



HARTLEY NATURE PRESCHOOL O.W.L.

OUTDOORS WE LEARN (O.W.L.) NEWSLETTER

Graduation and Ice Cream Social!

You are invited to celebrate our graduating preschoolers and the end of the preschool year. Please bring one or more of your favorite ice cream sundae toppings to share (complete with serving dish and spoon if needed, please!) and HNC will provide the ice cream (vanilla and non-dairy/gluten free varieties). The ceremony will be outdoors rain or shine, so please dress yourself and your child(ren) accordingly!

What: Graduation ceremony and ice cream social

When: Thursday, May 26, 4:00 pm

Where: Ceremony in amphitheater in playscape at 4:00 pm
Ice cream social to follow



What to bring: Ice cream sundae toppings

Clothing for any weather for outdoor ceremony

Blanket to sit on outside for ice cream social

Who: Families, grandparents, siblings, etc.

No pets, please.

Summer Activities @ Hartley Nature Center

Hartley offers summer camps for children ages 3-12 all summer long!

Registration is already open and some camps are full so register soon.

We also offer four family workshops for youth and adults on fairy houses, paper making, and butterflies. Nature Nook runs all summer long on Mondays (10:00-11:30) and we are offering a new, lightly facilitated Nature Play Group on Tuesdays (10:00-11:30) that will take place all outdoors in the playscape if you are looking for drop-in parent-child activities. Bring your little siblings, friends, visiting cousins, and grandparents to Nature Nook and the Nature Play Group as well!

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Summer Nature Play Ideas

by Kaitlin Erpestad

Duluth is a great city for outdoor, summer fun! This summer, visit any of the following places for some great nature play opportunities. Let your child teach you about playing in the woods, beaches, and trails of Duluth and enjoy exploring new places as a family.

Beaches

Brighton Beach

- Throw rocks
- Swim
- Make houses in the rocks
- Jump from rock to rock
- Bring a picnic and stay all day
- Bike to Brighton Beach on the Lakewalk (consider arranging a ride home)



David Stieler

Park Point

- Sand play
- Swimming
- Driftwood creations
- Water play



Sharon Mollerus

Creeks

Wherever you are in Duluth there's a creek near your house! Visit your neighborhood creek or explore creeks throughout the City:

- Fish
- Look for water critters
- Swim
- Hop from rock to rock
- Explore
- Float objects
- Throw rocks



ruralresources.blogspot.com

Parks

There are so many great parks in Duluth and up the shore. Visit a local park or spend an overnight camping at Jay Cooke or up the shore at Gooseberry or Split Rock state parks. The State Park campgrounds fill up quickly, so make a reservation soon if this is an activity on your summer to do list! Here are some local favorites:

Enger Park

- Hike
- Pick berries

Leif Erickson

- Run up and down the hill
- Play pretend on the castle and stage
- Throw rocks in the Lake
- Bike on the Lakewalk

Hartley Park (of course!)

- Climbing trees
- Hike to Rock Knob
- Visit favorite preschool play spots
- Bike on the Tunnel Trail and other multi-purpose trails
- Fish off the dock



Caitlin, Maria, Dani, and I hope you have a great summer full of nature play and quality family time outdoors!

Thanks to the Duluth Nature Play Collaborative for ideas and activity suggestions for this article! Members of the Duluth Nature Play Collaborative include: The Little Barnyard Preschool, Wind Ridge Schoolhouse, and Secret Forest Playschool. Find out more by searching for the Duluth Nature Play Collaborative on Facebook.



Remember to visit the nature playscape this summer for fun play with your whole family!

Meet our new staff!

We are excited to announce that we have hired our new preschool staff for the expansion of our preschool program starting fall 2016! Current staff teaching assignments are on the following page.

Becca Bell—M/W/F AM and M/W PM Assistant Teacher

After growing up, attending college, and working in Minnesota, this state is truly my home. From my hometown of Willmar, I grew up loving all activities on and in the water - sailing, swimming, waterskiing, canoeing - and still consider these are still some of my favorite things to do outside! I attended St. Olaf College where I earned a biology degree and discovered an excitement for working in our natural world. Since college, I've worked with the outdoors in a variety of settings: a nature center near my hometown, Wolf Ridge ELC, & Custer State Park in the Black Hills of South Dakota. I also went back to school for my Master's in Environmental Education at UMD. Each experience has honed my appreciation and respect for both nature and our youngest learners, leading me very clearly to nature preschools. I am thrilled to be joining the team at Hartley Nature Preschool and can't wait to get to know the students and their families! When not at Hartley, I'll be enjoying a good cup of coffee, hiking with my new pup, or spending time with family and friends.



