



Lakeside School at Black Kettle Farm



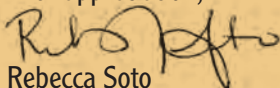
Dear Lakeside Community:

I remember my first visit to Lakeside School as a prospective parent fondly. After relocating from the Hudson Valley in 2018, my partner and I attended the Harvest Festival in search of a community of young families where our 2 year old daughter would be nurtured and appreciated. When we arrived at the gate and beheld the beautiful and idyllic setting, I knew that this was the place we had been searching for.

Although her 'Sprouts' year was cut short due to the pandemic, the outpouring of love and support from the community was a reassuring constant during the distance learning period. The school kept us connected and grounded while the future remained uncertain. The devotion of the faculty and staff and the school's unique Farm and Forest programs made it clear that we had chosen a community which, even in this new reality, was sustainable and would be able to thrive. I feel extremely grateful that she has been able to return to school this fall, and seeing her amongst other children again is heartwarming.

As we all continue forward, the important work of cultivating the next generation cannot succeed without your support. Since we were unable to host our spring fundraiser, this year's appeal is critical. With your donation, you can help us reach our year end goal of raising \$30,000 to ensure Lakeside School as a central community asset for the future. Contributions are needed by January 1st to fund the 2020-21 school year.

With appreciation,



Rebecca Soto
Development Chair

Please use the enclosed envelope to send your vital donation today!



With your support, our programs will continue to be **RESILIENT** to the unknowns of the natural world.

Our mission has always been to teach children through interaction with the land that surrounds them. Each September, our students return to Black Kettle Farm with the ability to transform a collection of sticks into a magical fairy house, a wood cookie into a plate for acorn pasta, and porcupine quills into pencils to write imaginary letters on scraps of tree bark. This fall the children are no different. They learn how to dress for the changes in the weather from rain to snow to freezing temperatures and they continue to build their own strength every day while learning outdoors.

In March, when our school was put to the test of its ability to weather an unexpected storm, our board created a community supported Emergency Fund which is committed to keeping all of our families enrolled regardless of financial hardship and to paying our faculty and staff during periods of distance learning. In spite of the difficulties that we have all faced, our farm and forest programs were prepared to meet the challenges of a new normal and have become stronger and even more vital to our community.





With your support, Lakeside School courageously chooses **ADAPTATION** to overcome the hurdles it faces in today's uncertain climate.

Since March the board, faculty, staff and parent body have worked vigilantly to transform our protocols to create a safe environment that allowed us to reopen our day care program in July and provide essential child care during a national child care crisis. Through careful and continuous adaptation, we were able to reopen completely in September and welcome our children back to our forest, farm and play-yards. We adjusted our campus to include new outdoor hand washing stations, air filtration units to improve indoor ventilation, and the construction of an outdoor classroom for the elementary students. While these new physical changes clearly exhibit Lakeside's ability to adapt to ever evolving health and safety requirements, our greatest pride continues to be the care and support we provide for our families.

“Our family is extremely lucky to have a place where our children can safely interact with peers, learn, grow, and gain critical social skills. Throughout this pandemic, other Lakeside families have reached out to offer support, cooked us meals, and sent their well wishes. I do not know how we would have made it through the past 6 months without this.”

-Laura Mulvey, essential health-care worker and mother of 3 Lakeside students

With your support, we will continue to embrace the **EXPANSION** of our community.

Our outdoor programs allow us to offer much-needed affordable on campus learning five days a week to our community. This year we welcomed eight new families, half of which relocated to the Adirondacks seeking safe, engaging and enriching outdoor programs. This growth is a testament to Lakeside School's ability to continue to draw new members to our community which in turn enhances the economic vitality of our region. We are thrilled that our class circles are joyfully expanding, not only due to precautionary physical distancing, but because of new friends that find us from near and far.





Drawing from the surrounding farms and forest and based on Waldorf education, Lakeside School cultivates the whole child in an evolving ecosystem of independent thinking, community spirit, and stewardship of our natural world.

Lakeside School is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization serving Essex County, New York and the surrounding Adirondack region.



Lakeside School
at Black Kettle Farm

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