a school made a difference that day. Whether you packed a meal or had the chance to read to a child, it felt good to give to others and serve. A sincere thank you to Ms. Day and everyone who helped to coordinate and plan the events for that day. It will be a lasting memory that we will all treasure.
A Collection of Inspirational Quotes

By: Ocean Park

“I haven’t failed. I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work.”
-Thomas Edison

“No matter how many mistakes you make or how slow you progress, you are still way ahead of everyone who isn’t trying.”
-Unknown

“If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito.”
-Dalai Lama XIV

“If opportunity doesn’t knock, build a door.”
-Milton Berle

“We can complain because rose bushes have thorns or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses.”
-Abraham Lincoln

“Not all who wander are lost.”
-J.R.R. Tolkien
The Power of Service to Others!  By Juliana Lu

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