HILL TAKE NOTE

The Hill School
540-687-5897
www.thehillschool.org

November 19, 2026



THE HILL SCHOOL OF MIDDLEBURG PRESENTS



A HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

November 16 - 20, 2026

THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE ON YOUR LIST!

THE AUCTION CLOSES AT 6:00 PM TOMORROW, NOVEMBER 20TH!

Get Your Bids In!



OUR HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE
FROM 8:00 AM MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH
THROUGH 6:00 PM FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH
https://onecau.se/2026hillschoolholidayboutique

STUDENT COUNCIL'S

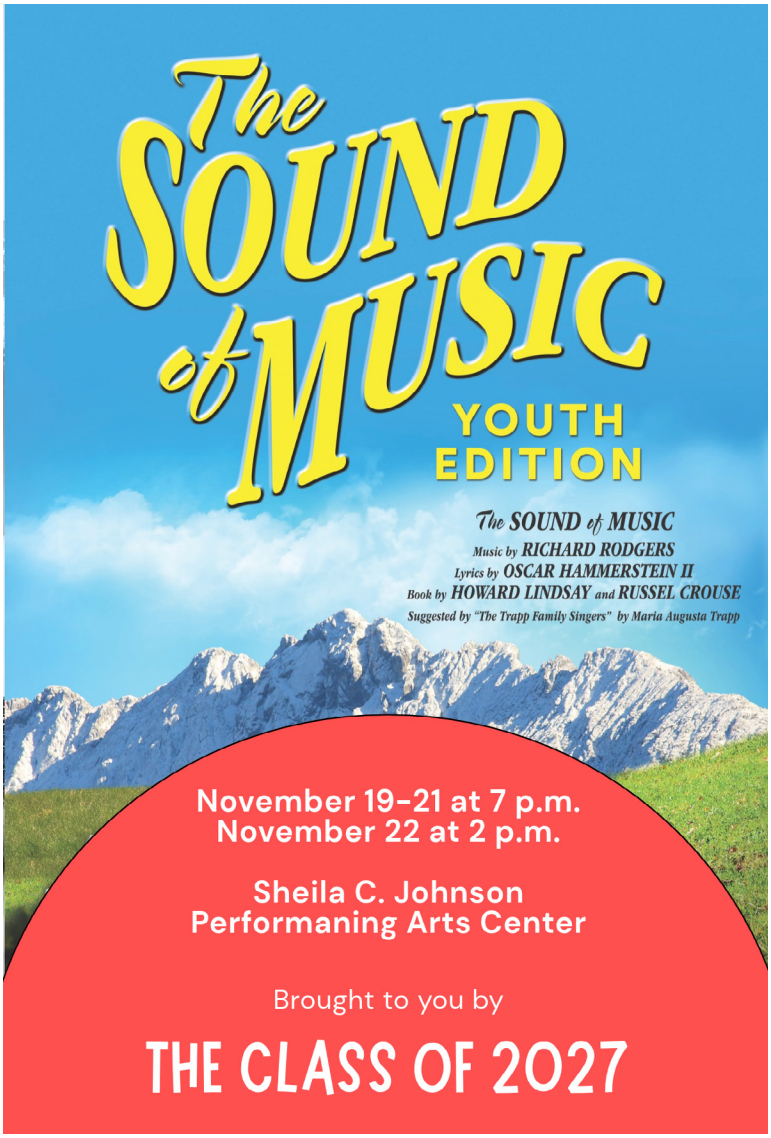
THANKSGIVING Food Drive

BENEFITTING
SEVEN LOAVES SERVICES

DONATIONS DUE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20.

BRING ITEMS TO HOMEROOM.

JK/K: 2 BAGS OF STUFFING
1ST: 2 CANS OF PEAS
2ND: 2 CANS OF GREEN BEANS
3RD: 1 BOX DRIED POTATOES & 1 JAR OF GRAVY
4TH: 2 CANS OF FRUIT
5TH: 2 JARS OF APPLESAUCE
6TH: 1 CAN OF SWEET POTATOES
7TH: 1 CONTAINER OF COOKIES OR CANNED NUTS
8TH: 2 CANS OF CRANBERRY SAUCE





Save Your Teeth and Help Hill

Inundated with sugary treats? Donate any unused Halloween candy to Hill to be used for our float in the Christmas in Middleburg parade. Candy may be dropped off in the Front Office.