Alyssa Nelson—M/W/F Full Day Assistant Teacher

As a child I discovered a love for water and all things wild exploring in Southern Minnesota creek beds, wandering local woods, and camping with my family. I earned a BA in Sociology and played Division II volleyball for University of Minnesota Duluth. In 2014 I earned my masters in Experiential Education with an emphasis in Sports Psychology from Minnesota State University Mankato. During my time in Mankato I discovered my passion for teaching in the outdoors as a river guide. After three years in Mankato, I moved to St. Paul to work as an outdoor educator for Wilderness Inquiry where I taught multi cultural urban audiences about the natural and historical resources of Minnesota. I rekindled my love for the Duluth area working as a dog handler and as a sea kayak guide. I love hiking and fishing in all seasons, reading, baking and cooking, listening to NPR, and gardening.



Emma Richtman—T/TH Full Day Assistant Teacher

As a native of Minnesota, I spent much of my life enjoying and exploring 'The Land of 10,000 Lakes'. I have a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from the U of MN, Twin Cities. While earning my degree I realized my passion fell more towards outdoor education rather than conservation, and so began my career as an environmental educator. I have taught at Wolf Ridge ELC, The Raptor Center and as a Naturalist for a Montessori in Stillwater, MN. Most recently, my husband and I decided to take a chance and completely change our lives by moving to Duluth! So when I am not working on updating our house, I am an avid kayaker, canoeist, cyclist, climber, snowshoer, hiker, camper, gardener, bird watcher, agate picker, back yard chicken farmer, Chaco wearer, Mukluk lover and ukulele enthusiast. I could not be happier here and I look forward to creating many great memories with your children!



Julie Bates—T/TH PM Assistant Teacher

My husband and I have lived in Duluth for almost 25 years. I was a stay-at-home mom, and we raised a son and a daughter in our home adjacent to Hartley Park. I was born and raised in Minneapolis and attended the U of MN where I obtained a degree in recreation and environmental education. I have worked as a naturalist at various places including resorts on the Gunflint Trail, Hennepin County Parks, and the Tennessee Valley Authority. I currently work at the J. Skylark toy store and have been a substitute preschool teacher at Hartley for the past two years. I love camping, canoeing, crafts, bicycling, Legos, and spending time at our tiny cabin in the woods.



Current Staff

Current staff and their NEW teaching assignments:

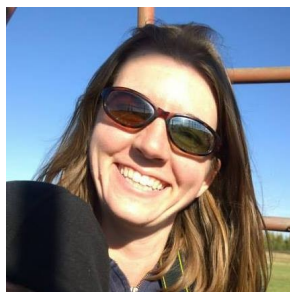
Maria Hopkins—M/W/F Full Day Lead Teacher and T/TH AM Co-Teacher

All my life I have enjoyed being outdoors and exploring the surrounding environment, which is why I chose to study biology as an undergraduate in Minnesota. After college, I began to pursue outdoor education, which sparked my interest and passion for teaching children and engaging them with nature. In December 2011, I earned my M.Ed. and K-6 teaching license, with a focus in environmental education, from Antioch University New England. After receiving my degree, I worked as an Education Coordinator for a Nature Explore Classroom in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. After living in New England for several years, I began to really miss the Midwest, so my husband and I decided to move to Duluth! I have loved being here and working as a teacher at Hartley Nature Preschool. When I'm not taking children out into the woods of Hartley, I enjoy hiking, camping, cooking, and eating ice cream!



Dani French—M/W/F AM and M/W PM Lead Teacher

As a native to Duluth, I spent my childhood enjoying the lake at my cabin, and exploring the woods surrounding my house. I have always felt a sense of peace when surrounded by nature and I love to share that with my family now. My husband and our 2 daughters love to hike the many trails in town and enjoy being outside whenever we can. I have always loved working with young children and found my calling when I decided to study at WITC in their early childhood program. I am one who believes you should never stop learning and pursued a bachelor's degree in Child Development from Concordia University a few years after graduating from WITC. Just last spring I completed yet another Bachelor's program in Unified Early Childhood Studies from UMD. Between schools I have taught in various settings around the area and worked with students from 6 weeks to 6 years. In my off time I like to read, take pictures and go geocaching with my family.



