

From The Heart



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If you are not familiar with the term -- “lingering” is defined as a meaningful time to sit and talk, to think about life and smile often. It is known for being a non-stressful time to gather thoughts, make plans or simply stop and celebrate many blessings.

The value of lingering is recognized in this fast-paced society, and is the subject of MANY a comedy routine. Some of my favorite TV “lingerers” are: Tim “The Tool Man” Taylor and Wilson, who “lingered” over the fence during the television series Home Improvement; the famous Golden

Girls cast, who sat around the kitchen table and always managed to find a laugh and of course Archie and Edith from 1970s sitcom All in the Family, who critiqued the world from their New York living room.

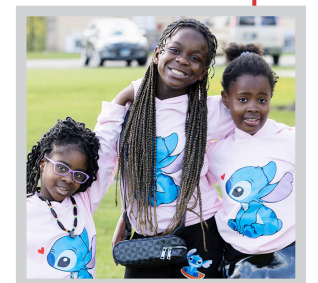
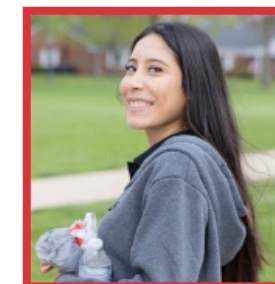
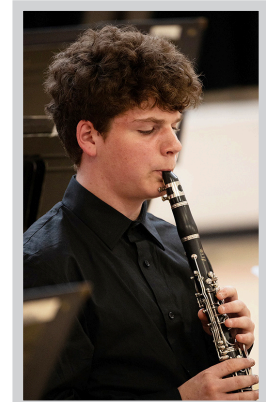
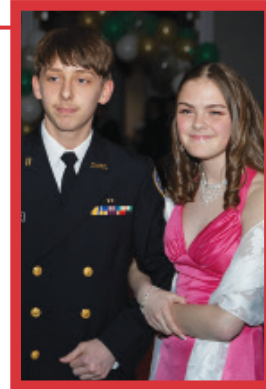
Medical professionals assure us that lingering is VERY beneficial to personal health. It usually results in an increased sense of GRATITUDE which grows HOPE and a POSITIVE OUTLOOK. With the new school year approaching, we believe this a great time to linger, to be thankful for the road behind us and positive for what lies ahead.

We are fortunate, and thankful for the GROWTH of our Fraternal supportive cast of Moose members. The growth within our Fraternity for the past three years proves that there are MANY people across this country who wish to impact the lives of others. There are countless ways in which YOU support our daily efforts to change the life of a child.

The mission of educating children and providing the best overall care for them is still strong within our Moose Fraternity and the Mooseheart campus. We continue to demonstrate care and concern, and to nurture children despite the personal or organizational challenges. Adaptation is necessary for survival, but our mission will stay the same: “To provide a safe and caring community for children where they receive OPPORTUNITIES to reach their academic, social and spiritual potential.”

Some people believe that success means NEVER experiencing challenges, failures, or setbacks. I know true success is keeping your goals in sight and working through whatever is in your way to achieving them. Success for the Moose and Mooseheart is outlined by working with a strong team who share the same goals. Mooseheart exists today because it was not just about one man and his goals, but about a bigger picture, and a massive TEAM of people who put their caring into ACTION, the Moose! Thank you for all of your support.

— Gary Urwiler, Mooseheart Executive Director



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By The Numbers



1 Thanks to local Girl Scout Troop #334 Mooseheart was blessed with **12** cases of Girls Scout Cookies to be shared on the campus! This donation helped the scouts (who worked to purchase them and then delivered them) to earn their "Giving to Charity" badge and Mooseheart students enjoyed **3,192** cookies during the last **2** months of school.



2 Moose Member guests to the **106th** Commencement really "racked up" the miles this year! Traveling from "sea to shining sea" were members from Wales, Quebec, Alaska, California, Washington, Florida, Texas, New Hampshire and Virginia! Just from these places alone over **15,311** miles of travel are represented.

4 This year's **10** Mooseheart graduates received a total of **\$314,660** in scholarship funding from their respective college awards and the MOOSE FRATERNITY!



3 Can you do the numbers? **4** Downers Grove, IL Moose Riders + **5** kids x **5** broken bikes + **2.5** hours = a wonderful evening + delicious spaghetti & meatballs + **5** fixed bikes + **5** HAPPY kids!!

5 Mooseheart's **2024** graduates share plans to pursue **8** different career paths: Cosmetology, Real Estate, Sports Management, Biology/Pre-Med, Marketing, Nursing, Paramedic Science, and Culinary Arts.

That's some GREAT MOOSE Math!



Downers Grove, IL Moose Riders and Mooseheart Students

Exciting Events



Memorial Day NJROTC students were given the opportunity to march in a local Memorial Day parade in Aurora.



Promotion Excitement Mooseheart's 5th and 8th grade classes were officially promoted to middle and high school in a ceremony on May 31. Above, newly promoted students Aliyah and Caleb pose on stage.



