



Full Circle Newsletter



Welcome to the Fall 2020 edition of the Full Circle Newsletter! As we hoped, the students have been incredibly resilient as we navigate these Covid times. We are thrilled to report that the essence of the Full Circle spirit is alive and strong even through masks and social distancing. We thank you for your flexibility and are delighted to share in-person learning with your children.

Special Guests & Teachers



Ervin and Gloria of Coyote Hill Farm in Bernardston, MA have generously welcomed our Walden students to their farm for weekly volunteering. Students have been picking apples, making cider, planting garlic, and learning about organic farming. The intention is for these hands-on, purposeful experiences to be a source of inspiration for writing projects back at school. Simultaneously, the children are learning how good it feels to give back to the community.



Bill Copeland nurtures students' inquisitive minds by inviting them to explore the world of science. We are lucky to have him come to Full Circle on Mondays for Project Time and Science Observations. Recent projects include volcano models, dried flowers, clay, and looking at rocks and minerals under the microscope. Bill is a conservationist and sees the landscape as a learning environment. He is the creator of our outdoor play area at the stump jump. We always look forward to what new idea he'll bring next! (Photo is pre-Covid.)

Outdoor Exploration

Silver Lining: Learning Outdoors

One silver lining about the safety measures for the pandemic is that students are spending more time outdoors! In fact, the vast majority of our days are spent nearly entirely outdoors. Whether it's goals, math, science, art, projects, reading, or writing we are finding ways to bring the learning outside. Students are now adept at maneuvering folding tables and they are quick to grab a crazy-creek camping chair as they head to their favorite spot with a book.



The Walden students have discovered the Moss Classroom just a few minutes walk into the woods. This is where they meet for their reading and writing with John. However, it turns out that nature's classroom has many unexpected visitors! Chickadees, nuthatches, and pileated woodpeckers provide many spontaneous opportunities for observations in ornithology.



The Year of the Hula Hoop

This summer we had 30 hula hoops made especially for Full Circle School by hula hoop extraordinaire, Shenandoah Sluter, in Greenfield. The intention was for the hoops to be a fun way to help children internalize a visual understanding of what social distancing by 6-feet looks like. In this sense the hoops fulfilled their original mission. However, they have become much more! Students are now hula hooping all over the place. They are gaining core strength, endurance, and coordination. Downhill hoop rolling is also popular.



The hoops are truly integrating into school culture. One of the top questions students had upon starting school this fall was, "How are we going to play color tag if we need to stay 6 feet apart???" They creatively found a solution—tagging is now done by hula hoop and only from behind.

Discovery & Learning

Thanksgiving at Full Circle: Exploring History



At Full Circle we have a unique Thanksgiving tradition. Instead of reenacting the first Thanksgiving, each year we choose a different period in history and then step back in time to explore it.

This year we will be visiting the Great Depression. Students will investigate the clothes, games, and food from this era. Everyone will arrive dressed in costume and with their cup, bowl, spoon, and napkin. Together we will cook a soup and share a meal together, all while maintaining good Covid safety protocols. (Photo is pre-Covid.)

Over the years, this annual tradition gives children a meaningful glimpse into what life looked like at different points in history.

Hammering Away at Math is Fun!

The sound of pounding hammers has been a regular occurrence at Full Circle this fall. It's not a remodeling project, but rather the students hammering away at their Math work.

Sharon's math group used stumps and nails to build geo-boards. Then they hooked rubber bands onto the nails to create shapes of many sides. It was carpentry, geometry, and art combined!



John's math group has become a class in architecture. Students are designing, making calculations, measuring, and building houses for Tiny Town.

It makes us smile to hear students ask, "Can we do math now???" Math with hammers is fun!



Kindergarten Corner

Building Harps & Confidence

Kindergarteners have had their turn with the hammers, too! In our study of Africa students learned about Egyptian music by building their own thumb harp instruments. We even got to practice using a manual drill.



It's truly remarkable to witness students' expanding independence and confidence as they explore the school grounds. Every year the kindergarteners find their own spot where they focus their play. This year it has been the embankment by the bike path. Take a look and you may find evidence of the fun they've been having making "medicines" with acorns.



We are impressed by how resilient and responsible the kindergarteners are about mask wearing. Incredibly, it feels like regular school and the children are thriving as they grow, learn, and make new friends.

Upcoming Events

Monday, Nov. 23: Full Circle Thanksgiving Feast. Students come in costume of The Great Depression. Please bring a table setting. We will prepare lunch at school.

Tuesday/Weds/Thurs., Nov. 24, 25, & 26: Thanksgiving Break. Enjoy and stay safe!

Tuesday, Dec. 1: Tuition is due. Thank you for your prompt payments.

Friday, Dec. 5: First Friday All-School Event. We'll get into the holiday spirit as we go on a hike to choose our school tree and start the crafting fun.

Thursday, Dec. 17: Holiday Event. Details to follow.

Friday, Dec. 18 - Monday, Jan. 4: Winter Break. Happy New Year!