



# Anemone

The Children's School of Science Newsletter

Summer 2024

## CSS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS SUMMER 2024

**Sessions A Begins**  
Monday, July 1

**Back-to-School Night**  
Tuesday, July 2, 6-7 p.m.

**School Closed**  
Thursday, July 4  
Fourth of July Parade, 12 p.m.

**Open Board Meeting  
at the School House**  
Wednesday, July 17, 7-8 p.m.

**CSS Annual Picnic**  
Woods Hole Ball Park  
Thursday, July 18, 5 p.m. (Rain  
date July 25)

**End of Session A  
& Open House**  
Friday, July 19  
Last 15 minutes of each class

**Session B Begins**  
Monday, July 22

**Back-to-School Night**  
Tuesday, July 23, 6-7 p.m.

**Annual Meeting**  
Monday, August 5, 7:30 p.m.

**Open House**  
Thursday, August 8  
Last 15 minutes of each class.

**End of Sessions B**  
Thursday, August 8

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 and Instagram.



Since I first arrived in Falmouth, the Woods Hole Children's School of Science has been a fixture in my life. As a young adult, invariably the most interesting people I met around town were affiliated with CSS—what was happening on School Street that so many intelligent, inquisitive, and really fun people worked there? As I met more people, it seemed that anyone who'd spent any time as a child in Woods Hole had a summer, or more likely several summers, of CSS memories that informed their relationship with the natural world and fueled a perpetual desire to know more.

As a young parent, I counted the summers until I could enroll my first child in Seashore Life. And from my first driving field trip—where I wasn't sure if my car or the beach had more sand at the end of the day—I was completely taken with CSS and the way that an hour or two at Science School could ignite a child's mind/imagination/curiosity for the rest of the day. This year, I am honored to be writing as the President of Woods Hole Children's School of Science. My term arrived at a unique time in CSS history.

We have weathered the pandemic, returned to full and regular operations and adopted some Covid-era innovations into the normal school day (Hello, outdoor classroom tent! And 105-minute class sessions). We see Kate Schafer, a CSS alumna, beginning her second year as Program Director and visibly hitting her stride in this latest role with Science School. We continue to rely on volunteers (several of whom have given more than a half century of service to CSS) to keep traditions alive but also to invigorate new opportunities. My children are older now, and I no longer drive kids with buckets to neighboring beaches for class trips. But I still go to the schoolyard to appreciate the rare atmosphere. Together, students, teachers & assistants generate a palpable, nearly electric energy all day, every day. For generations, school kids everywhere have listened for the school bell. But where else do you find children waiting for the sound that will *let them in* to their classes?

If you're new to science school, or lucky to have a child enrolled this summer, soak up that vibe at drop off/pick up as often as you can. If it's been a while, try to stroll by sometime this summer—recharge your reserves of that distinctive CSS energy (it's a good antidote to February and an inspiration year-round!). And if your schedule keeps you away from Woods Hole this year, dip into your memory—I can almost guarantee it's still there, a little bit like the inexorable sand in your car (in the best possible way) to bring you back to CSS.

Wishing the entire CSS community a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

*Virginia Land McGuire*

Virginia Land McGuire



## ***CSS Teacher Profiles***

### **Hope Allison**

Hope Allison returns to CSS for another summer as the Photography teacher in Session B. Born and raised in Woods Hole, Hope earned a BA from Middlebury College in Vermont, and now resides in Brookline, MA. She works full-time as a professional photographer, and her love for the arts and the outdoors is stronger than ever. For as long as she can remember, she's been obsessed with documenting moments and feelings, whatever the medium — she is an avid journal-keeper, a post-cardist, and a lover of analog photography. This summer, Hope is ecstatic about being able to share the magic of film with her students.

### **Bridget Beaudoin**

Bridget is a Falmouth local and recent graduate of UMASS Amherst, where she received a B.S in Environmental Science with minors in Resource Economics and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She previously taught at WBNERR Summer Science School, and is excited to return home to teach Art, Science, and Nature at CSS again this summer. Her love of the outdoors was fostered by the curiosity that radiates from the scientific community in Woods Hole, as well as frequent exploration of the abundant coastal ecology on the Cape. In her free time, Bridget enjoys crafting, cooking and hiking.

