

# Field Notes

The Weekly Newsletter of the Community School for Place-Based Education

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## From the Office:

Dear TCS families,

At first an autumn tinge, hillsides are glowing gold and the red maple leaves are beginning to fall. The sweet fern leaves are drying and curling into a deep burgundy. A flying V of geese almost the width of the field flew over this week, heading south. For it is warm now, but they know that the cooler and crisper air is soon to come. At this time of year, we relish in the bounties of fall and begin to prepare for the months ahead as well. Classes have been out in local gardens and farmlands, our garden harvest and projects are underway as I write, and our cordwood was just delivered. Cozy layers are emerging as mornings cool and last week, we feasted together as a school, sharing Stone Soup with a host of local vegetables from families' and neighbors' gardens. Each year, we look forward to our heirloom apple share and the kitchen smells of the autumn fruit as our collection grows. We look forward to pressing with everyone next week during Apple Fest and to the autumn festivities ahead.

I hope you will join us at Fogtown in Ellsworth next Tuesday on 10/10, 5:00-7:00pm to celebrate TCS's tenth year. Fogtown has been collaborating with us for several years and we are grateful to Jon and his crew for creating a local celery root-mint kid-friendly spritzer for the event and hosting the event outdoors. The featured TCS pizza will be Babson Creek apple-cheddar with caramelized onion and fresh wood sorrel. In preparation for the evening slideshow, I have been sorting through pictures today from the last decade. I am overcome with such gratitude for the people who have contributed to this community over the years – the teachers, parents, community members and students past and present, some who are no longer with us – who have made TCS such a dynamic, strong and rich learning community.

Onward!  
Jasmine

## Thank You

Our adventurous Northeast Creek parent volunteers: **Johannah Blackman**, **Ewa Cohen**, **Matt Blackman**, and **Brianna Caddle**; **Nick Jenei** and the **COA Outing Club** for loaning us canoes; the **Seymour family** for welcoming us to Leland Point; **Scott Swann** & his **Ecology Natural History Class** for teaching the SFs about marsh plants; and **Ashley, Lesley**, and **Amilie** for joining **Parent Craft Night #1**; and **April Nugent** of **COA's Peggy Rockefeller Farm**.

## Reminders

**Tuesday, 10/10**, is our 10-Year Anniversary Celebration at Fogtown Brewing in Ellsworth. Join us at 5pm for this family-friendly event!

**Friday, 10/13**, is Apple Fest on campus from 3:30 to 5:30pm.

# From the Sweet Fern Class

Dear community,

The Sweet Ferns had another splendid week, complete with the first all school feast of the year. The Sweet Ferns cooked up a batch of the tastiest stone soup the world has seen and shared it with the rest of the school for a memorable luncheon. From chopping the veggies to cleaning the kitchen, this crew of chefs owned the whole process with contagious delight.

We had the pleasure of inviting two visitors into our world this week. Ms. Megan joined us on Monday for a trip to the Whalesback, where the Sweet Ferns finished the last two illustrations in their 5 senses accordion book and enjoyed the fall scenery around Babson Creek. Thank you so much for joining us, Ms. Megan! It was a pleasure to have you along with us.



Preparing Stone Soup

Learning about marsh plants from Scott Swann and his Ecology Natural History Class





We returned to the Whalesback again the very next day, this time accompanied by COA professor Scott Swann and his Ecology: Natural History class. We spent a wonderful morning learning about marsh grasses, hopping on squishy hummocks and avoiding (or very much not avoiding) the sulfurous marsh muck. It was a straggled line of wet, smelly and thoroughly pleased Sweet Ferns that made their way back to the yurt for a hose down and a well-earned lunch.

Both math and literacy lessons have been focused on number/letter formation using a variety of tools, from creating numbers with our bodies to building uppercase letters out of blocks. What the Sweet Ferns would really like me to tell you about, however, is the acorn craftwork that has been happening during morning forest play in the Gnome Woods. The Sweet Ferns have devised a way of breaking into the tops of unripe acorns and scooping out the nut inside while keeping the rest of the shell intact, creating a small acorn vase as an end result. This discovery has led to many happy hours of meticulous acorn gauging, which led to the impromptu creation of a print-drawer installation full of acorns and other Gnome Woods finds. We Sweet Fern teachers and students hope that you all find something small and beautiful to cherish in this season of endless treasures.

With appreciation,

Mr. Jesse, Mr. Kreg and Ms. Jasmine



Morning walk to the Gnome Woods

Exploring the marsh on a sunny day





# From the Woodland Class

Dear Woodland families,

It has been a week full of adventure for the Woodland class. As we have been planning our farms for our final project, we have discovered that there are a lot of things to think about. It is hard to imagine just how much work goes into a farm full of pigs, sheep, goats, chickens, horses, cows, orchards, vegetables and cats, lots of cats. It has been a lesson that less may not be as much fun but it is definitely more practical! We are thinking we may have to plan some dream farms next.

It was extremely helpful to visit with April, who manages COA's Peggy Rockefeller Farm. She gave us some great perspective about the lessons she has learned about taking care of animals and how it is much more sustainable to focus on a few things. The Woodlands are working to narrow the niche their farms will fill in the community.

