



Resurrection Catholic Primary School Wednesday Word April 7, 2021

“Children learn as they play. Most importantly, in play children learn how to learn.”



Dear Families ~

The sun is creeping out and we plan to take our learning outdoors as much as we can here at RCPK. We believe that using our outdoor environments to fulfill basic childhood needs - jumping, running, climbing, swinging, racing, yelling, rolling, hiding, and making a big mess is exactly what childhood is all about! From our traditional playground to our nature playground and garden, these beautiful spaces fulfill our children's basic needs for freedom, adventure, experimentation, risk-taking, and just being children.



Aside from physical exercise, health benefits and the obvious enjoyment of spending time outside, there are many other reasons why outdoor play is valuable for our children. Below are some of the main reasons why outdoor play is critical for the healthy development of our young children (based on Wardle, 1996-2003).

Learning about the World



Outdoor play enables young children to learn lots and lots and lots of things about the world. How does ice feel and sound? Can sticks stand up in sand? How do plants grow? How does mud feel? Why do we slide down instead of up? How do I make my tricycle go faster? How does the overhang of the building create cool shade from the sun? What does a tomato smell and taste like? What does a chrysalis change into? Do butterflies have to learn to fly? Much of what a child learns outside can be learned in a variety of other ways, but learning it outside is particularly effective and certainly more fun! In the outside playground children can learn math, science, ecology, gardening, ornithology, construction, farming, vocabulary, the seasons, the various times of the day, and all about the local weather. Not only do children learn lots of basic and fundamental information about how the world works in a very effective manner, they are more likely to remember what they learned because it was concrete and personally meaningful (Ormrod, 1997).





Learning about Self and the Environment

To learn about their own physical and emotional capabilities, our children must push their limits. How high can I swing? Do I dare go down the slide? How high can I climb? Can I go down the slide headfirst? To learn about the physical world, the child must experiment with the physical world. Can I slide on the sand? Can I roll on grass? What happens when I throw a piece of wood into the pond? Is cement hard or soft to fall on? An essential task of development is appreciating how we fit into the natural order of things: animals, plants, the weather, and so on. To what extent does nature care for us by providing water, shade, soft surfaces, and sweet-smelling flowers? And to what extent does it present problems, such as hard surfaces, the hot sun, and thorns on bushes? We can discover this relationship with the natural world only by experiencing it as we grow up, develop, and interact with the natural environment.



Constructive Play

Research continually shows that constructive play is the young children's favorite kind of play, probably because they can and do control it (Ihn, 1998). We encourage constructive play by providing sand and water play, providing a place for music, woodwork and blocks, wheeled toys, and lots of loose objects throughout the playground. Constructive play occurs in sandboxes, in sand and water areas, on flat surfaces, even on grass (Wardle, 1994).



Social Play

Our children get many opportunities outside to develop basic social skills and social competencies: waiting their turn for the slide, pulling a wagon carrying another child, playing together in the sand, and so on. Clearly, physical play, constructive play, and socio-dramatic play also involve social play, especially since our outdoor spaces encourage the engagement of more than one child.



As we celebrate Earth Day this month, we hope you and your child(ren) find many ways to engage with the outdoors and spend some quality time with Mother Earth.

Blessings, Tresa & Staff

SPRING CONFERENCES

Spring conferences can be scheduled with your child's teacher this month upon parent request. Please speak with the teachers if you have

questions or concerns. It is a nice opportunity to check in, discuss growth, and where you can continue to support your child moving forward.

Donations



If you are spring cleaning around your house, please keep us in mind!

We can always use lamps, soft seating, shelves and books.

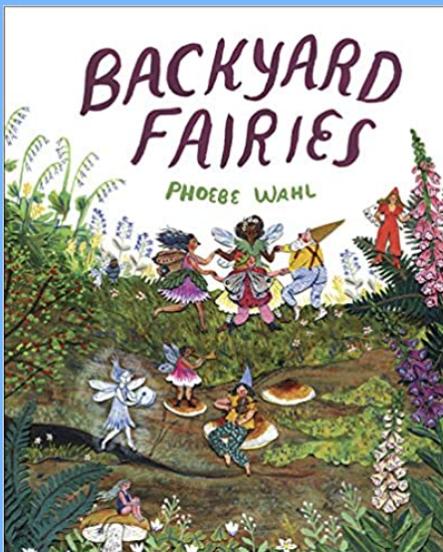
If you would like to donate, we are working on building our chapter book library.

Amazon and Costco have sets that the kids love, such as:

Cam Jansen
Magic Treehouse
Nancy Drew Diaries
Junie B Jones
Hardy Boys
Judy Moody
Nate the Great
Ivy & Bean
Meet Yasmin

Thank you!

Books About the Outdoors for Children



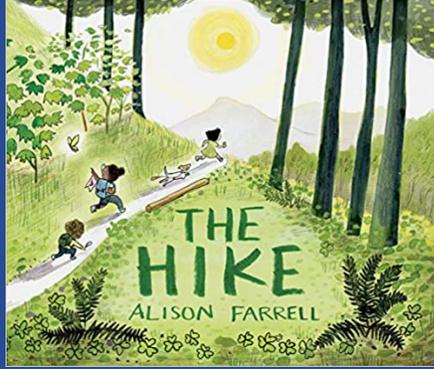
Backyard Fairies

Phoebe Wahl

A girl searches for fairies in her backyard and the woods beyond, following little clues and traces of magic. Fairies and other magical creatures can be found on every page, hidden among the flowers, trees and pebbles. But although readers can see them, the girl keeps searching, just one step behind... In the end, it is clear (both to the girl and readers) that there is magic all around, even when it's hidden in plain sight.