### **Tara Bennett Bristow**

Tara Bennett Bristow has spent summers around CSS since the early 80s and her experience as a “lifer” sparked a curiosity in the natural world. She earned a BA in Biology from Dartmouth College and an MS from Tufts Veterinary School and began her professional career as a high school Biology teacher. She returned to CSS as a teacher in 2010. In 2019, she started her own company, Bristow Bio Consulting, and since then has led the Implementation and Technical Team for the Amgen Biotech Experience (ABE), a biotech education program which spans across 27 sites globally. Prior to becoming an independent consultant, she worked at Harvard University for nearly 20 years coordinating Life Sciences Outreach and developing curriculum. She lives with her husband and dog in Louisville, Kentucky. In her free time, she enjoys Pilates, running, volunteering for the Kentucky Humane Society and supporting animal welfare efforts across the state.

### **Caitlin Church**

Caitlin Church is a Falmouth native and has been teaching at CSS since 2015. She received a B.A. in Marine and Environmental Science from the University of San Diego (2014) and a M.A. in Environmental Science with a Science Teacher Certification from Antioch University in Keene, NH (2019). Currently, she is a 7th grade science teacher at the Lawrence School in Falmouth, MA. In addition to teaching, Caitlin has a background in outdoor education and science research. In her free time, she enjoys walking with her dogs, boating, being with family, and cooking. This summer Caitlin has the pleasure of teaching two sessions of Marine Biology.

### **Miranda Damante**

Miranda is excited to join CSS this summer as the instructor of Advanced Marine Biology and Habits and Habitats. She is a California native and holds a B.S. in Marine & Coastal Sciences from UC Davis. Miranda spends the majority of the year on Catalina Island off the coast of southern California where she works as an instructor at Catalina Island Marine Institute. She loves taking students on snorkels, leading lab activities and facilitating a connection with the underwater world. She is a strong advocate of outdoor education and believes there is no better classroom than the ocean. Her hobbies include cultivating playlists, tending to her plants and hunting for sea glass.

### **Ashley Diedenhofen**

Ashley Diedenhofen, a biologist and science communicator from San Diego, CA, found her love for environmental science in Woods Hole. She grew up visiting with her extended family, attending Science School, and eventually working as a research assistant (and video producer) at the MBL. She loves her job making educational videos on environmental science and sustainable living, and is starting her Masters in Environmental Science and Management at UC Santa Barbara in the fall of 2024. Beyond her work, she enjoys snorkeling, SCUBA diving, cooking, yoga, reading historical fiction, and traveling (she even lived in Australia and taught meteorology at the Sydney Observatory). Ashley eagerly awaits teaching meteorology during Session B for her first year at CSS!

## *CSS Teacher Profiles*

### **Jess Donohue**

Jess Donohue joined the CSS faculty in 2017 and is teaching Nautical Science this summer. The rest of the year, Jess works as a Research Associate at Sea Education Association (SEA) and a nautical science teacher at Tabor Academy. She has sailed as crew aboard SEA's sailing school vessels, teaching undergraduates in the lab and on deck, and studying ocean plastics pollution. Jess earned a B.S. in Environmental Geology from Binghamton University and an M.S. in Environmental Science from URI. She lives on Cape Cod year-round and enjoys kayaking, running, and making pottery in her spare time.

### **Daniel Gomez-Ibanez**

Daniel Gomez-Ibanez is looking forward to teaching ROVs in session B. From childhood, curiosity has driven him to salvage discarded electronic and mechanical products and dissect them to find out how they work. This led to a career as ocean engineer at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution where he enjoys creating machines to explore hydrospace. He contributed to the design of several underwater vehicles and participated in many ocean research expeditions. He has lived in Woods Hole since 2005 and his two children have enjoyed summers at CSS. When he is not circuit-bending you might find Daniel singing in a chorus, Norwegian folk dancing, or sewing.

### **Jennifer Junker**

Jenny is an artist and naturalist who loves wildlife and often goes exploring on the Cape and Islands. Jennifer got her BFA from Rhode Island School of Design and she finds inspiration in nature and science for her artwork. She went to Science School as a kid where her favorite class was Entomology. She now teaches it, as well as Botany and Biological Illustration. Jenny loves field work and takes her students to all the best places, to find the coolest things. In her free time, Jenny loves to cultivate her constantly evolving garden and travel with her family whenever she gets a chance.

