



## December News

Happy Holidays Acorn Community,

As I sit here writing to you this December, I am feeling an overwhelming sense of gratitude. If you reference any of the previous newsletters you will notice it is a common and recurring theme especially this year. The Acorn Community continues to thrive as we offer outdoor class experiences for all our Chipmunks, Woolly Bears, Chickadees, Tadpoles and Mighty Oaks. I would like to personally and publicly acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the teaching staff who come to school every day with an open mind and willing heart ready to offer their best for the students in all kinds of weather. Sending your children ready for the day is HUGE but the little extras that have come our way this year are very much appreciated– the hot beverages, the warm soup, the donuts, the whoopie pies and then to be showered with 12 Days of Christmas gifts is icing on the cake. We all feel loved and appreciated – THANK YOU!



I hope that you are all able to feel the love of your family and friends this holiday season in whatever way you can celebrate. Thank you for sharing your love with us at Acorn through your donations, time, services and most importantly sharing your children with us.

Happy Holidays,

Sue Bendroth, Director

## The Gift of Acorn School

### *Supporting our favorite little school*

Acorn School opened its doors in 1972 and has been committed to being A School For Childhood ever since. *As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Acorn School depends on generous donations and sponsorships*, as tuition alone does not cover its annual operating expenses along with the additional COVID19 expenses incurred. To maintain the health and safety of our community we

were unable to hold our annual Fall Fundraiser this year, which is Acorn School's main source of fundraising.

We have been incredibly fortunate to have received financial support from the state, as well as generous family and friends but unfortunately, still have a deficit in our little schools budget. We ask that you consider making a gift to **Acorn's 2020 general operating fund**.

Your tax-deductible gift, no matter the size, will have a direct impact on our children and help to ensure that we are able to keep our doors open for generations to come.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for supporting Acorn School.

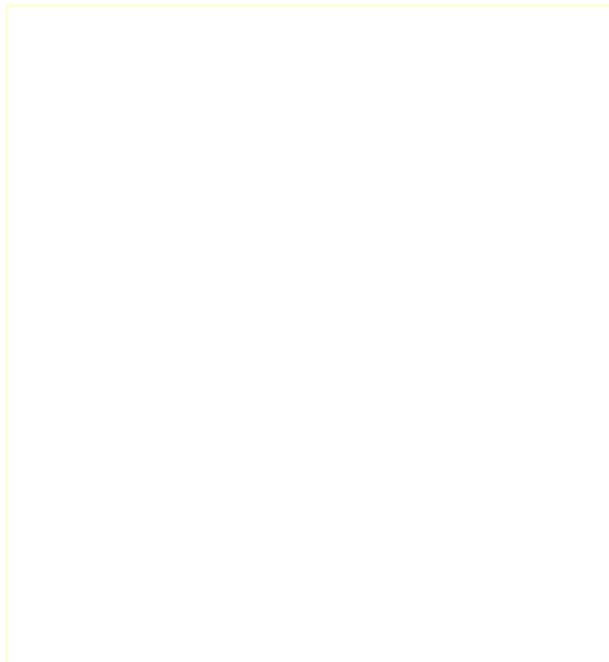


[Give the Gift of Acorn HERE](#)

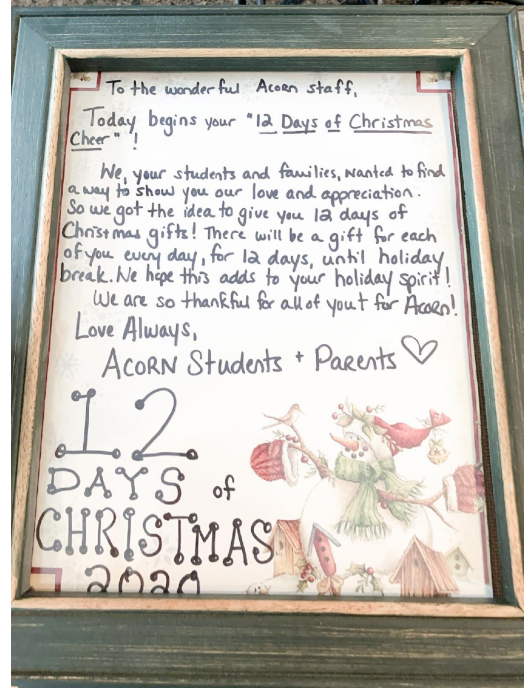
## 12 Days of Christmas

Acorn family elves have been busy sprinkling our amazing teachers with holiday cheer!

*Special thanks to the wonderful Acorn families and community who made the 12 Days of Christmas for Acorn Staff possible*







*On the First Day of Christmas, my students gave to me caffeine to keep my holiday sanity!*



*On the Second Day of Christmas, my students gave to me a gingerbread house to decorate with my family!*

## Holiday Learning at Acorn School

*From music to pretend play incorporating all things holiday, the Acorn kiddos are having a great time learning and adapting to their new outdoor learning spaces.*





### **The Table**

The heart of every gathering. Though this Thanksgiving may have been different than last, it was undoubtedly memorable as each person attending brings their own kind of special to The Table, and for that we are grateful. Assembled in TimberNook by our Woolly Bears, and words shared by Miss Karen.



