



FEBRUARY 2021

CAMPUS COLUMNS

2ND NATURE ACADEMY CAMPUS NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our new newsletter!

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We are thrilled to introduce our new and improved newsletter. It is our goal to deliver a more all-encompassing monthly update for our academic and early childhood programs that provides a picture of what's happening on campus, along with important reminders. *Simply click on a link in the "In this issue" key to be directed to the corresponding page!*

A YEAR IN REVIEW

BY KERRY GLEESON (PRESIDENT, TNOT GROUP)

The end of this month marks about a year since the most surreal trip to a grocery store I've ever taken. I walked in on what I thought was an average Friday and met utter mayhem. Moving in dazed circles, I attempted to keep a clear head as I watched shelves empty and lines grow and curl in chaos. Store staff looked exhausted and terrified. Afterwards, I got back into my car and messaged those closest to me that something big—and unlike anything I had ever experienced—was happening. I know that I am not alone in this sort of memory and you each likely have a similar story of a moment of reckoning. I hardly need to remind you that in the coming days and

weeks, states, municipalities, and businesses began to enter lockdown like dominoes falling. A pandemic was declared. We all watched on helplessly as life as we knew it changed around us. Each of these nearly 365 days felt like it flew by in a strange mix of heightened anxiety and bizarre banality, yet the year itself seemed to play out in excruciatingly slow motion.

A lot has happened since last February: a whole lot of bad, plenty of memorable, a healthy dose of forgettable (and that which we would wish to forget), and, yes, even some markedly good. For me, so much of that good came from the silver linings provided to us here on campus. It has been a true honor to provide a safe haven for your children during this time—watching them grow and thrive amidst the chaos of this year has been as much a gift to us as we hope it has been for them to be here. There is still much to come as vaccines are rolled out and before life returns to something akin to what we knew it as before "The Pandemic," but we continue to be assured by the dedication to our mission that we find among our community members. Perhaps it hasn't been a great year, but it certainly hasn't been completely without its merit. Thank you for entrusting us with the education and care of those whom you hold most dear along the way.

CAMPUS UPDATES

CAMPUS CLOSURES (FEDERAL HOLIDAYS)

PRESIDENT'S DAY

Monday, February 15

ACADEMIC CALENDAR (2ND NATURE ACADEMY)

EARLY RELEASE

None in February

SCHOOL VACATION WEEK

February 22-26

SPECIAL EVENTS & SPIRIT DAYS

GROUNDHOG DAY

Tuesday, February 2

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Friday, February 12



VALENTINE'S DAY

Sunday, February 14

MARDI GRAS

Tuesday, February 16



VALENTINE'S DAY POLICIES

*All items due
2/11/21*



As you are aware from your handbook, candy is not permitted to be shared/consumed by students. If your child would like to distribute Valentine cards or mementos (e.g., stickers, erasers, pencils, etc.) these are permitted *as long as every student in a class receives one*. Please ask your child's teacher for a class total. Additionally, due to COVID-19 concerns, all Valentine's items must be dropped off by **Tuesday, February 11th** so they may be "quarantined" until Friday (Valentine's Day). This will be conducted as a safety precaution during a time of high traffic passing of items between households.

STAFF FEATURE: JENNIFER SLATE

- > INTERIM-KINDERGARTEN TEACHER, NATURE'S PATHWAYS
- > DIRECTOR, CAMP LOVELL

Jenn is a prime example of what it means to be dedicated. Our longest serving employee, Jenn has been a part of the TNOT team for over 20 years. Beyond her school year role as the IK teacher or zigzagging across campus all summer as camp director, Jenn is enthusiastic about jumping in wherever and whenever she is needed. Her role as a teacher goes far beyond a career, however. She is one of the few people you meet in your life whom you immediately know was born for their work. It is evident to anyone who knows her that Jenn is as passionate about learning as she is about teaching—the hallmark of a fantastic educator. Once, when asked what her favorite part of her job is, Jenn said, "Inspiring children to believe in themselves. When I was a child, I had a teacher that made me feel like I mattered and that I could do anything. I love having the opportunity to do that for my students." And that is truly the mission she embodies each and every day.



