

The Valley

MAUMEE VALLEY'S CULTURAL GEM

The Millennium Theatre Marks 25 Years



INSIDE:

Soccer's remarkable season of success

Cross-cultural connections in South Africa

MV earns re-accreditation from ISACS



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Head of School

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The MVFA supports and complements the mission and philosophy of Maumee Valley Country Day School through volunteer service, parent education, and community building. MVFA strives to actively involve and communicate with the entire parent community.

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Unity, achievement making Maumee Valley strong as ever

Dear Friends of Maumee Valley,

As we approach the end of another academic year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for all that we have accomplished together as a school community. It has been another remarkable journey marked by achievement and unity.

Perhaps our largest shared achievement was earning re-accreditation by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) for another seven years. This re-accreditation marks a significant milestone in our journey and reflects our unwavering commitment to academic excellence and continuous improvement.

ISACS accreditation is a rigorous process that evaluates every aspect of our operations, from curriculum and instruction to governance and financial management. Achieving re-accreditation affirms that Maumee Valley meets or exceeds the highest standards of educational quality and demonstrates our dedication to providing an outstanding learning environment for our students.

Another shared achievement took place April 27 as we hosted our annual MV Gala, our largest single-day fundraiser. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, alumni, parents, and friends, events like the gala help to ensure that Maumee Valley continues to provide an exceptional educational experience for our students.

Looking ahead, plans are taking shape for the Sept. 20-21 Homecoming & Reunion Weekend as well as Maumee Valley's 140th year in Toledo. This milestone is a testament to our enduring commitment to excellence in education and our deep roots in the Toledo community. I am excited to see how we will come together to honor our rich history and envision the future of our beloved school.

As graduation exercises draw near, the excitement is palpable. From final exams to end-of-year celebrations, there is a sense of accomplishment and anticipation for what lies ahead. I am confident that we will finish the year strong, united in our dedication to academic excellence and community.

Together, we have achieved so much, and I am excited to see what the future holds for our vibrant community.

Warm regards,

Lynn D. Casto P '23, '24
Head of School



Statement of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

At Maumee Valley, we recognize and embrace our responsibility to foster an inclusive, equitable, safe, and respectful community. We cultivate a community in which students, faculty, staff, and families feel genuinely welcome and are encouraged to learn from, with, and about one another. We honor the uniqueness of each individual and embrace diverse backgrounds, values, learning styles, and points of view to build a strong inclusive community. At Maumee Valley, we want all community members to know: We see you. We hear you. We value you.



mvcds.org



advancement@mvcds.org



Mission

Maumee Valley Country Day School cultivates an inclusive community of intellectual excellence where learners creatively explore their passions and boldly inspire positive change in the world.

Vision

Personal. Experiential. Global.

Guiding Principle

We create an environment of freedom and responsibility to Think. Speak. Explore. Choose. Connect. Be you.

The Valley

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RECENT HONORS AND AWARDS

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- No. 1 Private School in Toledo Area**
2024 rankings by Niche
- 2023 Eco-School Award**
Lower School and its ongoing use of nature in its classrooms

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The Valley celebrates the students, faculty, and alumni of Maumee Valley Country Day School, and the donors making possible many of their achievements. It is published twice a year by the school's Office of Marketing and Communications.

NEXT ISSUE

We celebrate the Class of 2024 with coverage of their individual awards and commencement ceremony as well as the school's financial supporters with a summary of the year in giving.



SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

To submit stories or comments on this and future editions of *The Valley*, email kmerrill@mvcds.org.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Send address change requests to Office of Advancement, 1715 S. Reynolds Rd., Toledo OH, 43614.

MEMBERSHIPS

Maumee Valley Country Day School is proud to be a member of these organizations:

- Independent Schools Association of the Central States
- National Association of Independent Schools
- Independent School Management
- Ohio Association of Independent Schools
- National Association of Educational Procurement



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MV earns re-accreditation, affirming direction and mission

Maumee Valley Country Day School has earned re-accreditation from the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) for another seven years. The organization released its final findings this spring, which were based upon a multi-year review of school documents and processes, including data gathered during an on-site visit in October.

"ISACS accreditation is a rigorous process that evaluates every aspect of our school's operations, from curriculum and instruction to governance and financial management," said **Lynn Casto**, head of school. "Achieving re-accreditation affirms that Maumee Valley meets or exceeds the highest standards of educational quality and demonstrates our dedication to providing an outstanding learning environment for our students."

Briefs



Among the events: a Spanish spelling bee

Spanish language in new and fun ways."

In their tech classes, students explored their personal motivations for learning Spanish and created persuasive posters to promote the benefits of speaking more than one language. The trivia event featured questions such as "Who is the president of Puerto Rico?" Another example of the school's emphasis on experiential learning is its ongoing partnership with SewHope School in Guatemala. This fall, students in grades 1-5 received letters and origami gifts from their pen pals at SewHope. Started in 2020, this writing connection allows students from different cultures to learn about each other.

Angela McCray-Hancock joins as new Middle School head

Maumee Valley has hired **Angela McCray-Hancock** as the new head for the Middle School (grades 4-8). She begins July 1. With nearly 30 years of experience as a teacher and administrator in independent and public schools in the United States and overseas, she has taught in England, Japan, Costa Rica, California, Michigan, and North Carolina.

"I am beyond excited to join the Maumee Valley community! I feel incredibly fortunate to be welcomed into such a special place," she said. She earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education and her master's degree in educational leadership from Oakland University. McCray-Hancock has experience as a 4th-8th grade teacher specializing in math and science.

In addition, she has also served as an assistant principal, Lower and Middle School director of curriculum and instruction, and STEM coordinator.

"Throughout her interview process, it became abundantly clear that Mrs. McCray-Hancock has the educational philosophy, experience, and skill to thoughtfully move our Middle School curriculum and culture forward," said **Lynn Casto**, head of school.



Students celebrate centennial with hundreds of good ideas

Lower School students in Kindergarten and 1st grade celebrated the 100th day of school in February by sharing their personal expressions of the milestone. They used many techniques and objects to visually denote the number. Middle School students stopped by to check out the work.

Events allow students to display their Spanish talents

Students in 4th and 5th grades celebrated the importance of learning languages through their first-ever Spanish Talent Program earlier this year. They competed in a spelling bee and trivia contest, explored art creations relating to Guatemalan culture, and created digital posters to promote being bilingual.

"The number one reason students learn Spanish is to use it outside of the classroom," said **Kathleen Mick**, the Spanish teacher for PreKindergarten through 5th grade and the event's organizer. "Our cross-curricular activities gave them a way to experience and show their love for the



Boyd



Cogdell



Kutz

New faces at Maumee Valley

Other recent additions to the MV team include:

- **Julianna Boyd** as the Middle School's educational technologist.
- **Brittany Cogdell** as a PreKindergarten and Junior Kindergarten assistant (a long-term substitute position) in the Lower School.
- **Jennifer Kutz** as the new state and federal grant coordinator within the Business Office.

Building Community

Throughout the school year, the Maumee Valley community is strengthening its community through celebrations and special activities. These events also help students become cross-culturally literate.

In November, the Indian Student Association and MV Indian community presented an entertaining Diwali Dinner; in February, the Global Leadership Program presented Identity Day for Upper School students, the Afro-Am Club hosted its Annual Dinner program, and the Chinese Club provided fun activities for classmates in preparation of the Chinese New Year; in March, Upper School students tasted foods from 17 nations as part of the annual International Lunch; and in April, the Muslim Student Association and MV Muslim families presented an Iftar Community Dinner.



Clockwise, from top: A full house at the Afro-Am Dinner; students sharing their heritage during Identity Day; Team Egypt and their food at the International Lunch; students performing during Chinese New Year celebrations; keynote speaker Adam Smidi at the Iftar Community Dinner; and students learning and enjoying Dandiya during the Diwali Dinner.



DEIB UPDATES



Six Upper School students as well as MV faculty (above) traveled to St. Louis in November for the NAIS Student Diversity Leadership Conference (SDLC). The conference is a multiracial and multicultural gathering of student leaders from eligible independent high schools across the country and abroad. Students developed cross-cultural communication skills, designed practical strategies for social justice practice, and learned the foundations of allyship and networking principles.

Six MV faculty and administrators traveled in November to the NAIS People of Color Conference (PoCC) in St. Louis. The PoCC is the flagship of the National Association of Independent Schools' commitment to equity and justice in teaching, learning, and organizational development. Attending were **Lynn Casto P '23, '24;** **Sara Card P '20, '23;** **Martha Chandran-Dickerson P '24, '27;** **Dr. Trent Hayes;** **Ana Rodriguez '28, '30, '31, '36;** and **Reanne Young.** The conference provides a safe space for leadership, professional development, and networking for people of color and allies of all backgrounds in independent schools.