### **Hadley Kerr**

Hadley Kerr grew up on Cape Cod in Bourne and spent her summers on and around the water and attended CSS as a student for 6 years. She received a B.S. in Biology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and now works as a research assistant at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution researching seaweed

aquaculture. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, baking sourdough, crafting and spending time outside. She looks back fondly at the many summers she spent adventuring and learning at CSS, and she is excited to be back for her first summer as an instructor teaching Seaweeds!

### **Becky Lash**

Becky brings an abundance of knowledge and expertise to the CSS community. She first attended CSS as a Seashore Life student in 1963 and began teaching Entomology and Ornithology classes in 1977. In between, she received degrees from both the University of Pennsylvania and Cornell. While she has taken a year or two off here and there, most summers you will find Becky leading a group of students on some awesome experiential adventure to one of the local fields, beaches or aquariums. Becky's favorite jobs are teaching in the Falmouth Public Schools, working as an aquarist at the Woods Hole Science Aquarium, and landscaping/gardening. Currently, she is obsessed with being a part of the sea turtle rescue and rehab team at the New England Aquarium! This summer, Becky is teaching Cetaceans, Pinnipeds and Sea Turtles.

### **Emma LeRoy**

Emma LeRoy is excited to join CSS as an instructor for Animal Adaptations, Wetland Ecology, and Embryology. Born and raised on Cape Cod, she now splits her time between her two passions of teaching science and her beloved animals. She graduated from Bridgewater State University with a double major in Biology and Secondary Education and enjoys the opportunity to foster the next generation of scientists. She loves being outside, trail riding with her husband and horses Calzone and Marcy or walking her chihuahuas Pepper and Tortilla. She now resides in Marstons Mills with her husband and menagerie of creatures enjoying the many splendors of the Cape.

### **Darby McCullough**

Darby attends the University of Massachusetts, Amherst studying Natural Resources Conservation with a concentration in Environmental Conservation and French Studies. She grew up spending summers at CSS which is exactly where her fascination and admiration for science and the natural world blossomed. She is thrilled and honored to be teaching Woods, Ponds and Fields this summer and hopes to inspire students the same way she was inspired as a CSS student. Aside from teaching, she



## CSS Teacher Profiles

loves playing and performing music and plays the electric bass, as well as guitar, in a couple of bands.

### Simon Miner

This is Simon's 18th season at the Children's School of Science. He first joined the CSS faculty in 2005, when he was a researcher at the Marine Biological Laboratory. Since then, Simon has worked as a freelance UAV pilot, for both the film and the scientific community. In recent years, he has helped develop science and nature education programming for other budding organizations. When he has free time, Simon can be found indulging in his favorite activities of adventuring by boat or motorcycle, immersing himself in nature on foot or with fins, and traveling with his partner and their 6 year old son. Above all, he cherishes the time he spends outdoors with his family. Simon is teaching ROVs in session A this year.

### Sarah Poulin

Sarah Poulin is a passionate marine biologist with a rich background in academic and practical science experience. Graduating from Wake Forest University with a degree in Biology, Sarah immersed herself in hands-on internships, including at Mote Marine Lab, where she surveyed sea turtle nesting beaches, and the New England Aquarium, where she played a vital role in the Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Program. Later, she deepened her understanding of coastal ecosystems as an ecologist at Bald Head Island Conservancy. Her pursuit of knowledge led her to Duke University, where she earned her master's degree in Coastal Environmental Management, focusing on the migratory connectivity of marine megafauna. Currently, Sarah teaches high school Biology and Marine Science at Tabor Academy. This summer, she eagerly takes on the new adventure of teaching Advanced Marine Biology in Session B.

### Olivia Rauss

Olivia is in her fifth year on the faculty in the Bourne Public Schools on Cape Cod where she is currently teaching 6th grade Science. In her leisure time, she loves spending time with her young son and her Boxer dogs, playing the cello, as well as a variety of different sports, cooking, and playing board and card games. Olivia grew up in Falmouth and has many fond memories of attending the Children's School of Science and she hopes to create the same wonderful experiences for her students this year.

