

Field Notes

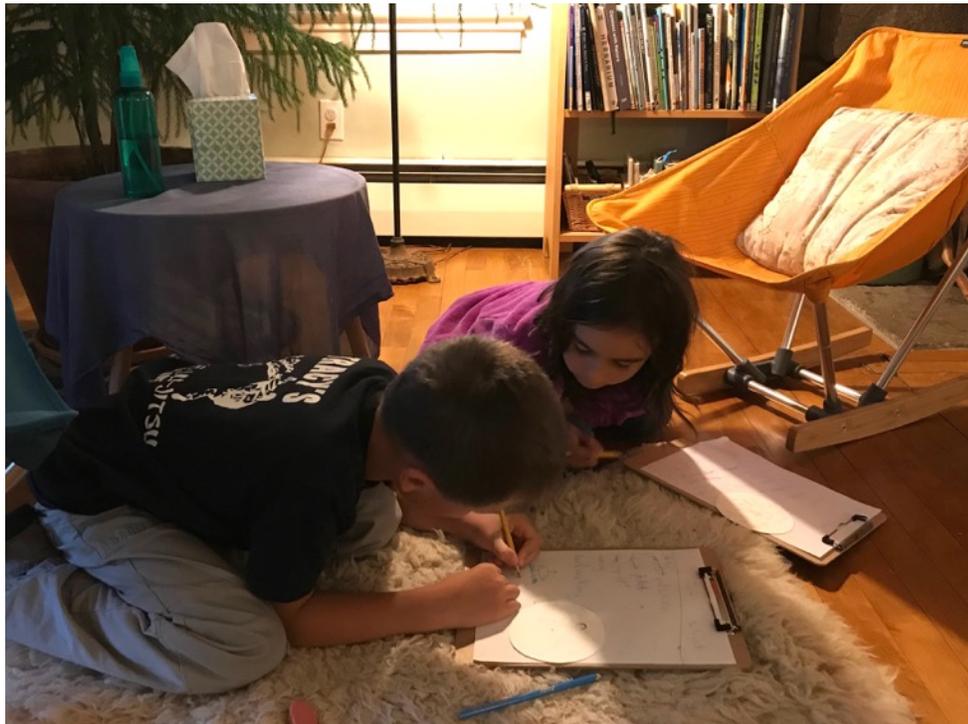
The Weekly Newsletter of The Community School of Mount Desert Island
Tuesday, September 18, 2018 - Volume #1

From The Woodland Class...

It has been a delight to begin our Language Arts Workshops this past week with returning and new students. The children have enthusiastically engaged in helping each other with the routines and rhythms of our time together. We have learned a new opening verse and started our poetry study. Kindness to others and to ourselves has been a focus for discussion. We have discovered that there are so many positive feelings we can express and experience when kindness is shared!

*Straight as a spear I stand,
Strength fills my legs and arms,
Warmth fills my heart with love.*

With warmth,
Miss Marie



Woodlands working during Expedition

Reminders:

- Volunteer clipboards are on the kitchen table through this week!
- Common Ground Fair Outing: Friday, September 21, meeting at school at 7:45am, returning at 6pm.
- Class meetings are coming up!
Woodland: Monday, 9/24, 3:30-5
Intertidal: Tuesday, 9/25, 3:30-5
Alpine: Wednesday, 9/26, 3:30-5

Thank You To

Robert Haskell and **Luna Shen** for engaging us in their earthen bag structure, Gnome Home, **Christian, Jacob and Ian** of Sweet Pea's cafe for sharing their food philosophy and wood fired pizza with us, **Craig Neff** at the Naturalist's Notebook for welcoming us, the **Abby Chapel** for allowing us to use their space as a rain cover during Island Immersion Week, **Amy Gagnon** for hosting the Woodland Class outing at the Naturlist's Notebook, and **Kreg McCune** for hosting the Alpine class for their outing. .

Natural History Mystery:

What species of pumpkin is the largest at The Common Ground Fair?

data collectors, interviewing our fellow school members, recording their island town of residence, and then displaying our data in a picture graph. We've started exploring bar graphs this week and will continue to explore ways of displaying and then also interpreting data.

From The Intertidal Class...

Dear Families,

I cannot believe it is Common Ground Fair week already. We are getting excited for this excursion in the Intertidal classroom and are especially looking forward to sharing this experience with new community members who will be attending the fair for the first time.



Intertidal annual picture with the Bar Harbor sign on the banks of Babson Creek

In math workshop, we have started out working as one large math group. We are reviewing strategies from last year, getting to know our partners, and developing independence before breaking off into our smaller groups for the year. Our first unit together is all about collecting and displaying data. We began last week as



Exploring the whales back!

