

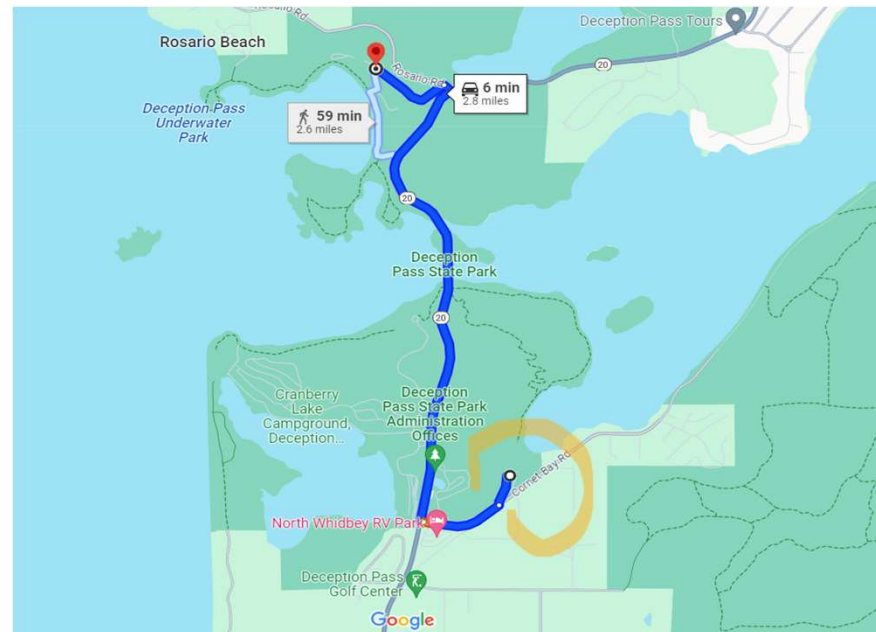
Hooray! It's Time For Nature School



at Bowman Bay

(September-November and March-June)

When the winter has come and it's cold outside, there may be days when we need to be inside. From December to February, my class moves to Cornet Bay. We'll have a new place to explore, learn and play.



I look at the calendar and check the date.
It's a Nature School day and I can not wait!



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 ★	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

I get my backpack and make sure I have what I need.



I unzip my pack and find extra clothes. I have pants, a long sleeved shirt, a pair of socks and underwear. I have pull-ups if I need them, extra gloves and a hat. It can get cold and I will be prepared for that!



I can help make my lunch and a yummy snack. It helps if they are separated inside my backpack.



I make sure I have a full bottle of water in my pack.



It's time to get ready, I put on my raingear and boots. I'm dressed for cold weather, but as it warms up, I can take off my rain suit.



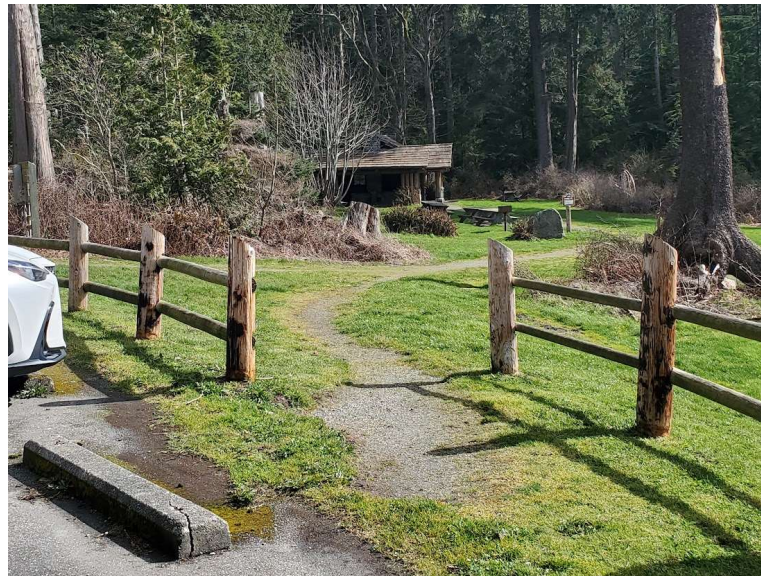
I get in my car seat and buckle up tight. As we drive to Nature School, I might feel excited or nervous, but I know I will be alright.



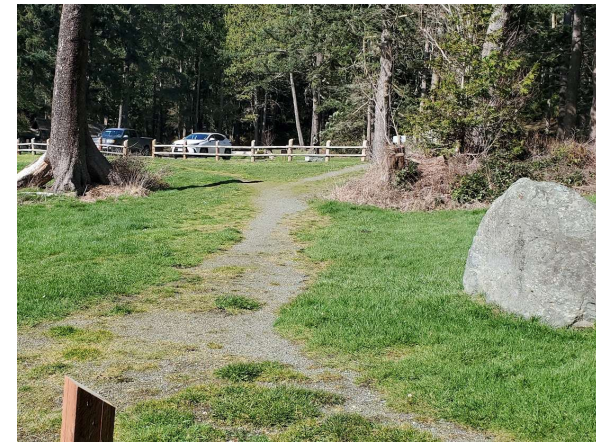
I hold your hand in the parking lot and make sure to look both ways. That is one way we keep each other safe.



(Parking lot)



(Path from parking lot to first classroom site)



(Slope from 1st classroom site up to parking lot)

New friends might come with their mothers, fathers, grandparents or friends.



I can say “hello” and tell them my name. Some friends may be a little shy at first. They may just wave.

It's time to check in. I carry my backpack and place it in the bin. I get a big hug, and wave "goodbye" to you. I know I'll see you again when closing circle is through.



I say “hello” to my teachers. They are always there to help me. They help me to learn about the animals, the forest, plants and trees.