### Elizabeth Rencher

Elizabeth Rencher joins the CSS team as a Colorado local with a love for all things outdoors, adventure, and learning. Past adventures include walking two weeks of the Via Francigena into Rome and surfing the waves of Atxabiribil Beach during her study abroad in Bilbao, Spain. Ask her about the craziest foods she's tried if you're looking for some fun travel stories! She's thrilled to be teaching the Animal Behavior course in Session A this summer, and one of her favorite animal fun facts is that tailorbirds sew their own nests using nothing but leaves, fiber, and their own beak! As a previous piano instructor and Spanish teacher for elementary-age students, she enjoys bringing creativity and collaboration into the classroom to build an interactive learning space "tailored" to each student's interests.

### Jessica Rencher

Jessica joins the CSS team from the Rocky Mountains where she is currently a Human Resources and Education doctoral candidate at Colorado State University and instructs teaching candidates with a focus on K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade literacy, science and math. Jessica was previously a first-grade teacher in Fort Collins, CO, a zip-line guide in the coastal Redwoods in Santa Cruz, CA, and a student advisor



## CSS Teacher Profiles

at The American School in Lugano, Switzerland. Of all these adventures, teaching science in Woods Hole remains her all-time favorite. CSS gave Jessica her first official teaching job in 2010; the rest is history. Jessica graduated from California Polytechnic with a B.S. in Biology with an emphasis in teaching and earned an M.Ed. from CSU. Jessica enjoys spending time with family and friends, playing the violin, traveling, reading, skiing, and hiking with her Siberian Husky.

### Christopher Rimel

Christopher inspires his students to become guardians of coastal environments. With a Master's in Education from Hunter College, a Bachelor's from California College of Arts and tenure as a Pratt Institute professor, Christopher was drawn to CSS's hands-on approach. A science teacher at a Brooklyn high school he drives his commitment to teaching creative environmental engagement. Raised on California's coast and with 23 years exploring Cape Cod's marine life, he's deeply immersed in marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity in this remarkable area.

### Corey Simonson

Corey always has been a lover of nature and spent the summers of his youth on the coast of Maine learning to sail and appreciate the sea. At Amherst College, he discovered Geology and fell in love with the idea of studying the Earth and doing field work. He went on to pursue a masters in Geology at the University of Vermont. After considering a career in academia, Corey opted instead for a life in K-12 schools. He has taught science in Switzerland, Maryland and Massachusetts and currently is the Assistant Director of Admission at Milton Academy in Milton, MA. Corey's wife, Emily Armstrong, is a CSS lifer, former assistant and teacher. Corey taught his first CSS class in 2005 and has taught many in the years since. This summer he will teach Ichthyology and Geology. When not teaching, Corey can be found sailing and fishing in the local sounds and holes.

### Zoë Smith

Zoë Smith is a high school English teacher in New Jersey. She studied English and Creative Writing at Fairfield University and received her Master's in Secondary Education at the Lynch School of Education at Boston College. She is passionate about working with children and loves to explore local beaches. Zoë is a CSS Lifer and former Teaching Assistant. She grew up spending her summers in Woods Hole and is beyond excited to return to CSS for her fourth year teaching Seashore Life.

### Andy Vernon-Jones

Andy Vernon-Jones is an artist and photographer who lives in Brooklyn, NY with his partner and two young sons and runs the photography program at The Brearley School in New York City. Andy first fell in love with Woods Hole as a young boy visiting friends whose grandmother lived on Millfield St and he has returned as often as possible since then. He has played some rousing pick-up basketball games at the CSS court, but this will be his first year teaching, learning and exploring with the Science School. Andy is passionate about justice, sustainability and the natural world. He loves sharing the magic (actually science) of film photography with creative people young and old.

### Shona Vitelli

Shona grew up in the gardens of her grandmother and in the woods behind her house. She was raised with a love for learning; especially about the natural world. She found her passion for science teaching while working with AmeriCorps Cape Cod leading estuary and watershed education classes at Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Shona has taught biology, earth science, oceanography, agriculture, environmental studies and more. She graduated from Temple University with a degree in Anthropology and Human Biology and received a dual Master's at Columbia University Teacher's College in Secondary Science & Biology Education and Science Education Leadership. She is currently a science teacher at Mashpee Middle High School and lives in Falmouth year-round. When she is not teaching, you'll find her recharging in nature with her family on, or around, the water and in the mountains.



## ***CSS Summer Events 2024– A guide for families***

### **Welcome to the 111<sup>th</sup> summer of CSS!**

Here is a list of this summer's activities- mark your calendars and prepare to get the full Science School experience. Also, check the kiosk in front of the School, the CSS website and social media for event updates and extension class information.