THE HILL SWEATSHIRT

A New Take on a Classic!



Heather gray | Forest-green HILL lettering

Relaxed, oversized-inspired fit

CHOOSE YOUR SIZE & SCAN TO ORDER

XS S/M L/XL

These sweatshirts are available for purchase through the Holiday Boutique and will be ordered immediately following the close of the auction, with the goal of having them arrive before Hill's Holiday Break.

we're having a

MERRY-MAKING COCKTAIL-TOASTING JINGLING-MINGLING SPIRIT-LIFTING party!

Join us for our Holiday Boutique Open House!

Celebrate the season with festive shopping, delicious refreshments, holiday cheer, and great company!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

5:00 – 8:00 PM

Browse our thoughtfully curated Holiday Boutique featuring unique gifts, seasonal décor, gourmet treats, jewelry, accessories, and more—perfect for everyone on your holiday list.

Can't make it in person?

Shop the Holiday Boutique online all week.



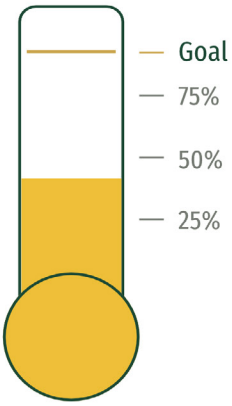
PARENT ANNUAL GIVING CHALLENGE

Reach 90% parent participation by December 18 and unlock an additional $30,000.

