



Full Circle Newsletter



Welcome to the first edition of the Full Circle Newsletter! We intend to have Fall, Winter, and Spring editions. Within these pages you'll receive a glimpse into how the children have been growing and learning in their work and in their play. We are always in awe of their inquiring minds, endless creativity, and acts of kindness. Thank you for sharing your children with us!

Special Guests & Teachers



Eveline MacDougall brings her gifts, talents, and vivacious personality to Full Circle to lead us in community song. As the 30+ year director of the Amandla Chorus, now called Fiery Hope, she has sung for Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai, and other inspiring heroes working for social justice and equality. Eveline is a skilled musician who plays fiddle, viola, piano, and accordion. She is a published author of her new book, *Fiery Hope: building community with the Amandla Chorus*. We are grateful to be singing with her! Learn more at www.fieryhope.org.



Brian Bender joined Full Circle this fall as our new musical instrument teacher. He offers lessons on Wednesday mornings for flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, and trombone. Brian is a well known musician in the Pioneer Valley. He plays in seven different bands and teaches at several local elementary schools. Trombone, tuba, trumpet, melodica, keyboard, and percussion are his specialties. He performs internationally and runs a recording studio. We are fortunate to have him sharing his expertise with our students. Learn more at www.brianbender.com.

Outdoor Exploration

The Re-Emergence of Tiny Town

Tiny town is a place where acorns are used as currency, partridge berries are a cultivated crop, and villages of wee homes are tucked in amongst rocks, tree roots, and moss.

Russel and Rowan announced at Morning Meeting one day that they were starting up Tiny Town once again. Just like a vernal pool, the town filled with ephemeral activity.



It takes 20 acorns to buy a piece of land in Tiny Town. Rentals are also available. Crops planted may not be harvested until the next day. Acorn collectors may keep 1 acorn out of 10; the rest are given to the bank. It is recommended to create a rock boundary to designate your plot of land. There are three mayors, one for each town, as well as an airport. The kindergarteners contributed the moss gardens at the north end of town.

Through this play children are practicing the skills of architects, engineers, bankers, farmers, and landlords. However, it's their imagination that brings this tiny world alive in a big way.

New Weather Station

There is a new weather station on campus! During project time on Monday afternoons, Bill Copeland helped students saw, drill, paint, and construct a device for gathering statistics about the weather in our own backyard.

The station records coldest temperature, warmest temperature, current temperature, as well as rainfall. Each week, a different Study Group will be in charge of recording the data on daily basis.

By being scientists who accurately collect data over time, students will be able to see trends, make graphs, gain an understanding of what different temperatures feel like, and observe how weather changes with the seasons.



Discovery in the Classroom

Ava's Art Summary: Jackson Pollack



"For art, I chose to study about Jackson Pollack. I chose to study about Jackson Pollack because his paintings looked fun to do.

I took notes with Hazel. Hazel reads part of a book to me about Jackson Pollack. The things I think are cool I tell her to write down. I did a timeline card. We hung up my time line card in the classroom. I painted a reproduction. I did the painting outside. I took the paint on the brush and went zing, zing, zing; above the paper.

I learned that Jackson Pollack's paintings were splatter paintings. He lived in the United States of America. When Jackson was growing up he had three brothers. He helped his teacher mix paints but he didn't like to paint the way his teacher did. He called the way he painted action painting. I think I am an action kid because I like to move."



Engaging with Geography



Every morning the children arrive to find a message written by "Max," a fictitious character who lives behind the blackboard. One day Max exclaimed, "The truth is that the world map in the classroom is a LIE!" With that as their catalyst, the students' minds were off and running.

Going deeper through a tangible (and edible) investigation, students made replicas of the globe by drawing continents on clementines. They then peeled the fruit and glued the peels flat. In the process, it became evident that major distortion takes place when going from a 3-dimensional reality to a 2-dimensional map.

Children also engage with geography through the Mystery on the Geography Board. Every week a new clue appears. Students are welcome to use any of the classroom resources and they cite their source when they make their guess. At the Big Reveal, everyone who entered is a winner!

Kindergarten Corner

“A” is for Africa, Acorn, and Apple

This year’s school theme is World History and the kindergarteners have started their exploration of the globe in Africa. We’ve traveled through the savannah on safari with our binoculars, down the Nile River in papyrus boats made of straw, and next we’re heading into the desert as we investigate how to build pyramids.

In math we’ve made good use of the season by collecting, estimating, weighing, adding, and counting hundreds of acorns! We even made acorn abaci in the sand.

For reading and writing the children have been writing in their planners and practicing letter sounds in connection with a symbol, such as “A” is for Apple. They’ve even started reading their first Bob Books. It’s an exciting time!



Upcoming Events

Monday/Thursday, Oct. 28th/31st: Halloween Festivities! Bring a pumpkin on Monday for jack-o-lantern carving. Students are invited to come dressed in non-scary costumes on Halloween.

Friday, Nov. 1st: First Friday - Wolf Tree. A whole day of outdoor adventure.

Thursday/Friday, Nov. 7th & 8th: Parent-Teacher Conferences. No school.

Monday, Nov. 11th: Veteran’s Day (No School) and BIM BAM at 10:30 am: A fun morning of puppets, and songs in Spanish with Tom & Laurie here at Full Circle. Open to the public!

Tuesday, Nov. 12th: Storyteller Davis Bates will be visiting and inspiring student creativity.

Monday, Nov. 25th: Full Circle Thanksgiving Feast. Students come in costume of a given time period (to be announced). Please bring a table setting. We will prepare lunch at school.

Tuesday/Weds/Thurs., Nov. 26th, 27th, & 28th: Thanksgiving Break. Safe travels!