### **June 27-28: Unpacking the school.**

Session A teachers and all assistants will be setting up the schoolhouse for opening day. If this is your first summer, please feel free to stop by between 1pm and 3pm on 6/28 for a brief visit to introduce yourself to Kate Schafer, CSS Director.

### **July 1: First day of school (Session A)**

Make sure to send your child wearing closed toed shoes which can get wet, with sunscreen applied. A hat and a water bottle are optional but helpful. At the beginning of each class, Kate will address all families in the schoolyard. Parents will get important information such as parking, pick up and drop off. Plan ahead — parking is not available on School Street. Please walk or bike to the schoolyard if you can. Otherwise, park at a metered spot in town to gather in the schoolyard.

### **July 2, 6-7:15 pm: Back to School Night (Session A)**

This is a chance for families to meet their child's teacher and teaching assistants in the classroom, hear about what your child will learn in class and the fun activities and field trips they will experience. The hour is broken up into four 15-minute periods (8:30am classes will meet 6:10-6:20pm, 10:30am classes will meet 6:25-6:35pm, 12:30pm classes will meet 6:40-6:50pm and 2:30pm classes meet 6:55-7:05pm). Kids and families can socialize in the schoolyard, and light refreshments will be served courtesy of the CSS Hospitality Committee. The Ways and Means committee will be selling CSS merchandise if you'd like to purchase a CSS t-shirt, bag, hat or other items! WHOI opens up their School Street Parking Lot to CSS for this event.

### **July 4, Noon: Woods Hole Fourth of July Parade**

Come cheer on the 2024 CSS Assistants as they march in the parade! It is always a fun surprise to see how they've dressed up to celebrate, and the humor of the local laboratory participants is an added bonus!

### **July 17, 7-8 pm: Open Board Meeting**

Come to the schoolhouse to meet the Board and offer any thoughts or ideas you may have. All are welcome!

### **July 18 4:30 pm: Session A Lifer Ceremony**

For students that won't be able to attend the Annual Meeting, this is a time to honor you for your many years at CSS.

### **July 18, 5-7 pm: CSS Annual Picnic (Rain date July 25)**

Held at Woods Hole Ball Park off of Millfield Street. The Assistants are the hosts for this event. Bring your own picnic dinner, relax and have fun as the



Assistants organize games for the kids. Brownies and watermelon are provided. It is a fun evening of fresh air, games, and laughter! You will find out what “uca limulus” really means. WHOI opens up their School Street Parking Lot to CSS for this event.

### **July 19: Session A Open House**

Parents and families are invited to drop in for the last 15 minutes of each class to see what their children have been up to during the past three weeks. View classroom aquaria, art projects, and experiments. Parking is not available on School Street. Please plan accordingly.

### **July 22: First Day of Class for Session B**

If your student is starting in Session B, please see information for First Day of School.

### **July 23, 6-7 pm: Back to School Night (Session B)**

This is a chance for parents and families to meet their child's teacher and assistants and see the classroom. Please see Back to School Night Session A for details.

### **August 5, 7:30-9pm: CSS Annual Meeting**

Location TBD. As much a celebration as a meeting, this is a special evening. Featuring reports from CSS committees, recognition of our teachers, assistants and student lifer awards, end of year slide show and

lots of refreshments. Children are welcome and this is a great opportunity for them to see the full spectrum of Science School offerings in one night.

### **August 8: Open House (Session B)**

Parents and families are invited to pop in for the last 15 minutes of each class to see what their children have been up to during the past three weeks. Last chance to buy CSS merchandise in the schoolyard!

### **August 8 and 9: Packing the School**

Session B teachers and all assistants will be cleaning and packing the school, starting from the final bell on August 8th. See you in 2025!





## Favorite Places

By Karen Dell with input from Caitlin Church, Jenny Junker and Becky Lash

**Woods Hole and Falmouth are full of special places to visit.** There are beaches, marshes, kettle ponds, and woods. But if you are new to the area, or just looking for a new place to explore, where should you start? CSS teachers and local residents Caitlin Church, Becky Lash and Jenny Junker have shared a few of their favorite spots. Some sites are a short walk from CSS while others are a bit farther away and may require a bike or car ride - but all are worth a visit. Directions to the sites can be found on Google maps. Information and trail maps for several places listed below, and many others, can be found on the 300 Committee Land Trust website ([300committee.org](http://300committee.org)). Binoculars are always a good thing to bring if you have them and please remember not to disturb wildlife or pick any wildflowers or plants in conservation lands. With this list in hand, we hope you can get out and explore some of these sites too!

