SHIFTING SCIENCE EDUCATION FROM SCHOOL TO HOME

When COVID forced schools to close this spring, the message we heard from teachers was clear. The most engaging science lessons are hands-on, collaborative, and driven by spontaneous questions—and therefore more difficult to replicate online. Check out our most recent blog post to learn how teachers have been grappling with these issues during our professional development workshops—and finding inspiration and community in the process.

Read the full story here →

OUR NEW TO-GO MEAL PROGRAM

Last month, we launched our new to-go dinner program! Dinners are currently available on Wednesdays, but the response has been so encouraging that we're considering adding other days as well, so stay tuned!

Each week, the IslandWood kitchen will offer a new entrée option, alongside a selection of a la carte options and beverages. Best of all, by ordering from IslandWood, you're supporting our innovative environmental education programs!

On the menu this week are jerk-style roast chicken, served with red beans & rice, spicy pickled grilled cauliflower and Caribbean mango slaw; and Trinidadian Doubles, a meal of curried jackfruit served with summer vegetables, rice, red beans, greens, mushrooms, and a traditional Bara atbread. Make sure to also check out our curated beer & wine selection!

Check out the full menu and order here →

VIRTUAL SUMMER CAMPS

We've been hard at work creating some virtual summer camp offerings for campers entering 3rd through 5th grades!

Through a combination of group online sessions, activities, and outdoor projects, our virtual summer camps are a flexible and fun way to spark wonder, creativity, and curiosity.

From learning more about the plants and animals in your neighborhood, to exploring the natural world through art, to making a difference for the planet through science and engineering, there's something to inspire every child.

Learn more and register here →

UPCOMING TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Teachers are facing the nearly insurmountable task of keeping students learning through this crisis. And now, more than ever, helping teachers use their outside spaces for science learning is a key way to reduce risk while connecting curriculum to students' lives and communities. Throughout the year, we will be providing free teacher professional development courses, workshops, and focused supports to help teachers navigate this challenging time. Upon completion of each course, teachers will also earn a stipend and STEM clock hours!

Interested? Click the button below to learn more and sign up for updates!

Learn More

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FIELD AT RISK

As the COVID-19 crisis continues, it's become increasingly clear that the entire field of environmental education is extremely at risk.

According to a policy brief released by The Lawrence Hall of Science this past spring, an estimated 11 million students will have lost the opportunity to engage in environmental education by the end of the year. In that same time period, environmental organizations—including IslandWood—will face approximately $600 million in lost revenue, with 30,000 staff members furloughed or laid off. What these numbers don’t represent is the deeper cost—the lost physical and mental benefits of time spent learning outside, the missed opportunities to increase awareness about climate change and stewardship behaviors, the reduced funding for equitable access to outdoor spaces and high-quality education.

Read the full policy brief to explore the state of our field and the urgent support needed to sustain it →

A TREMENDOUS THANK YOU!

We have officially closed out our Keep Us Strong campaign and are so grateful to report that we surpassed our goal! Together, our community raised over $522,000 to help us weather these challenging times and see us into the future. Thank you for giving us an incredible boost!

We are grateful to our friends at Puget Sound Energy for their support!

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