

ROOTS & WINGS

September | 2016 | Newsletter

Middle School

The middle school is currently doing a 4-week crash course on 4 different ancient cultures. They've begun drafting and planning their monuments. Students will have their first quiz on ratios and proportions on Friday September 16th. Look for a quiz review on Wednesday. Paseo permission forms are also due this week.

Elementary Class

In addition to building a strong classroom culture, the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders have been immersed in their own Learning Expedition: "Building on Yesterday." As they have looked back on the mysterious megaliths of the stone age, especially Stonehenge, they have been finding out ways to unleash the power of simple machines with their "own two hands." This has involved trial and error problem solving to lift and move objects—including a 250 pound stone!



Outdoor Experiences

Over the past several weeks students at all grade levels participated in transformative outdoor experiences.

Middle School

Over one week our middle school students backpacked from Long's Canyon in Taos Ski Valley all the way to San Cristobal and summited Lobo Peak (elevation: 12,115 feet). They practiced skills in map reading and off trail navigation as well as the basics of taking care of themselves and others in the backcountry. Upon returning to school students were asked to respond to the prompt "In the woods I learned..." Some responses included "I can overcome my emotional struggles on these trips," "I am stronger than I thought I was" and "I can climb any mountain if I just try." Overall, this backpack was one of the most challenging of any middle school trip and the students rose to the occasion.



Primary Class

Our wilderness trip solidified our student culture, and we are truly prepared to delve into our classroom adventuring. Students are in the midst of exploring planet earth? What makes life on earth possible? How was the earth created? Students will be crafting earth creation myths throughout the next three weeks.

Upcoming Events

- No School: **September 19 & 30, October 7, 10, 17, 24&31**
- Discovery Assessments: **September 13-23 (all classes, two days)**
- Paseo Workshop for Middle School: **September 22nd**
- Planning Meeting for Harvest Fest: **September 15th 9am at Wired Cafe**
- Harvest Fest: **October 22nd Noon to Dark**
- **Chaco Canyon Trip in October will not occur.**

Elementary Class

The 3rd-5th graders began their trip by backpacking from school to the base of Lama Canyon. During their time in the outdoors they constructed megaliths to honor RWCS culture and found art inspired by the works of Andrew Goldsworthy. The class reached a literal high point after a grueling and transformative day hike up to the ridge of Lama Canyon. This 11 hour journey took them higher than any elementary class in the history of RWCS.

Primary Class

Primary students shared an 2-night and 3-day epic adventure to the Sangre de Cristo Youth Ranch. Every student demonstrated perseverance, grit, and bravery. Students were transformed building cabin culture, overcoming homesickness, and adventuring on a rigorous 3-mile hike to Dr. Wilson's upper property. Each morning, primary students woke before sunrise and huddled on hay bales sipping herbal tea. Students captured the mighty sunrise in observation books and delighted building hay forts in the warmth of the morning sun. Bravo primary adventurers!