The Maumee Valley community welcomed Dr. Liza Talusan to campus in February. She is an engaging facilitator in conversations about diversity, anti-racism, bias, privilege, and power, and creates environments that allow for people to discuss these difficult topics openly. Dr. Talusan (above left with **Reanne Young**, MV's DEIB director) has more than 25 years of experience in classrooms from PreKindergarten through graduate education. She met with parents, Upper School student leadership, and faculty and staff. The MV school community has been reading her book, *The Identity-Conscious Educator: Building Habits & Skills for a More Inclusive School.*



Newsmakers

Multimedia journalist **Jaden Jefferson '26** obtained an interview with CNN's Jake Tapper (below) in November. Tapper is the lead Washington anchor for CNN, hosts the weekday television news show "The Lead with Jake Tapper," and co-hosts the Sunday morning public affairs program "State of the Union." In April, Jaden interviewed Gloria Steinem, the feminist icon and former Toledo resident who turned 90 this year.



Twelve students had their creative writing stories selected for publication by Young Writers. The students' submissions appeared in the March release of *Spooky Sagas - Midnight Madness*. Congratulations to 3rd graders **Evan Handyside** and **Trazon Harris-Hannibal** and 4th graders **Max Brown**, **Layla Fogarty**, **Coral House**, **Allie Marker**, **Harper Oliver**, **Suri Patel**, **Sloane Prater**, **Millie Wong**, **Hassan Zamir**, and **Graham Ziegler**.

Three MV students contributed to research published this spring in a scientific journal. **Gurnoor Patti '24**, **Eric Tang '25**, and **Joshua Wang '25** conducted the research while enrolled in the Summer Biomedical Science Program in Bioinformatics at The University of Toledo. Both articles appeared in *Translation: The University of Toledo Journal of Medical Sciences*.

Seniors **Karen Chen** and **Sagar Joshi** were named 2024 National Merit Finalists after being named Semifinalists this fall. Only finalists are eligible to compete for one of the 7,140 National Merit Scholarships, which will be announced this spring and are collectively worth nearly \$28 million. Finalists are selected based on abilities, skills, and accomplishments, and are highly recruited by selective



colleges. In the fall, seniors **Zach Kiehl**, **Lyra Qian**, **Phoebe Schocket**, **Helen Yan**, and **Thomas Yu** were named 2024 Commended students by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Only the top 2-3 percent of PSAT scorers nationally earn the Commended student designation.

Karen Chen '24 received a Gold Key and American Voices Nomination for her poem "Almost Winter." The honor came from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards program. She was one of only five students to receive the nomination for writing, which signifies the work as best in show as determined by jurors.

Congratulations to **Helen Yan '24** and **Ella Hu '27** for being on the winning team during the data analysis competition at Ohio's Future Business Leaders of America's leadership conference. The competition in Columbus required student teams to use data sets to provide analyses and recommendations to a fictitious company considering whether to enter the electric vehicle market. Also on the team was Alex Ban, a 9th grader from Perrysburg High School (pictured below, from left, are Helen and Ella).



The MV Hawks Robotics Team (above) took first at the Regional BEST Robotics competition in November at Bowling Green State University. **Somesh Saini '24** was awarded Best Team Video and **Addie Henderson '25** and **Penny Weiner '26** led the trade show booth team to Best Display Award. The team finished second in the robotics event but won the overall title based on points earned, punching their ticket to the nationals in Denver. There, they advanced to the semifinals round by overcoming technical challenges and key last-minute illnesses to keep advancing against the competition.



The Maumee Valley MATHCOUNTS team did extremely well individually and as a team in February at the Northwest Ohio Chapter competition in Archbold. Earning individual honors were **Solimae Patibandla '28** (second place) and **Jash Patel '28** (fourth place). The four-person team (pictured above) of **Jet Conover '28**, Solimae, **Julian Beatty-Duarte '28**, and Jash took first and advanced to the state competition. Congratulations to other team members **Amar El Gafy '28**, **Serina Tal '30**, **Lillian Tam '30**, and **Lily Wright '30**.

Making the world a better place

Upper School students spent a day in the community as part of Work Day/Play Day in October. Among the local nonprofits receiving assistance: Helping Hands of St. Louis (saving them a week's worth of sorting and labor); SeaGate Food Bank of Northwest Ohio (packed 850 senior food boxes); Metroparks Toledo (collected garbage and weeded along the Maumee River); and Cherry Street Mission (organized winter clothing and inventoried donations).

The Upper School Youth Outreach Club delivered more than 1,300 books donated by MV families to students at Whittier Elementary School (part of Toledo Public Schools). MV students set up a store inside Whittier's library, from which the elementary students bought books using "book bucks." Our students also spent time reading with their young friends.

Students in 7th and 8th grade carried their community service mission into the area this fall by providing volunteer assistance to the Sunshine Communities, Seagate Food Bank, the Islamic Food Bank of Toledo, Cherry Street Mission, and Lucas County Canine Control & Care. The outreach is a great example of the MS Pillars of Respect, Responsibility, Participation, and Kindness at work. They twice visited the Islamic Food Bank warehouse and assembled 505 weekender food bags. During November, the Middle School also hosted a canned food drive to benefit the Islamic Food Bank.

Students in 7th and 8th grade helped residents of Sunshine Communities in December at the Huntington Center. Students helped them on and off buses and into the arena, where they all enjoyed a Walleye game. Sunshine supports people of all ages with developmental disabilities, and our students have been doing service work with them all year.

Lower School families contributed to a holiday toy drive organized by the LS Maumee Valley Family Association. The gifts went to children living in foster care, with relatives, or with their families under Lucas County Children Services' supervision.

Worth Mentioning:

- The **Upper School Medical Club** partnered with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive in March.
- The **Lower School Green Team** collaborated with Keep Toledo Lucas County Beautiful for a learning experience about sorting items that can be reused, recycled, or that need to be sent to a landfill.
- The **3rd grade Kid Council** hosted a canned food drive in November to benefit SeaGate Food Bank of Northwest Ohio.
- The **Global Leadership Program (GLP)** collected winter clothing and non-perishable food and donated it to Helping Hands of St. Louis. Students collected more than 95 pounds of food and three bags of gently used clothing. The group also beautified areas around campus by picking up trash along Reynolds Road in November. Community action is just one aspect of GLP, which strives to create compassionate global citizens with strong leadership, communication, and civic action skills.





The Arts



2 works honored during art month

Harper Oliver '32 and **Kaya Watkins '32** (above, from left) received special statewide honors in Ohio's Youth Art Month Flag/Graphic Contest, sponsored by the Ohio Art Education Association. Harper placed second in the 3rd-5th grade flag category and Kaya received an honorable mention in the 3rd-5th grade graphic category.

up for the Congressional Prize, the exhibition's top award and which comes with the privilege of having the work shown in the U.S. Capitol for a year. (Alex won the Congressional Prize last year.) He also received the Lourdes University Award, and Addy's mixed-media piece titled "Splintering" received the Vint'illage Award. Both are sponsor awards and came with monetary prizes.

2 works selected for Ohio exhibit

Alex Ni '24 and **JJ Sills '24** had works chosen for the highly competitive Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition. Nearly 8,100 pieces were submitted from more than 3,000 Ohio high school students; jurors selected only 319. The exhibition opened in April and featured a drawing titled "Mutation" by JJ and a sculpture titled "The Clods" by Alex. The exhibition is at the Rhodes State Office Tower in



counties. Congratulations to **Sarita Gomez '29** (her clay mug is pictured above), **Coral House '32**, **Matilda Huhn '30**, **Bronson Latta '35**, **Allie Marker '32**, **Phoebe McAndrew '34**, **Brooklyn Nietz '33**, **Anika Pillai '31**, **Honor Savage-Edwards '32**, and **Gigi Stierman '31**.

Arts Commission selects teacher's art for signal box

Artwork by **Kristin Kowalski P '34**, Middle and Upper School art instructor, was chosen to appear on a signal box in downtown Toledo. The Arts Commission organized the competition as part of a multi-year project to cover boxes throughout Toledo to aesthetically enhance the pedestrian experience. (The boxes contain the control equipment to run nearby traffic lights.) Using the competition's theme of flora and fauna, she digitally created images of flowers from some of her ceramic sculptures. The artwork was translated into a vinyl wrap, which now encases a box at Summit and Monroe streets near the Owens Corning headquarters.



Art chosen for Congressional exhibition

The works of three Maumee Valley students appeared in the 41st Annual Ninth Congressional District Invitational High School Art Exhibition at the Toledo Museum of Art. The students were **Addy Jaffe '26**, **Alex Ni '24**, and **JJ Sills '24** (works pictured above, left to right). The juried event is presented in partnership between The Arts Commission of Toledo and Congressman Marcy Kaptur. Alex's watercolor painting titled "Numbed" was a runner

Columbus. In addition, Alex's painting titled "The Servile" was chosen for the Cameo Exhibition, which is displayed on digital screens viewable by visitors to the offices of the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.