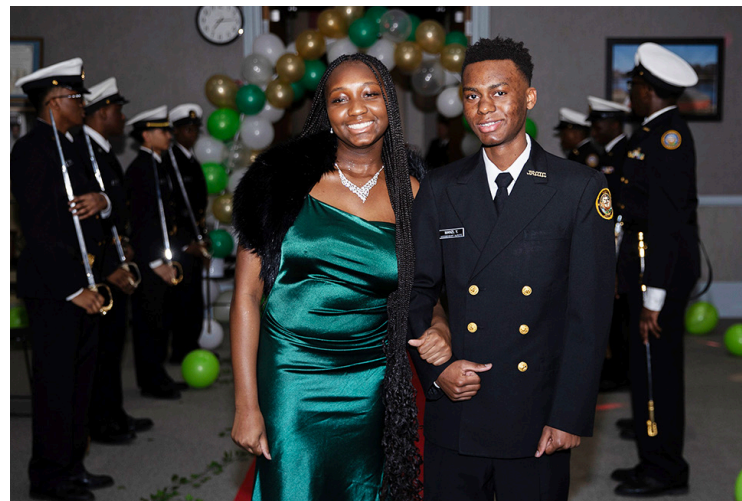
▲ Students and Moose guests were excited to welcome a special guest, NASCAR driver Ross Chastain!



Go Green The Kohl's corporation helped Mooseheart celebrate Earth Day by sponsoring an on-campus event.



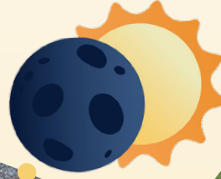
Mooseheart's third-grader Kadey and Baby Village students, left, helped mulch a playground.



Military Ball Mooseheart's NJROTC students enjoyed dressing up for the yearly Military Ball on campus. Above, cadets Tobi and Tony make their entrance.

A Student's Perspective

On April 8, all Mooseheart students had the opportunity to observe the nearly total eclipse of the sun. Teachers took advantage of the beautiful sunny afternoon to provide experiential lessons related to this unique event.



5th grade student Caleb Joloka (above).

Elementary student classes viewed the eclipse on April 8. The last time one occurred was in 2017, and the U.S. won't see another until 2044.



Poetry student Chris Wallace gestures towards the disappearing sun as he recites a poem he composed for the occasion. Classmates Tilar Murphy and Sade Johnson look on.

Senior Chris Wallace high fives classmate Charlotte Nyirarukundo after she read an original poem she wrote about the sun.



Rambler Roundup



NJROTC At the Change of Command ceremony, outgoing Company Commander, Tilar Murphy, left, addresses the Mooseheart community. The incoming Company Commander, DaQuan Finley, below, accepts an award



Mooseheart Relays Mooseheart's High School track team hosted the 47th annual Mooseheart Relays event in May. Below, freshman Frank competes in the high jump competition. Juniors Eva, left and Angie, below, left show off their speed!



Summer Fun A group of elementary boys cool off after a hot summer day of basketball.



Lessons in Nature

An elementary class was able to observe the transformation of their caterpillars into beautiful butterflies before releasing them into the wild.



Enter to Learn Emily's early life with her parents was very unstable. The family frequently moved around from one place to another, often facing unsanitary conditions or an unsafe environment. As things grew more difficult for the family, they often found themselves without enough food. Emily's father became abusive to her mother, and her mother then turned to substance use. This desperate situation led to Emily's grandmother, Lily, to step in as her guardian. While Emily faced much better circumstances with her grandmother, Lily was having trouble providing for the needs of a growing child now that she was in her 70s. In need of some assistance, she turned to Mooseheart. At Mooseheart, Emily now has a clean, safe, and healthy living environment with more academic and extracurricular opportunities than she would have had living with Lily. She is grateful for the security and support that she experiences at Mooseheart, while still being able to visit her loving grandmother on the occasional school break.

. . . Leave to Serve

Each year, students at Mooseheart High School are elected by their peers to be a part of "Democracy School." Individuals from each grade - freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors - are chosen as class representatives to address any student concerns throughout the year. With guidance from staff advisors, Democracy School students work with school leadership to bring about changes that the student body wants. This includes things like "dress down" days, where students can opt for more casual clothing instead of their uniform for a day, or changes to school lunch options.

In May, high school students involved in Mooseheart's Democracy School took a trip to the state capital of Springfield, Illinois. The Democracy School representatives got to take an up-close look at their state government, starting with a personal visit with Karina Villa, an Illinois state senator whose district includes Mooseheart's campus. The students were able to learn about a bill that Senator Villa is working on that has gone to the Senate floor, before taking a tour of the Illinois State Capitol Building where they witnessed a floor session in action. Before heading home to Mooseheart, the Democracy School students were also able to visit president Abraham Lincoln's tomb and former home.

Democracy School helps many of Mooseheart's students to learn the basics of civic leadership and prepares them for participation in public life outside of school - just another way our students are ready to "leave to serve" upon graduation.



Graduation Celebration



Mooseheart celebrated it's 106th Commencement Ceremony on June 1, 2024. Our ten senior students were excited to be on stage and celebrate an accomplishment that they have been working toward for so many years. We are grateful for the time that we got to share with them at Mooseheart and look forward to seeing what they accomplish next. Congratulations Class of 2024!

A heartfelt thank you goes to all of the dedicated Moose Members who traveled from all over to our campus and joined us in celebrating. Your support means everything!

