



Anemone

The Children's School of Science Newsletter

Summer 2016

CSS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS SUMMER 2016

Monday – July 4
School Closed
No Classes
Parade - 12PM

Sessions A & AB Begin
Tuesday – July 5

Back-to-School Night
Tuesday- July 5
6 p.m.

Open Board Meeting
Wednesday - July 20
CSS - 7 p.m.

Open House – End of Session A
Friday - July 22
Last 15 minutes of each class

Session B Begins
Monday - July 25

Back-to-School Night
Tuesday - July 26
6 p.m.

CSS Book Club
Wednesday – July 27
CSS - 4 p.m.

CSS Annual Picnic
Thursday - July 28
Woods Hole Ball Park – 5 p.m.

CSS Annual Meeting
Monday – August 8
Fisher House - 7:30 p.m.

Open House
Wednesday - August 10
5 p.m.

End of Sessions
B & AB
Thursday - August 11

To keep up with current events
throughout the summer and
reminisce with others about CSS over
the winter, be sure to like us on
Facebook



President's Letter

Greetings-

Welcome to the 103rd year of the Children's School of Science! It is a beautiful spring day here in New England and my thoughts have turned to Woods Hole. In many ways, summers in Woods Hole have not changed--swimming at Stoney Beach, sailing lessons for some, and Science School for all. However, as our lives become more complex in the twenty-first century, opportunities for our children to come out from behind computer screens and study nature first-hand require deliberate commitment from all of us.

In the time that I have been involved with Science School as a parent and volunteer, I have gained insight into what makes this school so successful. In 1913, our institution's founding mothers—Lena Slawson Drew, Sarah Fisher, Nellie Gray, Frances Crane Lillie, Anne Leonard Loeb, Zoulyne Milligan, Lilian Vaughan Morgan, Cornelia Crane Smith, and Agnes Dyer Warbasse—envisioned a learning environment that would teach our children to explore the natural world through inquiry based instruction. This ambitious experiment has flourished due to the artful combination between paid professional teachers and administrators and a volunteer group comprised of the community's parents, grandparents, and alumni. These dedicated individuals have provided the supportive assistance needed to keep a quality six-week educational program financially feasible for all families. This venture in summer education, what our second president Agnes Warbasse termed in 1920 "the Cooperative School of Elementary Science," has worked because it draws upon the entire region: its scientists, year-round residents, and summer people.

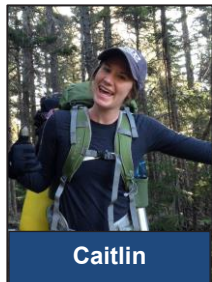
I am convinced that the support of our volunteers is among the most important components of this cooperative success. I am grateful to the many long-term and more recent volunteers who make Science School work each day. And yet simultaneously, I wonder about the best way to reach out to our community for new volunteers. What Science School needs most is your active engagement and your voice in helping to chart its continued progress. We currently have several volunteer openings with varying levels of time commitment. Our community, comprised of Doug and Aaron, our teachers and assistants, and our volunteers who come together each summer, create a magical moment for our children. People are CSS's greatest asset; the friendships forged from this extended community are its greatest reward!

Many things have changed since our founders first conceived of Science School. Summers seem shorter, life faster, and the world more complex. But the pure joy of a child's first field trip to the seashore endures, and in many ways is more powerful now because it happens in spite of the fast-paced digital world we live in today. All of us are juggling busy lives, and some are in the region for only a few weeks. However, I encourage you to find the time to be an active participant in CSS's community. Together we can ensure that future generations will have this unique opportunity to explore the natural world and develop a love and appreciation for science. Please see the volunteer opportunities listed in this newsletter.

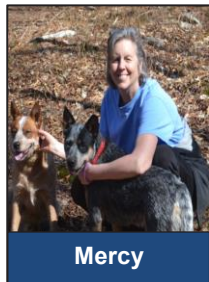
I look forward to hearing from each of you. Thank you for your most precious gift—the time you give to Science School.

With warmth,
Debi Laster, President

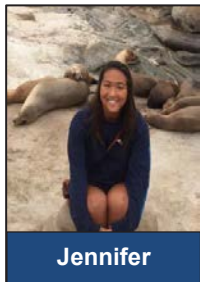
Meet Some of This Year's CSS Teachers



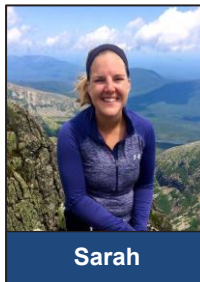
Caitlin



Mercy



Jennifer



Sarah



Flannery

The teaching staff brings an amazing depth and breadth of knowledge to CSS each summer and this one looks to be stellar as well. This year, we welcome five new instructors to the faculty including an oyster farmer, a drone pilot, a CSS legacy, a NOAA necropsy intern, and a park interpreter. Read on to see who is who in the new faculty. For a look at all of the CSS instructors visit the faculty tab on our website.

