

The Importance of Children in Nature

We thoroughly enjoyed reading *Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv, both as a staff and with some of our parents. This book initiated an international dialogue around the concept of 'nature deficit disorder.' While our community does not suffer this affliction, in fact, avoiding it is one of the main things that has brought all of us together, we are still inundated by the effects of our society's increasing detachment from our environment.

This book serves as a warning to all of us that we must make a concerted effort to reverse the trend of forcing our children into a hyper-scheduled, artificial existence. An important takeaway is the fact that "one of the great benefits of unstructured outdoor recreation is that it does not cost anything, [but that] because it is free, there is no major economic interest involved."

One reason we wanted to encourage everyone to read this book is that we hope it can serve as an aid for having the conversations that will continue to help the outdoor education movement to grow and thrive.

As is apparent to us in our program everyday, for children "in a natural setting... their social standing [becomes] based less on physical abilities and more on language skills, creativity, and inventiveness. In other words, the more creative children emerge as leaders in natural play areas." These are precisely the values and skills we hope to inculcate in our students and the outdoors proves to be an important partner in providing the op-

portunities to help them grow as such.

We discuss often in our program the relationship between freedom and limits. The freedom that we find in nature is intertwined with the, literally natural, limits we find therein. These natural limits teach young children in much deeper, more impactful ways than words ever can.

"...a child in nature is required to make decisions not often encountered in a more constricted, planned environment, ones that not only present danger, but opportunity."

We are grateful and proud to have such a large, committed community that believes in the importance of preserving and sharing humanity's interdependence with and stewardship of nature.

Please take a moment to consider:

- How does being outdoors lend itself to unstructured play?
- A time when boredom has allowed you or a child you know to create or imagine.
- What are some skills children practice when left to be responsible for their own entertainment, engagement, or activity?
- How much more a child learns when the space for failure is left open for them.
- A time you or someone you know has felt the effects of 'directed-attention fatigue.'
- The connection between a child's relationship with their environment and their future understanding of civic duty.

"Passion is lifted from the earth itself by the muddy hands of the young; it travels along grass-stained sleeves to the heart. If we are to save environmentalism and the environment, we must also save an endangered indicator species: the child in nature."





Our county is being highlighted in this episode! Check out Ms. Thea's segment!

Deposits and Paperwork DUE!

Please ensure you submit your Fall program paperwork and deposits
NO LATER THAN July 21!

This is for morning and afternoon programming!
EVERYONE must complete a new packet for fall!

Upcoming Events

Save the date
and spread the word!

Friday, July 30: 5-8 p.m.
Oskar Blues Brewing
Selling plants and merch!
Saturday, August 7: 11:30-1:30
Free kid's corner in the Wolfbrew
courtyard with activities and
crafts for kiddos!

Shout-out and many thanks!



Two of our Pisgah Collective families joined forces and hosted a lemonade stand fundraiser at the Grand Olde Station restaurant a couple of weekends ago. They raised \$30 for our program! Thank you!

Important Dates

- Fall Program Deposits & Paperwork DUE
*EVERYONE must complete a new paperwork packet for Fall 2021.
- Last Day of Summer
Friday, August 13
- First Day of Fall Semester
Mornings: Monday, August 23
Afternoons: September 7
- CLOSED: Labor Day
Monday, September 6
- CLOSED: Fall Break
October 11-15
- CLOSED: Thanksgiving Break
October 22-26
- Last Day of Fall Semester
Afternoons: Thursday, Nov. 18
Mornings: Friday, Dec. 17

Our next Trivia Night fundraiser will be in the fall!
More details to come!

Fall Program Deposits + Paperwork (morning + afternoon):
Wednesday, July 21
Fall Payment #1 Due:
Wednesday, August 18