

# Kite and Leaf...

The good news  
email from TCS!

## 2020 - 2021: The Year of OUTSIDE

At our recent listening session with TCS parents, it was crystal clear that there is one feature of this past academic year that everyone - including students, teachers, parents/guardians, and staff - wants to keep as we move forward:

**Everyone loved the increased amount of time we spent learning and playing outside - on campus, in town parks, in backyards, and in the woods.**

Parents and teachers alike praised the following:

- Increased sensory stimulation
- Experiential nature learning and nature play
- Physical and motor skill challenges
- Social opportunities and social skill practice
- New academic focal points
- Greater opportunity for open-ended play
- and so much, much, more!

Progressive philosophy urges us as educators to be adaptive and creative in considering how to best meet students' developmental needs at any given time. The global pandemic was certainly a unique time in TCS' history, but the principles of progressive education--nurturing the whole child, fostering curiosity through experiential learning, focusing on children's needs over societal pressures to perform in a certain prescribed way---



Our traditional 8th grade trip became a camping trip outside this year!



have served us exceptionally well this past year.



**We loved creating classrooms outside:**



**We loved being finally able to safely gather and see our friends outside after so long at home:**



**We loved how being outside could mean many different places and experiences:**



**We loved reading outside:**



**We loved gardening and digging in the sand outside:**



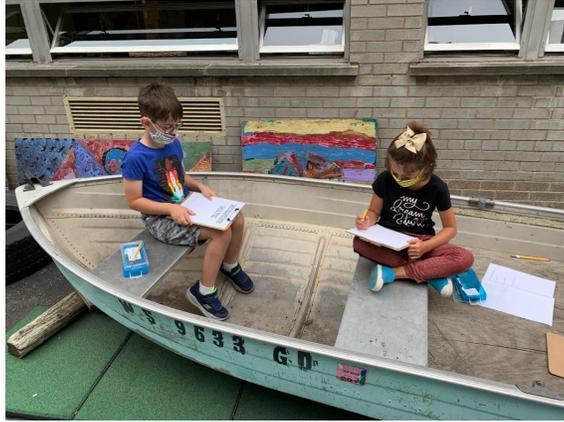
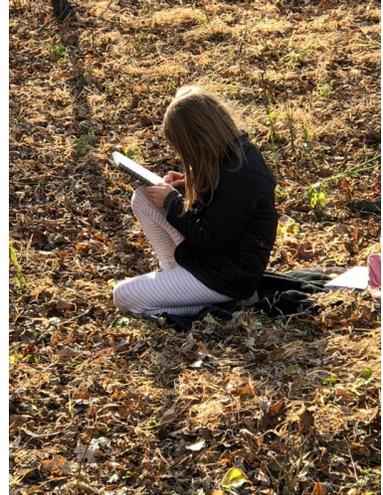
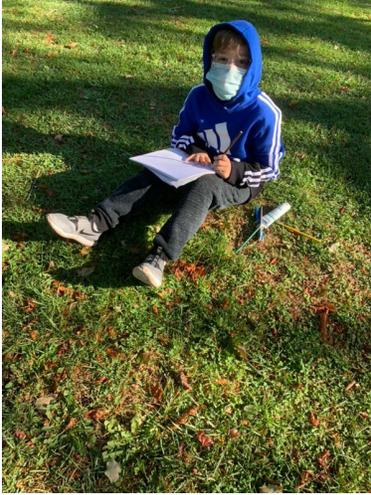
**We loved building outside:**



**We loved science outside:**



**We loved writing stories or in our journals outside:**



**We loved creating art outside:**



**We loved physical wellness class outside:**



**We loved exploring and having adventures outside:**



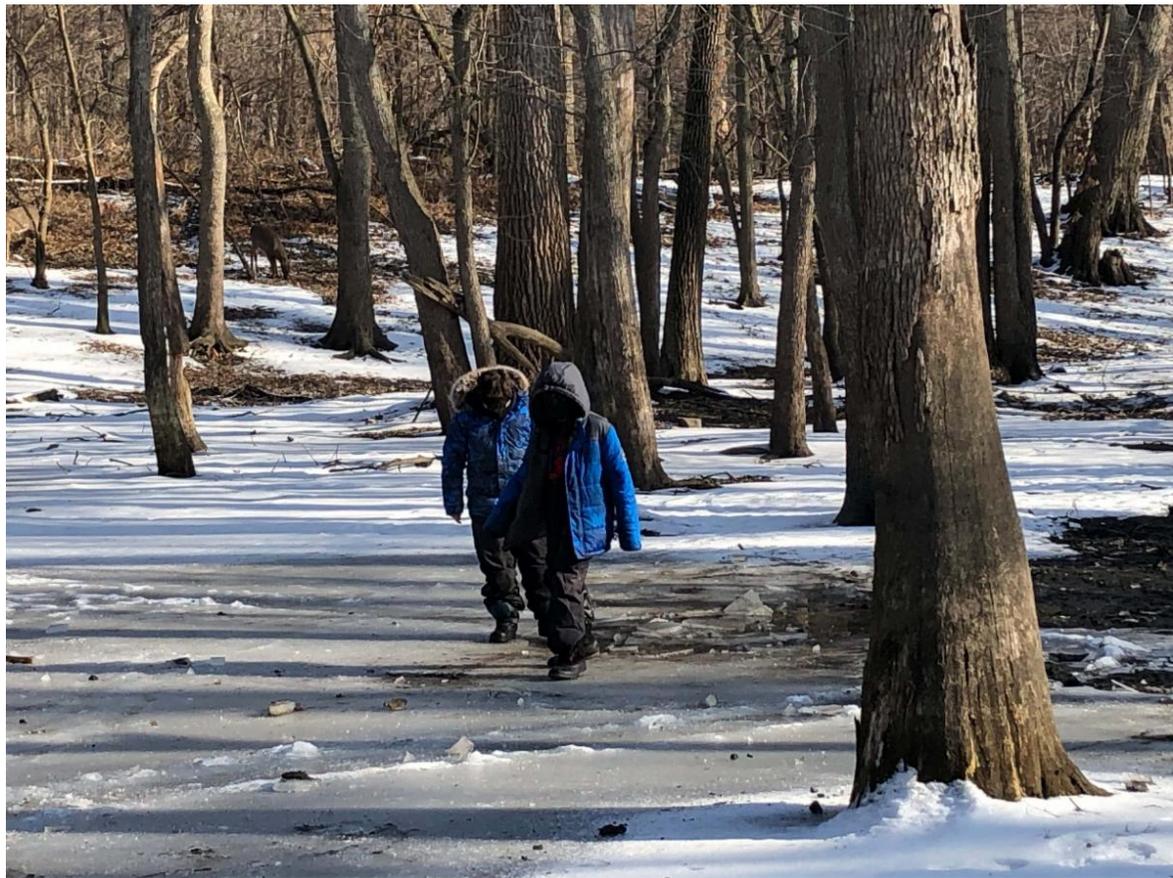
**We loved the animal friends we met outside:**



**We learned everything we could do with a stick while at the same time we reveled in experiencing cold, wet, high, far, deep, shallow, changing weather, changing seasons, changing colors, changing life forms, and so much more:**



**"I took a walk in the woods  
and came out taller than the trees"  
Henry David Thoreau**



**The Children's School 2020-21**