COMING SOON:
2021 SUMMER CAMP
REGISTRATION



NEW YEAR, FRESH LOOK

BY KAITLIN QUINN-STEARNES, DEPUTY HEAD OF SCHOOL & MEGHAN AYER, HEAD OF SCHOOL

It is difficult to believe that we have surpassed the halfway point of this school year. This year has certainly been an interesting one and not without its challenges. Despite many obstacles, our students and teachers at 2nd Nature Academy have pursued some pretty incredible learning experiences. We continue to be impressed with the effort, creativity, and resilience of our students, as well as our teachers who encourage, support, and offer unique opportunities for them to demonstrate their skills. In the interest of new year resolutions, we want to prioritize showcasing these experiences for all of our families. Moving forward, we will use our monthly newsletter to share highlights from 2nd Nature Academy. These highlights will vary across all grades and disciplines each month in order to encompass a 2nd Nature Academy education. We hope you enjoy the opportunity to see how our school community regularly “explores, inquires, experiences, and achieves.”



HIGH SCHOOL: HUMANITIES

MODERN WORLD HISTORY AND GLOBAL ISSUES/THE ART OF LANGUAGE AND STORYTELLING

SUBMITTED BY KAITLIN QUINN-STEARNES, DEPUTY HEAD OF SCHOOL & HUMANITIES TEACHER

Storytelling: Students have been listening to season one of the podcast “Serial” to explore the benefits and challenges of telling a story in segments, using recorded interviews and commentary. Students will have the opportunity to craft their own stories in upcoming visual memoirs and personal narratives.

Upcoming novel study: As part of a study on African Imperialism, we will begin reading *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. This critically acclaimed novel explores themes of identity and perspective, as well as addressing many of the challenges involved in studying global topics like imperialism.

Weighing the evidence: Analysis of evidence is significant to any English Language Arts and History course. This semester, we will focus our efforts on crafting logical arguments supported by credible and legitimate evidence.

ESPAÑOL, EXPLAINED

SUBMITTED BY MARIONA OCA JORDAN, SPANISH TEACHER

We've been busy at all grade levels in Spanish class!

In **kindergarten**, we have been working with colors and shapes through a project called, “PBL Leaves.” We've more recently moved onto self-care, numbers, and concepts of “more” and “less” by creating mouths of teeth with mini-marshmallows

In **lower elementary**, we had a blast identifying animal tracks and scat on a hike. In **upper elementary**, we made “rainbows” in a jar by following instructions using ordinal numbers and reviewing color names. We were also delighted to share some videos of some very impressive reading in Spanish on Class Dojo!

In **middle school**, we worked in integration with Mrs. Pearson's explorer maps project and created posters describing what we saw in the “New World.”

In **high school**, we have been busy focusing on logical problem-solving... conducted in Spanish, of course!

MIDDLE SCHOOL: BLAST TO THE PAST

SUBMITTED BY ALI PEARSON, LOWER MIDDLE SCHOOL & ELA TEACHER, MIDDLE SCHOOL

The middle school students have just completed a long term, [place-based learning](#) project. The students became “explorers” traveling to a new land and were tasked with surveying the area and reporting back to the “queen.” We began by learning about the history of maps and map-making, before employing various tools to study and measure the campus. Finally, we worked in teams to create an accurate map of the campus, using only tools available in the 17th century—no Google Maps here! We presented our maps to the “queen” and hoped that they would meet her high expectations. The project encompassed aspects of social studies, science, math, language arts and creativity, as well as essential collaboration and organization skills. If you need to find your way around our campus... ask a middle schooler!



