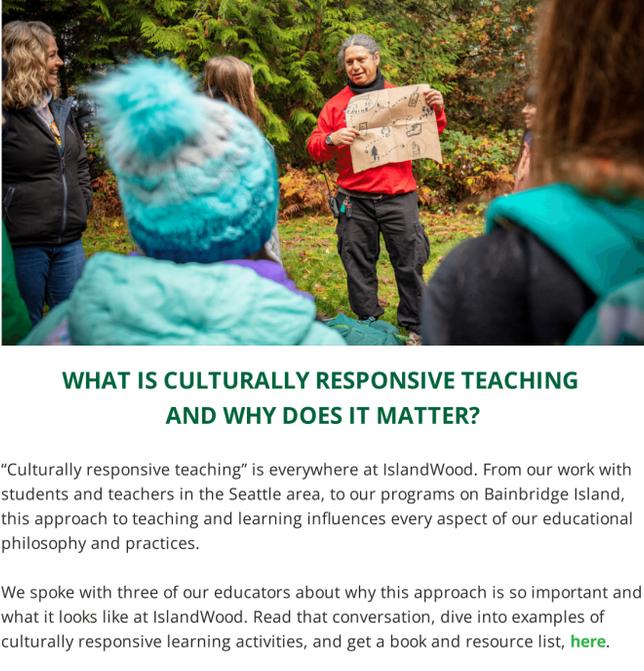


February News and Events



WHAT IS CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHING AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

"Culturally responsive teaching" is everywhere at IslandWood. From our work with students and teachers in the Seattle area, to our programs on Bainbridge Island, this approach to teaching and learning influences every aspect of our educational philosophy and practices.

We spoke with three of our educators about why this approach is so important and what it looks like at IslandWood. Read that conversation, dive into examples of culturally responsive learning activities, and get a book and resource list, [here](#).



SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION COMING UP!

Registration for summer camps on Bainbridge Island opens on **Monday, February 22 at 6:00 am!** We will be closely following state and federal health & safety guidelines to ensure a safe, healthy, and happy summer camp experience for your children!

[Check out our summer 2021 camp offerings →](#)



EXPANDING THE REACH OF OUR TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Last month we kicked off **Community Science**, our first teacher professional development course aimed at high school teachers! We're thrilled to continue expanding our reach to provide tools, strategies, and support for teachers of all grade levels. Keep your eye out for upcoming opportunities for elementary school teachers!

[Learn more about all of our professional development opportunities here →](#)

JOIN US FOR UPCOMING EVENTS!



17th Bainbridge Island Environmental Conference

Join city, state, and regional scientists for the free, virtual **2021 Bainbridge Island Environmental Conference!** Each Sunday throughout March, we'll be hosting community conversations on how we can steward our natural environment in the face of climate change.

[Learn more + register →](#)



Urban Water Systems Workshop

Join us on March 20 to uncover the often-hidden water systems in our region, and collaborate with fellow educators to brainstorm ways to integrate this content and related phenomena into your teaching.

[Learn more + register →](#)



Educator Philosophy & Positionality Workshop

Registration is now open for our **Educator Philosophy & Positionality** teacher professional development workshop, coming up on March 27! This workshop will help educators connect to their sense of purpose and advance equity in their classroom by exploring their educational philosophy, personal identity, and more.

[Learn more + register →](#)



Hand in Hand Nature Explorations

Our winter session of **Hand in Hand Nature Explorations** has started! Designed for 3 and 4-year-olds and their adults, each themed session will include a short hike, and an activity. Register for just one session, or join us for the whole series! Sessions run on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 - 11:00 am. Spots are filling up, so be sure to register if you're interested!

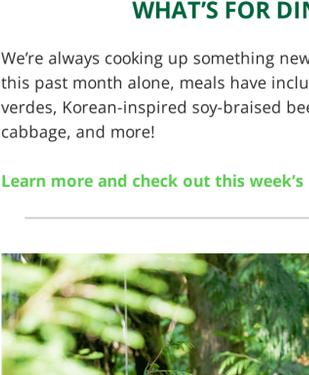
[Learn more + register →](#)



School's Out! Family Hike

Make the most of mid-winter break by joining us on Monday, February 15 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm for a socially-distanced hike on our trails. See how many animal tracks you can spot, cross the Suspension Bridge, visit our magical Bog Treehouse, and warm up with cider and cookies at the Friendship Circle.

