



Varsity Acres School

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Friday, August 30, 2024

Dear Families,

We are excited to share with you that beginning on September 25 we will have a special guest educator visiting our school! Her name is Jenn Doeve, from Yellow Steps Community Learning, and she will visit us on the following dates:

- *September 25, 26, 2024*
- *October 1-11, 2024*

Jenn is a former CBE bilingual teacher who is currently offering specialized school programs focused on place-based education. Her programs invite students and teachers to explore the community around the school on-foot, and to experience various curriculum concepts “in the wild”! Incorporating elements of mapmaking and storytelling, Jenn encourages students to consider how things in their community have previously been, how they currently are, and how they could be in the future.

In our work with Jenn, classes will explore places such as: Research Park, Bowmont Park, nearby green spaces, playgrounds, schools, and various routes to better understand: who cares about these places, a variety of curricular areas (social studies, science, art, etc.), well as developing French vocabulary. All of our learning activities will incorporate purposeful use of the French language. We plan to share our learning along the way by art projects, mapping, journaling and artifacts, books/brochures or creating an experience for another group of students to enjoy and learn.

Your child’s teacher will reach out via Google Classroom and School Messenger if their walking field trips require volunteers.

A separate Walking Field Trip letter is sent home annually. As with any field trip, we want to inform you about some common hazards involved with walking trips to the above location. Please note this list may not include all of the hazards for a given trip:

- Slips, trips and falls;
- Getting separated from the group;
- Street crossings;
- Pre-existing medical conditions and/or allergies
- Sudden inclement weather

Please be advised, in the event the weather is miserable, we may have to cancel our walks and engage in alternate learning with Mme. Doeve indoors.

We thank you for your support and look forward to this new learning opportunity! Thank you to VASPFS (Varsity Acres School Parent Fundraising Society) for their generous support of the Yellow Steps residency!

Sincerely,

Brooke Reilly
Principal