Caitlin Church, who will be teaching *Ecology of the Bikepath* and *Oceanography*, is a Falmouth native and received her BA in Marine Science from University of San Diego in 2014. Caitlin has worked as a lifeguard and swimming instructor at New Silver Beach and as a summer park interpreter developing and delivering environmental education programs at Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Currently, Caitlin is a substitute teacher in the Falmouth public schools and is working with Compost with Me, a local Cape Cod business dedicated to diverting food scraps and other compostable materials from the waste stream and creating healthy natural compost. She has spent many hours riding the Shining Sea Bike Path and is looking forward to sharing the bike path and her knowledge of marine science with her students.

Mercy Grinold will be teaching *Comparative Habitats*. She is a native Cape-Codder and her father Gene Phillips was the CSS administrator for many years. Although Mercy did not attend CSS as a child, she credits her father with teaching her the CSS philosophy of studying the natural world. She currently teaches 3rd grade at The Prosper Valley School in Vermont where the students are encouraged to develop a love for both the outdoors and science. She and her husband have spent many summers in Falmouth and are currently fixing up her family home there. She loves to hike, bike, fish and swim and is looking forward to teaching where her father spent many happy years.

Jennifer Johnson will teach *Seashore Life* in session B. She graduated from Virginia Tech with a BSc in Biology in 2014. She is currently working for NOAA /Northeast Fisheries Science Center surveying fish and marine mammal populations. She is also a NOAA drone pilot! She has been involved in NOAA outreach programs and has enjoyed the opportunity to interact with the public and children of all ages. She is excited to share her knowledge and love of the ocean with CSS students and to become more involved in the Woods Hole community.

Sarah McCormack will be this summer's teacher for *Marine Mammals* and a *Seashore Life* class in Session B.

Sarah is a recent graduate of Cornell University with a BSc in Natural Resources with a minor in Marine Biology. While at Cornell, Sarah researched invasive algae in Maine and the impact of groundwater discharge on coral in Hawaii. During the summer, Sarah enjoyed being a naturalist leading interpretive ecology programs for school groups at the Seacoast Science Center in Rye, NH and managing the Shoals Marine Lab in Maine. She is working with NOAA Fisheries and as a necropsy intern with the Marine Mammal Rescue and Research Team in Yarmouth. Last, but not least, among her skills, Sarah was a Division 1 varsity softball player.

Flannery Rogers has happy memories of being a CSS student and is looking forward to returning as a teacher. She will be teaching *Woods, Ponds and Fields* in Session A. Flannery received a BA in Anthropology from Smith College in 2008 and an MSc from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 2011. While in college, Flannery tutored middle school students in science. For the last few years, she has been working as an oyster farmer for Washburn Island Oysters in East Falmouth. She took *Botany* and *Ichthyology* at CSS as a kid and has great memories of Science School.

Welcome to all our new and returning teachers. Please make a point to say hello to them at the first Open House on July 5th, 6-7 pm.

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archives

Dorothea Mautner
Charlotte Emans Moore

Entrance Desk

Ellie Armstrong

Extension Classes

Charity Gray
Susan Laster

Health & Safety

Karen L. Humphreys
Kristina Micheva

Hospitality

Tirien Steinbach

Newsletter

Stacy Cummings
Karen Dell
Charlotte Emans Moore
Kim Schwab
Diane Smith
Zoe Smith

Recording Secretary

David Epstein

Scholarships

Deb Coulombe

Sustaining Fund

Mary Jo Benjamin
Tara Bennett
Kitty Brown
Danie Kinkade
Debra Laster
Jennifer Sheetz
Diane Smith
Ethan Treistman

Transportation

Debra Laster

Trip Sites

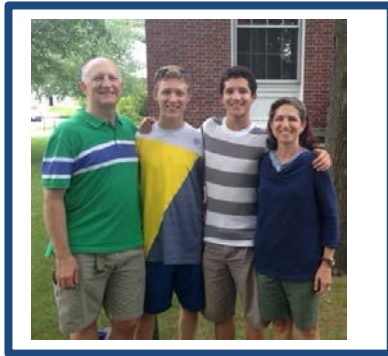
Susan Laster

Ways and Means

Co-chairs needed



Volunteer Spotlight



CSS is truly held aloft by the many volunteers who give their time and talent. These extra hands help CSS run seamlessly summer after summer allowing the administrators and teachers to focus on the student experience and curriculum. Serving on a committee is a great way to get to know more about the workings of Science School and meet the other families who attend. One of our perennial volunteers is Susan Laster. Expanding on her previous role of Field Trip Sites chair, a pre-season job, this year Susan adds Extension Classes co-chair to her duties.

"This will be a summer when I have two volunteer positions at CSS. I think it will be very doable because the Field Trip sites role is all done before the summer starts; also the Extension Courses will be co-managed by Charity Gray and me," says Susan.

