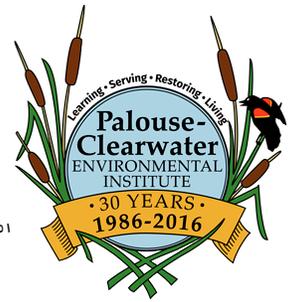


the EARTH WORM

a monthly publication featuring the outdoor meanderings of our beloved nature school



January 2020

www.palouseroots.com

EMERGENT CURRICULUM

Nature Knowledge

Following animal tracks and painting tracks with stencils.

STEM

Watching the many forms of water changing and learning about the water cycle.

Kindness

Using a gentle voice and the name of the person you are speaking to.

Motor Skills

Learning to tie knots so that we can make fishing poles and tree decorations.

Pre Literacy

Writing and drawing in the snow with paint made from beets.

Creativity

Telling stories at snack time.

Community

Gathering firewood for the yurt and caring for the chickens.

DON'T FORGET!



SPRING BREAK

NO SCHOOL

MARCH 16-20



A JOURNEY

Four brave children packed their bags to embark on a journey to the newly discovered ponds. There had been days and days of rain which had caused the many inches of snow to begin to melt. The water flowed beneath the ground and settled into the hallows to create what would soon be called shallow pond number one. The children knew that they must pack the essentials: a rope, binoculars, water bottles, and walking sticks. They set off while reminding their teachers that they would not go beyond where their eyes could meet and that they would not enter any ponds deeper than three inches. Their teacher chose one child to carry the measuring stick for this purpose. And off they went, many leaders learning the art of helpful, kind leadership. A map made of leather led them there, to the first pond. They explored its shores, checked its depths, and looked for new creatures. One child prepared to return with a companion so that they could report their findings and shouted to the others,

"We have to go back, you stay here."

His companion added, "If you follow the ice crystals you will find us," as he picked up a handful of icy snow and began to create a trail behind them as they walked together.

Just then a child was heard shouting, "Another pond!"

And another, "Test it, is this one safe?"

"No, it is too deep," said the third...

... TO BE CONTINUED

THE CEDARSONG WAY

The first U.S. Forest Kindergarten based on the German waldkindergartens was started by a woman named Erin Kenny in 2007 on Vashon Island in Washington state. Erin's school is called Cedarsong and she went on to create a nationally recognized teacher training program called The Cedarsong Way which is based on the American Forest Kindergarten model of early childhood education known for its commitment to 100% outdoor time, interest-led flow learning, emergent curriculum, and inquiring-based teaching style. Palouse Root's founder and lead teacher, Darci Deaton, attended the Cedarsong Way training in 2017 while she was in the process of forming our very own Forest Kindergarten on the Palouse. Today, we still follow this model of teaching and although we don't call ourselves a Forest Kindergarten due to local limitations of age and landscape, we are in essence a sprouting child of the Forest Kindergarten movement. We hope to someday become an accredited Forest Kindergarten! More information here:

www.ashevillefarmstead.org/cedarsongway

www.forestkindergartenassociation.org

FROM OUR NEW TEACHER:



"When my family first relocated to Moscow, we heard about a new outdoor preschool, and eagerly attended "movie night" at the yurt where we learned more about outdoor, place-based education. My husband and I were hooked. Our younger daughter who would attend the school was a bit less enthused, in spite of having spent an hour playing happily in the mud kitchen. She has an inherent flair for the fancy and frill, and at that time in her development she was primarily motivated by sequins, shine, and anything gauzy or pink. So, we bedazzled her "school" overalls in the fall with heat set jewels, purchased pink base layer, and did our best to find rain gear in

her color palette. Eventually, while the frill still mattered to her, we observed that her knowledge and love for the outdoors had expanded tremendously. "This is snowberry. Don't eat it. It's poisonous." she told me on a walk at PCEI one day. Later, on a hike in the woods of British Columbia where the fabled Sasquatch lives, she led her older sister through a raucous hike and, after testing the waters of a frigid lake near the trail, decided it would be too cold for her feet. She scaled some jagged rocks instead, and took in her surroundings. "This is so beautiful!" she commented. My four-year old had become equally dazzled by nature and tiaras.

This is what I have come to love about Palouse Roots, the opportunity for preschoolers to expand through a learning environment that engages them in the outdoors. Naturally I jumped at the chance to sub for Palouse Roots in the fall when opportunities arose. During those times, it was a delight to see your children explore the outdoors and their inner selves, connecting with nature and peers simultaneously. It is a remarkable time for discovery, play, and expedition, and I'm thrilled to transition from a substitute teacher to part-time teacher.

A little about me generally:

I grew up in Montana near Glacier National Park and attended the University of Montana, earning my BA in Elementary Education. I began teaching in California, but eventually headed east and attended Harvard Graduate School of Education for my master's degree. Along the way I also met my husband, worked in educational software production, teaching professional development, and a nonprofit focused on education about and prevention of HIV transmission in international conflict zones.

When our oldest daughter entered preschool, we toured many options in the Bay Area, finally settling on a pre-school cooperative that engaged parents weekly in support roles. I found that every day spent at the preschool provided insight into the facets of early childhood development, and great parenting tools that I needed as a first-time parent. I loved learning from the teachers at the co-op, and on my working days, I learned to settle into an observer and facilitator role that has helped me at Palouse Roots.

When I'm not at Palouse Roots I can be found writing fiction, alpine skiing, fussing with a sourdough starter, or volunteering at the Kenworthy Theater."

-Liz Lincoln

GUN PLAY

Excerpts from an article on huffpost.com

What To Do When Your Son Is Obsessed With Pretend Guns

Experts say trying to stop children's gunplay isn't necessarily the way to go.

By

Catherine Pearson

12/02/2019 05:01pm EST |

Updated December 9, 2019

Aggressive play tends to be more common in boys, but it is NOT a predictor of future violence.

Banning gunplay could backfire.

You can (and should!) draw clear boundaries according to your comfort zone.

Talk to your sons about real gun safety, even if you think they'll never come into contact with a gun.

"We're frightened of male violence," said Michael G. Thompson, a clinical psychologist and author of *Raising Cain: Protecting The Emotional Life Of Boys*. "But I do not believe that should have us curtail play, as long as it is play."

