



KALEIDOSCOPE ANNUAL REPORT 2024



From Our Board Chair

Well families, that's another year in the books! This annual report shows how busy our little school has been: how many meals served, golf balls recovered, 5 star ratings achieved, etc. It all paints a picture of a bustling, layered organization full of love, laughter and dedication. Amber, Robyn and the staff have set the bar not only in our community, but in our state and beyond - something for which we can all be proud and grateful.

One of our biggest achievements this year has been the progress made in and around the Kaleidoscope Forest. Since last year's Annual Meeting, we've installed composting toilets, a drain field and built structures for the classrooms with wood milled onsite! Our most exciting project, though, is nearly complete: a building designed to provide critical support (power, emergency water, storage) for the Forest School while also providing staff housing up above! With this expansion of the Forest School site, we're able to expand programming to support a second, full time forest school classroom starting this September!

The work doesn't stop at the walls of the classroom or the boundaries of the forest. There is constant engagement with all of our fellow educational leaders, business partners, government advocates, friends and neighbors to keep the plates spinning. Over the holidays this year, Kaleidoscope led the conversation with local preschools and the Orcas Island School District about how to best continue to serve the young children and families of Orcas. Among other benefits, these talks have resulted in stronger relationships between all the schools and new strategies that reinforce a focus on the continuity of care and sharing of resources we understand to be so important to a strong educational foundation.

The Kaleidoscope Board has also been very active. The board is now the largest since its inception which has enabled us to create multiple sub-committees, including one to review and discuss upgrades to the main preschool facilities and another to create a long term plan for employee housing. These subcommittees could always benefit from more participation from parents and community members so please get in touch if you are interested in our work!

One of the more creative projects the board took on this year is also sure to be one of the most ambitious and rewarding fundraising efforts in the history of Kaleidoscope. Beginning as an idea last summer and going full-throttle by September, we have officially resurrected 'Orcasopoly' - the Orcas version of the Monopoly board game - which we will bring to the island this Fall. Over 100 local businesses and organizations participated in the project to manufacture 2000 games to sell at Kaleidoscope, Ray's Pharmacy and Darvill's Bookstore. From start to finish, this project was everything that Kaleidoscope is every day: collaborative, creative, hard work and lots of fun.

Ultimately, we are thrilled at the idea that family and friends, locals and tourists alike will be playing OUR Orcasopoly game for decades to come. We can't help but smile at the idea that Kaleidoscope is at the center of it all - as it is every day in our community.

Orcas Daycare Association Board

- Chair**
Regan Vaughn
- Vice Chair**
Kathryn Moore
- Secretary**
Betsy Wilson
- Treasurer**
Amanda Caps

- Members**
Renee Racik, Sally Blumenthal-McGannon
Jen Krauss, Dillon Betts,
Megan Vock, Chris Adams

KALEIDOSCOPE Staff:

- Director**
Amber Paulsen
- Assistant Director**
Robyn Gordon
- Infants**
Mimi Nikaido
- Waddlers**
Emma Orantes,
Yesenia Valladarez, Iris Arevalo
- Toddlers**
Katy Minnis, Shelbi Rogers
- Preschool**
Breena Sunn, Shannon
Quishenberry
Delmy Yanni Ibarra, Eava Wood
- Forest School**
Shelby Sanders, Becca McDowell
Ash Gordon, Kira Neville,
Opal Mills, Maddie Gayaldo
- Chef**
Kelly Doty





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Kaleidoscope's Forest Program successfully participated in Washington's Quality Recognition & Improvement System (QRIS), otherwise known as Early Achievers. Scores are calculated in 5 areas: Learning Environment, Child Outcomes, Interactions & Curriculum, Family Engagement & Partnerships and Professional Development & Training. We were awarded a **Level 5 Rating**-the highest achievable! At the time, 170 childcare programs across Washington had been through the process. We were the first Outdoor Nature Based (ONB) program rated and Kaleidoscope was the ONLY Level 5, state wide! That says so much about the outstanding quality of our program!

For the 2023-2024 school year, Kaleidoscope was open for 231 days, for more than 2000 working hours and provided about 100,000 hours of high quality preschool and childcare services to island families!

We supported over 100 children, from 80 families, who work for 107 different businesses.

Kaleidoscope Kids experienced 300 days in our Forest, immersed in Nature, engaged in play and building connections with the outdoors that will promote stewardship into adulthood.

Over 100 family conferences held to celebrate milestones and growth.

34 "Play Days" were held to support working families.

We created a new logo, incorporating our Forest Focus.

Kaleidoscope Forest acquired a classroom pet. Their name is Cheeky and they are a Douglas Squirrel, who just had two babies!

Kaleidoscope Kids danced about 100 days with the Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival Preschool Music Program.