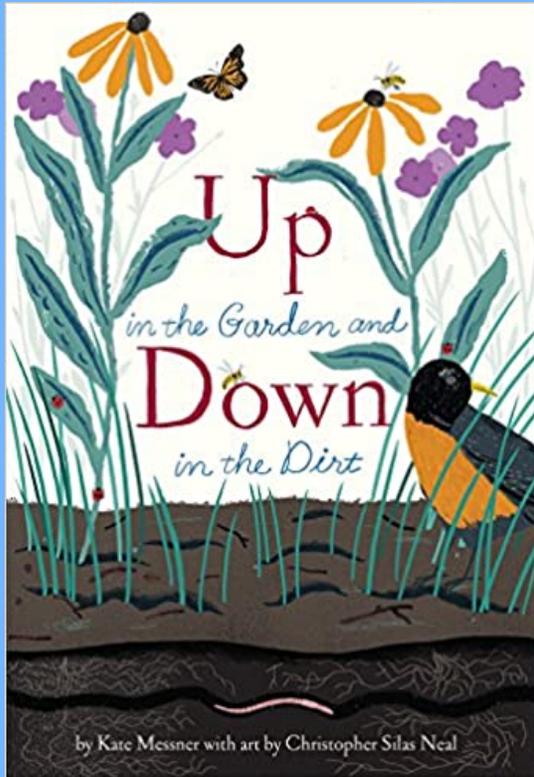
Phoebe Wahl takes us deep into the world of fairies, and her vibrant, multi-textured woodland scenes are every bit as enchanting as the creatures therein. A gorgeously illustrated paean to imagination and the natural world.

The Hike



Alison Farrell

A drought has settled in the area around the orphanage where Boniface lives. There are long line-ups at the tiny spring where all the local people get their water, and suddenly the orphans are pushed to the back of the line, unwelcome. Boniface's houseparent, Henry, tells him that the people were mean out of fear--they feared there would not be enough water for their families. When the building of the orphanage's well is completed, Boniface has an idea to help the villagers. A lovely story of kindness and heart, this story shows that, through compassion and understanding, true generosity can spring from unexpected places.



Up in the Garden, Down in the Dirt

Kate Messner

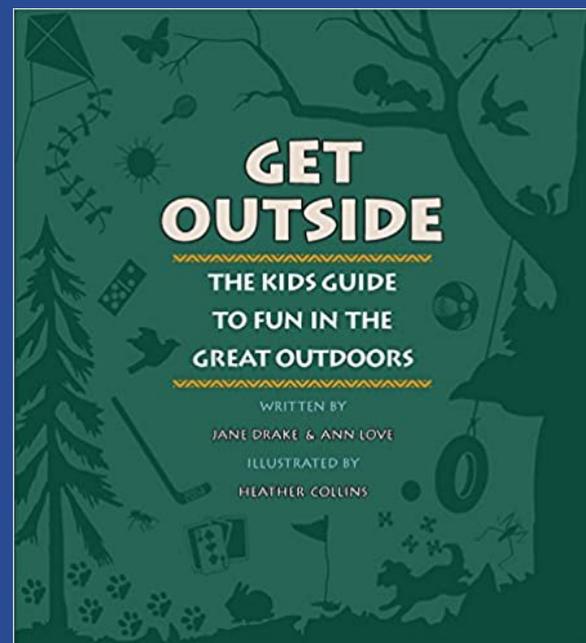
Explore the secret world beneath the dirt that brings the world of nature to life: Up in the garden, the world is full of green—leaves and sprouts, growing vegetables, ripening fruit. But down in the dirt exists a busy world—earthworms dig, snakes hunt, skunks burrow—populated by all the animals that make a garden their home. With *Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt*, you can explore the hidden world and many lives of a garden through the course of a year!

- Follow a young girl and her grandmother as they journey through the year planning, planting, and harvesting their garden—and learn about what's happening in the dirt to help make it all happen
- The stunning and bright illustrations feature dark earthy tones mixed with beautiful pops of color inspire a love of nature and encourage young minds to explore the world around them
- Includes a glossary of animals that live in, around, and under the garden to enrich the reading experience

Get Outside Jane Drake & Ann Love

Armed with *Get Outside*, a kid will never say, I'm bored! again. This book is a key to the world of fun beyond the front door. Activities are divided into four categories (Nature Lover, Outdoor Fun and Games, Cozy Inside and Look to the Sky), where readers will find instructions for making things like sundials, bird feeders and kites, as well as rules for games such as 500 Up, Spud and Shiny.

Accompanying these descriptions are fun facts and scientific, historic and cultural context. The passage on playing jacks, for example, includes a sidebar about a similar game played by the ancient Greeks. Children in Northern climes will love learning to play traditional First Nations winter games and be thrilled to find out how to create a backyard ice rink. It's a wealth of fun and fascination that will captivate any young person --- who won't mind ditching the video game for the great outdoors.



PHOTOS FROM OUR WEEK







Uniforms for 2021-2022



Our school has officially joined the Archdiocese of Portland and received a letter from Archbishop Sample reading, in part:

"Your commitment to serve the students of the Resurrection Parish community is commendable. Since Catholic schools are an integral part of the Church's efforts to make God known, loved and served, your leadership in providing Catholic education is important to the local church."

There will be more news and information to come, but here is a sneak peek at our uniform plaid. Dennis Uniforms is still working on digitizing our new logo, but we will provide you a link with purchase options soon.

School Calendar

May

- 3 - 7 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 3 May Crowning
- 9 Mother's Day
- 28. Tuition contracts due

June

- 16 Last Day of School - 1/2 day for all
- 1:00 Dismissal
- End of Year Celebrations TBD



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