Graduates of 2019

Along with the tulips every spring are our graduates, at the end of each three-year cycle. Our kindergartner graduates had a lot to smile about, not only in their graduation photos but on graduation day! They celebrated their moving up from kindergarten to first level, performed in a recital for their families and then had a picnic on the playground (see recital photos page 7). They completed their last year of the primary cycle as leaders in their cottages, not only by mentoring and assisting younger students with their academics and social relationships, but also by taking care of their cottage environments. Our sixth-level graduates are of course moving on to their next schools, and while we are pleased and proud, it is sad to see them go! They celebrated moving up with a trip to The Nottingham (continued on page 4)

The graduating class of Maple Cottage, from left to right: Sophie Warner, Romy Amador-Gates, Tamsin Thomas, Saskia Enders and Brindsley Hughes. Turn to page 4 for the rest of the graduating classes!
Rumor has it that some of the Space Camp attendees had trouble sleeping the night before camp, anticipating the fun days ahead! The students learned about all the planets, the constellations, made star cards and necklaces, played a constellation game, did a rocket maze and so much more! Clockwise from above left: Isaac Martin, Tabitha Ko and Tamsin Thomas making volcanoes like those found on Venus, and Jacob Felver sharing a chart of the planets. At the lower right, Julie Martin is working with the students on their planet passports: Sophia Busch, Quillan Cappello, Delaney Hughes, Akari Kato, Olivia Weimer and Isaac Martin. By the end of the program, every student had completed their passport with stickers and a description of the planets.
Land Lab camp was another great success this year, where the students of first through sixth level went on canoe rides, swam in the pond, built structures and boats, did owl pellet dissection, created clay leaf dishes, painted watercolors, viewed objects with a microscope and made stone soup on the campfire. Clockwise from above left: Brian Durkin, Sierra Panipinto, Brandon Read, Juliet DePauulis, Aidan Mountain and Laila Khalil pose in the Nature Classroom; Emma Martin and Juliet DePauulis share a canoe ride; five girls take the leap off the dock; and Ronan Kenny, Nehemiah Chao and Tiernan Kenny show off their boat.
Graduates of 2019

(continued from page 1) to perform for the residents. Other community service was doing an extensive campus cleanup and flower planting on campus just in time for our many recitals. Their trip to Montreal (see page 6) and the Willow Recital were also capstone experiences. What a great way to end their last year at MSS, by giving back to their school and the wider community! Their photo and self-portraits are on the facing page.

Clockwise from above right, left to right: The Pine Cottage graduates were Linnaea Wiley, Aaditri Manocha, Tabitha Ko and August Kligerman; the Oak graduates were Charlotte Thurber and Felix Demartini; and the Birch graduates were Nicholas Failla, Layton Tillie, Ean Lai and Madison McSherry. (See the Maple graduates on page 1.)
Sixth-Level Graduates

Since our graduates’ self-portraits were so inspired and unique, they are included on this page with a photo of the group. As a class, they studied a number of artists’ approaches to self-portraits, as well as a range of mediums with which to work. Each one selected a different medium as individual and intriguing as themselves. We know these graduates will be a force for positive change in the world, with their enthusiasm, intelligence, talent and drive! In the photograph, from left to right: Jorge Niederhoff, Jasper Kyle, Mitchell Rovit, Sierra Panipinto, Brian Durkin, Mari Emmanuel and Aubrey Jones-Pike. In the self-portraits, from above right and down: Jasper Kyle, Mitchell Rovit, Jorge Niederhoff and Brian Durkin. Immediately above, left to right: Sierra Panipinto, Mari Emmanuel and Aubrey Jones-Pike.
At the end of every three-year cycle at MSS, we have special Rites of Passage when the students celebrate their leadership years. Kindergarteners, third graders and sixth graders marked their third year with graduation ceremonies, leadership trips, recitals and picnics! The graduates of upper elementary, at the culmination of the sixth-level program, travel to Montreal to practice many of the skills they have learned during their nine years in Montessori, including their French. The lower elementary graduates travel to the Adirondack Mountains, where they hike up mountains and learn rock-climbing. For the kindergarten graduates, primary graduation marks their first trip to the Land Lab in Pompey after three years of nature education, science lessons, nature walks and garden work.