10 students featured in Youth Art Exhibition

The Northwest Ohio Youth Art Month Exhibition featured the works of regional artists, including 10 from the Lower and Middle School. The exhibition featured work from students in eight Northwest Ohio

Audiences enjoy seasonal concerts

Students in 2nd and 3rd grade displayed their creativity and musical talents in March during the annual **2/3 Concert & Art Show**. They presented songs and stories, played instruments, and performed dances as images of their recent artwork were displayed on a screen above the stage. The songs, stories, and dances represented indigenous regions of the Northeast, Midwest, and Southeast they had studied. After the concert, families went to the Blakey Resource Center to view the villages students created to represent the indigenous peoples.

Students in grades 4 through 6 entertained classmates and families in December during the annual **Concert & Art Show**. The show featured songs, instrumental performances, and even a few choreographed dances—all paying tribute to jazz and the sounds of the Caribbean. Above them on the stage played a slideshow featuring their WOW pieces (Wonderful Original Work) from their art class.

The talents of 7th and 8th graders were on full display in December during **Showcase**, the annual exhibition of artistic, dramatic, and musical abilities. Two groups of students performed in person: those demonstrating song-playing talents on ukuleles and a second performing a comedy play about a zombie apocalypse. A third group had artwork created from the first semester projected above the stage.

Middle and Upper School musicians and vocalists performed in December during the

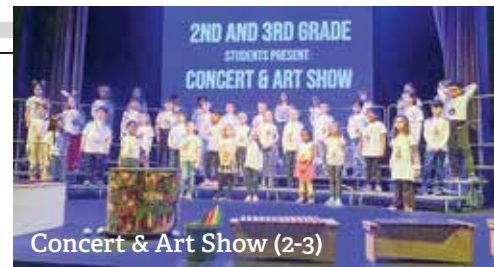
annual **Winter Concert**. With the theme of “Fire and Water,” the String Chamber Ensemble and Mixed Middle School Strings combined performed eight songs, including “Dancing Waters” and “Dance of Fire.” The Upper School Vocal Chamber Ensemble performed six songs, including a few holiday classics as well as “In The Heights.”

Student musicians achieve honors

Zach Kiehl '24 performed with the highly competitive Ohio All-State Orchestra in a February concert in Columbus, where the student musicians had rehearsed over the previous three days.

Seven MV students were selected to play in the High School Honors Orchestra and Band in January under the auspices of the Ohio Music Education Association's District One. The band performed in January to a full house at the Stranahan Theater. Participating were **Sofia Avram '26**; violinists **Andrea Liedberg '24**, **Corinne Moore '26**, and **Mohammad Tal '25**; and flutist **Ella Hu '27**. Cellists **Lyra Qian '24** and **Julian Beatty-Duarte '28** also were accepted but were unable to participate.

Four MV musicians brought the sounds of the season and goodwill to residents of a family shelter over the holidays. Performing were **Karen Chen '24**, **Carol Tang '24**, **Sydney Abercrombie '25**, and **Andrea Liedberg '24**. The families loved the experience and enjoyed sharing the treats our students brought. Leading Families Home runs the emergency family shelter in Toledo's central city as part of its efforts to support long-term independence.



Concert & Art Show (2-3)



Concert & Art Show (4-6)



Showcase (7-8)



Winter Concert (MS, US)



Shakespeare meets MTV in reimagined production of ‘Twelfth Night’

MV Theatre this fall presented a spirited production of “Twelfth Night (or What You Will),” one of Shakespeare's most beloved comedies. The tale of love, loss, and disguise was brought to life in a 1980s MTV reimagining using Shakespearean language, 1980s “RomCom” trappings, and an early MTV soundtrack.

In April, students presented “Alice by Heart,” a touching musical inspired by *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. The show explored the poignancy of first love, coming to terms with loss, and finding the courage to move forward.

Left: Jordan Reynolds '26 as Malvolio and Andrea Liedberg '24 (inset) as Tami Belch.



Soccer Success



Asa Karns '24



Kashi Tomic '24

Boys' soccer has remarkable season as athletes shine

The boys' varsity soccer team had one of its most remarkable seasons ever this fall, winning not only the conference title but earning the top awards for player and coach of the year.

Leading the way was **Vukasin "Kashi" Tomic '24**. Not only did he help lead the Hawks to an undefeated season in the Toledo Area Athletic Conference (and the team's first title since 2004) as well as a Sectional title, but he also was named TAAC Player of the Year. His other honors include:

- Named to the United Soccer Coaches All-Great Lakes Region Team, one of only three athletes chosen from our region from any conference.
- Scoring the winning goal in a 1-0 double-overtime victory against Ottawa Hills in the District semifinals.
- Named 1st Team All-District and 2nd Team All-State in Division III.

For his leadership in preparing and guiding Kashi and the other Hawks, MV's **Chad Lillich** was named "Coach of the Year."

Another senior with a remarkable season was **Asa Karns**. He became the school's all-time leader in goals (76) and assists (53). Asa also was named 1st Team All-TAAC and 1st Team All-District and 2nd Team All-State in Division III. In January, he signed an intent letter to play soccer at the University of Findlay, a Division II program that competes in the Great Midwest Athletic Conference.

Several other Hawks received All-TAAC honors. Named to the 1st Team were **Aiden Skinner '24**, **Gabe Skinner '26**, and **Demetre Wheeler '25**. Named to the 2nd Team were **Seba Celli '27**, **Ehsan Darr '24**, **Nour Eltahawy '24**, and **Rami Ridi '24**.



Young Hawk athletes celebrated during assembly

At a special fall assembly, our youngest Hawk athletes (students in the Lower School) were recognized at a Lower School assembly (above) for playing soccer and cross country.



MV hosts cross-country meet for K-6 athletes

Maumee Valley hosted members of the Toledo Area Athletic Conference Young League at a K-6 cross-country meet in October. More than 150 people came to cheer on the athletes from area schools. Thank you to co-organizers **Heather Rakosik P '30**, Lower School athletic director and physical education teacher, and **Jessie Stailey-Wingard**, physical education teacher and assistant athletic director, and the event's many volunteers.

11 basketball players earn Scholarship Society Awards

Nine Maumee Valley seniors and two juniors earned Scholarship Society Awards from the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association. Leading the way were seven seniors on the boys' varsity basketball team, which had a team GPA of 3.5. Three Hawk athletes had GPAs of 4.0 or better. Seniors statewide are eligible if they have a 3.2 GPA for seven semesters. Juniors are eligible if they have a 3.2 GPA for five semesters. Both must also demonstrate the highest standards of citizenship and sportsmanship.



Field hockey advances into state playoffs

The varsity field hockey team finished the year 7-9-1 and advanced into the state playoffs before losing to Hawken after two overtimes and two penalty stroke periods. Thirteen athletes were named to the Ohio Field Hockey Coaches Association's Academic All-Ohio Team. **Annika Slotterbeck '24** and **Phoebe Schocket '24** received Honorable Mention honors for the Northeast Field Hockey All-Region team.

Alex Ni, Tyler Foster advance to states

Alex Ni '24 advanced to the State Indoor Track and Field championship in the triple jump. **Tyler Foster '24** advanced to the Ohio Swimming and Diving Swim Championships for a third consecutive year. Tyler finished 15th in the 200-yard freestyle and 10th in the 100-yard backstroke in Division II.

Hoops program scares up fun at UT event

Members of the Maumee Valley basketball program passed out candy and greeted visitors (right) in October as sponsors of the annual "Tricks, Treats, and Dunks" event hosted by The University of Toledo basketball program at Savage Arena. Maumee Valley is a proud sponsor of UT athletics program this year.

Notable achievements:

- **Joshua Wang '25** competed in the Tiffin High School Open, which featured more than 100 teams. He finished 2nd in both long jump and triple jump, 16th in the 60m, and 17th in the 200m.
- **Ryan Cui '24** placed 2nd, **Joshua Wang '25** 4th, and **Alex Ni '24** 7th in the long jump while competing against athletes from 57 teams at the BGSU Sid Sink Indoor Track Invitational. In the triple jump, Alex finished 2nd and Ryan 4th. **Katherine Zheng '25** finished 8th in the 60m hurdles and our 4x200 team finished 6th.
- The varsity boys' cross-country team finished as runner-up in the TAAC Championships. **Tristan Hirt '25** and **Charlie Harris '27** finished eighth and ninth, respectively. Both were named 2nd Team All-TAAC.
- The varsity girls' cross-country team finished third in the TAAC with **Isabella Stueve '27** finishing eighth.
- Middle School cross-country runner **Luke Oberlin '29** finished sixth at the TAAC Championships.



4 named to All-TAAC hoops' team

Four members of the boys' varsity basketball program received honors this year from the Toledo Area Athletic Conference:

- **Amani Dickerson '24**: 1st Team All-TAAC and 1st Team All-District 7.
- **CJ Majors '24**: 1st Team All-TAAC and 1st Team All-District 7.
- **Jorge Soriano '24**: Honorable Mention All-TAAC and All-District 7.
- **Kee'ran Stokes '27**: Honorable Mention All-TAAC.

