

SWALLOWTAIL STORIES

WINTER

WINTER WONDERS

Winter is a time of wonder at Swallowtail Forest School. It is an important time in our school year when we build self confidence, independence, and resilience through our personal challenges. We embrace the cold by bundling up and taking breaks by the campfire. We keep ourselves moving by embarking on journeys through the forest, designing creative building projects, and playing games with our friends. Our excitement is unmatched whenever we start to see fluffy white snowflakes drift down from the sky.



TAKING A SNOW DAY

As light, fluffy snowflakes fall from the sky, we suddenly find ourselves in a forest school winter wonderland. Our kitchen becomes a snow-cone store, the climbing stumps now slippery sliders, and we watch with excitement as our favorite mud hill transforms into a sledding hill right before our eyes. We quickly learn that we can slide on wooden boards and zoom fast down the slope. To top off a magical snowy day, we make some peppermint tea to warm us from the inside and continue to enjoy our frozen classroom.



BIRD IS THE WORD

In winter we take time to focus on local feathery friends. We learn how to tell some birds apart from each other, and the binoculars become our favorite tool. Bird feeders are placed around the classroom so we can watch as birds and the occasional squirrel stop by our classroom for a birdseed snack!



FROZEN RAINBOWS

What do you get when you give a Swallowtail a paintbrush and a block of ice? A colorful frozen masterpiece! We experiment to see what happens when you use watercolors on solid ice. By adding salt, we can see the colors dance together and seep further into the ice. Our students observe that when the ice melts, most of the color melts out too, leaving a rainbow puddle behind.



ENGINEER THIS!

Play-based learning allows our creativity, imagination, and ingenuity to grow, and our students display these qualities every single day. Here are some of our favorite recent inventions!

MONSTER SEESAW

Exactly as it sounds like: a giant seesaw made from our loose building materials! We discover that the larger the base, the higher our scale will go (and the more friends we can fit on it!)



THE SPOOL SPINNER

It is SO FUN to roll this giant spool up things, down things, and all around things. We discover that it travels faster or slower depending on how high we build the top of the ramp.