Caitlin Johnson—T/TH Full Day Lead Teacher

I have always loved exploring the natural world and learning as much as I can about it! It wasn't until I attended the University of Minnesota Duluth that I realized how much I enjoy teaching about our natural world and introducing children to its many wonders, which is why I obtained a degree in Recreation/ Outdoor Education. Since college I have worked as a teacher for Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center in Finland, MN and Deep Portage Learning Center in Hackensack, MN. I then decided I wanted to explore the mountains a bit and moved out to Aspen, Colorado to work at Aspen Center for Environmental Studies as a naturalist. The mountains were beautiful, but I missed the lake so I moved back to Duluth. I love exploring the woods in Duluth with my family and our dogs, mountain biking, cross country skiing, making jewelry and creating things in the kitchen.



Kaitlin Erpestad—T/TH AM Co-Lead Teacher and T/TH PM Lead Teacher

I grew up exploring the parks, lake shore, and green spaces of Duluth and learning to ski on the ski trails of Hartley Park. I earned a BA in Social Studies Education and a MN teaching license for K-6 elementary and 5-8 social studies from St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN. After college I lived in the country of Finland for three years where I taught preschool for 3-7 year old Finnish and international children and explored the Finnish woods with my husband, Matti. I returned to MN and completed a naturalist training program at Wolf Ridge ELC and earned a Master's degree in Environmental Education from UMD. I love to be active outside in all seasons, to cook and bake, to watch and read Nordic crime series, and to eat chocolate! And, I love to be outside in Hartley Park with our preschoolers exploring, playing, and learning.



Happy Trails This Summer from Outside In Duluth
by Kristina Bourne

I write this last Hartley Nature Preschool article with both sadness and excitement. Come the end of May, our daughter, Finley, will graduate along with many other lucky preschoolers and embark on the next chapter of their childhood. When I think back over the last two years, images of mud, puddles, tansy (lots and lots), pinecones, and a tired and happy kiddo come to mind. I couldn't think of a better "first" educational experience for kids. I truly believe the time spent outdoors gives a solid foundation for a well-rounded childhood.

Our family moved to Duluth to spend time together outdoors. As many of you may know, I write about our adventuring on my blog, OutsidelnDuluth.com. It's both a family album (I envision Finley and her brother reading it later in their lives) and a community resource. It is designed to be user-friendly, with categories such as "Ideas by Location," "Ideas by Activity," and "Ideas by Season" (and a soon-to-come category, "Ideas by Cost"). I'd love for you to stop by and leave a comment or two with your own family favorites. You can also follow on Facebook at [Facebook.com/OutsidelnDuluth](https://www.facebook.com/OutsidelnDuluth).

Have a wonderful summer and hopefully we'll see you out and about enjoying Duluth's great outdoors. ~Kristina



Sing-a-long Song

Down on Grandpa's Farm

Down on Grandpa's farm there is a big black cow.
Down on Grandpa's farm there is a big black cow.
The cow, she makes a sound like this: "Mooooooo."
The cow, she makes a sound like this: "Mooooooo."

Chorus:

We're on our way. We're on our way.
On our way to Grandpa's farm.
We're on our way. We're on our way.
On our way to Grandpa's farm.



Down on Grandpa's farm there is a little white duck.
Down on Grandpa's farm there is a little white duck.
The duck, she makes a sound like this: "Quack Quack."
The duck, she makes a sound like this: "Quack Quack."

Chorus:

And so forth with additional animals...



Healthy Snack Idea

Fresh Fruit Ideas

With summer approaching there will be more and more fresh fruit in season. Here are some fun ideas for eating and arranging fruit:

- Rainbow skewers or cups
- Fresh berries with milk and a sprinkle of sugar
- Fresh fruit on ice cream
- *Kiiseli*: Finnish fruit soup.

Find a recipe at: <http://nami-nami.blogspot.com/2009/05/rhubarb-fruit-soup-aka-rhubarb-kissel.html>

- Fruit smoothies
- Fruit juice popsicles
- Yogurt and fresh fruit popsicles
- Fruit faces
- Fruit creatures and pictures
- Melon balls or cubes



theartnap-time.net



Blog.eduents.com

← More ideas!