Pigs and Party Dresses at Peggy Rockefeller Farm



Ollie and Quinn rock stripes on Northeast Creek



The adventures continued with our Northeast Creek paddle. Although we did not find many cranberries, we had a lot of fun. The Woodlands started the day being crowned by the Intertidals as the Royal Stewards of Northeast Creek. The Intertidals passed along their knowledge of what it means to steward a place, inviting the Woodlands to carry on the tradition. We enjoyed sharing stories, singing, and naming our boats on the paddle out to the bog. Once there, we stretched our legs by playing in the woods and enjoyed lunch with all three classes (and some parents) together. After lunch, we spend the afternoon writing bog poetry, learning about bog ecology, and creating sun prints. We finished up just in time to jump back in our boats for the paddle back. It was a most beautiful, sunny day on the creek. We were so grateful for the opportunity to share this lovely tradition with your children!

We are excited for next week, when our upcoming outing will take us to Beech Hill Farm and COA.

With joy,  
Ms. Alisa and Ms. Autumn



Clover is crowned by Sawyer as a Royal Steward of Northeast Creek

# From the Intertidal Class

Dear Intertidal families,

What an incredible paddle this week! The Intertidals crowned the Woodlands as the Royal Stewards of Northeast Creek, and hopped in canoes to paddle out to the cranberry-less bog. Although the berries were scarce, the ecology, poetry, artmaking, and good company was abundant. We calculated at least 2,500 years of peat accumulation below our feet and watched herons take to the blue sky above. A sincere thank you to all parent volunteers for making this day possible!

As the Intertidals near the end of our “Economics: Self, Place, and Community” unit, we are turning our attention toward issues of economic justice, and exploring how income inequality manifests in our home community. A foggy visit to Johnston’s Apple Orchard in Ellsworth yielded 225 pounds of apples, a bushel of which we were glad to give to Open Table in Bar Harbor. We stopped on our way back to talk about food insecurity, running a non-profit, and building community. Huge thanks to Mahan Deva at Open Table for spending time with us (and letting us sit in your giant pots!) We hope to run into Intertidal families at a Tuesday night community dinner soon!



Clara gets cozy in an Open Table pot that cooks soup for 200!



Intertidals continue to tackle multiplication, division, and complex place value in math. All math groups will be nearing the end of our first module soon! As readers and writers we have been discussing what good reading aloud sounds like, and we just wrapped up our Dollar Bill Ballads.

Please keep your eye on your email inbox for an update from Intertidal teachers this weekend, which will contain information about our upcoming on-campus overnight, Thursday, October 12th. We hope to see you all the following day at Apple Festival from 3:30-5:30pm. We'll see how well rested the Intertidals are for the festivities...



Ms. Patience leads Intertidals in bogside sun printing.



# From the Alpine Class



Dear Alpine families,

Kaden and Eli paddle toward the Cranberry Bog

The Alpines have been stretching our brains and our bodies every day this week! On Monday and Tuesday, we joined Emily to construct the raised garlic bed. Wednesday brought us to Northeast Creek with the other grades, where Alpines took leadership of student boats, wrote brilliant and silly poems, lost a bog pole with panache, and confidently steered us all back home to Route 3. On Thursday and Friday, the cooler weather made for relaxed days and finishing assessments in Math, exploring summaries in ELA, and building a raised bed in Expedition.



Bronwyn and Simone paddle speedily while Nina looks out for rocks



All of our Alpines are now enrolled on Google Classroom, which will enable your student to continue work while at home. We will have a Reading Log due every Sunday afternoon, and your student may complete it during in-class independent work time.

Here's the link to our [Google Classroom](#). Your student will be able to log in with their TCS email address. If you have questions about logging in from home, please contact Eloise or Patience.

warmly,  
Eloise, Emily, & Kelsi

Tobias uses a sledgehammer to create the bed wall from reclaimed wood.



Chirp demonstrates the importance of weighing down cardboard before adding soil and organic matter.

# News and Upcoming Events

## **10/10 Celebration at Fogtown: October 10th, 5:00-7:00pm**

Come celebrate TCS's 10th year with wood fired pizza and family friendly place-based drink at the Fogtown Ellsworth beer garden. The featured pizza of the evening will be a TCS apple-cheddar with caramelized onion and wild sorrel, and Jon will prepare a local apple-cranberry spritzer for the event. Photos from the last ten years will play on slideshow throughout the evening and 10% of sales on 10/10 will be donated to TCS.

## **Apple Fest: Friday, October 13th, 3:30-5:30pm**

Come press apples, taste our favorite heirlooms and enjoy a fireside potluck at our 10th annual apple festival! Apples have so many stories to tell and they are part of our fall tradition at TCS. Come explore, taste and welcome fall with us along Babson Creek.

## **TCS Film Screening, October 14th: 5:00pm at COA**

Since last March, local filmmaker Nikolai Fox has been filming our programs with an observational documentary approach. At this event, we will present an in-progress reel and host a discussion about filmmaking and Place-based education. Following the screening at COA, we invite you to support TCS by dining at one of the three Bar Harbor restaurants donating 10% to TCS that day: Side Street Cafe, McKay's Public House, and the Lompoc Cafe.



**Cultivating a Sense of Self, Place, and Community**