ADVANCED MANDARIN: RINGING IN THE YEAR OF THE OX

SUBMITTED BY SERENA CHEN, MANDARIN TEACHER

The students were thrilled to jump into Book 4 of the 10-level *Let's Learn Chinese* series this past week. Each book has about 200 vocabulary words/phrases, which we have been supplementing with projects such as learning about popular foods in Taiwan, designing birthday cards with Chinese blessing idioms, and coordinating the 2021 Chinese Culture Day event in celebration of the Year of the Ox. Three of the sophomore students worked together to organize the event and present their plans to the class. They are looking forward to welcoming the younger students to participate in crafts, games, and calligraphy activities on Friday, February 12th, while remaining cognizant of social distancing practices and sanitary separation of materials. We are very impressed with their attention to the event's safe design!



A WELCOME REPRIEVE

JILLIAN TOWNE, DIRECTOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

With winter fully upon us, I wanted to share a resource that I hope will inspire some more family movement and outdoor time. Many of the things we might do with our families this time of year to keep busy and warm—a special trip to the movie theatre, a Valentine's Day party, Lunar New Year celebrations packed with loved ones—are not as available to us under the restrictions of the current public health landscape. Fortunately, outdoor activities are still considered very safe and low risk, and offer innumerable benefits.

I would not be a true champion of the early childhood program at 2nd Nature Academy if I did not believe in the importance of getting outside, even when the temperatures drop. Recently, I learned of a blog titled [1000 Hours Outside](#). The mission is incredibly simple: Track 1,000 hours outside during a calendar year. I was immediately struck by this idea. The challenge's founder puts it best when she writes, "We track a lot of things these days—steps, calories, budgets, frequent flyer miles, etc.—why not track something so beneficial to our children as well? [...] Did you know the average American child spends 1,200 hours a year in front of screens? [...] Parenting is hard and sometimes those screens 'seem' like such a welcome reprieve from the chaos. [...] But we would, quite vehemently, argue that nature—big, beautiful, bountiful nature—is the absolute and very BEST reprieve for you and your children."

On the practical side of things, I will admit that getting outside for 20 hours a week while working full time is definitely a stretch. However, I really connect with the idea of tracking time spent outside as an important metric of my family's overall well-being. I also feel fortunate to know that my daughter is getting significant outside time during her day in our early childhood program. Add in family walks and running around with the dog, and those hours really do add up!

The benefits of increasing outdoor time are unparalleled, especially during a year when all of us have been using technology more than ever. Exposure to sunlight early in the day has been shown to improve naps and nighttime sleep. Unstructured outdoor play allows children to create games, test boundaries, and practice skills they have learned,

which improves their overall executive functioning and critical thinking skills. Walking on uneven terrain helps young children develop balance, coordination, muscular strength, endurance, body awareness, and postural control. Finally, sunshine provides children and adults with vitamin D exposure that, among many important functions, bolsters the immune system. We could all use stronger immune systems right now!

While the end goal of 1,000 hours might not be realistic for your family, I encourage you to evaluate your routine and see if there are any activities or stretches of time that might be able to be enjoyed outdoors! Tracking these hours can be a fun activity for the whole family, and keep everyone enthusiastic about bundling up and getting outside. Happy trails!

**FOR A HANDY TIME TRACKER, CHECK OUT:
1000HOURSOUTSIDE.COM/TRACKERS**



The Calves and Piglets classes enjoying a wintry walk this past month.

VALENTINE'S DAY COOKIE & DONUT BOXES

All Valentine's Day pre-orders are due on on **Friday, February 5th.**

MENU & ORDER




FEBRUARY FLAVORS CAKES & ICE CREAMS

Pre-order **chocolate buttercream** cakes and cupcakes all month long!

First-come, first-serve winter ice cream flavors available now.

CAKE ORDER



ICE CREAM




DINNER-TO-GO FEBRUARY 1-12

M 2/1	black bean soup	M 2/8	Masala-spiced squash soup
T 2/2	fettuccine w/ porcini & walnuts	T 2/9	chicken w/ handmade gnocchi
W 2/3	North African-spiced chicken	W 2/10	pan-seared scallops
Th 2/4	pan-seared tuna	Th 2/11	roasted turkey dinner
F 2/5	roasted mushroom flatbread	F 2/12	lap cheong with bok choy

DINNER ORDER