90%
PARTICIPATION GOAL

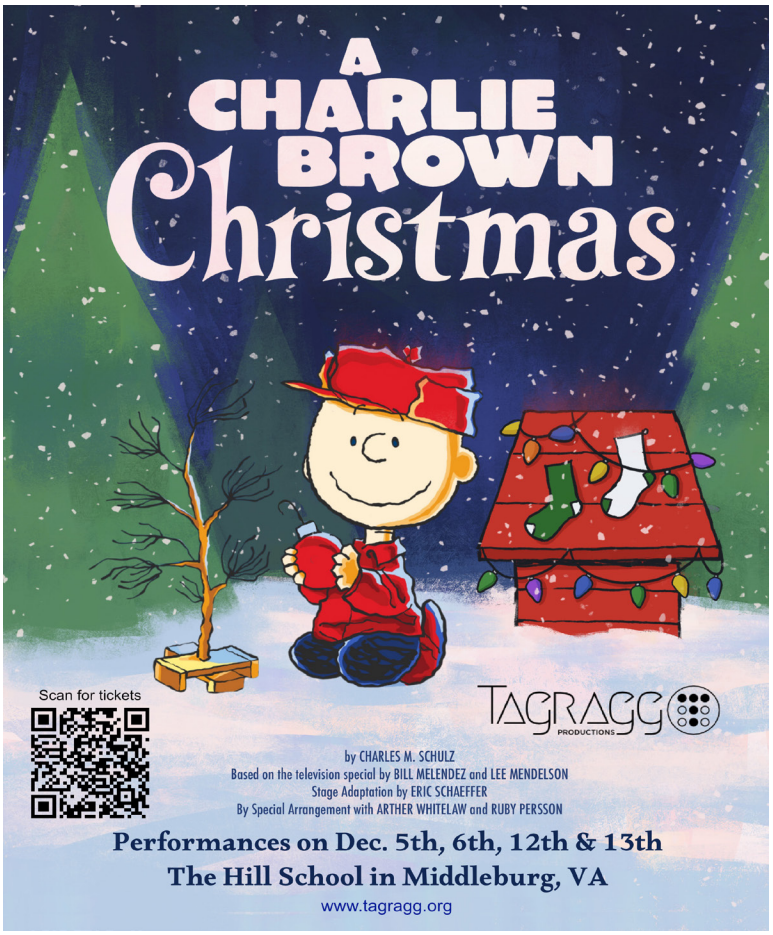
40%
CURRENT PARTICIPATION

DAYS REMAINING 29



DONATE NOW

A CHARLIE BROWN Christmas



Scan for tickets

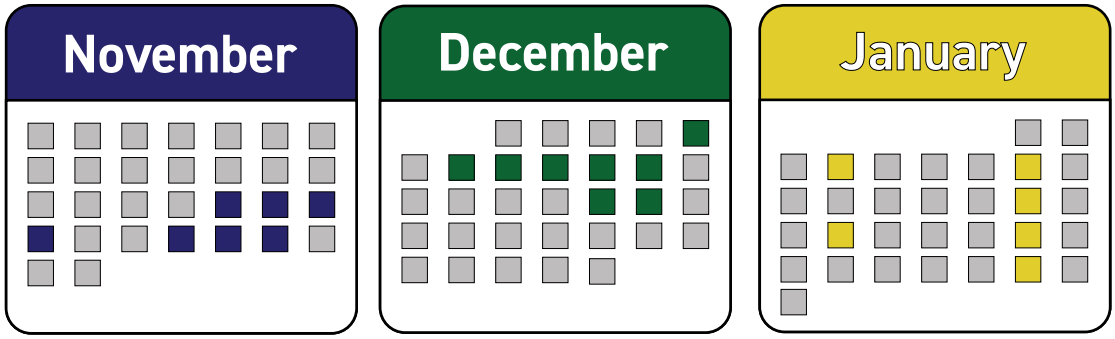
TAGRAGG PRODUCTIONS

by CHARLES M. SCHULZ
Based on the television special by BILL MELENDEZ and LEE MENDELSON
Stage Adaptation by ERIC SCHAEFFER
By Special Arrangement with ARTHER WHITELAW and RUBY PERSSON

Performances on Dec. 5th, 6th, 12th & 13th
The Hill School in Middleburg, VA
www.tagragg.org

UPCOMING @ Hill

View the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar on the Hill School website.



19 Holiday Cocktail Party
5 p.m., Alumni Room

19 8th Grade Play
7 p.m., Theater

20 Holiday Boutique Closes
6 p.m., Alumni Room

20 8th Grade Play
7 p.m., Theater

21 8th Grade Play
7 p.m., Theater

22 8th Grade Play
2 p.m., Theater

25 Thanksgiving Assembly
11 a.m., M'burg Methodist

25 Thanksgiving Vacation Begins
Noon Dismissal

26 Thanksgiving Day
No School

27 Thanksgiving Vacation
No School

5 Christmas in Middleburg
JK-3 Parade Float

7 Fall Book Fair
8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Theater Lobby

8 Fall Book Fair
8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Theater Lobby

9 Fall Book Fair
8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Theater Lobby

10 Fall Book Fair
8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Theater Lobby

10 Ski Club Gear Swap
12 to 4:30 p.m., Theater Lobby

11 Ski Club Gear Swap
8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Theater Lobby

11 LS Holiday Share
9 a.m., Theater

11 Ski Club Registration Ends

17 St. George & the Dragon

18 US Holiday Program
11 a.m., Theater

18 Winter Break Begins
Noon Dismissal

4 School Resumes

8 Ski Friday
11:30 a.m. Dismissal

15 Ski Friday
Noon Dismissal

18 Professional Development Day, No School

22 Ski Friday
Noon Dismissal

29 Ski Friday
Noon Dismissal



SKI CLUB 2027



Register for the 2027 Ski Club season through the Ravenna portal.

In addition to registering:

- All families and adult participants must complete the Assumption of Risk and Participation Agreement.
- All participants renting equipment from Bryce Resort must complete the Equipment Rental Assumption of Risk Form.
- All forms must be submitted to Jill Hottel by Friday, December 11.

Check out this Ski Club FAQ.

For questions please contact Jill Hottel.

