



THE DOGWOOD DIGEST

A weekly highlight of what our forest schoolers explored, learned, played, created, & so much more!

Winter Term: Week 1 - January 8 - 14, 2024

Welcome back forest school friends and families! The snowy forest is alive and magical, and we are ready to get back into exploring, learning, creating, and playing this season!

With the freshly fallen snow, there were many opportunities for building and exploring. We reacquainted ourselves with the forest and our community and practiced safe winter play. Our week was productive, creative, and full of adventure!

Seeds (5-7 years)

- Reconnected with friends and shared stories from the break
- Created face prints in the snow, experimenting with different facial expressions
- Used tools to make wooden tools and practiced different ways of chopping firewood, with a focus on mastering the basics and building our confidence and comfort
- Built a ladder on our climbing structure and practiced the lashing and frapping technique
- Hiked through Cedar West and the Nest, finding lots of squirrel tracks; we noticed they looked very busy, digging up their seed and nut stores from the fall
- Had a snowball Target practice on the trees and competed to see who could make the biggest snowball
- Practiced sewing skills with string and hole punches in a paper heart cutout

Sprouts (7-10 years)

- Made birch bark fire starters and kindling with the help of the Rangers
- Built a luge track and discussed the concept of friction
- Created snow sculptures, a teepee, and a floating bed/hammock
- Developed our hand-eye coordination with snowball target practice and dug tunnels through the giant snow mountain
- Hiked through Cedar West/East, and Foxes Forest where we observed deer, fox, and squirrel tracks!
- Started new woodworking projects including swords and roasting sticks and practiced our tool use skills
- Practiced agility, trust, honesty, teamwork and communication, as well as assessing risk throughout various challenges and games like a scavenger hunt, floor is lava, and snow toes

Forest Rangers (11-14 years)

- Practiced our leadership skills with the Sprouts, specifically communication and role modeling with safe tool use and task completion
- Welcomed new friends to our community and discussed how to stay warm at forest school in the winter weather to support a positive outdoor experience and build resiliency
- Played sardines, while masterfully tracking based on boot prints
- Practiced algebra through tree measurements; worked with radius, diameter and circumference calculations to identify trees for maple tree tapping in the spring
- Played “Snodgeball”, using our communication skills as a community to create detailed boundaries and rules, ensuring fair and safe play
- Deconstructed and reconstructed fort structures
- Began creating wooden snow machetes to use for tipi deck clearing

With more snowfall in the forecast, we are predicting more fun to be had in the forest. We can't wait to see where our passions and creativity will lead us next week. See you in the forest again soon!



Welcome back to the wintery forest!



Practicing lashing and frapping to build a wooden ladder with the guidance of Pine



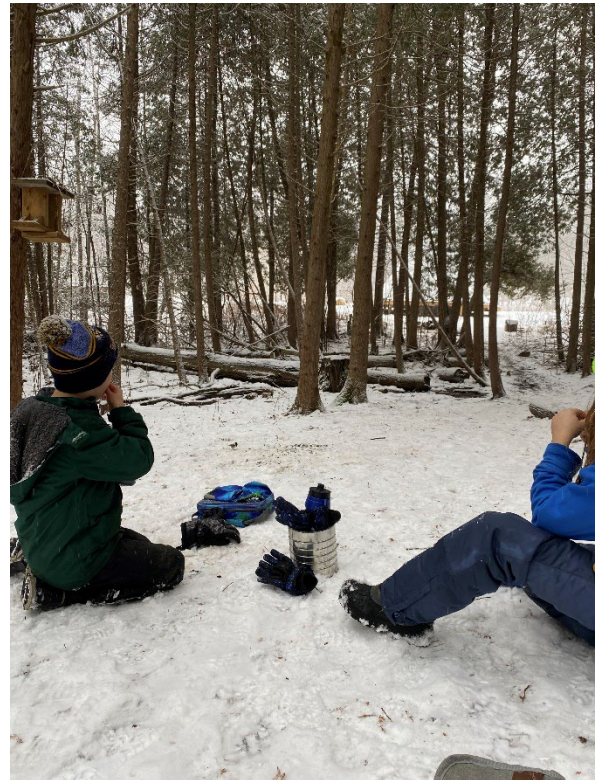
Lounging in the hammock we built



Digging a tunnel in the snow mountain



Creating at the mud (snow) kitchen



Enjoying lunch time with the birds



Snow face prints - give it a try!



Learning basic sewing skills from Scooter



Building a wooden tool using a mallet and hatchet with the help of Mosquito



Taking turns on the swing + a bowling game that taught safe falls and assessing risk



Practicing saw skills



The beauty of nature when you slow down to see (water frozen in the creek)