Spring Sports

Make sure to come out and cheer on our athletes and coaches during the spring sports season. Our teams are boys' varsity tennis, junior varsity and varsity girls' lacrosse, and Middle School and varsity track and field (both co-ed). Follow the teams' schedules at mvcds.org/sports.

Join the Maumee Valley Boosters in fueling our community spirit!

Calling all parents and supporters to lend a hand and make a difference

We are seeking enthusiastic volunteers to power our mission of excellence, especially by taking shifts inside our beloved food trailer. By dedicating your time, you're not just serving up delicious treats, you also are fueling opportunities for our students and enhancing their educational experience. Whether you are a culinary connoisseur or simply eager to contribute, your involvement makes a significant impact! Contact Rob **Conover**, athletic director, at rconover@mvcds.org to express your interest.



Fly high with Hawk Nation pride!

Dive into our online spirit store, your one-stop destination for all things Maumee Valley Country Day School! From cozy blankets to stylish drinkware and eye-catching decals, Maumee Valley has everything you need to showcase your love for Maumee Valley in style.

Wrap yourself in the warmth of Hawk Nation with premium blankets, perfect for cozy nights or spirited picnics. Sip in style with our sleek drinkware, featuring the

iconic MV logo, ensuring every sip is filled with school spirit. And don't forget to deck out your belongings with our vibrant decals, letting everyone know you are proud to be part of the Maumee Valley community. Whether you're a student, alumni, parent, or faculty member, our spirit store has something for everyone. Visit our online store and gear up to be a true Hawk ambassador wherever you go. Find the link at mvcds.org/sports.



Tennis team serves up exceptional season

The girls' tennis program had a remarkable fall season at both the individual and team level. The team advanced to the District finals with a 3-2 Semifinal victory over Shelby in the Ohio Tennis Coaches Association tournament. They eventually lost, 3-2, to Ottawa Hills in the finals.

Sofia Avram '26, **Mari-Yona Shannon '27**, and **Layan Ridi '26** (pictured left to right) swept the singles in the Sectional tennis tournament. Mari-Yona finished as Sectional champion, Sofia was runner-up, and Layan was third; all moved on to compete at the District level.

Mari-Yona won the District singles championship and advanced to the Ohio High School Athletic Association tournament. She beat three competitors in straight sets to earn her medal and ticket to States.



1000th Point Club

Congratulations to teammates and fellow seniors **CJ Majors** (left) and **Amani Dickerson** for reaching the 1,000-point club in the same season. CJ scored his against Miami Valley on Dec. 2 and Amani scored his against Hilltop on Jan. 20. Both games were stopped to allow for mid-game recognition of the achievement. The boys' varsity basketball team was ranked as high as No. 2 this year in Ohio's Division IV.



A Beacon o



The Millennium Theatre's Milestone Anniversary

By Kevin Merrill

Cast members perform a song during the 2022 production of "Chicago: Teen Edition."

f Creativity





During its first quarter century, the Millennium Theatre has become such an essential component of the Maumee Valley community and fine arts scene that it's difficult to imagine life on campus

without it. Beyond hosting 60-plus productions since opening in March 1999, the theater serves as the gathering space on campus for town halls, assemblies, guest speakers, public forums, musical performances, spelling bees, and award ceremonies.

"It's the place of celebration on campus. That's its biggest contribution in terms of a broader impact," said **Brian Bozanich P '20**, the current drama teacher and resident director who arrived in 2016. "It's very much a Swiss Army knife kind of venue."

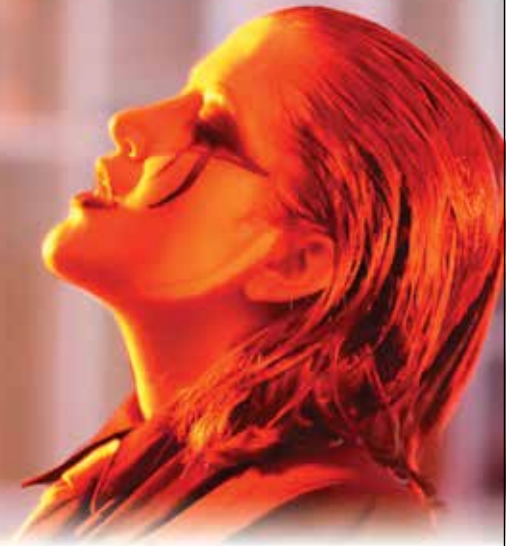
Its greatest contribution, however, has been cultural as the 300-seat showcase for theatrical productions, beginning with "Something's Afoot" in 1999 and extending through this

April's performances of "Alice by Heart." Along the way, the stage has become a second home for students appearing on stage, serving as part of the crew, or creating and assembling costumes.

"The Millennium was always a safe place for me to grow and learn," said **Kevin Ludwig '22**. "The way Mr. B [Bozanich] approaches the use of that space, you



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: A scene from "A Wrinkle in Time;" younger students performing in the "James and the Giant Peach Jr.;" and Kevin Ludwig '22 as the Beast in "Beauty and the Beast."



can get out of it exactly what you need. He does not hesitate to give you the tools you need to set you up for success, and then trusts you to use those tools."

Ludwig has continued his love of theater at the University of Michigan, the nation's top musical theater program. He is majoring in musical theater and has appeared in five productions in just his first four semesters on campus.

"I was able to be on almost every side of the Millennium Theatre," Ludwig said. "I was able to be in shows, work backstage, build and paint sets, and even build the entire beast puppet for 'Beauty and the Beast.' That's one of the beautiful things about theater. There's no straight way of teaching it like a math problem. You have to experience it and then go from there, and I think Mr. B has catered that space to be perfect for creating those learning opportunities."

Families also treasure the theater's dual role as both an appealing performance venue and safe and nurturing place for children.

"It's a beautiful and special place not only for the shows, but as a place for kids to experience theater," said Jennifer Griffith, whose three daughters—**Emily '13**, **Jessie '15**, and **Elizabeth '19**—all participated in productions while students.

Like many MV theater families, the Griffiths poured time and energy into supporting the casts and productions, whether it was husband Jay building sets or Jennifer working concessions.

"Theater was a really big thing for our family and where we spent a lot of our time," Griffith said. "It was an experience for the entire family. Everybody came to see the shows and, for my daughters, theater students became their core friend base. And we remain close with Kevin Hayes [former MV theater instructor]. He was such a wonderful mentor and built the theater family that we were blessed to experience."

The love of theater nurtured at the Millennium followed their daughters into college. Emily later earned dual bachelor degrees in physics and astronomy and theater at Grinnell College. Ellie received a theater scholarship at Berry College, and Jessie was involved in improv while at Kenyon College. "She had a lot of fun with it, and it was sort of a continuation of that whole love of theater that started at Maumee Valley," Griffith said.

Origins and Construction

One of the influences behind the theater's construction was the professional friendship between Hayes, the former Maumee Valley drama teacher, and **Martha Wolfe Farmer '44**, who provided the lead gift for the theater's construction. After earning degrees from Vassar College and Western Reserve University and raising a family, Farmer returned to school and earned a doctorate at Bowling Green State University. She became a professor of theater at The Ohio State University-Lima campus where she established its theater department in 1970. (The Martha W. Farmer Theatre for the Performing Arts at OSU-Lima is named after her.)

They first met while Hayes was interviewing for a teaching position on the Lima campus, although she was familiar with some of his directing work while he was at OSU in Columbus. He eventually assumed her role as manager of the Lima theater program. Ten years later, he received a call from her about an opening for a drama teacher at Maumee Valley. "I owe all my time at Maumee Valley to Martha," Hayes said. (Farmer passed away in 2011.)

He arrived in 1997 and produced only three shows in the Millhon Auditorium (MV's original home for theater) before moving into the more lavish and audience-friendly confines of the Millennium. "One of my mentors said there are some of us who have been teaching for 35 years on the promise of a theater. So count yourself lucky," Hayes said of getting a new theater after only two years on the job. "And that's always stuck with me."

During the late 1990s, planning was underway for what would become The Campaign for Maumee Valley Country Day School, a two-year fundraising effort in 1997-1998 to significantly upgrade and expand the campus while also growing the school's endowment. And one of the key elements of that plan would be a new theater to replace the Millhon.

Eventually, the campaign's success, including support for the Millennium, capped a prodigious decade of campus construction and expansion, starting with the 1991 opening of the Wolfe Gallery. (The Johnson-Bayer Physical Education Complex, which opened in February 1999, was also part of the campaign.)

Once the school committed to building a new theater, the next question was where to place it. The location was selected not

only because of its proximity to existing buildings, but also to take advantage of a natural ravine that flowed through campus. Part of that natural contour can still be seen in the wooded area adjacent to the Alida Ashley

Amphitheatre and through the windows along the curved hallway behind the Dining Hall. That ravine would serve as the natural contours for the theater.

Even today, a part of the Millennium's distinction is the angle (rake, in technical terms) of its seating. No seat is more than 35 feet from the stage.

The suggestion to construct it using that profile came from Hayes, who drew his inspiration from the Teatro Olimpico (Olympic Theater), a Renaissance-era theater in the Vicenza province of northern Italy.

