

Director's Note...

A full week indeed, last week. The winter weather once again cooperated for us to hold our 3rd Winter Classroom day on Somes Pond! Our warmest Winter Classroom day ever, the winds held and the sun came out, the fish were biting, fresh tracks were printed in the snow, and many delicious bannock biscuits were cooked



Winter Classroom

on sticks over the open fire. Children connected their experiences with classroom content, and shared their learning, wondering, noticing with our guest teachers for the day. Guest teachers told stories of their own winter past times-- growing up on Somes Pond and fishing derbys when they were Woodland-age. A merry circle of reflections around the crackling fire closed our day. The Talent Show followed on Friday, with a solid set of acts, and participants from all grades. Dance and song, magic and laughter filled the stage. Next up was the Open House, welcoming new families, community members dropping off books and art supplies; offering to volunteer, all of us celebrating all that we do in the present and imagining a TCS that continues to grow and grow.

Warmly,
Jasmine

Reminders:

- Pick-up will take place on the porch until further notice, due to the ice.
- February Break: 2/18-2/22. School resumes 2/25.
- Re-enrollment deadline: 2/28/19. Please mail your forms and deposit to the school or deliver them to Jasmine!

Thank You To

Everyone who made Winter Classroom possible: **Jeff** for supplying us with dry wood for our fire, **Jeff and Chad** for unloading wood, the **Alpine class** for making bannock dough, **Sargent Pepper and Josh Radcliff** for ice fishing with us, **Billy Helprin** for joining us as winter ecology teacher, **Aura** for teaching us woodsperson and fire building skills, **Judy Goldstein** for allowing us to use her fire circle, **The Alpine Class** for holding the Talent Show this year, **all current families** who brought snacks and/or attended the Open House last weekend, and **Kristi** for being the Intertidal library driver this week!

Natural History Mystery:

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

From The Woodland Class...

During Math Workshop, one way we learn our skip counting patterns is by working together in a circle reciting a number verse while walking. Here are the first couple of verses:

*There was a family strange indeed;
Each member had a peculiar speed.
They could walk for a half a day
Counting footsteps all the way.
Here they come,
Number one.*

*1. I am proper, neat and prim
My walk is straight, my clothes are trim
So I count my steps and you will see
That every one's the same for me.*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

(These steps are even and steady.)

*2. But my two steps are not the same,
For I must lean upon my cane.
Although I'm bent and weak and old
I can still count with numbers bold.*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12...(up to 24)

(These steps are bold on the even count and the odd numbers are whispered or not spoke at all.)

Along with this verse, we have been taking a closer look at doubles in our number work in adding and subtracting doubles (up to 12+12). We wanted to check that we know them in a “snap”. Example:

$$9+9=18$$

$$18=9+9$$

$$9=18-9$$

$$18-9=9$$

We noticed the relationship that number work had with our verse, which makes it much easier to think about the doubles in a “snap”, because we already learned the number pattern. Next we found out that this knowledge can transfer to multiplication and division. Example:

$$2 \times 9 = 18$$

$$9 + 9 = 18$$

$$18 / 2 = 9$$

$$9 \times 2 = 18$$

$$18 / 9 = 2$$

$$18 = 2 \times 9$$

$$9 = 18 / 2$$

$$18 = 9 \times 2$$

$$9 = 18 / 9$$

We were amazed to discover how quickly and easily we could work with these multiplication and division problems! As mathematicians, our “flexible thinking” allows numbers to make so much sense and is so much fun!

Happy skip counting,
Miss Marie

P.S. The Woodland Class will be going to Sand Beach during Outing this week to kick off their new expedition!



Billy Helprin shares the different crow calls with Finn and Nayeli shows the class her bird puppet

From The Intertidal Class...

Dear families,

Overnight week is here and I cannot wait to explore the Maine woods with the Intertidals. We have a mixture of excitement and nerves in the group, which is common when preparing for a big class trip. Happily, we are returning to a spot that is familiar to many of the children and we will have the support of our close knit class (and the luxury of a van to drive in, thanks to the ingenuity of both children and families!).

