

Field Notes

The Weekly Newsletter of The Community School of Mount Desert Island
Tuesday, February 5, 2019 - Volume #19

Director's Note...

These deep winter days have made wondrous ice formations on and along Babson Creek and bring in floating ice mosaics with the tide. Low tide leaves behind salty ice sheets that make for sculpting and structure building material at recess. The sun catches the clear sheets as we carry them on these sparking high pressure days of cold. We wonder where the ducks are hiding, which tree the Osprey perches cozy and shivering in its nest. While some animals conserve their energy, we, fueled by our hearty lunches play hard in the snow and ice. Cheeks are rosy, breath is like sea smoke pouring from bodies, and even a "Miss Jasmine, my hands are sweating!" is heard on this day, when the thermometer reads negative 2 degrees. The Alpines tossed a pot of boiling water into the air and it turned to snow and ice. Our old farm schoolhouse holds body heat from the morning, and icicles drip in the sun, despite the frigid air- a welcomed sight on this First day of February.



Deep winter at the Whale's Back

Reminders:

- Winter Classroom this Thursday 10am-3:15pm - Pick-up is at the circle along Oak Hill Road in Somesville.
- Talent Show this Friday, 2-3pm. Sign up is on the community board in the entry way!
- Open House: this Saturday 10-12pm. Spread the word!
- Alpine Class Meeting: 2/12 at 6pm
- February Break: 2/18-2/22. School resumes 2/25.
- Re-enrollment deadline: 2/28

Thank You To

Mr. Eli for helping out and learning with us during the month of January, and for writing us a beautiful farewell gratitude poem, **Elijah and Mr. Nick** for bringing in tasty goods for our farewell tea party, **Carla Haskell** for persisting with our architectural plans for the barn at the State Fire Marshal office, and **Miss Faye (Handwork assistant) and Mr. Spencer (Land & Building Stewardship Crew)** who joyously volunteer their time each week!

Natural History Mystery:

What is the name of the blooming bulb on the kitchen table?



Exploring frozen Babson Creek



The Woodland class hosts a farewell tea party for Mr. Eli

From The Woodland Class...

As our cherished Expedition-- Birds, Feathers and Flight-- comes to a close, the Woodland Class is busy at work, crafting native Maine bird puppets and a script for puppet show that they will share with the school community. As we reflected back on the "engineering design challenge," of their flight mobiles, earlier this Expedition, the Woodlands have been taking on this final project as a serious design challenge as well! They made material lists and gathered all of their supplies, they made sketches of their puppet parts and construction visions, and they measured and made wing and leg/feet templates in Math, with Miss Marie to ensure both wings and legs were similar in size and shape. These well versed ornithologists and artists have drawn inspiration from the painted bird carvings that we saw at the Wendell Gilley, from the field guides and pictures in our bird library, and from their very own field observations. They have captured texture, color, shape and the true and distinct markings of these birds in fabric, wool, cardboard, birch bark, paint, feathers, pipe cleaners, lots of tacky glue, and needle and thread, all the while, getting to know their species well, like a friend. The

children have overcome design challenges by trial and error, and by collaborating with one another. They have learned how to persevere and make their ideas come to life. "That's a good idea!" "Do you mind if I try that?" "That looks so good-- it looks like downy feathers!" "I need help figuring out how to attach my crest..." "Hmmm... how do you sew on birch bark?" are some of the snippets that I hear around our puppet "studios," as we call them these days - Lessons of birds, and feathers, and flight, of course - and also so much more. Stay tuned for the date and time of our puppet show!

We are gearing up for Winter Classroom this week! We will be outside from 10-3:15, so please double check the to-wear/to-bring list. We hope you can join us for the closing circle at the end of the day, around the fire, just off of Oak Hill Road. As a reminder, we invite children and adults alike to bring a winter-themed poem, verse, song, story to share to celebrate the wonders of these white and icy days.

Warmly,
Jasmine



Woodland Class learns how to build a fire and invite the Alpine Class to join!

From The Intertidal Class...

Dear families,

The Green Crab group has finished their unit on measurement and place value! We celebrated our learning with an applied math day that combined our metric measurement skills (using cm and km) with some U.S. geography review. For our next unit, we will return to multiplication and division, continuing to practice our math facts using numbers 6-10.

The Urchins have reviewed their division knowledge and are beginning to learn the standard algorithm for division. The algorithm is not always intuitive and we continue to use our place value charts to model the work we are doing. It is helpful to hear that other mathematicians have been similarly challenged by this work and we are understanding is growing each day!



In the Sand Dollar group, students have been working on place value and decimal fractions. With the help of place value charts, students are exploring and experimenting with the various patterns of multiplication and division in the base ten system, as well as making use of exponents to denote powers of 10 with application to metric conversions. In the next few weeks, our work will focus on learning how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals.



Intertidal class learning a traditional Wabanaki weaving technique.

We have our Winter Classroom outing this week! Please be sure to check the packing list so that your children are well equipped to be outside all day. This day is such a fun adventure.

Warmly,
Bethany and Aura

From The Alpine Class...

The Alpine class was feeling especially grateful on last week's Outing day to share this island with College of the Atlantic! Throughout the course of our afternoon, we had a variety of scientific experiences that we will not soon forget. Beginning in the greenhouse, we explored the many plants and completed sketches of different specimens in our nature journals. We were then invited to head into a nearby lab to watch a seal pup dissection! After polling the group, we decided to head into the lab to learn about research being done by Allied Whale on this seal, who had been found in Winter Harbor last fall. The Alpine students who chose to observe the dissection were amazed by the careful work of the scientists and complex nature of their study. We were glad to discover that these scientists were learning more about how to better protect ocean animals in the future, and felt very grateful to have been welcomed into their lab.

Warmly,
Amy



More images from a glorious deep winter day at the Whale's Back

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 fire. 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

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

Please 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. Curious community members are welcome, too! Join us for a morning of sharing, gathering, and light refreshments. Flyer attached.



THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF MOUNT DESERT ISLAND

**NOW ACCEPTING
K-8 APPLICATIONS
FOR FALL 2019**

Round 1 Admissions February 15 - March 30
Round 2 Admissions April 1 - May 15

**OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2019
10 AM - 12 PM**

www.thecommunityschool.me

Cultivating a Sense of Self, Place, and Community.



website: www.thecommunityschool.me email: info@thecommunityschool.me