### 1. Woods Hole Town Dock

One of Jenny's favorite spots to visit in town is the Town Dock, and the adjacent boat ramp, next to the Woods Hole Science Aquarium. The dock can be a busy place as it's an active fishing pier. The boat ramp and the shoreline north of it, towards the Woods Hole Yacht Club, can be a good place to find lots of sea life. Bits from the fishing boats end up in the water and other fish, crabs, shrimp and birds come to eat the tasty morsels. Cool, but often smelly, fish bones can be found here too. During the second half of the summer, near the boat ramp in the warm shallow water and hiding in the seaweed, one might see juvenile fishes: inky black teeny little Tautog, beige and black striped Black Sea Bass, and sand colored King Fish. If you are lucky, in August, it is possible to find small puffer fish among the Fucus on the rocks near the yacht club. At high tide you will have to wade. Please note, all yacht club docks, piers and structures are private for members only. Also be careful later in the summer because jelly fish, (including very occasionally Portuguese Man o' War) are driven onto the shore here when the wind is from the south. For those of you who are in Woods Hole beyond the summer, Jenny notes that you can catch squid from the Town Dock, at night, in April. It is very exciting to watch a squid come jetting by, changing color and squirting ink if they are hooked. In winter, the dock is a great place to see sea birds.

### 2. Peterson Farm

Peterson Farm is about 2.5 miles from CSS and can be accessed from McCallum Road, just off of Woods Hole Road. The property has been farmed since the 1600s and is currently home to a flock of sheep, and lambs in the spring, managed by the Peterson Farm Shepherds. The land is part of the 300 Committee Land Trust and includes 88 acres of fields, community gardens, pasture and woods. Catbirds often sing from the thickets, insects buzz over the fields and swallows swoop after the insects. It is a great place to have binoculars. Trails from the NNE corner of the sheep field lead into the 400 acres of Beebe Woods (see below).



### 3. Beebe Woods

There are several entrances to the miles of walking trails that meander through the 400 acres of Beebe Woods, also part of the 300 Committee Land Trust. One entrance to the woods is next to Highfield Hall, just off the bike path, at the end of Depot Ave in Falmouth. The trails can also be accessed from Peterson Farm, as well as from Ter Heun Drive and Sippewissett Road. Peterson Farm and Beebe Woods together offer an incredible diversity of habitats, flora and fauna. Becky has observed Scarlet Tanagers, Broad-winged Hawks, Box Turtles, Red Squirrels, Fishers (a large, beautiful member of the weasel family), American Chestnut stump sprouts, Orange Butterfly Weed and Sphagnum Moss. There are two freshwater kettle ponds, and large rocks known as erratics, both of which are remnants of glacial retreat during the last ice age. Punch Bowl pond has a rope swing and is a popular spot for a dip



on a hot day. Caitlin says she especially likes walking here when it snows because it is so peaceful and people hang Christmas tree ornaments in the pines along the trails.

#### 4. Highfield Hall

Highfield Hall which abuts Beebe Woods is also a fun place to visit. It has wonderful art exhibits inside and some installations outside. Caitlin's favorites are the musical instruments that are embedded within the natural environment along nature trails. In the summer, there are also many fairy houses hidden here.

#### 5. Woodneck Beach and Little Sippewissett Marsh

The combination of a sandy beach facing Buzzards Bay and a salt marsh right next door make this a great place to see lots of wildlife. The plants and animals change as you move from the shore farther into the marsh. The marsh has amazing critters like adult and juvenile horseshoe crabs, fiddler crabs, blue crabs, moon snails and lots of birds. If you go at low tide you can walk much farther into the marsh, but if you go between mid-tide and low tide, you can ride the "lazy river" tidal current back towards the beach. Be prepared to get wet and muddy as you explore! Water shoes that fit well and a bucket or net to catch (and release) critters are a good idea. Woodneck Beach is a Falmouth Town beach and requires a beach sticker to park between 9 am -5 pm. Alternatively, it is about 6 miles by bike, mostly on the Bike Path.



