

Summer Programming: Reopened and Adjusting

We are SO excited to be back with our friends at the barn! We have been back for over a week now and are settling in to our new normal.

While we understand that this situation is ever-evolving, we are committed to following our new procedures as well as continuing to fine tune our systems.

We are grateful to our families for taking initiative and staying diligent in social distancing at drop-off and pick-up, taking temperatures before coming to school, and following the other protocols in our Covid-19 Action Plan. This will remain imperative for us to be able to continue to operate.

During the first week back at the barn we have been enjoying reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones. There have been a lot of discussions about the life cycle of a butterfly as we watched our first monarchs emerge from their chrysalides (photos on back page), and the life cycle of a frog as we continue to observe our tadpoles!

We have been planting watermelon and pumpkin seeds and watering our class garden! There have been many art projects completed and music time has been filled with all of our favorite songs!

One of the highlights of our summer programming has been welcoming older siblings as well as old friends back into the group, and this year is no exception!

Check out our previous issue on the multifaceted benefits of multi-age education: [The Magnificence of Multi-age](#)

Daily Backpack Needs

EVERY ITEM LABELED!!!!

FULL water bottle

Snack (nut-free)

2 FULL sets of extra clothes (socks included)

Rain gear

Diapers/wipes (if using)

Please leave all non-essential, personal items at home during this time

We are often impressed with how much motivation the children feel when tasked with helping a younger friend. It is incredible to watch an age diverse group of kids spontaneously designate appropriate roles amongst one another to achieve a mutual goal.

So far this summer we have already had some substantial team efforts that have required negotiation, division of labor, and plenty of compromise to truly impressive outcomes. A great example of this is when some of the older children started building a stick fort which of course intrigued most of the group.

They were able to give some simple tasks such as collecting sticks, dirt and leaves with which even our youngest students could successfully assist.

At one point or another during the first week, almost every student contributed in some way and are now enjoying and continuing to share use of the space.

We are looking forward to continuing to learn and grow along with our students during our summer program and are wishing everyone well during this time!



The kiddos have been adding mud, dirt, and leaves to the roof to "waterproof" it.



They also made beaded decorations to hang from the ceiling.

BUTTERFLY LIFE CYCLE

WE HAVE BEEN PRACTICING SAYING METAMORPHOSIS AND CHRYSALIS A LOT! TRY IT AT HOME!



One of our monarch caterpillars next to an already formed chrysalis.



Mr. Liam (now a junior teacher) teaches the kids about the life cycle by putting on a play together!



We were lucky enough to be at school when all three monarch butterflies emerged over the span of two days during our first week back!



Once their wings were dry we let them go into our pollinator garden and told them "thank you for letting us observe you"!

Greenhouse Update



We are SO excited that the greenhouse is finished! Thank you to Mr. Jon and other volunteers for making this a reality! We are so grateful. Also, we would like to thank everyone that assisted in the fundraising efforts for this project! Many of our students have already enjoyed some time inside of it! This summer we are using it for planting and will be selling plant starts at Ms. Kelsie's new shop, Hiker and the Hound, and Farmer Jacqui's farm store at Roosterhead Plantation!

Important Dates

We will decide about session 3 by July 3 at the latest. Barring any changes in public health recommendations, we plan to be able to open!

- Summer Session 1
June 8 - 26
- Summer Session 2
June 29 - July 17
- Summer Session 3?
July 20 - August 7
- CLOSED:
August 8 - 23
- First Day of Fall Sprouts
August 24
- First Day of Fall Seedlings
August 31

Summer Payment #2 Due:
Wednesday, June 24
Summer Payment #3 Due:
Wednesday, July 22