



# St. Michael's Academy Springfield, Massachusetts

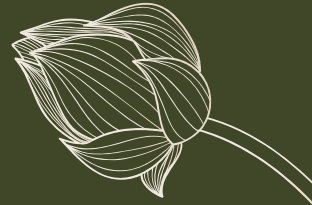
Natalia Clarke, Ella Collins, Abby Guerin, Stefania Langone, Avery Marceau



# The Weeping Willows



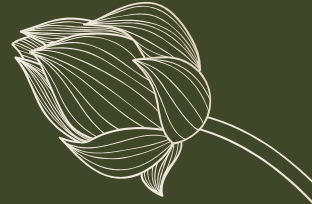
# Our Classroom Theme



- ★ This year's school theme was Mythology/ Fantasy
- ★ We discussed and evaluated many different ways to approach this topic
- ★ In fifth grade we learned about earth science so we chose nature as our theme.
- ★ Nature was the best theme to go with since it allowed us to build a fantasy forest room filled with different types of flora

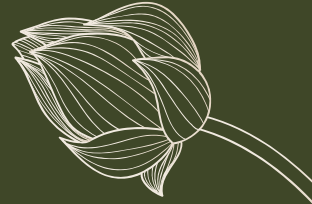


# Taking the Theme Further

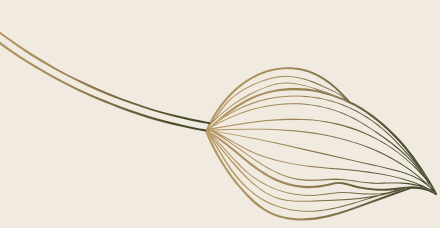


- ★ God's depends on nature for offerings or powers
- ★ The Greek goddess of the earth **Gaia**, inspired us to add more plants and floral into our classroom.
- ★ **Hākuturi**, the guardian of the forest in the Māori culture, also inspired us to add nature and trees to our class.
- ★ Magic forests helped us add abnormal features into our class, such as the varied mushrooms shapes scattered in the class.

# Why did we choose 5th grade?



- ★ We chose to focus our classroom on the 5th grade
- ★ 5th grade students are older and more mature compared to the other two options available this year of 3rd and 4th grade
- ★ We were also able to recall our own experiences



# Classroom Purpose

- ★ We aim to build student's individual academic abilities through creativity and projects
- ★ We want students to be taught in ways that will make them well-rounded
- ★ Our classroom was designed to address both social and independent learning while providing special adaptations for students with attention issues.
- ★ Including nature in both our classroom and studies encourages students to appreciate their environment and become good stewards of the world





# How We Imagine Our Class Working

- ★ Our class would promote both prosocial and individual work habits
- ★ Students are split into groups determined by how knowledgeable the student is about a certain subject
- ★ These groups would then work together to attack the task assigned by the teacher
- ★ If the assignment doesn't require groups, students will work on it by themselves





# Educational Opportunities

- ★ Students are able to work at their own pace with the help of teachers, as long as they are showing results:
  - small projects due each month
  - presenting their work to the class
  - turning in their completed work to their teacher
  
- ★ We also want to give students a sense of responsibility by assigning them class jobs, and care of class pets





# Room Design Decisions



- ★ Our room is a large rectangular shape that provides enough space for handicapped children and space for projects and group work
- ★ Desks face the wall to make sure students are not distracted by others in front of or behind them,
- ★ Students will also have access to outlets to recharge their technology if it is close to dying
- ★ There is a wide space between desks and the cubbies in the middle
- ★ This ensures that students in wheelchairs can easily turn and move forward without hitting anything

# Adaptations



- ★ The classroom is equipped with wide desks to be wheelchair accessible.
- ★ We expect a homeroom teacher to be fluent in at least one additional language
- ★ Teachers are trained to help get students back on task after student breakdowns or overstimulation
- ★ Our room is equipped with a cooldown corner so that a student will not leave the room entirely during small breakdowns

# Green Technology



- ★ All water running throughout the school is well water and filtered to provide the safest water possible.
- ★ The school runs on solar energy.
- ★ The solar panels are pointed in the direction of the south because our school would be in Sturbridge, Massachusetts
- ★ All food waste is used as compost for our gardens.



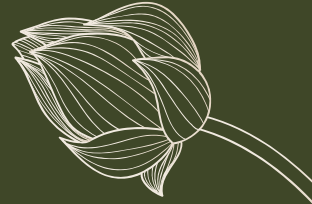
# Bare minimum



# No budget

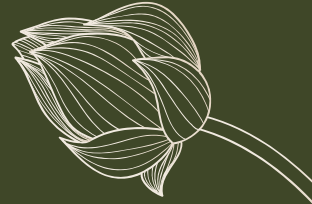


# Group Evolution



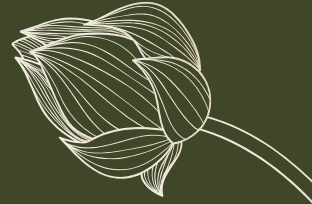
- ★ We have maintained a friendly and positive environment
  - ★ We have become closer friends with each other
- ★ We have never gotten to the point of not being able to cooperate anymore as group
- ★ Each individual members' personality made it possible to work together

# Abby's Evolution



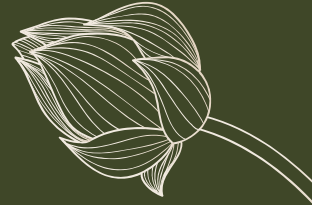
- ★ Learned that I am a good builder
- ★ I am good with online websites such as Sims 4
- ★ I feel like over time our friendship has grown as a group

# Avery's Evolution



- ★ I found that I became more patient and wasn't getting angry easier
- ★ I became closer with people I never thought I would be, and even closer with those I was already friends with
- ★ Overall I had a lot of fun with my teammates and made many great memories.

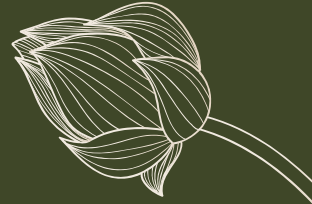
# Ella's Evolution



- ★ I learned more about my personality
- ★ Helped overcome procrastination issues
- ★ I had become snappy during the last few weeks of the project
- ★ Grateful for my group members

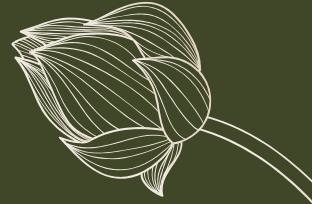


# Natalia's Evolution



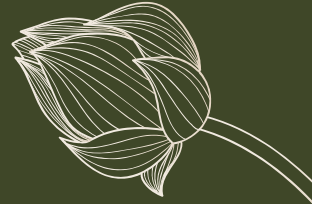
- ★ Learned that I was good at designing fantasy themed rooms
- ★ Gave me a chance to work with a team for a long period of time
  - ★ Stress over small things, often got irritated
  - ★ Originally thought we wouldn't finish at all

# Stefania's Evolution



- ★ I learned how to build furniture with my natural resources
- ★ I learned that I can persevere and I am stronger than I once thought
- ★ I am very bad a procrastinator
- ★ When I get stressed I start to snap and shut people out

# In Conclusion



- ★ This was a very action packed project for us all
- ★ But we are all thankful for each other and we really grew together, not only as friends but also as individuals