### **Making Turkeys for the Table**

Turkey Day art created by our Chipmunks



### **TimberNook Play Theme**

Woolly Bear Shoemaker Elves!



### **Let's Go Explore**

Riding reindeer to the North Pole, and also horses to the jungle to find some wild animals





## Chickadees Learning about Hanukkah



Eco-friendly gift wrapping



Miss Leigh leads children in music class in our outdoor learning spaces



Chippie sings Jingle Bells and Holiday music with Miss Leigh and our Chipmunks

**Open Enrollment for Fall 2021**



# Open Enrollment for Fall 2021

Tours are underway...

To schedule a tour or for more information please  
contact us:

[info@acornschoolnh.com](mailto:info@acornschoolnh.com)

(603) 778-8285

Open Registration begins January 2021 for  
Preschool and Kindergarten

## Staff Highlight

Hi Everyone! My name is Jendiss Frizzell and I am a Mighty Oak teacher. I grew up on a working apple farm and horse farm in Wisconsin. My father was a naturalist and farmer who spent countless hours teaching me and my 4 siblings about all that nature provides. I have 4 amazing children, 3 boys and 1 girl. They all started their education right here at Acorn school, 22 years ago. I've served on the Acorn School Board and have been a room parent in the past. I have spent 25 years educating children, 15 of those years were in the public school system. One of my proudest achievements is being a founder of the first elementary age charter school in NH. Four of the founders were Acorn parents and we developed our mission based on our children's extraordinary experience at Acorn school. I enjoy running, biking, hiking, gardening, singing, and hanging out with my family. I am so excited to be back at Acorn school and instilling the love of learning and the outdoors to children.



**Acorn Board: Join Us!**





Would you like to connect with the Acorn community and help run the school you love so much? Learn how a nonprofit preschool is run and help make positive change lasting for years to come! We are a group of Acorn past and present parents who come together monthly (currently on Zoom) to support the school.

**Our door is open for new members to join and we're hoping you'll consider it!** If interested in learning more about the Acorn board, send an email to Sarah Koff:

**[sarahwkoff@gmail.com](mailto:sarahwkoff@gmail.com).**

[More Information](#)

## 1000 Hours of Outside

Have you heard of **1000 Hours Outside**?! The purpose of 1000 Hours Outside is to inspire people to match nature time with screen time. Their website has lots of free downloads and activity ideas for the whole family to enjoy!

Here are some super fun outdoor ideas for the month of December! Choose from activity cards listed below or download a copy from the website and cut out the individual squares.

Have your kiddo draw a new card each day. Our personal favorite- the Lantern Hike!

**Send us pictures of you and your family's favorite one and be featured in next month's newsletter!**



[Click Here to Download a Copy and Directions](#)

**Great family stocking stuffer books  
about outdoor learning!**



- **Balanced and Barefoot By: Angela Hanscom**
- **No Such Thing as Bad Weather By: Linda Akeson McGurk**
- **Last Child in the Woods By: Richard Louv**
- **The Danish Way of Parenting By: Jessica Joelle Alexander and Iben Dissing Sandahl**
- **Free to Learn By: Peter Gray**

## Shopping on Amazon for the Holidays...

A great way to support our school is by selecting Acorn School (Stratham, NH) as your selected charity when shop on Amazon. Did you know it even works when you use the Amazon App on your smartphone? Prices for your items stay the same. The only difference is when you shop a portion of the money Amazon donates to Acorn School!

### CLICK HERE TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

--->Select Acorn School in the upper left corner where it says “supporting”  
You can also type "Amazon Smile" into the Amazon search box.

*Acorn School is a 501(c)(3) non profit, and every penny makes a difference. We are so thankful for our community support!*

## Acorn Apparel is on SALE!

Winter hats, t-shirts, long sleeve shirts, blankets, sweatshirts and accessories. Adult and child sizes are available along with a variety of sizes and colors.

**CODE: SAVE10**

Discount ends December 14th

*Due to Pandemic-related supply and shipment delays, anticipate new orders to arrive late January or possibly February. Acorn orders are fulfilled as soon as supplies arrive to our screen printing company, **BullShirt**.*



Check out all the new gear!

## Cold Weather Clothes Check List:

Make sure your kiddo stays warm while exploring and learning in the outdoors by layering!  
Don't forget to label everything!

**First Layer:** Base Layer Long Underwear (wool, silk or polypropylene)- No cotton

**Mid-Layer:** Long sleeve wool or fleece sweater; fleece pants; wool mittens

**Outer Layer:** Winter Waterproof Coat with Hood; Insulated Waterproof Snow Pants; Wool Socks; Waterproof Mittens

- Slippers for inside
- An extra pair of mittens in backpack
- Two clean masks in their backpack

## Parents of Acorn

Are you looking for a way to get involved with Acorn School in various ways? Join the “Parents of Acorn!” It’s a great way to meet more families and support Acorn School. If interested in joining send an email to [parentsofacorn@gmail.com](mailto:parentsofacorn@gmail.com).