2100 Golf balls found, resulting in \$200 in ice cream credit..



GRATITUDES:



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My daughter has been attending Kaleidoscope since she was 11 months old. She's five now, and it's been her home away from home all these years. The staff have played a critical role in her early development and we are so grateful for the care and love she has received. We especially appreciate the consistency and long-hours that Kaleidoscope offers. As full-time working islanders, Kaleidoscope really is the only option for us.

-MEAGAN GABLE

Kaleidoscope truly embodies the philosophy of hands-on learning, providing an enriching environment where children can explore, discover, and grow at their own pace.

-THE PEARSON FAMILY

Kaleidoscope has been an indispensable part of our 'village,' providing not just childcare but support, kindness and so much love for our children!

-KAREN MENG

Kaleidoscope feels like a pillar of our family. They know our kids on a fundamental level. Each teacher provides meaningful care and we're so lucky to have them.

-ALAINAH BETTS

Kaleidoscope has been an incredible experience for our family. The staff's dedication and the nurturing environment they provide give us peace of mind every day. We've seen both Charlie and Sam blossom, making friends and learning so much, all while having fun. It's comforting to know that while we're working, our kids are in a place filled with love, laughter, and learning. Kaleidoscope has truly become an extension of our family, supporting us in ways we never imagined.

-BETSY WILSON

Our Kaleidoscope teachers work so hard to get to know every child and their needs and personalities. They truly have put together a meaningful and comfortable environment for our child. She is excited to go to school every day!

-LAUREN GALEOTTI

kaleidoscope educators and staff are incredible! they are so full of energy, love and care for our children as well as skill in helping them develop and grow.

-BROOKE BUDNER

Did you know that 40% of our teachers and 25 % of our families speak Spanish?

Over 1000 bags of food were picked up at the Orcas Island Food Bank by Kaleidoscope Staff and brought to the center so families have their food available when they pick up their child at the end of the work day.

Kaleidoscope has been creative in addressing the housing dilemma and we have assisted 7 employees secure a roof over their head.

With approximately 20 staff members at any given time, Kaleidoscope is one of the largest, year round employers on the island. We have 4 employees currently taking college classes with 6 more to enroll in the upcoming year.

We see our teachers as our most valuable asset and have committed to their overall health by offering health insurance, including vision and dental, life insurance and free counseling. Most recently, we have expanded our benefits package to include a 401k retirement plan with a 3% company match!

We had 72 hours of Teaching Team gatherings, for planning, reflection, individualization, discussion, and professional growth.

We continue to appreciate our collaborative relationship with San Juan County Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (SJC ECEAP) and with their support, we were able to gather with our neighboring Early Childhood Educators to participate in a 4 day Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging (DEIB) professional development workshop, which impacts our interactions daily!

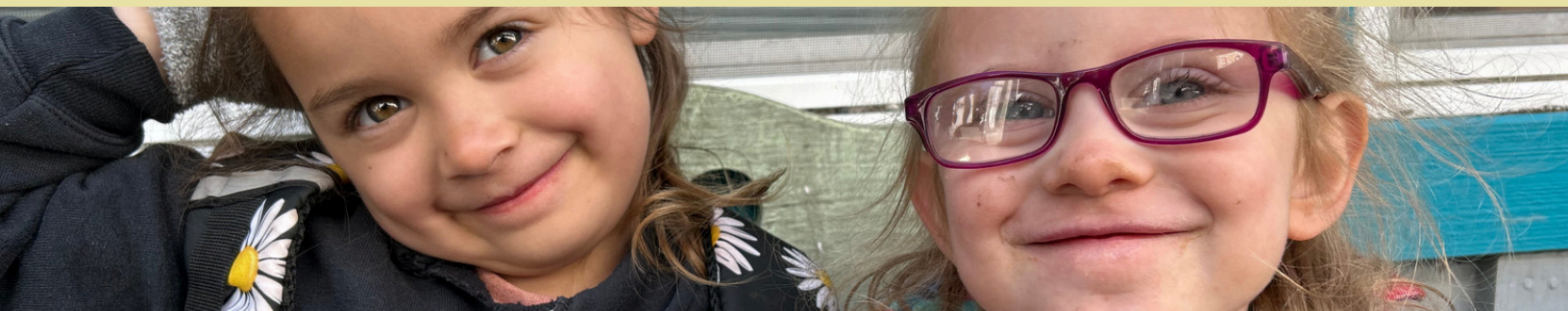
8871 wholesome breakfasts, 9302 delicious lunches, and 8469 nutritious snacks were served for a total of 26,642 meals shared. That's a lot of happy, full bellies! We ate island beef, goat, pork, lamb and chicken. We snacked on berries we grew in our own garden. Our kiddos aren't afraid to try new things-some favorites were moong dahl with raita, quinoa, sushi, millet, Jamaican goat curry, einkorn, gumbo, pozole, seafood chowder, lentil soup, stir fry, legumes, and Greek salad with tzatziki-just to name a few. Meal times at Kaleidoscope are always an adventure!

