Dear Alumni,

There’s something about spring at the Mountain School. It’s the first day that’s warm enough to actually sit outside. It’s the sound of lambs calling for their mothers. It’s the feel of damp earth under your fingernails after you’ve been turning the beds on Garden Hill.

As a teacher, one of my favorite firsts of spring is the first class outside. Now, granted, I take my class on little trips no matter the season or weather – we visited the town cemetery in February to get some accurate visuals as we read *Ethan Frome*. But when I think of class outside, what I mean is the first class when I walk into the room and the students, as a group, say: *Can we have class outside?*

We usually go out to Library Hill, stretch out in the grass, read a few poems out loud and write in our journals. I throw out whatever lesson plan I had intended for that day, and consider myself a better teacher for it. Words spoken on the wind, words written in the sunshine – those are greater lessons to be learned.

This year, I’ve had the chance to meet many alumni at events in Boston, Seattle, and Portland, Maine – as well as greet those who have come back to visit campus. Again and again, after sharing funny stories about livestock escaping or adventures on solo or shenanigans in the dorm, what alumni tell me is that the Mountain School is where they remembered why they loved learning.

I feel that in my students this semester, too. Maybe it’s a change in pace from their school at home; maybe it’s the opportunity to be one of ten students rather than one of thirty in a class; maybe it’s being around new people; maybe it’s having class in the woods and on Library Hill. Whatever the case may be – and I imagine it is different for every student – the Mountain School reignites their confidence in themselves as a learner and reinvigorates their desire to learn. School goes from drudgery to opportunity. It’s a beautiful thing to see.

As we reach the end of the academic year and the fiscal year (6/30!), I hope you’ll consider making a donation. So many applicants to the school need financial aid and those requests are largely supported by the annual fund. If this was a place that transformed you, helped you, changed the way you see yourself or the world around you, I hope you’ll consider giving so that others can have those same opportunities. And… I hope you’ll come visit us soon!

Sincerely,

Alex Myers, Director