## Important Dates:

**December 14**

Mr. Bingle Visits

Final day to use Acorn Apparel discount code

**December 19 - January 3**

Holiday Break

**January 4**

School Resumes

## Acorn Alumni Spotlight: The Daniels Family

### *The Stocking Elves*

My husband Matt and I have 3 boys. Hunter, 9, Chase 7, and Maverick (Mav) 2.5. Our family found Acorn when we first moved here, over 4 years ago. We moved from Annapolis, MD and our oldest son Hunter was having some anxiety around going to school. Because of that, we were very particular about finding a small and loving environment for him. We visited many local schools and instantly fell in love with Acorn along with Ms. Sue and the team. Acorn is a truly magical place! Chase also thrived at Acorn during all 3 years and the Mighty Oak year was a game changer for both of our older boys. I can’t wait for Mav to be a Chipmunk. I truly can’t say enough good things about Acorn. We feel very lucky to be a part of the wonderful Acorn family.

The boys and I are always talking about ways that we can give back. Last year, we decided to make holiday stockings for kids in need. We came up with the name “The Stocking Elves” and the boys drew pictures as our logo. We created an email to friends and family and partnered with the Rye PTA in order to set up an event that allowed our kids to stuff the stockings. I’ve always believed that the best way to show kids about



giving back... is by making them active participants. Rather than just putting a toy in a box, our kids are actually participating in the giving process. It is through those experiences that I believe great life lessons are learned. My boys and I feel grateful to give back in a way that's also fun, and creates an opportunity for us to do it as a family.

100% of our donations are made into stockings and given to Operation Blessing in Portsmouth. Operation Blessing does a wonderful holiday gift giving event every year for the less fortunate in the Seacoast. Local families are able to give their kids a Christmas that they wouldn't have otherwise.

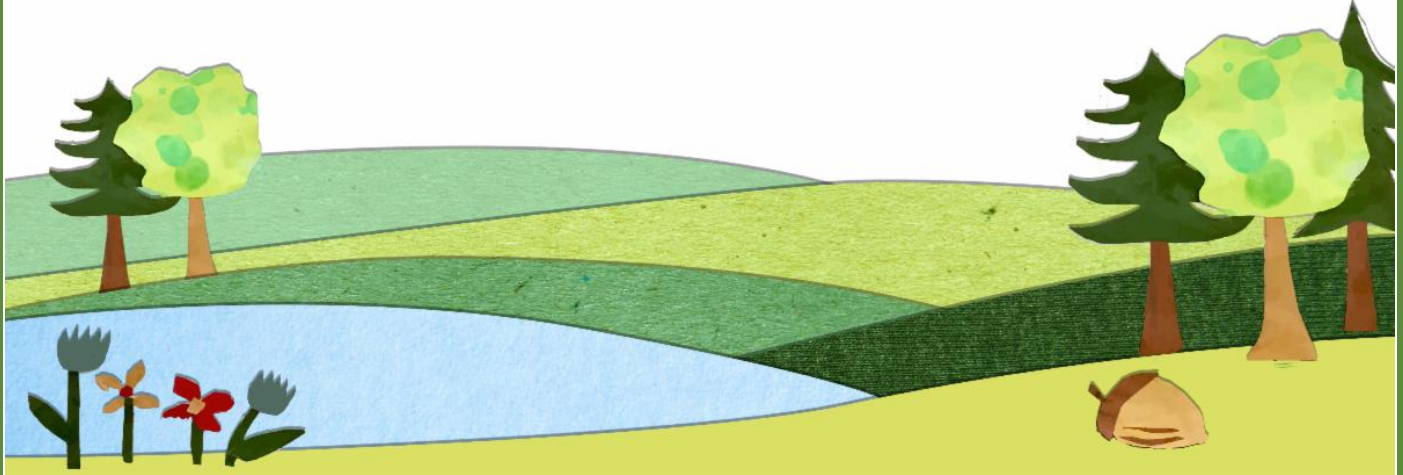
Last year, we were able to generate enough donations to make over 200 stockings for kids/teens in need! We created an Amazon shopping list and a Venmo account @thestockingelves. Everything was shipped to our house and we organized the items to be stuffed into stockings. It was a huge success for year one. Our kids stuffed the stockings at a Holiday movie event at Rye Elementary.

This year, things looked a little different with COVID. The challenges of 2020 have created more need than ever, both in our area and around the world. Even though we were not able to do a school sponsored event, we more than DOUBLED our donations from last year! This year, we were able to build over 500 stockings for kids in need! We organized a COVID safe stuffing event at my house... outside, distanced and masked. Our kids still put in the hard work, and we all had fun doing it too!

The boys and I are so proud to have created The Stocking Elves and plan to make it a tradition year after year. The tradition of 'active giving' has become an important part of our lives during the holiday season. In the years to come, we really hope more and more people will join our effort and are so grateful for the support of the entire Acorn community!

Molly Daniels





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Questions Contact Director, Sue  
Bendroth

