

Field Notes

The Weekly Newsletter of The Community School of Mount Desert Island
Tuesday, January 8, 2019 - Volume #15

Director's Note...

With the beginning of a new year, comes the beginning of a new admissions season, and the balance of remaining present in the moment with the responsibility of planning for the next school year. I find myself drawing upon my own mindfulness practices, as another busy season ramps up. I also find myself reveling in the joys of winter-- the beauty, the quiet snow (hopefully), the cold, crisp air, and appreciating the inward nature of the season. I also begin to get excited about the conversations I am having with potential new families and imagining growing our community. Help us continue to grow our community and spread the word about our open house this season, Saturday, February 9, 10am-12pm and admissions for Fall 2019, opening on February 15th.

Happy 2019,
Jasmine



Winter moment along the shores of Babson Creek

Reminders:

- No school Friday 1/18: Professional Day
- No school 1/21: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Thank You To

All families who participated in and supported our Solstice and Holiday festivities -- Gnome Juice, Solstice Party, Feast-- and to **Mr. Jon and Mr. Ian** for hosting the Gnome Juice Fundraiser at Fogtown, **David Milliken and Jeff Roseberry** for making Wood Wool Wind Water the perfect place for our Solstice Party, **Danielle Rose Bird** for supporting the Maker's Market piece of the Solstice Party, **Jordan Mercer** for supporting TCS through Feast at Coda, and **Miss Karen** for being our guest chef for the first Friday Feast of the new year.

Natural History Mystery:

What are three animals that you know are currently hibernating or in a state of torpor in the greater MDI area?

From The Woodland Class...

Have you ever been excited to check the mail to see if you received a letter from your penpal? The Woodland Class has a new penpal! Maggie is a retired Mt. Desert Island Elementary Teacher and after getting to know her a bit during a recent library visit, we decided it would be great fun to become penpals. We have learned that Maggie has cats and likes to watercolor, read, and travel. These are some of our favorite things too! Maggie sent us one of her watercolors and we were quite impressed with her work. She also has been generous in her writing because she has responded individually to each student's letters. Maggie made reindeer bookmarks for everyone and enclosed them in her recent holiday cards. We look forward to having her read-aloud to us at one of our future library visits.



Treasures sent to the Woodland class by their penpal Maggie

I have noticed that having a penpal helps us to hone our reading and writing skills, helps us to see another's perspective, promotes patience, and fosters social connection. It has also been great fun to get handwritten mail!

The Woodland Class will be going to The Wendell Gilley Museum to dissect owl pellets this Thursday during outing!

Warmly,
Miss Marie

From The Intertidal Class...

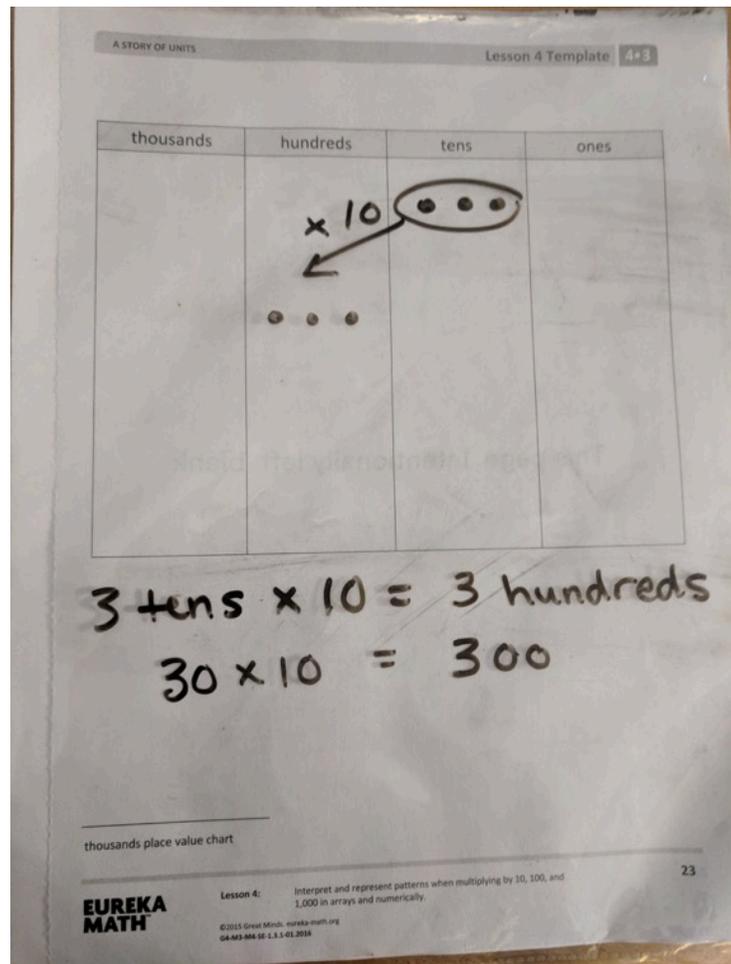
Dear families,

Welcome back from winter break! I hope you all found some moments of joy and rest during this busy season. It is so good to see the children again!

