



## Sprout December Newsletter

November 22, 2016

### ACADEMICS

Our initial assessments are now complete! We have so far assessed our student's ability to count to twenty and individual items up to twenty, knowledge of our ABC's, and pattern recognition. We will now be moving on to shapes and spatial relationships, where we will be learning the names and attributes of eight different shapes and notice the similarities/differences among differing and similar shapes. We are excited to take advantage of Gabriel Park to search out for what shapes may be found out in nature!

### THE WEEKS AHEAD

In celebration for the coming of winter, in the coming weeks we will be learning all about the water cycle, rain, snow, and the changes in the season!



#### *Clayton found a slug!*

Dear Sprout TTH 4's families,

It has been quite a busy time here at Sprout Academy! With conferences and holidays having come and gone, it seems we only just got started learning all about the fall season. In our classroom each student now has their own pumpkin seed either germinating in the dark cupboards or sprouted in a cup along our window seal. Soon our pumpkins will be ready to be planted in Sprout Academy's own community garden plot within Gabriel Park!

Our recent mushroom lesson was a big hit! Our students were excited to pick mushrooms in the park and identify them with our ID book. A plethora of fungi will still be found in Portland's parks all throughout the rainy season, so you can still pick mushrooms with your own student. They can teach you all about their different parts, life cycle, and not to worry about hurting the fungi as the mushroom is simply the fruit of the organism. Just be sure to wash your hands after picking and



## REMINDERS

There will be no Sprout Academy during Winter Break from Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> through Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. This means we will miss the Winter Solstice together, but we are excited to learn all about the changing of the seasons to winter when Sprout Academy returns. We will see everyone again in the new year!

## THANK YOU

Thank you to those families that participated in our parent-teacher conferences. It was great to have the time to touch base on how your student is doing in class and outline goals and strategies for your student throughout the coming year. You are more than welcome to follow up on our discussions any time in the future to learn of the continuing progress of your student.

If your family was unable to attend yet would still like a parent-teacher conference, please feel free to send me an email at [vincent.bond@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:vincent.bond@portlandoregon.gov) or speak to me in person and we can set up an optimal timeframe either 15 minutes before or after class.



Making migrating geese!

Lastly, let's be sure our students are ready for outside play in the colder weather. Our goal at Sprout Academy is to have one hour of play outside each day, be it in the sun, rain, or snow. Playing in the cold can still be fun when we're prepared with warm jackets, hats, and gloves!

Thank you TTH 4's families,  
Teacher Vincent