"The way the seats are configured, you're right up against the stage, and there really is a give-and-take between the actors and audience," said Bozanich.

"When I would bring people into the theater for the first time, I would leave the lights off intentionally," Hayes said. "Once they were inside, then I'd flip on the lights, and they would ooh and ahh and say, 'I never knew this was here.' It always impressed visitors." And with the construction came new drama and musical classrooms, located behind the main stage.

As excitement grew around the idea of a new theater, other complementary elements were envisioned, from the Clock Tower and Alida Ashley Amphitheatre to the Kasperzak Plaza. All were added as part of the campaign and, along with the blue-tinted stone added to the front of the gallery, formed the new cultural hub of campus.

The Clock Tower, now the most recognizable landmark on campus, was actually not part of the earliest discussions about a theater. It appeared in an architect's drawing as a way to imagine the new building and its surroundings. The tower's profile and aesthetic appeal gained admirers, who came to see it as an essential element of the design.

"Three families looked at the drawings and said, 'We like it. Is that part of the plan?'" Hayes recalled. "And the architect said no, it would cost too much. So the families pitched in and paid for it." A plaque in a nearby theater hallway commemorates that contribution. It reads: "Given as a tribute to the Welles, Stranahan, and Ashley families who have contributed time, talent, and treasure to Maumee Valley over the past decade."

"All passes, art alone endures."

Martha Wolfe Farmer '44



Kevin Hayes, Tony Morris Smith '44, and Martha Wolfe Farmer '44 at the theater's 1999 ribbon-cutting.



The Teatro Olimpico in Italy, the inspiration for the Millennium's seating.



Construction of the Millennium before its walls and roof were in place.

Similarly, the amphitheater's brickwork was painted to match that of the Smead chimney, rising from the roofline behind the gallery. (The amphitheater's ledge is now the jumping-off point for every group "Lifer" photograph taken at the end of each school year.)

The Dedication

As planning took shape for the dedication ceremony, the actors preparing for the first show ("Something's Afoot") were rehearsing in the Millhon and the Dining Hall. (Hayes wanted a musical to be the first show performed; after consulting others and considering the number of potential actors, chose "Something's Afoot," which is a musical spoof on an Agatha Christie murder mystery.) As construction wrapped up, the few remaining rehearsals shifted to the new stage where sets were being quickly constructed before the opening curtain on Friday, March 19.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony in 1999.



At the March 5 ribbon-cutting, the Upper School's String Ensemble provided music and students in Hayes' acting class presented a choral reading of a scene from "Hamlet" where the lead character shares advice with the players. The keynote speaker was Farmer, who during her remarks recited the quote that appears on the dedication plaque near the theater's main entry: "All passes, art alone endures." The theater dedication was followed two months later with the dedication of the plaza, made possible through the generosity of **Rebecca (Swaney) Kasperzak '76** and **Dean Kasperzak '76**.

Past and Future

There have been 61 productions since the opening, including several produced as part of Upper School Intensives (see list, page 19). Starting in 2017-2018, a biennial musical was set aside for Lower and Middle School students. Also in 2017, a third annual show was added to provide more opportunities for students. The winter production (between the fall and spring shows) began alternating annually between a show directed by an Upper School student and the Lower and Middle School musical.

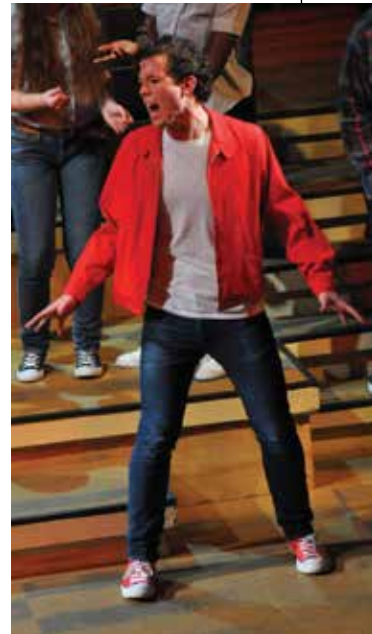
As one would expect, William Shakespeare features prominently in five of the productions: "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)," "As You Like It" (performed twice), "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "The Tempest," and "Twelfth Night (or What You Will)" (performed twice).

As the school's largest and most used gathering place, the wear and tear has created the need for periodic updates. The most significant ones occurred in the spring and summer of 2022, when the lobby lighting was upgraded and carpeting replaced, as was the carpeting inside the theater.

The projects were funded with money raised during the "Raise the Paddle" fundraiser at the 2022 MV Gala.

The sound system also has been upgraded as new technology becomes available in order to make the most of the theater's high-quality acoustics. "One of my favorite times is being in the booth when the strings are on stage. The sound in here is wonderful when you have the string musicians going full tilt," Bozanich said.

The system, from stage mics and theater speakers to the soundboard in the tech booth, are also used to help students learn new skills and understand a production from every angle. "I want to make sure that students are being trained technically on whatever the current equipment is so when they leave here, they could go to any college venue and run lights and run sound," Bozanich said.



Bringing Art to Life: The Enduring Influence of the Millennium

Here are the shows performed in the Millennium Theatre since its opening in March 1999:

1999

Something's Afoot (musical) ▶



1999-2000

The Dining Room
Little Mary Sunshine (musical)

2000-2001

The Night Of January 16th
Blithe Spirit

2001-2002

As You Like It
Cinderella (musical)

2002-2003

A Thurber Carnival
Jupus Red Eye

2003-2004

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)
A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (musical)

2004-2005

The Importance of Being Earnest
Little Women



2005-2006

And Then There Were None
Little Shop Of Horrors (musical) ▲

2006-2007

Autumn One Acts (Cursed Be He Who Moved My Bones, The Actor's Nightmare, Blind Date)
Twelfth Night

2007-2008

The Birds
Once Upon A Mattress (musical)

2008-2009

The Mousetrap
Alice In Wonderland

2009-2010

A Midsummer Night's Dream
The Robber Bridegroom (musical)

2010-2011

Our Town ▶
The Dining Room



2011-2012

As You Like It
Brigadoon (musical)

2012-2013

Chekhov in Yalta
The King and I (musical)
Almost, Maine*

2013-2014

Radium Girls
Hairspray (musical)

2014-2015

Antigone
Cinderella (musical)

2015-2016

The Foreigner
Annie (musical) ▶



2016-2017

The Lost Boy
In A Grove*
Footloose (musical)

2017-2018

Big Fish (musical)
Schoolhouse Rock (musical)#
The Diviners
The Tempest



2018-2019

Blithe Spirit
Lockdown*
Seussical: The Musical (musical) ▶

2019-2020

Head Over Heels (musical)
The Little Mermaid Jr. (musical)#



2020-2021

War of the Worlds
Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind*
Clocktower Cabaret (musical) ▲

2021-2022

Eurydice
Beauty and the Beast (musical)
She Kills Monsters



2022-2023

Chicago: Teen Edition (musical) ▶
James and the Giant Peach Jr. (musical)#
Songs for a New Millennium (Theatre)*

A Wrinkle in Time ▶

The Iliad, The Odyssey, and All of Greek Mythology in 75 Minutes or Less*



2023-2024

Twelfth Night (or What You Will)
Alice By Heart (musical) ▶



* student directed
Lower and Middle School show



1999 – Something's Afoot



2016 - 2017 – Footloose



2017-2018 – Schoolhouse Rock



2017-2018 – The Tempest



2014-2015 – Antigone



2022-2023 – James and the Giant Peach Jr.

Journey into Africa



Students form cross-cultural connections during South Africa Intensive

By Daniel Knorek '22

One of the destinations was the Cape of Good Hope, the most southwestern point on the African continent.

A group of Maumee Valley students and faculty participated in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in January: flying to South Africa for a winter Intensive course. We asked them to share their most fun, interesting, and impactful experiences before, during, and after the trip along with their takeaways from the nation's array of cultures and natural landscapes.

The trip was coordinated by members of the Global Leadership Program (GLP), one of MV's largest student-run extracurricular organizations. Its mission is to "foster the development of compassionate, aware global citizens while building skills in leadership, communication, and civic action." As a part of its wide-ranging work—from community service and food drives to speaking events and full-day educational programs for the Upper School—GLP annually organizes an international trip experience each year during one of the Upper School's three Intensives.

In preparation for this trip, students studied South Africa's history, with a particular focus on the apartheid and post-apartheid era and a comparison to U.S. history. They also read and discussed *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah to better understand some of the racial complexities of the apartheid era, and they examined Hofstede's Cultural Dimensions to unpack cultural differences and how they reflect a place's history. After the trip, the learning continued as they reflected on what they learned and how those experiences affected their lives.

Kelsy Oberhaus '03, an Upper School Spanish teacher, alumna, and GLP co-director, enjoyed her role in facilitating the course and experience and compared it to her Maumee Valley experience two decades ago.

