

Trust in Education

2017 Annual Report

Some Things We Did & Trying Some Things That Were New



"The Little Boat that Could" launched near Georges Bank in January, landed in Benbecula, Scotland in June!



The Alt Ed group and Leia worked hard to create a "Clam Shack" replica for Summerfest 2017! It was a hit.



Summer Camp is always a great time for the kids. This year we had two age groups. A whole week of learning outside. Each week was a great experience for all involved!



Freshman Enrichment Day was a new endeavor for Trust in Education. Collaborating with Gulf of Maine Institute, and KHS we hosted over 200 students on our properties to have an interdisciplinary day of learning in the outdoors. Students went to Stage harbor to learn about the archeological dig, salt marshes and microplastics and invasives now being found. Back at the Trust headquarters, they tested water in the river, learned orienteering, made fairy houses, participated in acting, wrote nature journals, and did scavenger hunt walks on the trails among many other options.



Opening our trips to Kennebunk Elementary School and Mildred L. Day was new this year. Making sure that kids have hands on ways of learning and outdoor experiences is important, and now our message is getting to all the schools in the district! You can see here, our star volunteer Kendall showing the kids about erosion and erosion control with our homemade erosion tables. It was a great way to show the kids what our towns do to help, and they will never look at culverts the same way again!



Speaking of culverts.... The new partnership with the Gulf of Maine Institute has proven to be fruitful. Not only did we host a teacher training at the headquarters for teachers from MA, NH and Maine, there is motion toward a huge project involving the entire Gulf of Maine. KCT in conjunction with Kennebunk High School and UNE will participate along with Acadia University in Nova Scotia, and the Great Salt Marsh in MA to create a programs that go beyond our borders, connects community, provides hands on experiences for all levels of learners with real scientists and creates change! Goat Island may soon be a study sight, and possible the host of investigating tidal power as well as the fishing and lobstering industry for our working harbor and the effect of the warming gulf on our community.

Bringing Nature Home

Our message of creating community and connecting to each other and the landscape around us doesn't only apply to children. Kennebunkport has a wonderful and vibrant community whose Kindergarten days are well in the past. It became clear to Trust in Education that if our mission was to connect to the community, that meant the whole community. This year we started Bringing Nature home. We started this program at the Atria in hopes of expanding it in future years. Each season we have a video of walks on our properties, and pictures around town, and we have fun. In winter we had a fake snowball fight, other times, we made picture frames, and planted flowers. Each time our local poet Rebecca writes something for everyone to enjoy! Looking forward to getting back to it, as it's not only meaningful for people attending but for the Volunteers as well!



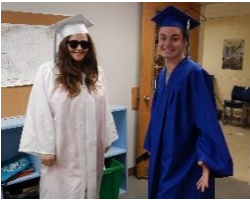
Results that
change lives

Saying Good Bye

This year we had some bittersweet goodbyes. Each year we hold a graduation for Alt. Ed. Students. This was a tradition started after the Learning Trail success when the students felt KCT was as much their home as their high school was. This year we sent two more students into their future with big smiles and proud hearts. The goodbyes were more powerful this year, as we lost one of our past graduates. It was a tragic loss, and as all losses do, it made us reflect on all our students and what they mean to us. At the funeral, it was an opportunity to talk to, hug, laugh and share stories with former students. Only then did we realize what a huge impact we are having on their lives, and what a huge impact they have on ours.



Austin Cole 1996-2017



Abby and Jake class of 2017!

The Small Things That Matter

Every year we have another type of graduation in Trust in Education. The 5th graders, whom we have watched grow from their first trip to Goose Rocks Beach, through our properties all the way to 5th grade at Stage Harbor. We have a picnic with them on their "Last Trip" with KCT. It is a great way to send off our graduates of Trust in our Children! However, there is another very special treat awaiting these children on the night of their school graduation party. Every 5th grader receives a personalized photo album of pictures of them on their trips from Kindergarten through 5th grade! Something so they can remember their time spent with KCT!



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