Teacher Luanne



Teacher Christina



Teacher Angela

They teach me what it means to be part of a forest community.

If I have a problem, they can help me to figure it out. When I have big feelings, they can help me to let them out.



Teacher Justin



Teacher Amanda



Teacher Molly

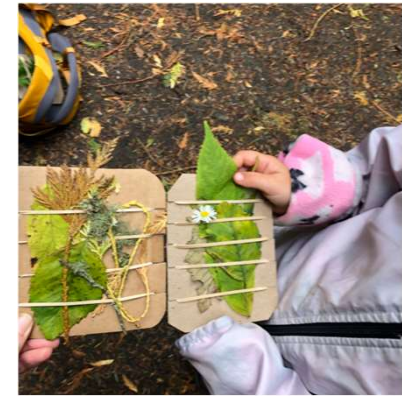


Teacher Ally

I can sit at the table and share activities and books with my friends, or play in the forest until Morning Circle begins.



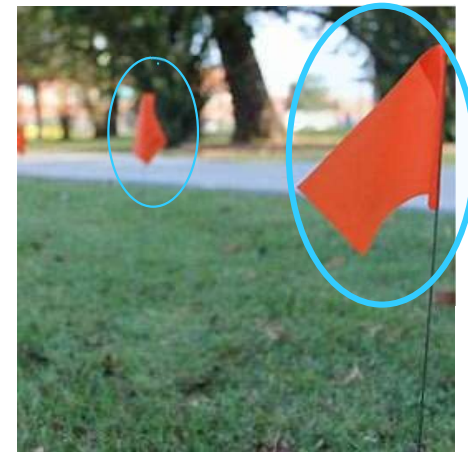
Different activities are set out every day. I learn how to sort colors, match and identify shapes.



Some may help me develop strength when I grasp, how to sequence, and learn left from right. All these activities teach me the skills I need to read and to write.



I am careful to try to stay inside the orange flags when I play. They mark the boundaries my friends and I need to stay inside until the end of the day.



It's time for morning circle, I find a stump to sit on.



If my favorite one is not free,
I can choose an open one
and find a new friend to sit next to me.

At Circle, I might hear a story, sing a song or learn movements with my body and hands. I raise my hand and take turns to make sure all my friends have a chance.



I might hear new rules to follow during activities today. It is always important to keep myself, my friends and this place safe.



My teacher shows me a schedule with the activities for the day. It's the order we'll try to do things, but sometimes it might change.



It's time to go potty. I will sit and try.



I go into the bathroom stall, pull down my pants and underwear. If I need some help, there are teachers right there.



While I sit on the potty, I can sing or count. I listen closely for something to come out.



Hooray! I'm done on the potty, I make sure I wipe and I flush.



I pull up my underwear and the rest of my clothes. I may have lots of layers and my teachers can help me with those.

I go to the sink, get soap and wash my hands clean. I rub my hands together back and forth, the tops and my fingers between.



It's fun to dry my hands with a blowing machine.



It's snack time! I find my lunch and sit with my friends. When I'm finished eating and have cleaned up my space, I might have time for more free play.



During free time I can play with my friends. We like to climb on the stumps and logs and pretend. Sometimes we sail to a far off island on a treasure hunt. I'll wait my turn to sit in the front. I take turns driving with my friends. We can go anywhere when we pretend.



I can run, chase and play tag. I have a lot of space within the orange flags.



Sometimes I might need a break. My teachers can help me find a quiet space.



I am safe inside my special place. I take deep slow breaths and breathe with the trees. I place my hand on the bark and listen quietly. I hear the rustle of leaves as they dance in the breeze. I can hear birds calling high up in the trees.



I can sit on the forest floor and run my fingers across the needles and moss. I can trace the veins of the leaves, trace their shapes in the dirt, and feel their textures as I run my fingertips across.



When the time is up, I rejoin my friends. I am excited for our adventure hike to begin! We might go to the forest, tall grass or the beach. There are so many things that the forest can teach.



I may learn about the weather and how to use plants. We may find crabs, clams, frogs, cool bugs or follow a long trail of ants.



Somethings I can hold in my hands and somethings I can touch. But I need to ask a teacher before I put anything in my mouth.



As I run my fingers across the tall grass, I might see ladybugs, grass hoppers and dragonflies. I might get close enough to touch a butterfly.



At the pond I might find tadpoles, frogs or nesting birds. When I use a magnifying glass, who knows what I will observe!



At the beach, I can look at the tide pools or draw in the sand. I can build sand castles or scoop with my hands. I might balance on logs and make forts with my friends.



I may just want to sit on the beach and have some quiet time by myself. When I feel the waves come in and out, I can time them with my breath.



Or the Rangers may come for a visit. They always have new information to share. There may be an activity, or things I can hold and compare. It's always a special day when they are here.



When Adventure time is over, it's time for bathroom again. I'll try if I can. I can tell a teacher if I need to go again.



It's lunchtime! I get my lunch and sit with the group. I might have food I can hold or food I can scoop. Everyone might have something different and like different things. At preschool, we don't share the food that we bring.



When I'm done eating lunch and have cleaned up my space, I may have more free time to play with my friends. I find more magical places the longer time that I spend.



Before circle time, we may take a few minutes to find a sit spot to be quiet and listen. I may hear birds, feel the wind or lean on a tree. It's something we'll talk about afterwards as we sip some warm tea.



It's time for closing Circle. We talk about our day. All the new things we learned, our favorite things and all the new ways that we played. We might sing a song or act out a story. Everyday has something special in store for me.



When the closing song of Circle Time ends, I will see you with all the moms, dads, grandparents and friends...



who have come back with hugs to take us home again.