"As a student at MV, my first trip abroad was on a Winterim independent study trip to Tanzania where we camped in the Serengeti and spent most of our time exploring the wilderness rather than cities," Oberhaus said. "This Intensive was a truly full-circle experience for me, and I did feel a sense of déjà vu at certain points, especially while out on safari. I also felt so fortunate to be a part of many of my students' first steps toward exploring and learning about the world independent of



From top: Students preparing for a safari in Kruger National Park; visiting with a statue of Nelson Mandela in Nelson Mandela Square in Sandton; and examples of the abundant wildlife seen throughout the trip.

their families, and their eagerness to continue doing so is something I strive for in my role.”

Joining her as chaperones were **Kate Fleming P '15, '18, '20**, an Upper School social studies teacher and one of MV's college counselors who lived and taught in South Africa for 11 years; and **Dr. Jami Barnes**, the school's dean of academics and registrar for the Upper School.

While Oberhaus has accrued several international travel experiences with students since her Tanzania trip in 2001, for many MV students, this was their first time not only traveling to Africa but anywhere outside the United States. The trip's logistics were coordinated by EF Tours, a student travel program. The company created diverse itineraries for the students and paired them with knowledgeable, on-the-ground tour guides to get the most out of their trip, regardless of individual experiences with the local culture or fluency with the language.

Among the curated experiences during their 11-day trip: visiting the Apartheid Museum and other important historical locations in Johannesburg; taking a 10-hour safari along with a toboggan ride through Kruger National Park; visiting Cape of Good Hope, the most southwestern point on the African continent; and exploring cultural landmarks in Cape Town, including Nelson Mandela's prison cell on Robben Island.

The abundance and diversity of animals and landscapes during the safari in Kruger National Park left students amazed. The park is one of South Africa's largest game reserves and one of the largest national parks on the continent. At 7,500 square miles, it's roughly the size of New Jersey.

“This 10-hour safari was a life-changing experience because I was able to see all these different animals such as elephants, lions, rhinos, giraffes, and more,” said **Rami Ridi '25**. “The scenery was also a sight to see. Wherever we were, the views were always great and I couldn't take my eyes off of it.”

Nestled near the park is a mountain range called Long Tom Pass, where students could ride an alpine coaster through the winding hills of Misty Mountain.

“Reaching speeds of 45-plus miles an hour in a small open car as we rode the alpine coaster through Misty Mountain was fun and a huge

adrenaline rush, but the most interesting activity was seeing all the animals during the safari at Kruger National Park,” said **Blake Yustick '25**. “We even had zebras and wildebeests outside the doors of the cabins!”

“Wherever we were, the views were always great and I couldn't take my eyes off of it.”

Rami Ridi '25

Below: Maumee Valley students examined fossils at the Cradle of Humankind at the Sterkfontein Caves World Heritage Site before posing for a group photo.



@maropengsa
@pushamo_media_ent

Since its origin in January 1978 as Winterim—later being expanded to three-week experiences three times a year—Intensives in the Upper School are viewed as opportunities for personal growth and an essential element of a Maumee Valley education.

“A trip like this one represents a huge opportunity for growth for our students. Many of them are traveling without their families for the first time, getting their first passport stamps, and even having their first experiences with flying,” Oberhaus said. “They learn to be more independent, to push through some discomfort, and to adapt to new situations and conditions like not speaking a local language or eating food they might not have been brave enough to try back home. When students open themselves up to learning about different cultures and experiences and choose to focus on what unites us rather than what divides us, it enriches our world in so many ways.”

Daniel Knorek '22 is a sophomore at Columbia University in New York studying English and creative writing. He is a copy editor on the student-run newspaper the Columbia Daily Spectator. While at Maumee Valley, he was a member of GLP and founded the Upper School's Writing Club.



A photo op in Cape Town with Table Mountain in the background



From statistics to regattas, putting intense into Intensives

The trip to South Africa wasn't the only Intensive project this winter on campus. All students in grades 7-12 spent the early weeks of the year actively researching a new topic, either as part of an Intensive or independent study. The students shared their findings and experiences with peers and community members during Intensive Fairs.

“It is important to note that a Maumee Valley education is not passive. Students cannot just expect to sit back and let the learning come to them,” said Stephanie Harman, head of the Upper School. “Our students must go get their learning, actively participate

in their learning, and reflect on their learning. All of these components take intentional practice.”

In the Upper School, students in the Winter Intensive chose from 10 accelerated course options (including the trip to South Africa) for three weeks of focused learning and experiences. Topics ranged from “Applied Ethics” and “The Mystery Story” to “Intro to Probability and Statistics.” In addition, 16 students conducted independent study projects, which they designed themselves with guidance and approval from US faculty.

Whereas Upper School students focused on their projects every day, Middle School students used an hour each day to immerse themselves in one of four topics: How to Get Your First Job, Ancient Games, Digital Art and Doodling, and Boat Regatta. None was as physically demanding as the Boat Regatta, which required students to perform their final experiment in the ultimate wet lab.

In that Intensive, teams tested their ability to create floating devices (most ended up looking like canoes) using only cardboard and duct tape and then to paddle them from one end of the Wolf Creek YMCA pool and back. In doing so, they were applying knowledge from marine engineering and buoyancy studies and feedback from prototypes.



Top left: Students demonstrate newfound knowledge of probability and statistics at the Upper School Intensive Fair. **Above:** Middle School students testing the physics of their handmade boat.



I had the pleasure of meeting current MV students during their college visit tour to Chicago during spring break. Besides, I'm always looking for an opportunity to wear my MVCDS shirt!



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- Gail Stekettee '67**
- Brent West '77**

(Thank you to **Linnea Johnson '13**, who recently rolled off the Council, for her service.)

Connection plans growing by the week

Happy spring from the Alumni Council! We are so excited that we have been able to already connect with so many of you this year. We hosted our very first (virtual) Town Hall in March and loved chatting with all of the wonderful alums who were able to share that space with us. Additionally, our director of alumni relations, **Brandi Baker Parcell**, alongside MV staffers **Dr. Trent Hayes** and **Kate Fleming**, and MV students visited alumni this spring in Columbus, Oxford (Miami University), and Chicago.

We are looking forward to more opportunities to connect with you this year, including our trip to the West Coast (San Francisco, Seattle, and Los Angeles) and right here in our own backyard for Homecoming. For a full list, see the calendar on page 29.

Remember: You don't need to wait for an alumni event to get or stay connected. Our MVCDS Connect is an online platform that brings MV alumni together for easy searching and connecting. It allows you to post jobs and internships and offer your support to the community. Join today at mvcds.org/connect.

Our next major event is the **89th Annual Smead Awards**, for which we received 54 nomination votes from alumni. The amount submitted was a big win for the Alumni Council. We are so appreciative of everyone who took the time to vote for this year's nominees. Through your engagement and active participation, we are able to honor and celebrate the achievements of those alumni and alumni parents in the MV community.

Please register for the May 17 Smead Awards luncheon, which starts at 11:30 a.m. in the Millhon Auditorium. Visit mvcds.org/smead to save your seat.

I cannot wait to see everyone Sept. 20-21 on campus for our **Homecoming & Reunion Weekend**, especially those alumni from classes with graduation years ending in 4's and 9's. I know I am excited to reconnect with old friends, revisit familiar haunts, and create new memories as alumni. I hope you are, too.

I am truly grateful for your continued involvement in our alumni community. Your dedication enriches the fabric of our school and ensures that the spirit of Maumee Valley continues to thrive for generations to come. Please share feedback and ideas about alumni programming at MValumniCouncil@gmail.com and CC Brandi at bbakerparcell@mvcds.org. We look forward to connecting with you soon!

Grace O'Leary '16

Alumni Council President, member of the MV Board of Trustees

About the Alumni Council: The Council functions as an executive board to the Maumee Valley Alumni Association, which serves as alumni's voice in all programming activities at the school.



Ooga, Ooga!

Alumni celebrate at Get Back, Give Back

Alumni returned to campus Nov. 22 for Get Back, Give Back Day and participated in the singing of MV classics, including the "Auto Song." Leading them from the front of the room (above) was **Frank Daughterty P '18**, Middle School science teacher. Carrying the tune with him were (from left) **Nick Hirt '97**, **Leah Whitaker '00**, **Bennett Whitaker '97**, **Kelsy Oberhaus '03**, **Jena Pugh '04**, **Hassan Elgamal '16**, **Fareid El Gafy '16**, **Jack Gensler '22**, **Ananya Saini '23**, **Paige Yustick '23**, and **Miller Karns '20**.

The day provided the perfect opportunity for the Gensler brothers to be together on campus again. With **Brandi Baker Parcell**, director of alumni relations, were **Cooper '24** (left) and **Jack '22**. (The boys attended West Side Montessori, where they had her as a teacher.)