In Expedition, we are wrapping up our study of Wabanaki stories. During our study, we have asked the question, "why do people tell stories" and have been exploring the tradition of oral story telling both in Wabanaki culture and in our own families. Children collected stories from home and are working to write and publish them! They are also working on illustrations to accompany these stories, inspired by a variety of Wabanaki art styles.

Many of the children will be bringing their families stories home to finish revising and editing. If you are looking for ways to support your child with the writing they bring home, here are some tips that mirror the work we do in class.

It is important for the children to cultivate a sense of ownership in their writing.

Our goal is to support them in feeling capable and confident as writers. Asking open ended questions will give insight into their personal goals and can help them process their ideas out loud.

Some good questions to ask:

1. What are your goals for this piece?
2. What is your next step?
3. Can you share a part that you are particularly proud of? Why did you chose that part?

I hope you enjoy sharing these family stories together!

All the best,
Bethany and Aura



Blake finishing her name plate

From The Alpine Class...

The Alpine readers had their final book club meetings on Monday. We have been working in partnerships to read books about social issues in our society. We have all deeply appreciated the opportunity to share a reading journey with a friend and have maturely discussed and analyzed social issues as a group.

We made resolutions together to notice & stand up for others in situations of injustice, and closed our unit with a poem that we feel sums up our recent focus quite well:

“Shoulders” by Naomi Shihab Nye

A man crosses the street in rain,
stepping gently, looking two times north and south,
because his son is asleep on his shoulder.

No car must splash him.
No car drive too near to his shadow.

This man carries the world’s most sensitive cargo
but he’s not marked.
Nowhere does his jacket say FRAGILE,
HANDLE WITH CARE.

His ear fills up with breathing.
He hears the hum of a boy’s dream
deep inside him.

We’re not going to be able
to live in this world
if we’re not willing to do what he’s doing
with one another.

We have intentions to continue reading and discussing social issues together, but are looking forward to moving into an exploration of non-fiction and informational writing after break! Thank you for your support of your student’s reading and writing life.

With gratitude,
Amy



Amaya demonstrates skills learned during the Alpine’s Woodworking Class and shows one of the many projects the class completed

Winter Classroom Day...



Traditional Bannock:

Several students requested that we include the recipe for the bannock that we cooked over the fire at Winter Classroom in Field Notes this week. Enjoy!

Ingredients:

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons baking powder
- 1/4 cup butter
- About 1 cup warm water

Directions:

Melt butter in a saucepan. Measure and mix together flour, salt, and baking powder. Pour melted butter and water over flour mixture and mix with a fork to make a ball. Dough should not be too wet and sticky or too dry and should be firm enough to form on a stick. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and gently knead about 10 times. Divide dough into large egg-sized balls. Form around stick and cook over fire, bake in Dutch oven over coals, or bake in oven until golden brown.



News and Upcoming Events

Welcome Blake Whyte and Family

When we return from break, Blake Whyte will be joining our school community for the next several weeks as guest theater teacher/director, along with his wife Deanna, and daughter, Kai. Blake says, "It's a dream of mine to live in a place like Bar Harbor. I'm an explorer at heart and I love wild spaces. My strengths are in connection with people, collaboration, creating music. I feel at home creating and building artistic projects in a thriving artistic environment. I love to create experiences outdoors that reawaken our strong bonds to the earth and humanity. I love educational environments, and being physically active with work. I also have had several jobs coaching Cross Country and Track & Field. I'm also very passionate about Acadia National Park. I'm interested in the community, the land, and currently am writing a musical about the founding of Acadia National Park, info here, <https://vimeo.com/270895592>. Lastly, my deepest bliss is writing songs of all kinds, singing, storytelling, and collaborating with other artists with music." Both Blake and Deanna are performing artists and teachers, teaching voice, dance, acting, songwriting, directing, & yoga. Blake and Deanna have lived in New York City for the past 12 years and this past year have been touring the country with the musical "Wicked." We are thrilled to be collaborating with Blake to create innovative and place-based theater this winter/spring and look forward to welcoming him and his family. The Intertidal/Alpine performance will be held on Friday, March 22 and the Woodland production on April 12.



A few of the entertaining acts at this year's Community Talent Show

Cultivating a Sense of Self, Place, and Community.



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