

Dear MCS families,

One year after we found ourselves scrambling to assist MCS teachers with outdoor classroom setup, here we are facing another pandemic school year. This year brings new challenges. As you may have read in the most recent Cross Words, the forest classrooms were determined to be out of compliance with ADA regulations and not accessible to all students. This critical issue--that ALL students have access to the forest--remains unfixed. Fortunately, the Selectboard and the School Board are now, finally, working to find a way to make appropriate accommodations. Unfortunately, this will take more than a month, if not much longer. Why and how this happened is an important question that should eventually be answered, but at this time we need solutions to allow all MCS students ample outdoor classroom space. With the recent surge in Covid and the fact that the county is currently classified as having a high rate of transmission, we feel it is paramount that our unvaccinated children have ample outdoor time. We know that this is crucial to both their physical and emotional well-being.

In August 2020, a group of parents came together as what was dubbed the "Outdoor Enthusiast Group." We are assembling this year to discuss what we can do to help MCS teachers navigate this new challenge. Together, with guidance from teachers, school administration and help from the MCS PTO, we hope to facilitate the organizing of dedicated outdoor classrooms for each grade. We welcome your input, help and support in any way. If you would like to be included in further communication, please see the attached Google Doc to add your name to the list.

[+ Outdoor Education Enthusiast Group Contact list](#)

Sincerely,

Molly Riordan
Emily Scherer
Lynn McCormick
Oona Gardner
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Jenny Barba