What a dear set of mathematicians we have and I look forward to the ways in which they will grow in confidence and inquiry as the year progresses! Our outing coordinator Aura will also be one of our math teachers this year and we have all enjoyed welcoming her into our math work this past week.

Our outing this week will take us to the MCHT headquarters just up the road. We'll be meeting with Douglas McMullin in his role as land steward. Our Expedition this month is focused around our own stewardship of Babson Creek and a visit with our neighbors at MCHT is fitting.

I look forward to seeing you at our class meetings next week! They are such a meaningful time to come together in support of these children and each other.

With warmth,
Bethany

From The Alpine Class...

For our first expedition of the year, the Alpine class is studying our island through the lens of local artists. We began by examining a collection of pieces created by local artists, including Danielle Byrd, Karen Ressel, and Kreg McCune. We discussed what “counts” as art (a very extensive and eclectic list!), what artists contribute to their communities, and what inspires them to create. Motivated by these ideas, we quickly got to work coming up with a list of questions to ask local artists during our upcoming interviews.

For our outing on Thursday, we journeyed to Seal Cove to visit with Kreg McCune at his pottery studio. Kreg generously welcomed us into his studio, where he answered

questions about his life, art, and sources of inspiration. The Alpines then each tried out the pottery wheel and created some impressive bowls.

We look forward to continuing to study and meet with these artists who bring so much joy to our community. For our Outing this week, we will be heading into Somesville to meet with Tyra Hanson at The Gallery at Somes Sound!

Warmly,
Amy



Greg and Noah work on the wheel



Evelyn's clay creation

Handwork

It was a pleasure to see old friends and welcome new as we came together for our first Handwork classes of the year. We began the Woodland class with a story about a hungry chipmunk, making her way through the forest. She winds her way past late summer flowers, brightly colored leaves and falling acorns in search of the sweet scent that beckons. She comes upon a tree and there lay the first sweet apples of the season! With

the stage set for apple felting, we moved into the kitchen to begin our project. Standing around the table, we formed our fleece into round balls, gently lowering them into warm soapy water and carefully rolling the wet fleece in our hands. With time and patience, the fleece began to firm up, letting us know the felting process was at work.



Woodland Story



Intertidal Felted Soaps

The Intertidals began their Handwork year with a felting project. Using handmade soap(made by my son!), the students wrapped lovely colors of fleece around the soap bars. We then placed the bars inside nylon stockings to hold the fleece in place, dunked them in warm soapy water and agitated them with our hands until we could feel the felt firm up. Then came the exciting next step-removing the nylon and seeing our lovely soaps emerge! The students enjoyed this project and are looking forward to making more felted soap bars for our Harvest Festival.

I am delighted to welcome Faye Durand McDonnell as Handwork assistant in the Woodlands. Faye is a homeschooled 8th grader and younger sister to Phoebe. We look forward to sharing a school year rich in Handwork with your children!

Warmly,
Miss Karen



Faye assisting in the Woodlands

News and Upcoming Events

Community Common Ground Fair Friday, September 21

There is no better way to welcome Fall than our annual trip to The Common Ground Fair! This is an all-day, all-school outing. We will meet at school at 7:45 in the morning, and leave by 8:00 am. Please be prompt! We will return to the island for a 6:00pm pickup at school.

Please pack:

- A full water bottle
- A sun hat/baseball cap
- A raincoat
- An extra layer
- A few snacks
- \$25 in an envelope, with your child's name on it for lunch and spending money
- A comfortable, lightly packed backpack
- Please send your child(ren) with comfortable shoes for walking

While this is a fun, autumnal event, we also build the context of the fair into our first expedition, looking at our greater Maine community and network of farmers and growers, along with artists, makers and sustainably-minded organizations. We will be in touch with parents who have volunteered to join us to arrange driving logistics.

Class Meetings

We ask that at least one parent representative from each family joins their class teacher(s) for this annual start-of-the-year meeting. We look forward to our time together! Childcare will be provided by TCS.

Woodland Class: Monday, September 24, 3:30-5:00

Intertidal Class: Tuesday, September 25, 3:30-5:00

Alpine Class: Wednesday, September 26, 3:30-5:00

Family Tick Talk with Sarah Tewhey

Monday, October 15, 3:30-4:15pm

Mark your calendars! Sarah will talk about the 54 Herrick tick protocol, also used by TCS, and offer her experience and balanced perspective on tick prevention and what approaches you can take if you find a tick on your child. Please RSVP to Jasmine if you plan to attend, so we can plan the space accordingly.



Carrot Harvest!

Cultivating a Sense of Self, Place, and Community.



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