#### 6. The Knob

At Quissett Harbor, The Knob is at the end of a peninsula that has an approximately one-mile long walking trail. There is access to harbor-side beaches at low tide, as well as a dog-friendly beach facing Buzzards Bay. This area is great for bird watching and finding smaller critters in the harbor at any season and The Knob is a lovely spot to watch the sunset or boats sailing in and out of Quissett Harbor. Parking is very limited. Accessible by bike via the Bike Path and Oyster Pond Road.

#### 5. Long Pond and Goodwill Park

Long Pond is a kettle hole and the source of Falmouth's water supply so there is no fishing or swimming allowed. There is a 4-mile loop trail around the pond that climbs up and down through the surrounding woods and is lovely at any time of year. Woodland animals and birds frequently can be seen. Next door, Goodwill Pond, another kettle hole, is a family friendly swimming spot with a rope swing. Goodwill Pond and the Long Pond trail are most easily accessed via the Gifford Street entrance to Goodwill Park in Falmouth.

Happy exploring!





## Summer Extension Classes

Have you ever wished you could go to Science School with your kids? Well, you can! Extension classes for adults and families happen outside of regular school hours and may include boat and fishing trips, an edible plant walk, a class on the microbiome of cheese (samples included!), fish printing and more. Check the CSS notice board, website or social media for more information.

## Sustaining Fund

CSS is ever thankful for the financial contributions from parents, alumni, grantors, and friends. Your support builds and sustains our community and helps to make science school possible year in and year out. We can't do it without you! We would also like to express our gratitude to anonymous donors who have made important gifts to CSS. Thank you very much! Your gifts will directly further our mission to provide science education for our children and we are very grateful. Donations are accepted by mail or at [www.childrensschoolofscience.org](http://www.childrensschoolofscience.org).





## Ways and Means

Showing off your CSS T-shirt, tank top, hat, or bag is a great way to support CSS. The Ways and Means Committee will be selling all of their fabulous merchandise at:

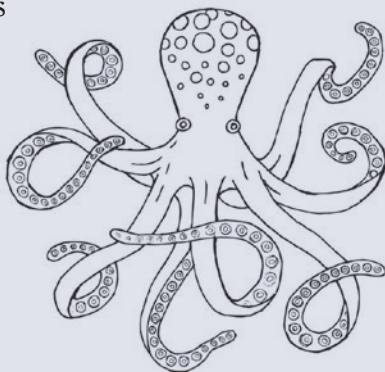
Back to School Night Session A, July 2, 6-7pm

Open House Session A, July 19

Back to School Night Session B, July 23, 6-7pm

Open House Session B, August 8

The Ways and Means Committee needs volunteers for set-up, selling and clean-up at all sales events. New and returning volunteers are welcome! Please contact Emily Yang ([emilyyang@gmail.com](mailto:emilyyang@gmail.com)) or Gail Diamond ([rgaildiamond@gmail.com](mailto:rgaildiamond@gmail.com)) to volunteer or with questions.



**Director**  
Kate Schafer

**Assistant Director**  
Jessica Rencher

**Curriculum Chair**  
Becky Lash

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## Volunteer Opportunities

Did you know that all of the Board and Committee positions at CSS are filled by volunteers? Without the people who volunteer their time, energy and expertise, the school could not run as it does. They raise funds for the school, purchase equipment, reach out to other institutions in Woods Hole and do all of the other behind-the-scenes things that are necessary to keep your children safe, learning, and having fun all summer long. Joining the Board or a Committee is a great way to support CSS and your child and connect with the greater Woods Hole community. If you would like more information, please reach out to any Board or Committee member or Kate can put you in touch with someone. New energy, input and ideas are always welcome!



## Are You Interested in Being a CSS Assistant in 2025?

If you are reaching the end of your time as a CSS student but can't quite imagine summer without Science School, consider becoming an assistant. Assistants must be 16 years old by the summer of hiring (15 for the runner). The process starts with an interview this summer- keep an eye on the CSS notice board and social media for interview sign up times. Applications must be submitted to the Assistant Chair (Josh Olins, [bealolins@mac.com](mailto:bealolins@mac.com)) by December 1, 2024. Assistants are expected to work all six weeks of Science School and will be assigned two classes per session. It is just as much fun to catch crabs, visit labs and ride the bike path as an Assistant, so consider applying this year!

