

Field Notes



The Weekly Newsletter of The Community School of Mount Desert Island

Tuesday, December 11, 2018 - Volume #13

Director's Note...

In this time of gratitude and giving, we think about how we can give back to our community that gives so much to us, makes our learning rich and meaningful, supports us through triumph and challenge, and is the place we call home. This week, we devote our outing to a service project in the community. Each class has identified a need and cause that they resonate with, and will be volunteering at a local organization to help out during this busy time of year. Ask your child about their experience on Thursday!

Please help us share the bounty by bringing in items on the final days of the food drive! The basket is located in the entryway of the schoolhouse. The items will be delivered to the Food Pantry this Thursday.

With thanks,
Jasmine



Woodland Class outing to Hunters Beach last week

Reminders:

- This is the last week to bring in items for the Food Drive!
 - Woodland Art Opening this Friday, 12/14, 4-6pm at the Gallery at Somes Sound
 - Solstice Concert: Wednesday, 12/19, 6-7:30
 - 1/2 day, Secret Elf Swap, and start of Winter Break: Thursday, 12/20, 12:30 dismissal.
- School resumes on Wednesday, 1/2/19
- Gnome Juice Release Party at Fogtown: Thursday, 12/20, 4pm
 - Solstice Party and Maker's Market: Saturday, 12/22, 10am-4pm

Thank You To

Gail from Indivisible MDI for coming to visit and share with the Intertidal and Alpine Classes, **Sarah Tewhey** for helping with Woodland driving logistics, and **Billy Helprin** for starting off the week in the woods and in the marsh with the Woodland class.

Natural History Mystery:

No Natural History Mystery this week, as we are practicing for solstice concert during this time.

and a plump Red Squirrel munched next years buds in the sun at the top of bare Tamarack. It was a rich and refreshing start to a new week. We reflected on the beauty and wonder in our schoolhouse backyard.

We are fully immersed in our Birds, Feathers and Flight expedition. In the past week, we have learned about what adaptations make birds unique from others in the animal kingdom. As ornithologists, the children became an expert on one on a bird adaptation and shared with the class. We have been exploring our bird "library" and have begun thinking and parsing out the wonders of the bird world; how birds lay eggs because they

From The Woodland Class...

This morning, first thing, we bundled up, gathered around Billy Helprin while he gave a binocular lesson, and headed out for a brisk December bird walk. The children led Billy out to the Whale's Back, drawing his attention to landmarks they look for along the way. The trail was a glow with ice crystals and formations, glowing green moss and sparkling frost.



Woodland class looks at ice formations along Babson Creek

The woods were alive with signs-- fresh Pileated Woodpecker holes, a Black Duck kill, tracks of a fox-- along with animals themselves; chickadees flitted about, Red Breasted Nuthatch called their nasally song, Golden Crowned Kinglets made themselves known from the treetops, ducks flew in a V overhead,

need to stay light to fly, or why feathers are shaped as they are to be aerodynamic. The class is full of questions and hypotheses and I look forward to our studies in the weeks ahead.

The class has been very much anticipating this Friday's art opening and we look forward to sharing our final, framed pieces with you this week. It would be great if the kids were there around 3:45pm, so they could help with the final set-up and be ready for when the doors open to the public at 4:00pm.

We will be going to view an active eagle's nest on Leland Point in Bar Harbor, followed by delivering and volunteering at the Bar Harbor Food Pantry this Thursday during Outing.

Have a wonderful week,
Jasmine



Bird watching in the Whale's Back woods



Sampling of Woodland class work from their Birds, Feathers and Flight Expedition

From The Intertidal Class...

Dear families,

We have started a new read aloud entitled Wishtree. The story is told from the perspective of a red oak named Red, a tree that has seen a lot in its nearly 200 year existence. Red takes care of others, both human and owlet, and we are enjoying learning from the wisdom this character has to offer.