Clockwise from above left: Aubrey Jones-Pike, Marielle Emmanuel and sixth-level program teacher Sharon Vazquez at the top of Mount Royal in Montreal. Some of the kindergarten class balancing on the top of a log at the annual Land Lab trip to celebrate their leadership year; from the left: Felix Demartini, Charlotte Thurber, Ean Lai, Madison McSherry, Layton Tillie and Nicholas Failla from Oak and Birch Cottages. The third-level students with their teachers at the top of Mount Porter in the Adirondack Mountains. Finally, the entire sixth-level class at the top of Mount Royal, overlooking Montreal.
We celebrate music and the performing arts with no less than three recitals every spring! Clockwise from above left: Denise Weinberger leads the kindergarteners in song, percussion instruments and solfège hand-signs to showcase the musical learnings of their three years in primary. In upper elementary, the Willow students play tunes celebrating their study of the Americas; left to right: Siri Brubaker, Evi Zubieta, Aiden Michel, Nehemiah Chao, Ronan Kenny and Tiernan Kenny. In the lower elementary performance, the first levels do some free-form dancing, and next, MSS teacher Joshua Jessen accompanies Aaron Kaufman on saxophone and Mitchell Rovit on oboe in some jazz numbers. Above, Mia Enders and Grace Chao play percussion Orff Instruments in their lower elementary recital.
Our Tech Lab was recently featured in the *Syracuse Parent* magazine, with good reason! Our fourth-levels begin the specialty course making their own computers using Raspberry Pi kits, then they learn to program with their computers. The sixth-level students who were featured in the article have accomplished a lot this school year. In Make Pong, they programmed the ball’s size, color, speed and other features. Other projects have involved coding a timer with an alarm; making a dice game that generates random numbers; and creating a true/false quiz that tracks correct answers and provides a percentage score when completed. Tech Lab teacher Will Cary has been impressed with his students, who, he says, “surprise me with their cleverness and creativity. They constantly add their own flair to class projects, which demonstrates a deep understanding of the tools at hand as well as impressive initiative.”

Clockwise from above left: Mitchell Rovit works with his computer, as does Marielle Emmanuel in the next photo. The sixth-level students, from left to right, are Sierra Panipinto, Marielle Emmanuel, Aubrey Jones-Pike, Brian Durkin, Jasper Kyle and Mitchell Rovit.
Our Spring Soirée was a wonderful celebration of community with parents, grandparents, teachers and alumni! The event, held at the newly redone Craftsman Inn in Fayetteville, exceeded expectations, raising over $40,000 for our school! Special thanks to the director of the event, Tammy Panipinto, and her amazing volunteers for making this event the best ever! Clockwise from above left: Adam Stone and Susan Levinsohn, parents of Maggie Stone in Maple Cottage. Next are Jamie and Anthony Chiodi, parents of Noelle, Anna and Ben Chiodi, all elementary students. Below from the left are MSS alumna parent Brenda Abrams, her daughter Kat Abrams (2010) and alumnae sisters Maria (2010) and Julia Vazquez (2011).
ANDREA AUER
After graduating from MSS in 2009, Andrea Auer went on to Christian Brothers Academy and then to Nazareth College. She graduated this spring with a bachelor of science degree and plans to continue next year to complete her graduate degree in occupational therapy. Andrea also continues to pursue her passion for skating, which she began at age nine in lower elementary. By ten years old she had learned how to execute intricate team formations and step sequences and was winning medals at east coast competitions. Nazareth didn’t have a synchronized skating team or club sport, so Andrea started her own team, one of the first multi-college synchronized skating teams in the country, and they went on to win nine medals by her junior year. This year Andrea’s Mirror Images team of thirteen students from five Rochester-area colleges won a gold medal at the 2018 Empire State Winter Games in Lake Placid, New York, and the bronze medal at the 2018 Eastern Sectional Synchronized Figure Skating Championships in Estero, Florida. Andrea also coaches and teaches private lessons. Photos of Andrea are at top right, left to right: skating in a recent competition and graduating from Nazareth College.

