



Full Circle Newsletter



Welcome to the Winter 2020 edition of the Full Circle Newsletter. February brings the excitement of making art with the brilliant Brooke Dyer Muir, contra-dancing with the talented Keith Murphy, and preparations for the big event of the annual History Fair. The children are alive with learning!

Special Guests & Teachers



Brooke Dyer Muir is a highly skilled children's book illustrator and sculptor. Her beautiful watercolor paintings can be found in favorites such as *Mama Always Comes Home* by Karma Wilson. Brooke is the daughter-in-law of Full Circle Founders, Michael and Rebecca Muir-Harmony. It is always a highlight for the children when Brooke comes to lead them in a day of art exploration. Through hands-on experience they learn about a variety of mediums, styles, and techniques. Brooke invites the children to view the world through an artist's eye and expands their possibilities for self-expression.



Keith Murphy is an internationally acclaimed musician, composer, and contra dance caller. He is also the father of Full Circle graduate, Aidan Murphy. We are incredibly lucky to have Keith teach contra dancing here at Full Circle. The students learn about music, rhythm, timing, movement, and collaboration. Contra dance provides an opportunity to be an individual, a partner, a neighbor, and a dance community all at the same time. Keith Murphy, Becky Tracy, and Andy Davis will be performing live at the annual Full Circle Family Contra Dance on Feb. 27th at 6 pm. Come join us!

Outdoor Exploration

Cross-Country Skiing Adventures

The ice wasn't good for skating and the hill was deemed unfit for sledding. What wintery fun could be had? It was time for something new: cross-country skiing!

John brought in a tremendous barrel of cross-country skis and a huge box of assorted ski boots. The kindergartners got right to work matching pairs and organizing boots by size. Heather gave a presentation on the different kinds of bindings to prep for the ultimate match-making session of boots to skis to child size.



Then all of sudden, the color-tag field became an exciting, bustling ski resort with poles, skis, and happy children in all directions.

For many students this was their first time cross-country skiing. It takes courage and determination to attempt a new physical challenge. Children called on balance, coordination, gross-motor skills, core strength, and rhythm as they found their stride and glide.

There was also ample opportunity to practice laughing when you fall and then getting right back up to continue on with the adventure. This is an integral part of having a growth mindset: believing that you are fully capable of developing new skills and then being resilient as you learn them.

When a few more advanced skiers were ready to go further afield, they went with John to create a small loop trail through the woods. Then they could really stretch their legs and independence.

Interest was certainly sparked and much fun was had by all. Now all we need is some fresh snow!



Discovery in the Classroom

Zoe's Geography Summary: Morocco

"For my geography goal, I chose to study about Morocco. I chose to study about Morocco because there are lots of pretty rocks in Morocco and my old teacher went to Morocco.

I took notes and I drew pictures of Morocco's landscape. Morocco is in Africa. Morocco's national dish is couscous. The national drink is mint tea. They have a lot of olives. The olives grow on trees. They have lots of rocks and minerals. It is usually very hot there. Almost all year round they wear short sleeves. Why is it so hot there? I don't know, yet!

I liked my choice a lot because it was really fun to learn about Morocco and there were a lot of cool facts that I learned. I think I worked hard. I feel excited about Morocco and I want to go visit there someday."



What is the History Fair?

The History Fair was originally created by Full Circle's founders, Michael and Rebecca Muir-Harmony. They aspired to make the study of history an engaging opportunity for children to learn about the world around them while connecting to the material on a personal level.

Our theme this year is World History. Each study group has a specific time period that they are researching. Within that time period, each student has their own historical figure to study.

Students integrate their learning through interdisciplinary means: They draw portraits of the people they study, they write quotes, they find their point on the time line around the classroom, they work with maps, they write speeches, they prepare costumes, and they learn songs from around the world.

At the History Fair, each student steps into the character of their historical figure and gives a brief speech about that person's life and significance in history. There is also a musical performance relating to the theme. The presentation of their knowledge takes persistent practice and building confidence. Their final products are remarkable and their process of getting there is even more commendable.

Kindergarten Corner

Traveling Through Europe

Our world explorations have recently brought the kindergarteners on a tour of European architecture. Did you know that the face of Big Ben is wider than our classroom? We've built a 6-foot tall Eiffel tower, experimented with leaning towers of Pisa, created a block Colosseum, and constructed many replicas of the bridges in Venice. Investigating how the 1000-year old Spanish aqueducts work is next!

In Math we've been learning about shapes and making mosaics with the pattern blocks. We've also done Pizza Math with the First Years.

In Reading/Writing we've been practicing writing words by sounding them out. We've even lined up our word cards to make whole sentences. It's been very exciting!

Outside, winter brought the great fun of following animal tracks, building with chunks of ice, playing in the snow, and pulling each other in the sleds.



Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 27th, 6 - 7 pm – Family Contra Dance. A long-loved Full Circle Tradition! Keith Murphy will be teaching the dances. Live music by Keith Murphy, Becky Tracy, and Andy Davis. Location: Grandin Auditorium at Northfield Mt. Hermon.

Sunday, March 1st – Friendly Reminder: Enrollment Forms and Registration Fees are due. It's time to sign up for the 2020-2021 school year! Please note that tuition increases after this date. If you have any questions, please talk with John or Heather.

Friday, March 6th – First Friday followed by the History Fair at 5:00 pm. School will start late on this day so that children will have energy for the History Fair in the afternoon. Please note: the History Fair is open to the public and you are welcome to invite family and friends.

Saturday, March 7th - Sunday, March 22nd – Spring Break. Enjoy your two-weeks of vacation!

Thursday & Friday, April 9th & 10th – Parent-Teacher Conferences. Schedule sign-ups will be posted on the Parent Bulletin Board.