

Multi-age Summer Camp

Session III, The Mud Monster



Welcome to Session III of summer camp: Mud Monster Camp! Our educators are Ms. Natalie Rosbottom (GP Swans Educator) who joins the team with Ms. Taylor Mead (GP Naturalist).

Declaration of Intent:

Interconnectedness with Nature and Ecology:

Inspired by our recent tour of Reggio Emilia, we will continue our focus on exploring the ways in which our core values intersect with the children's interest in nature this summer at GPCP. Our intent reflects the continued commitment to the wellbeing of our community. We will foster experiences that embrace interconnected values and concepts such as curiosity, respect, empathy, process and growth, relationships, and research. The research question that will guide our investigations asks: "What are the different processes children devise to interpret the interconnectedness within nature and ecology?"

The Story of the Mud Monster

Once upon a time there was a Mud Monster who lived in a swamp at a place called Grant Park. The children discovered many places that the Mud Monster used as caves and hideouts in the park. When the children returned to school they would share their information about the Mud Monster through drawings and stories. As a folk art, storytelling is accessible to all ages and abilities. Storytelling is what connects us to our humanity. Stories help build relationships through shared experiences. They tell us about a person's interests, strengths, struggles, questions and fears. We will be exploring this art by contemplating the experiences of children, particularly as it relates to the fantasy worlds that children create through their imaginative play and the role that archetypal fairy tales can play in children's social/emotional development. Revisiting the history of the Mud Monster would be a way to launch the children's thoughts and help make connections with the school's history. This sculpture embodies so many of our core values and it is a strong symbol of our school's identity.



Parent Involvement: Although Parent Helper days are not required during summer camp, parents are required to provide snacks. **Snack assignments will be available a week before each session and can be found on the Preschool Camp page of the website.**

Please plan to provide a healthy, nutritious snack for the entire class on your assigned days. Two of the children enrolled in summer camp have a severe sesame allergy, so please do not provide any snack that contains any trace of sesame, including hummus.

If you have any questions about this please contact Taylor, Natalie or Ina. Please consider signing up for at least one parent helper day. The participation of parents enriches the quality of the work and your presence is missed by children and educators during summer! A signup calendar will be posted!

What to Bring: Each child should have a **labeled water cup or bottled water** packed for their camp each day. Also, make sure your child has **two sets of extra clothes and underwear** if needed on site and wears **comfortable shoes** (also labeled). If your child is in pull-ups, please provide pull-ups and wipes for them each week. We will be field-tripping to Ecosystem Farm on Mondays, another CSA pick-up on Wednesdays, and to the GPCP garden as often as possible. Please remember to **sign field trip forms and leave a car seat when necessary!**

Please apply sunscreen and bug spray to your child before coming to school, and we will re-apply halfway through the full day with school purchased sunscreen and bug spray.

Thank you and we look forward to a fun session with your child!
Taylor and Natalie