



# School in the Woods Field Notes



## May 2020

### Dear Parents:

Who would have known two months ago that our world and the way we function in it would change so dramatically? We know that the last quarter of the school year at School in the Woods has been vastly different for our naturalists, families, and our SITW Team and certainly nothing we could ever have anticipated. We started off our year with an excited group of 78 naturalists eager to begin their school year in our new building. The time we spent together from August until mid-March was filled with so many wonderful learning experiences creating numerous smiles and meaningful memories. Even though we were not to complete the entire school year together with one another in our school building and on the campus, we still had a tremendous amount of time together. And, our Mountain Chickadee class has now pioneered SITW's brand of eLearning! This has been a trying time, but we strived to make the best lemonade out of the lemons we found ourselves with. How proud we are of our naturalists, their families and our school team. We were creative, persistent, and dedicated to make the eLearning unique in our own SITW way.

We sincerely hope that all the time we were able to spend together has been exciting and challenging for all our naturalists. The growth and accomplishments your children have demonstrated have been extremely impressive. The impact of all our experiences this year will hopefully shape our naturalists' future in many rewarding and positive ways.

Yet, we are quite aware that our school simply would not be the same without the help of so many of you and your volunteering: teacher helpers, office help, library volunteers, assisting with parties and Pizza Fridays, supporting our art program, helping with pine needle baskets and clay tiles, assisting us with a variety of special projects including our move, and most especially Spring Field Projects. This year we have logged thousands of hours in volunteer time! It is difficult for us to express our tremendous appreciation for your time, energy, and

encouragement throughout the school year. We are truly a better school for our naturalists because of your volunteering and being part of our community.

With the recent change in status to "Safer at Home", we know people have felt they could venture outdoors for a bit more exercising, making natural world observations, and taking care of necessary tasks outside the house. We still want to be safe by maintaining our distancing and wearing masks in more crowded or inside areas away from home. Let's each do our part in slowing the spread of Covid-19.

### Spring Field Projects

We are so proud of the work our students have done on their Spring Field Projects! Despite being more hunkered down, the thought and effort they have been putting into these projects have been truly extraordinary for fourth graders. Many naturalists spent time conducting field work, doing research, learning from experts, and compiling their data. The project progress reflects an incredible depth of understanding. We deeply appreciate the help that all of you provided at home. Teachers will provide the details on the completion process. The final Spring Field Projects are due Friday, May 15th.

### End-of-the-Year Supplies Pick up and Drop off

We are planning for two days of supply pick up/drop off on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 25-27. The exact process as to how this will occur is still being worked out. We will utilize the SignUpGenius system and schedule blocks of times for naturalists/parents to come to the school. We will provide more specific details in the weeks to come.

### Happy Mother's Day *and* Father's Days!

You moms and dads have certainly had your work cut out for you. We want everyone to know how much we recognize and appreciate all the efforts you parents have put into supporting our eLearning. Parent roles now have had to include being teachers, too. Thanks for all you have done during this difficult time! We hope these two days are well celebrated!