Nearly 30 alumni, alumni family members, current families, and staff attended a mixer hosted at Earnest Brew Works following Get Back Give Back Day. Each alumnus received a door prize with special MV-branded goodies (left) courtesy of the school and Earnest Brew Works. Among the attendees: **Melanie Gross '91**, **Nick Hirt '97**, **Kelsy Oberhaus '03**, **Jena Pugh '04**, **Carter Bayer '10**, **Nihal Kattar '13**, **Sachin Hejeebu '15**, **Deena Zucker '15**, and **Miller Karns '20**. Thanks to **Keefe** and **Allison Snyder P '36** (co-owner of Earnest Brew Works) for donating \$2 per attendee to the MV Fund; and the small bites were courtesy of **Melanie Gross '91**.



Erie Chapman, III '61 spoke with Upper School students in November about the value of learning across multiple disciplines, perseverance, and being committed to others. On behalf of his foundation, he also presented the Foundation Renaissance Student Award to **Holden Folk '24** for his varied interests, achievements, and positive attitude. The award goes to an Upper School student with multiple talents and interests. Erie created the award based upon his own life's varied achievements, from being an attorney, former judge, and best-selling author to hospital CEO, ordained minister, and Emmy Award-winning host.



A film **Tyler Boehm '01** served on as executive producer won the U.S. Dramatic Audience Award at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival. The film ("Dídi") is a coming-of-age story about a 13-year-old Taiwanese-American and is directed by Sean Wang. The film also won the U.S. Dramatic Special Jury Prize for Best Ensemble Cast at Sundance; rights to the film were acquired by Focus Features, which plans to release the R-rated film in U.S. theaters starting July 26. Tyler's investment came through his company Unapologetic Projects, which works with underrepresented creators telling authentic stories.



Sy Zhang '10, a member of the MV Board of Trustees, visited from China in November. He spent time with students both in the Boehm Building and at the Dayal House. He leads investor relationships at Balance Capital, a real estate private equity fund headquartered in Seattle, WA.

Alyson Stoner '11 returned to Toledo in January to speak on behalf of proposed Ohio legislation creating regulation for child influencers (kidfluencers) ensuring proper compensation for their labor. They is an actor, singer, and dancer best known as one of the 12 children in the "Cheaper by the Dozen films" and a number of Disney projects, including two Camp Rock TV movies. "Taking steps to safeguard a portion of child influencers' earnings and their right to privacy is a crucial step in minimizing the harm that hundreds of thousands of children have experienced across traditional and digital media," they said.



Alex Evans '18 appeared in the dramatic rock musical "Next to Normal" at the Juliet Beck Auditorium in Perrysburg in October.



Emma Daugherty '18, a two-time state champion and All-American in the high jump, was inducted this fall into the Toledo Area Athletic Conference Hall of Fame. She won the Ohio indoor state high jump in 2016, the outdoor title in 2017, and the TAAC title four straight years. In 2017, she finished sixth at the New Balance High School National Championships, earning All-American honors. In addition to her state titles, Daugherty was indoor runner-up in 2017 and 2018 and outdoor runner-up in 2016. Above: Emma (holding her TAAC plaque) with (from left) **Rob Conover P '28, '29, '31**, MV athletic director, and coaches **Jack Dias P '21, '23** and Dr. Tara Morrin.

Congratulations to **Stephane Granato '20** (left) for completing an internship last semester at The White House in the Office of the First Lady Jill Biden. Stephane worked as a scheduling and advance intern. He is a senior at Georgetown University in the Walsh School of Foreign Service.



Former MV athletes share advice on recruiting, admissions



Thank you to four alumni from the Class of 2020 who spoke with current MV student-athletes about the world of college athletics and the recruitment and admissions process. Participating in the February webinar were (above, from left) **Maya Francisco** (field hockey at Allegheny College); **Zeb Jackson** (basketball at Virginia

Commonwealth University); **Patrick Lyell** (track and cross country at Grand Valley State University); and **Dez Jett** (basketball at Saint Mary's of the Woods College). The MV departments of athletics and college counseling organized the event to help students and families better prepare for success in college.

IN MEMORIAM

FACULTY & STAFF

Robert Foglia, a former history teacher at Maumee Valley, passed away Dec. 21. He later was a college professor at SUNY Orange County Community College.

Alma Rowe, a former bus driver for Maumee Valley, passed away Feb. 3.

ALUMNI

Luette (Goodbody) Semmes '44 passed away Nov. 17. While at Maumee Valley, she created the song and slogan "Be a Bond, Buy a Bond" to help raise money during World War II. She was featured in *Look* magazine for that work. She later attended Vassar, and then made a lifetime home in Potomac, MD, with husband Harry. She was very active in her community, including helping to begin the Head Start program for Potomac. She also founded and ran the *Potomac Almanac* newspaper for many years.



Ruth (Hargate) Tracy '58 passed away Jan. 7. She graduated from Depauw University with a degree in social work and later worked in Toledo. She also later taught at a Head Start program; a school in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; and ESL programs throughout the Cleveland area. Among her survivors is sister **Barbara (Hargate) Mitchell '60**.



Bernard R. "Robin" Baker III '64 passed away Jan. 28. He was an accomplished business and community leader, particularly in Palm Beach, FL, where he resided. Among his accomplishments were serving as president of Premier Title Co., which he founded to focus on real estate purchase, sale, and mortgage closings; founding UseMyBenefits.com, a personalized search engine for credit card and loyalty program benefits; and as a lawyer with a focus on real estate, particularly private clubs and resorts. He was preceded in death by sister **Lynn Baker '73**.



Katharine (Foster) Beverstock '80, one of many generations of Fosters to attend Maumee Valley Country Day School, passed away in December. Both her mother **Kay '58** and father **Stephen '57** graduated from Maumee Valley, as did her brother **Stephen Jr. '84** and sisters **Weezie '82** and **Bittin '86**. She was buried in Toledo's

Woodland Historical Cemetery next to her mother. She studied environmental design at the University of Colorado Boulder and later ventured to Idaho with her wolf hybrid, Kazan, where she crafted an eco-friendly house, using hand tools, in the untamed woods. She later served in the Peace Corps and became a Master Gardener. Among her survivors are two beloved sons Brooks and Reed and two granddaughters.

Jayann (Scollick) Jones '83 passed away March 11. Ms. Scollick was a beloved art teacher at both Robinson Junior High School (Toledo Public Schools) and Oak Hill High School in Oak Hill, WV. She was an artist, adventurer, problem solver and loved her friends and family fiercely.



COMMUNITY MEMBERS



Anthony E. Durham, father to **Elizabeth ("Izzy") '08** and husband of **Roberta (De Boer) Durham '74**, passed away Oct. 4. **Raj Tudi Reddy**, husband to Sapna and father to sons **Arjun '11** and **Aniroodh '13**, passed away Dec. 9.

David Bissonette, husband of longtime MV math teacher **Sue Bissonette**, passed away in February. Mrs. Bissonette taught for 26 years at Maumee Valley, retiring in 2006. The "Mz. Biss Life of School Award" in the Upper School was established in honor of her enduring legacy of dedication to students and the MV community.



Collegiate connections

During spring break in March, about 15 MV students spent time touring college campuses in an event co-ordinated by the Office of Alumni Relations and the Upper School's college counseling department. At several stops, alumni spoke to students about their experiences as a college student, the strengths of their respective universities, and how Maumee Valley prepared them to succeed in college.



One of the tour stops was The Ohio State University. Local alumni participated in a panel discussion before heading out to dinner, which was attended by (clockwise, from top right): **Alex Karcher '12**, **Brandi Baker Parcell**, **Angela Abram '83**, **Anne Virtue '04**, **Jena Pugh '04**, **Matt Lane '95**, and **Sachin Hejeebu '15**.



Oliver Zajac '23 greeted students upon arrival at the University of Chicago.



Blake Rachwal '22 and **Rachel Cheng '23**, Miami University students, with **Brandi Baker Parcell**, director of alumni relations.

Together again

Thank you for joining us for the 2023 Homecoming Weekend! We had alumni travel from near and far. The Senior Family & Alumni Tailgate during the varsity soccer game was the first of its kind and we can't wait to do it again this year. Thank you to the many faculty members who joined current and past Hawks! Following the tailgate, we enjoyed a beautiful cocktail hour on the Bluestone and then wrapped up our Friday activities by celebrating our amazing alumni at the Smead Awards dinner. Saturday started out bright and early with food trucks near the fields and tournament games on just about every available field. **We are excited to see you Sept. 20-21 for the next Homecoming & Reunion Weekend.**



Soaking it in: The weekend allowed alumni to relive their favorite spongee polo memories. Getting in some playing time were **Rashad Woodley '14** (center) and **Sachin Hejeebu '15** (right); refereeing the match was former faculty member **Terri Herrmann P '16, '19**.

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS IN 2024

- May 17: Smead Luncheon
- June 22: Alumni meet-up in Seattle, WA
- June 27: Alumni meet-up in San Francisco, CA
- June 29: Alumni meet-up in Los Angeles, CA
- July 11: DEIB update
- Sept. 20-21: Homecoming & Reunion Weekend
- Nov. 26: Get Back, Give Back Day
- Dec. 3: Giving Tuesday
- December: Alumni Holiday event (time, date TBD)



Hooping it up

Helping to fill the VIP alumni section at the Dec. 5 basketball game were (from left) **Nihal Kattar '13**, **Ford Koles '82**, and **Jewel Woodard '77**.