In reading workshop, we have started a non-fiction unit. We have rearranged our library, moving our non-fiction books front and center. The children are beginning to explore new topics, remembering to read differently when exploring non-fiction texts.



Happy students at Friday Forest Recess

In writing workshop, we have started a persuasive writing unit. Over the past couple of weeks, the children have been working on writing persuasive speeches, finding ways to use their voices to change the world. The children have spent time drafting quick speeches, using different strategies to collect their initial seed ideas.

I invite you to chat with your children this week about which ideas are inspiring them and how they hope to change the world with their writing from this unit!

With warmth,
Bethany

From The Alpine Class...

Our math work in the Alpine class continues to be engaging for both math groups. We are becoming even more confident and capable problem solvers as our year progresses.

In one math group, we are focusing on finding multiple strategies for problems involving the division of fractions. We have learned to draw models to help our thinking and to really understand what it means to divide a whole number by a fraction, a fraction by a whole number, or a fraction by a fraction. Just recently, the students learned to use the “invert and multiply” rule for dividing fractions, and were excited to have a quick method for finding the answer with a solid background of understanding behind it.

In our other group, students have been working on the addition and subtraction of integers and rational numbers. With the help of number lines and the Integer Game, students are developing a profound understanding of absolute values (the distance between any rational number and zero), and the distance between any two rational numbers ($p-q$). In the next days, we will transition into multiplication and division of integers and rational numbers.

This week for outing we will be volunteering at the SPCA.

Warmly,
Amy

News and Upcoming Events

Our Annual Food Drive is underway! Now through this Thursday, December 13

Last Thursday, the Alpine class visited and volunteered at the Bar Harbor Food Pantry and learned about where the food pantry gets their food, what kinds of food they are looking for this time of year, and what we can do to help our community with food insecurity. This time of year, the food pantry is looking for canned beans and canned soup, peanut butter, and whatever else you like to eat! The food collection bin is located in the entryway of the schoolhouse. Thank you!

-Evelyn, member of the Alpine class

***YOU ARE INVITED TO
the Woodland Class Art Opening
Portraits of Our Community
Friday, December 14, 4pm-6pm
at The Gallery at Somes Sound,
1112 Main St. Somesville***



Annual Solstice Concert

Wednesday, December 19, 6-7:30pm

To welcome back the light each year, The Community School joins in song and presents seasonal musical pieces that they have been working on-- both voice and instrumental. We ask that children arrive to the schoolhouse by 5:45 and meet in the kitchen. Children are welcome to dress up and all families are welcome to celebrate with gingerbread and hot cider after the concert. We are looking forward to sharing this evening with you!

Gnome Juice Release Party: a TCS ~ Fogtown Collaboration

@ Fogtown Brewing Company, 25 Pine Street, Ellsworth

Thursday, December 20, 4pm

Fogtown Brewing Company (Mr. Jon and Mr. Ian) are graciously hosting a TCS fundraiser and family-friendly evening, releasing Gnome Juice, a solstice brew inspired by the TCS apple and cranberry harvest, along with a kid-friendly harvest beverage. The evening will be complete with our annual TCS pop-up store, great food for dinner from Eat at Joes-- farm to table sandwiches, salads, nachos, soups-- and music by Noah and Shawn Keeley. We hope that you will join us and invite your friends! Please share the attached flyer.

Pop-up Maker's Market and Solstice Party

at Wood Wool Wind Water, 102 Clark Point Road, Southwest Harbor

Saturday, December 22, 10am-4pm

We are collaborating with Danielle Rose Byrd, TCS woodworking teacher and woodcarver, and friend of the school, David Milliken, for a Solstice Party and local Makers Market to celebrate the return of the light in this unique location-- a warm and rustic boat shop on the harbor. Fine craft, hearty snacks, live music, and good company. Entrance fee by donation to benefit The Community School. Join in the fun! Flyer attached-- please help spread the word!

Cultivating a Sense of Self, Place, and Community.



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