Families (and other Kaleidoscope supporters) have helped deliver fresh meals to the forest 194 days.

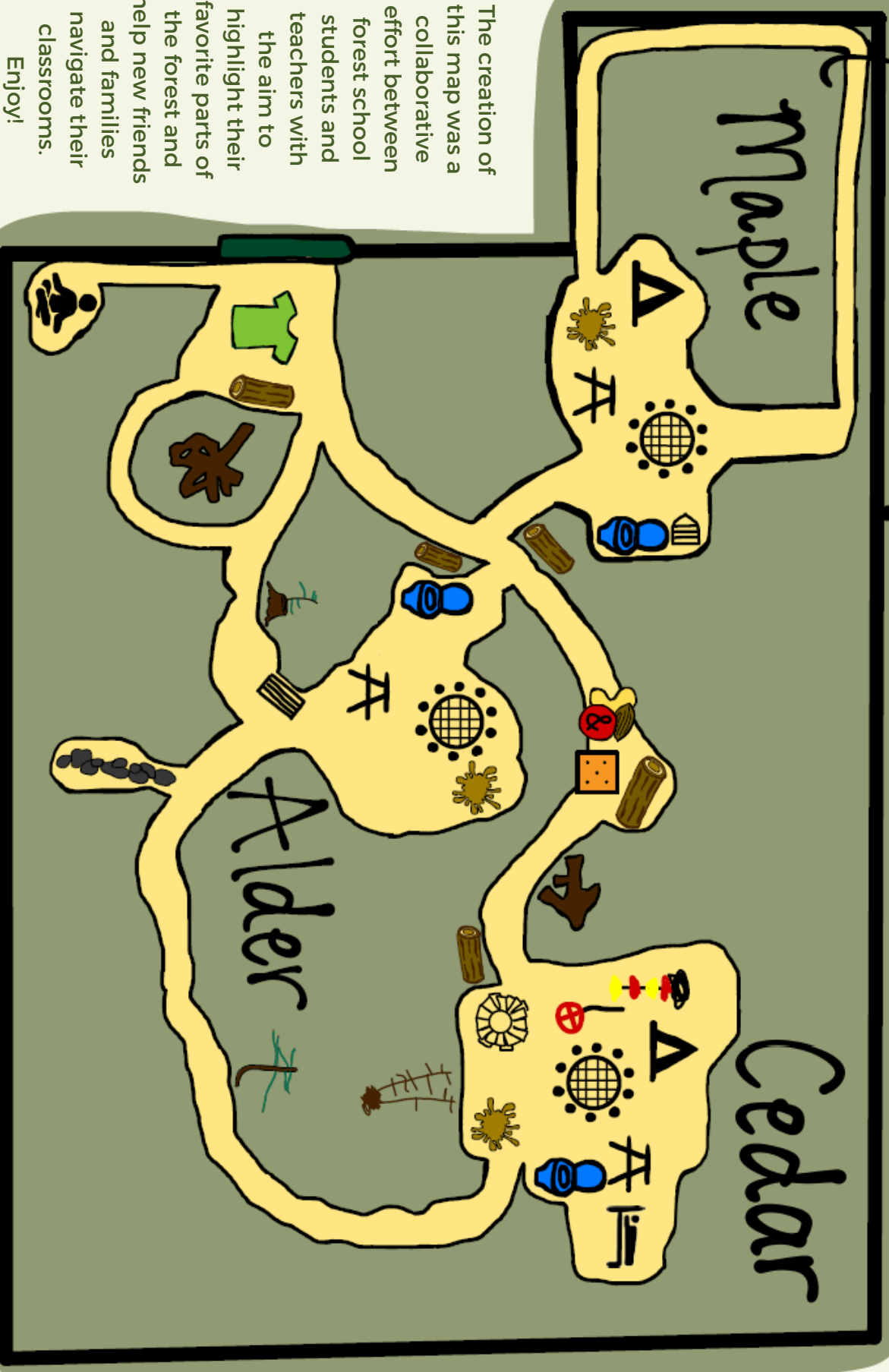
Work continued on our Forest School project. *We are getting closer every day!*

And oh, so many books bought, read, shared and loved.

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT THE NEXT YEAR BRINGS!



Kyleidoscope Forest School



The creation of this map was a collaborative effort between forest school students and teachers with the aim to highlight their favorite parts of the forest and help new friends and families navigate their classrooms. Enjoy!