In math, each of our small groups is working to master new skills. Along the way, we explore a variety of different models to help us practice these skills and solidify our new understandings. Currently all three groups are using place value charts to practice the standard algorithm in addition, subtraction, and multiplication (both with whole numbers and fractions/decimals). These charts help us visualize the base ten system that is the foundation of our math work. As we begin to add and subtract and multiply, we move numbers up and down the chart to visualize the different operations. We won't always need this tool, but it is a familiar support that the children will continue to return to as they learn new skills throughout their time in the Intertidal classroom. We encourage you to ask your child for a place value chart demonstration!

For this week's outing, we will head to the Great Meadow Loop near Sieur de Monts for a winter hike. Both Aura and I look forward to more winter adventures with this group of kiddos!

With warmth,
Bethany and Aura



Sample of Intertidal math work

From The Alpine Class...

The Alpine class is currently focusing on the Civil Rights Movement in our continued study of Social Justice & Activism. We have been practicing our research and presentation skills using books and articles to learn about important people and moments in this era of United States history. It has been fascinating to start making connections between the different time periods as we move toward present day. We have been inspired to recognize the people who made courageous choices as social justice activists in our country's history.

This week, we will begin work on our final projects for this expedition! The Alpines are excited to begin their own activist work as we choose causes that matter to us. We will be researching different activist groups across the state and finding ways to contribute.

Our outings this month will be focused largely on different aspects of ecology. This week, we will be heading into Acadia to check out the ice formations (weather permitting).

Thank you for your support!

Warmly,
Amy



Alpines enjoying our Babson Creek property on our tracking outing!

Handwork...

With sunny skies and icy cold temperatures outdoors, The Community School students settled in for a cozy afternoon with their handwork. Woodland weavers put the finishing touches on their work. Knitters are making excellent progress on ear warmers, bunnies and bean bags. Another group of students are recreating the story of 'The Mitten' by Jan Brett, using paper, fiber, watercolor pencils, crayons and yarn. Keep your eyes open for a display of their work soon.



Left: Nadia Weaving Right: Clara's Weaving

The Intertidals are continuing work on their stitch samplers. They are doing excellent work of mastering the chain stitch, French knots, and the decorative lazy daisy stitch. Today we learned the useful and practical skill of sewing buttons.

We are delighted to welcome Eli and Phoebe Durand McDonnell to our Handwork classes for the month of January. Phoebe brings her spinning and fiber expertise to both classes. She will be working individually with each child- carding wool and learning to spin using both the drop spindle and the wheel. Eli brings his skill and enthusiasm into the Intertidals classroom. We will all benefit from his presence and ability to work one on one with the students.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year filled with your favorite handwork projects,
Miss Karen



Left: Eli and Alister sewing buttons Center: Aisha drawing Right: Nayeli and Phoebe using the drop spindle



Left: Friday Feast Right: Woodlands using the spotting scope and binoculars on a tracking outing with Mr. Nick!

News and Upcoming Events

Winter Classroom

Scheduled for Thursday, February 7, weather and ice dependent

This annual all-day outing is dedicated to the joys and wonders of winter! We will explore winter ecology through ichthyology, winter tree ID, tracking, ice formations and the art of building, maintaining, and cooking over a campfire. Local community members will join us as guest teachers and fellow winter explorers on Somes Pond for this memorable winter day of learning. Drop off is at school, and pick up is at the Somes Pond landing on Oak Hill Road. Families are welcome to join us at 3pm for our campfire closing and reflection sharing. We encourage all members of the community to bring winter words to share-- a poem, verse, memory, song or story-- at our campfire at the end of the day.

Annual TCS Talent Show- Just a month away!

Friday, February 8, 2-3pm at school

Calling all musical acts, skits, dance, song, and performances for an afternoon showcasing the talents of our community. A sign up sheet for the talent show will be posted on the Community Board in the entryway. We ask that all talent show acts are practiced and in a polished form to share. Family participation is encouraged!

Admissions and Community Open House

Saturday, February 9, 10am-12pm

Mark your calendars and share with friends, families and community members who may be interested in the school! We encourage interested families to stop by and meet teachers, current families and see student work, and invite community members to stop by for a visit. Join us for a morning of sharing, gathering, and light refreshments.



Gnome Juice Fundraiser at Fogtown



Special moments from the Solstice Party at Wood Wool Wind Water



Cultivating a Sense of Self, Place, and Community.



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