Getting to Know You
Getting to Know All About You

Join the Education and School Life Committee (ESLC) as they introduce us to the faculty and staff of Hill. Check out the Take Note every other week or so for more profiles of familiar faces on campus. Put names to faces, learn their roles, and some fun facts.

Jill Hottel
Administrator



Years at Hill: 2
Where are you from originally?
Knoxville, Tennessee
What was your favorite book or series when you were in elementary/middle school?
The Boxcar Children
What are your favorite pizza toppings?
Oooh, I love pizza. White sauce > Red sauce, and I'm partial to yummy vegetables and sausage.

Kim Medica
Auction Coordinator



Years at Hill: 2
Where are you from originally?
Fairfax City, Virginia
What was your favorite book or series when you were in elementary/middle school?
The Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle Series
What are your favorite pizza toppings?
Mushrooms and green peppers.

Sarah Marendt
Lower School Generalist



Years at Hill: 2
Where are you from originally?
California
What was your favorite book or series when you were in elementary/middle school?
Anne of Green Gables
What are your favorite pizza toppings?
Tomatoes and olives.

Heather Zehfuss
JK Homeroom



Years at Hill: 2
Where are you from originally?
Born in Washington, D.C., and grew up in Virginia.
What was your favorite book or series when you were in elementary/middle school?
Nancy Drew, The Bobbsey Twins, and The Baby-Sitter's Club.
What are your favorite pizza toppings?
Pepperoni.



RSVP Here

Embajada de Colombia en Estados Unidos

The Ambassador of Colombia has the honor of inviting you to the opening of the exhibition:

Life After the Hippopotamus

ANDRÉS IZQUIERDO

An exhibition celebrating the richness of contemporary Colombian culture while exploring how our history continues to shape global conversations about power, democracy, and their consequences.

November 19 | Thursday 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM | Official Residence of Colombia 1520 20th St. NW Washington D.C.



Art and Wine

The Bayeux Tapestry

Chrysalis Vineyard

(39025 Little River Turnpike, Middleburg)

Friday, Nov. 20, 6 p.m.

After more than 900 years, the Bayeux Tapestry has returned to the United Kingdom. Celebrate its return and discover the beauty and wonder of this Medieval masterpiece with art historian John Daum.

Please arrive by 5:30 p.m. if you plan to purchase wine or food.

Ages 21+

LCPL library.loudoun.gov

Swap. Adventure. Repeat.

December 10 & 11



Ski Club Gear Swap

Donate your child's too-small gear. Pick up something new-to-them for Ski Club 2027.

1. Bring your CLEAN and FUNCTIONAL (no antiques) gear to the Front Office beginning Monday, November 2.
   a. Gloves/mittens, hats, jackets, pants/bibs, scarves, goggles, neck gaiters/buffs.
   b. Have Hill-branded merch you want to pass on? Bring it too!
2. December 10 & 11 swing by the theater lobby and check out all the cool stuff.
3. Take what you need and can put to good use.
4. All leftover items will be donated before the holidays.

Click here to Volunteer

Sorry, but we cannot accept ski helmets, used or otherwise.

Questions about book fair? Email bookfair1@thehillschool.org

Questions about Ravenna? Email Jill Hottel

Fall Book Fair is Coming!
December 7-10
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-W
8 a.m.-11 a.m. Th.

BOOK FAIR



Sign-Up to Volunteer | DECEMBER 7-10 | Fill out permission slips

After School Programs

Lacrosse. On Wednesdays. Boys and girls, Grades 1 through 6. Session starts December 9 and runs through February 24. More details and registration link to come.

The Coder School. On Thursdays. Grades 1 and 2 at 3 p.m. Grades 3 through 5 at 4 p.m. NEW: Grades 6 through 8 Intro to Python at 5 p.m. Winter session beginning January 7 through March 11.

Kyle's Karate. On Thursdays. Junior Kindergarten through Grade 2 at 3 p.m. Grades 3 through 5 at 4 p.m. Winter session beginning January 14 through February 25. Click here to sign-up.