Travel guide

Thank you to **Dylan Bernstein '92**, a resident of South Africa, for meeting with MV and sharing ideas to help the student intensive trip in January go as smoothly as possible. Convening at Souk in downtown Toledo were (from left) **Brandi Baker Parcell**, director of alumni relations; Dylan; **Stephanie Harman P '22**, head of Upper School; and **Kelsy Oberhaus '03**, an Upper School Spanish teacher who also served as one of the trip's chaperones.



Holiday happenings

Downtown Toledo's new Glass City Metropark was the perfect backdrop Dec. 27 for a holiday alumni event. The event featured food, private warm cabanas, and ice skating along the park's Ribbon. Enjoying the warmth inside a cabana (above from left) were **Linnea Johnson '13**, **Emily Griffith '13**, **Jad Salem '13**, **Nihal Kattar '13**, and **Poom Pipatjarasgit '17**. Inset: Event attendees included (from left) **Kevin Stockard '84** and **Stephen Foster, Jr. '84**.



Tailgating fun: Enjoying the Homecoming Weekend soccer tailgate were (from left) **Shreyas Banerjee '19**, **Sahil Kattar '18**, **Finn Bamber '18**, and Upper School Spanish teacher **Adriana McNally, P '19, '21**.



Irish eyes: Among those attending the alumni class dinner during Homecoming at the Blarney Irish Pub in Toledo were (from left) **Sachin Hejeebu '15**, **Sahil Kattar '18**, **Nihal Kattar '13**, **Shreyas Banerjee '19**, and **Rashaan Preston '13**.



Record Day

New highs set on Giving Tuesday

The Maumee Valley community broke every record imaginable during Giving Tuesday on Nov. 28. Among the new highs reached were unique gifts (315), current students (75), current families (113), alumni (76), first-time donors (91), and the amount raised (\$61,000). The generosity shows the level of passion our community has for the school.

By reaching these totals, the campaign earned a \$10,000 gift from current parents on the Board of Trustees. Gifts were received from alumni from graduation years 1957 as well as 2036. However, we came up 12 short in our bid to collect a donation from all 50 states. (We'll have our eyes on these states next year: Alaska, Hawaii, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Vermont.)

Here's a look at where the \$61,000 came from:

- Students: \$1,985
- Alumni and alumni parents: \$14,457
- Current parents: \$23,464
- Faculty and staff: \$1,896
- Grandparents, friends, and former faculty: \$19,000

Ohio tax credit aids MV students

Through a state program, Ohio residents can receive a tax credit and help Maumee Valley students at the same time. Ohio is one of 18 states with a tax-credit scholarship program.

Ohio taxpayers receive dollar-for-dollar non-refundable tax credits up to \$750 for single filers and \$1,500 for joint filers (though each filer needs to make a \$750 donation to receive the \$1,500 credit) for donations to Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs).

The Ohio Association of Independent Schools (OAIS), of which Maumee Valley Country Day School is a member, is a registered SGO. When donating through the OAIS website, you can select Maumee Valley's general fund as the recipient of your gift. Maumee Valley pools the money to create a scholarship fund and assist students and families with demonstrated need.

OAIS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the independence of private schools in Ohio, fostering professional development opportunities, and promoting the quality education found at independent schools. Learn more at mvcds.org/sgo.

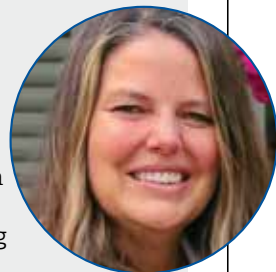
Amy Yustick named to lead strategy, giving

Maumee Valley has hired **Amy Yustick P '20, '23, '25** as its new director of strategy and advancement. With a wealth of experience in finance and strategy positions, coupled with her deep ties to the school community as a parent of alumni and a current junior, she brings a unique blend of expertise and passion to this vital role.

She has an extensive background in finance and strategic planning, having held prominent positions with multiple companies in the automotive industry, including Dana Inc., Ford Motor Co., and Bosch. Her proven track record of developing and implementing successful strategies will be instrumental in advancing Maumee Valley's mission and ensuring its continued growth and success.

"As a parent, I've witnessed firsthand the transformative power of education at Maumee Valley," she said. "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to contribute to its continued excellence and to work alongside such dedicated educators, students, and families." She and husband Robert have sent their three children—**Bryce '20, Paige '23, and Blake '25**—to Maumee Valley.

She will lead strategic initiatives to enhance the school's performance and sustainability, with an emphasis on marketing, advancement, and admission. She also will lead efforts in fundraising, alumni relations, and community engagement.



Support MV students through Annual Fund

To bring our academic experiences to life, Maumee Valley Country Day School relies on the generosity of current families, trustees, alumni, alumni parents, and community organizations. The most important vehicle for ensuring our success is the MV Fund. Nearly 600 donors contributed almost \$380,000 to the MV Fund last year. Gift amounts ranged from \$1 to \$75,000, and every one had an impact on students. Support the MV Fund today. Visit mvcds.org/giving.

Leading the way

Celebrating Success: Annual Leadership Dinner honors MV supporters



Maumee Valley Country Day School recognized philanthropic support this fall at its annual Leadership Dinner. The event celebrated the achievements of students and served as a testament to the community's unwavering support and dedication for the school.

"Tonight, we pause and celebrate the transformational work we are doing as people, programs, and philanthropy work in concert to serve our mission and our students," said **Andy Wiener P '25, '26, '28**, chairman of the Board of Trustees. "We offer thanks to all of you who generously donated to the school at or above our Leadership Level. We offer thanks to the teachers, coaches, and advisors who cultivate the environment that brings MV's mission to life. And of course, we celebrate our students, their accomplishments, their successes, and their challenges conquered."

The event took place Oct. 25 at the Toledo Country Club and celebrates those who donated \$1,000 or more to MV during the giving year.

Sarah Tilton P '36, '38 spoke about her first-year experiences as a 4th grade teacher and discovering the unique values of the MV educational culture. "During my on-campus visit, I immediately saw alignment between my own core values and those that are central to this learning community—inclusivity, academic excellence, professional integrity, care for others," she said. "I knew that if I wanted to continue teaching children once we left Colorado, that I needed to be doing it at Maumee Valley."

Gloria Morales '25 gave thanks for receiving this year's Jonathan Krueger Scholarship, which helped her attend an Intensive in Guatemala. "This trip helped me to progress and build an immense amount of cultural competence, whether it was through foods, conversations with people, or just seeing and experiencing what it is like living there myself," Gloria said. "I also grew so much with my knowledge of Spanish and I can really say it is assisting me to this day in my AP Spanish class." The award honors **Jonathan Krueger '12**.



Above: Mary and Walter Krueger Jr. P '03, '06, '09, '12 (back row) with this year's recipient of the Jonathan Krueger Scholarship: Gloria Morales '25, and mother Monica Morales P '25. Right: Sarah Tilton P '36, '38



Lynn Casto P '23, '24, head of school, emphasized the pivotal role donors serve in the school's continued success. "The 2022-2023 school year was a remarkable one made even more remarkable by your generosity," she said. "My words cannot adequately express my gratitude or the school's appreciation of your support but I think Sarah's can, as do Gloria's. They represent determination, talent, and exceptional outcomes, but each in unique ways."

During pre-event ceremonies, **Karen Chen '24** and **Carol Tang '24** performed music for the guests.

EVENTS



Sounds of the season

Spring will deliver its annual sounds of beauty during a series of musical performances by students at the Millennium Theatre.

May 3: String Concert (grades 2-6). 2-3 p.m.

May 8: Showcase (grades 7-8). 7-8 p.m.

May 17: Concert & Art Show (K-1). 2-3 p.m.

Sept. 20-21

Fall Tournament and Homecoming & Reunion Weekend. Stay tuned for more details about alumni reunions and events and which teams the Hawks will face at home.



May 6 through June 4

Works of Upper School students will be on display during the Upper School Art Exhibition in the Wolfe Gallery.

May 17

Maumee Valley salutes exceptional alumni and members of the MV community at the Smead Luncheon. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Millhon Auditorium. Details about honorees will be shared on social media once the names are announced.

Celebrating achievement

In addition to our seniors, three other grades will conduct ceremonies celebrating academic transitions:

May 24: 6th Grade Moving Up Ceremony

May 29: 3rd Grade Moving Up Ceremony

June 5: 8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony

June 4


The school year concludes with a flurry of events, from the Senior Walk & Assembly to field trips and the Upper School Intensive Fair.

June 6

140th Graduation Exercises. 7 p.m., Bluestone

Aug. 21

First day of school for the 2024-2025 academic year

For the latest event information, visit mvcds.org/calendar. You can also access the athletic calendar for every team.