

ÉCOLE PHOENIX MIDDLE SCHOOL



Wednesday, April 10th, 2024

- **Mt. Bike Club** rides today. Eat your snack prior to 3:00 PM and be ready to ride. Appropriate clothing and a water bottle or camel pack a must. Pick up at 5:00 PM.
- **Hiking Group** - please bring your signed permission forms and yourself to the counselling office at 12:50.
- **Drawing contest:** submit entries to room 107, due April 12. Mythical creatures theme. Ask Elsa if you have any questions
- **Track and Field** practice today from 3-4pm. Please meet in the gym with your running shoes, water bottle, and a pencil.
- **Dance** this Thursday in the MPR during grade 6/7 lunch recess – 12:20-12:50 p.m.
- **Attention Phoenix creative writers:** The results of the writing contest will be announced this Friday! Stay tuned...
- **Cute Pet Photo Contest** voting is starting this week! Bring cash or coins to vote for your favourite cute pet! This year we have categories: Dog, Cat, and Others. Vote in them all! Winners will get a prize package for their pet. All proceeds go to the SPCA.
- There will be a **Phoenix Spelling Bee** on April 18th (not the 15th. But teachers, if you have band students who would really like to participate, let me know. Maybe we could postpone it) *Stay tuned for more information!*
- **Craft Club** today at lunch (11:50-12:20 p.m.) Newcomers always welcome!

Social Story: April 8-12 – ‘Forest Friend’

Beckett can identify the trees, shrubs, and other plants in the forest at the back of his school, where students sit in a circle on bench-sized, cut logs, while they listen and learn from Mr. Green. He knows which ones can be eaten or used to make shelter or medicine. Beckett has a hard time sitting still inside, under the fluorescent lights. He listens without hearing. He tries to be compliant and obedient, but he doesn't feel like he can ever do anything right. But outside he can set his curiosity free and explore every inch of this beloved forest.

His questions can't be wrong out there, so he asks and asks and asks and learns and learns and learns. He loves these green giants and every speck of dirt on the forest floor. He loves the smell of moss, of autumn, of rain on the dry ground in spring.

All these aspects of the school's natural world are in Mr. Green's stories, as if they were living members of Beckett's classroom or family. He knows all their names, has nicknames for some, and cares about each one. One weekend, Beckett cuts through the forest on his way to his friend Charlie's house.

He finds that the logs they use as seats have been rolled down the hill and into the stream at the bottom. Trees have been carved with initials. Someone has hurt his favourite place.

- How does Beckett feel about this forest?
- Do you have a special outdoor place? Can you describe the place and how it makes you feel?
- How could this place be seen as medicine for Beckett? How does it help or heal him?
- Why? What do you know about the impact of trees or forests on the brain and body?