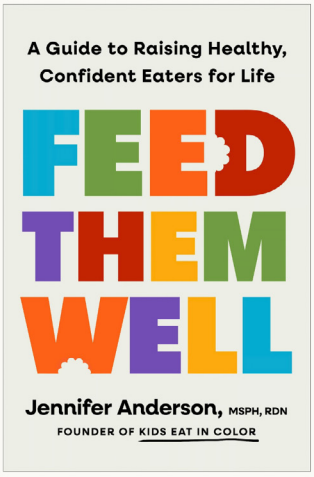


Saturday **DECEMBER 05, 2026**
11:00 AM - *Middleburg Hunt & Hounds Review*
2:00 PM - *Christmas Parade*

View Parade Day Schedule

LINCOLN
Presenting Sponsor





THIS YEAR'S COMMUNITY READ

Feed Them Well **offers practical, encouraging guidance to help families move beyond mealtime stress and raise healthy, confident eaters for life.**

We look forward to using this book as a springboard for thoughtful conversations about nourishing our children, building positive relationships with food, and making family meals feel more connected.

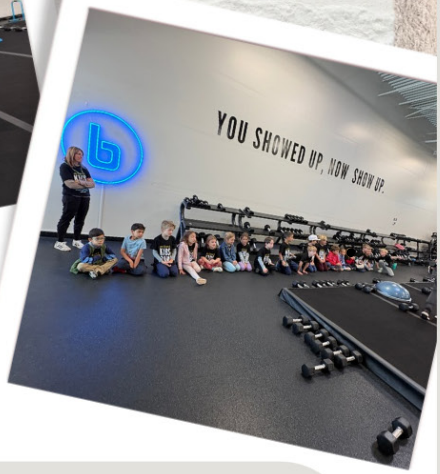
HILL'S 2026 COMMUNITY BOOK READ

AVAILABLE AT MIDDLEBURG BOOKS

HILL FAMILIES RECEIVE 10% OFF THE BOOK

Field Trip Reports





The first grade class was excited to participate in an exercise class at Burn Boot Camp in Ashburn. The time at the fitness center focused on health and wellness through exercise and nutrition. At the onset of their visit, the students were greeted warmly by many members of the gym. They participated in a warm-up and circuit workout that worked their major muscle groups. The morning concluded with a discussion on nutrition and a healthy smoothie! Thank you Mrs. Skinner and Burn Boot Camp for hosting first grade!

Hill School's youngest learners enjoyed a fun-filled, immersive experience at the Discovery Museum in Winchester. While the JK attended a class about the five senses, the K kiddos learned about the local Powhatan tribe and their tools. Students learned through hands-on exploration with the amazing experts at the museum. Afterwards, students roamed the museum examining a colony of real bees up close, running an imaginary produce stand, and spending time in a perfect replica of a Powhatan longhouse. What an incredible opportunity for creative play and guided exploration for our students!













Dornin Lab

On November 14 the Seventh Grade participated in a Dornin Lab focusing on shelter building with forest materials. Students began their afternoon with a walk from their homeroom to the Dornin Woods. After setting up in the woods, they engaged in two immersive, sensory-based group activities: *Samurai Sword* and *Awesome Samurai*. In *Samurai Sword*, one blindfolded "samurai" stands inside a circle while "ninjas" attempt to sneak in across the dry, crunchy leaves, tag them, and escape without being struck by the foam sword. The game emphasizes silence, patience, and spatial awareness, with clear win conditions for both the samurai and the taggers. *Awesome Samurai* builds on these skills by placing two blindfolded samurai in the circle at the same time. Moving slowly and relying on hearing, each samurai attempts to tag the other with their foam sword.

To close the day, students built shelters—a survival-themed teamwork challenge. After hearing a scenario involving being stranded overnight in cold, wet conditions, teams designed an emergency shelter capable of keeping one person dry. Using natural materials and cooperation, they tried to construct small debris shelters with a backbone, ribs, and insulating layers. Teachers supported groups to help them problem-solve and collaborate as needed. A brief "museum show" allowed everyone to tour one another's shelters before beginning the walk back to homeroom at the end of the day.