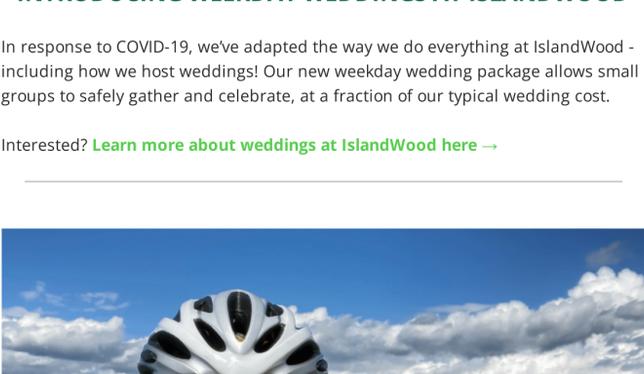
[Learn more + register →](#)



Skills of a Naturalist Hikes

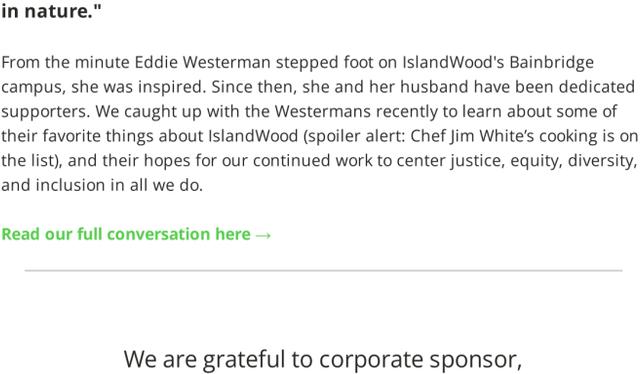
Build your skills and deepen your knowledge in this five-week series of outdoor classes! Staff naturalist Christina Doherty will guide you on explorations of IslandWood's forest, strengthening your botany, wildlife tracking, zoology, birding, marine ecology, and forest observation skills along the way. Feel free to register for just one lesson, or sign up for all five.

[Learn more + register →](#)



SPRING SESSION OF AFTERNOON ECOLOGISTS FOR 3rd - 6th GRADERS

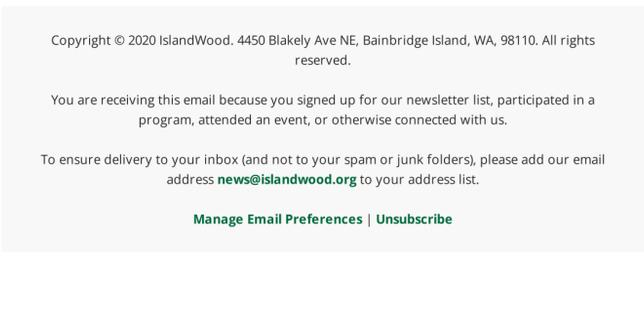
We'll be hosting a spring session of our program **Afternoon Ecologists** with registration opening Monday, Feb 22. Located on our Bainbridge Island campus, the program will deepen science knowledge, strengthen problem-solving skills, and inspire teamwork!



A NEW MENU EVERY WEEK FROM WHAT'S FOR DINNER WEDNESDAY

We're always cooking up something new for **What's for Dinner Wednesday**. Just this past month alone, meals have included smoked honey-adobo ribs, tamalitos verdes, Korean-inspired soy-braised beef, za'atar-rubbed chicken, tagine, stuffed cabbage, and more!

[Learn more and check out this week's menu →](#)



INTRODUCING WEEKDAY WEDDINGS AT ISLANDWOOD

In response to COVID-19, we've adapted the way we do everything at IslandWood - including how we host weddings! Our new weekday wedding package allows small groups to safely gather and celebrate, at a fraction of our typical wedding cost.

Interested? [Learn more about weddings at IslandWood here →](#)

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: EDDIE & MARTIN WESTERMAN

"I believe that students who may not thrive in the walls of a classroom can blossom and thrive when given the opportunity to be in nature."

From the minute Eddie Westerman stepped foot on IslandWood's Bainbridge campus, she was inspired. Since then, she and her husband have been dedicated supporters. We caught up with the Westermans recently to learn about some of their favorite things about IslandWood (spoiler alert: Chef Jim White's cooking is on the list), and their hopes for our continued work to center justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in all we do.

[Read our full conversation here →](#)

We are grateful to corporate sponsor,
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