She has worn many hats in the CSS volunteer realm. Susan continues, "Prior to coordinating the Field Trip sites my volunteer roles involved staffing a booth at the Centennial "festival" and staffing the sweatshirt sales desks from time to time." This doesn't take into account the standard parent field trip and desk duty assignments done during her two boys' enrolled years. Both Jamie, a former CSS assistant, and Danny, a first year assistant this summer, received their CSS lifer awards.

Susan herself attended CSS from age 7 to 15 starting with *Seashore Life* and finishing with *Advanced Marine Biology*. This was at a time before "lifer" certificates were awarded but she qualifies for the distinction Susan recalls, "My favorite class was *Advanced Marine Biology*. We went on field trips every day and did a very interesting summer-long experiment about periwinkle populations at Wood Neck Beach."

As a faithful sustaining fund contributor Susan notes that contributing to CSS is critical to the school's future.

"Whether family donations are monetary or effort, I know all ways of help are appreciated by the school. In addition, I find it rewarding to give back to a school that has given so much to me and my family through the years," Susan comments.

"My mother was President of CSS. One of the greatest pleasures has been how CSS has been passed down the generations in my family. My sister, Judy, my brother, Stephen, and I all took classes; and now we have a new generation of CSS-ers in our family. My 2 sons— Jamie and Danny Little-- are Lifers; my nephew and niece, Ben and Abby Laster, are on their way to being Lifers. And, in what feels like a very lovely, full circle, my brother, Stephen, served on the Board for a term, followed by his wife, Debi serving as the current Board President!" she continues.

Susan's husband Terry Little is 'CSS by marriage'. CSS participation is certainly a family affair for Susan as it is for so many who attend. We appreciate her time and generosity and hope you are inspired to take on a new role with Science School in the near future.

CSS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS 2016

Administrative Director
Doug Jones

Assistant Administrator
Aaron Sloboda

Curriculum Co-Chairs
Karen Dell
Christine Field

Registrar
Crickett Warner

Teaching Assistants Chair
Jane Kulesza

Website and Facebook Administrator
Aaron Sloboda

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President
Debra Laster

Co-Vice Presidents
Ronnie Cooperstein
Jennifer Sheetz

Treasurer
Chris Kinkade

Clerk of the Corporation
Virginia Land Maguire

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2016

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Susan Burke
Roger Sloboda
Denis Toner

2018

Mark Borsuk
Elizabeth Chappell
John Cummings
Debra Laster
Virginia Land Maguire

CSS Assistants

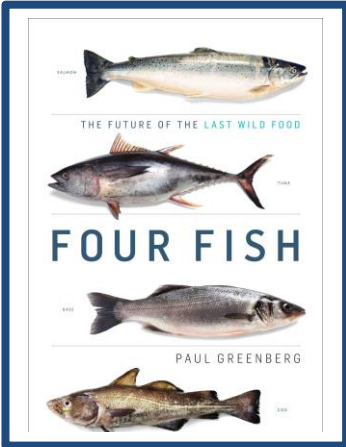


I Loved My Job as a CSS Assistant

Working at the Children's School of Science as an assistant was one of the best experiences that I have ever had. Any former assistant can tell you just how rewarding it is to be part of the CSS staff. Miranda Evarts loved "being part of such a dedicated and wonderful team, and getting to watch and help kids learn in the perfect environment that science school offers." Jack Cummings also agrees that "being able to see the students become more and more passionate about discovery as the summer goes on" truly is the best part of being an assistant. If I had it my way I would work here forever; since that is not the case, however, new assistants need to be hired every year. If you are interested in applying to be an assistant for the summer of 2017, keep an eye on the kiosk in July and sign up for an interview there. All paperwork, including letters of recommendation, is due no later than December 1, 2016. I hope you pursue this excellent opportunity, and I wish you the best of luck in the application process.

- Zoë Smith

**CSS
Book Club
2016**



Enjoy the cod exhibit at the Woods Hole Historical Museum and then dive into the current state of our relationship with cod (and salmon, tuna and sea bass) by reading the CSS summer book club selection *Four Fish: The Future of the Last Wild Food* by Paul Greenberg.

Despite the grim and complicated story Greenberg tells of these fish populations at the brink of collapse, his writing is beautiful, entertaining and even hopeful.

He underscores the joy and privilege of eating wild fish and examines the nuances of making healthy and sustainable decisions about what fish we choose to put on our plates. He writes as a fisherman and as a caring investigative journalist with a fascinating and important story to tell.

**On the porch of
the historic
schoolhouse
Wednesday, July
27th at 4 p.m.**

HELP WANTED

The Children's School of Science is looking a few good volunteers for our Standing Committees

Hospitality - Co-chair
Ways & Means - Co-chairs
Newsletter – Layout Editor, Writers

Please send an email to:
boardpresident@childrenschoolofscience.org
or stop by the desk with your interest or questions.

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