JOHNS HOPKINS CANDIDATES
This year eleven MSS students have qualified to participate in the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth Talent Search based on their recent scores on a rigorous standardized test given to the Willow upper elementary students: Safina Ahmed, Betty Anderson, Nehemiah Chao, Ben Chiodi, Anna Chiodi, Aubrey Jones-Pike, Jasper Kyle, Aiden Michel, Jorge Niederhoff, Sophia Randazzo and Stella Urbanski. To qualify for the Talented Youth Talent Search, students must have scored 95% or higher on a verbal and/or quantitative reasoning section of the nationally normed test. The purpose of the search is to identify, assess and recognize the academic abilities of highly able students.

MONTESSORI FROGGIES TEAM
The Montessori Froggies Team recently represented the school at the 2019 CNY Rocket Team Challenge at SU. Almost 100 teams participated in this event, where teams built a rocket, entered data into a flight simulation program and prepared for a rocket quiz. On launch day, they were judged according to various criteria, including construction, apogee calculation, student presentation, aesthetics, performance and eggstronaut (Continued on page 11)
(continued from page 10) recovery—their raw egg passenger remained intact! In the photo on the bottom left on page 10, left to right, are parents and Willow classroom students Greg Michel, Aiden Michel, Anthony Chiodi, Ben Chiodi, Eliza and Jason Chao, Nehemiah Chao, Mitchell Rovit and Peter Rovit.

BAND GEEKS
Former MSS parent Karen Dunn recently co-produced At Rise’s second production, the musical comedy Band Geeks. MSS alumni Justin Dunn (2018), Ryan Dunn (2014) and Ireland Fernandez-Cosgrove (2013) all had acting roles. Former MSS student Bianca Lucas was in the ensemble and did set design, and former MSS student Olivia DeAngelis directed and did set design. Photos clockwise from left of column: Bianca Lucas, Olivia DeAngelis, Justin Dunn, Kaelem Michel (see article at bottom of page), Ireland Fernandez-Cosgrove and Ryan Dunn.

FRENCH GOLD MEDAL
MSS alumna Parisa Ahmed (2016) won a gold medal in French this spring! The gold medal is the highest honor given in the 2019 National French Contest, an online test of students’ listening, reading and grammar skills in French. Parisa is currently a student at Fayetteville-Manlius High School, where the test is sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French. Parisa is the sister of current students Safina and Wadaana Ahmed, and the youngest Meesha Ahmed will be starting school this fall! Parisa is pictured in the middle photo on page 10.

KAELEM MICHEL
MSS alumnus Kaelem Michel (2017) is the winner of the 2019 Robinson Award, an $1,800 prize in recognition of his success in music performance, citizenship and contribution to the community. He’ll be performing at the Skaneateles Festival this August. Kaelem has won numerous local and international piano competitions, including first place in the recent Steinway & Sons Junior Piano Competition in the senior division. Kaelem is an active participant in master classes and pre-professional training in piano and chamber music. He attended an Eastman Summer Music Camp at Keuka College, NY, and the Lyra Music Festival at Smith College, MA, and this summer will attend a music festival in Austria. Kaelem has given solo and clarinet-duet recitals with his younger brother Aiden Michel at local venues and at last year’s Summer Suite event. He also performed at the Athenaeum Music & Arts Library in La Jolla, CA. See a photo of Kaelem Michel bottom right column.
For the past four years, MSS parents Heather and Matt Brubaker have initiated and overseen our elementary gardening program at MSS. We now have a beautiful fenced-in deer-proof garden for vegetables and some flowers adjacent to our soccer field, where the students plant every spring. Over the summer months Heather organizes our families in weekly watering and weeding, and in the fall we have beautiful vegetables to eat! In the photo at right, from left to right, Willow students Danny George, Aaron Kaufman and Stella Urbanski plant tiny new vegetables.