



School Faculty 2020-2021

Allison Ady—Older Primary

Sydney Cosso—Older All Days

Trasey Graybill—Older All Days

Lexi Hundley—Part Time Programs

Tasha Lyon—Older Primary

Tonya Palsulich—Younger Primary

Maite Petersen—Part Time Programs

Alyson Peterson—Younger All Days

Andy Shadduck—Younger All Days

Olivia Smith—Part Time Programs

Rebecca Stalder—Part Time Programs

Alex Thornton—Primary Programs

Darcie Wickard—Younger All Days

Sarah O'Dell—Executive Director

Nicole Shadduck—Education Director

From the Director: The Importance of Outdoor Play at TCS

By Sarah O'Dell, Executive Director

Did you know that children at TCS get 40% of their day blocked off to spend outside? Each full day class spends an average of 3 hours outside! Statistically speaking, that is a phenomenal amount of time to spend outdoors.

The Children's School has always placed a high value on plenty of time outdoors. We even have special words for it! Have you ever noticed that we never say "recess"? We always say outside time and inside time. Outside time is not a recess from school or learning, it is equally important to every part of our day.

At The Children's School, our time outside serves many functions.

It is an opportunity to be as LOUD and BIG as you can. An opportunity to take risks. It is a chance to play with abandon. Outside time at TCS involves bike riding, tree climbing, and chasing games. Sometimes it involves sledding and sometimes there is a sprinkler to cool off in.

It isn't **only** big play.

Building a cozy nook with hollow blocks, creating art installations with acorns and crab apples, selling mud pies, and engineering complicated feats of hydrology with sand also occur every day.

Each of these experiences supports our goals for children at TCS- individuality, competency, creativity and positive social relationships- and fuels a child's natural inclination to be inquisitive and self-directed.

When TCS moved to this site over 35 years ago, we had a blank slate to create a play yard from. Founding families built the sandstone wall that still stands today; I wonder if they knew that their grandchildren would climb up it one day? Our play yards have stood the test of time and you will see today, what the founding families saw then: deep involvement in a natural setting.

However, with 40 years of change, growth, construction, and thousands of children, our play yards are looking tired. ***In the coming month TCS's Board of Directors and I will embark on a fundraising campaign to revamp our play yards. In late December, you will see a letter from us in the mail and an unveiling of our exciting plans! As the new year begins, you can expect to hear from your fellow parents about ways to help. Don't worry- we won't be bugging you too much!***

Important Details

Please see the Weekly Updates and the school calendar for a comprehensive list of events and closures.

Tuesday, December 22nd, SCHOOL CLOSURES AT NOON for the Winter Holiday Break

Wednesday, December 23rd- Friday, January 8th, SCHOOL CLOSED FOR WINTER HOLIDAY BREAK

Monday, January 4th- Friday, January 8th, All Days Classes and Pre-arranged Primary Child Care Open

Monday, January 11th, All classes resume regular schedule

Monday, January 18th, SCHOOL CLOSED for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Friday, January 22nd, Re-Enrollment Materials for the 2021-2022 School Year will be distributed.

Saturday, January 23rd, Looking Ahead to '21-'22 School Year, 9:30-12:00 for current families, 10:00-12:00 for prospective families, by RSVP.

Winter Parent Teacher Conferences begin on January 25th.

Charity and Young Children

By Sydney Cosso, Older All Days Class Teacher

Every year, during the holiday season, The Children's School has an annual charitable drive to benefit another program to help others in our community. This year, the Older All Days class is taking the lead! We have chosen to support the Salvation Army's Booth Young Parent Program. We chose this program because we wanted to include the children in gathering tangible items (instead of swiping credit cards or donating online). It is also important to us to choose organizations where children can help children. In recent years, we have chosen to support the Day Center at Interfaith Sanctuary and the Idaho Foodbank.

Andrea Laird, retired Assistant Director, wrote an article when the annual drive first began at TCS talking about supporting the season of giving with young children. She explained that, 'Each family has their own acts of charity that are part of their family culture. But in terms of explaining acts of charity to our children, it can be tricky! Ask children what they know, get a feel for their understanding. And as children get older their own knowledge and understanding will grow, and they will be able to have more sophisticated conversations.' For younger children (and really all children) it is important to remember to keep explanations or answers to their questions developmentally appropriate and simple. The act of giving can be impactful on its own; often actions speak louder than words.

Thank you for supporting this year's annual charitable drive benefiting the Booth Young Parent Program at The Salvation Army. We filled three cars. A few Older All Days children with Sydney and their families dropped off the donation this year! Way to go, TCS families!

