

TREES FOR Everybody

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Trees for Everybody
R. Berger Archive
Capital City



Capital City Public Charter School
Kindergarten
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Imagine 22 excited kindergartners marching down the sidewalk with a mission: to experience the many aspects of Meridian Hill- the Natural World, the space, the beauty. Singing songs, holding hands, talking about what our trees might look like *this* time were naturally a part of those walks.

On numerous occasions, kindergartners from Capital City Public Charter School visited Meridian Hill Park to observe their "adopted" tree. Whether it be the Holly, the Hemlock, the Flowering Dogwood, or the Plane tree, children were challenged to notice all they could about their tree, in order to share with others! So began an in-depth exploration of trees- an expedition titled "Reaching Toward the Sky."

What came about from these many journeys to the park (besides a greater understanding of and appreciation for trees) is what you hold in your hands at this moment- a "field guide" of those trees in Meridian Hill Park. This field guide is a culmination of what we observed about our trees. It was created by the kindergartners at Capital City for Meridian Hill Park and its visitors.

Each item was selected by the children. Having looked at many already published field guides, children chose things that they liked about those guides to use to create their own field guide (ex. photos, sketches). They used the information they gathered at the park, from experts, and from literature in their creating.

So enjoy! Use this guide to find where those trees are in the park, or just find a comfy spot under a tree to read and notice what children can create when they are inspired by their experiences!

This field guide is dedicated to
Maggie,
because she taught us so much about trees and
took us for a hike in the woods!

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Why are trees important?

Akili: They block the wind.

Anya: We need trees so that animals can have shelter.

Aria: Because they give us lots of fruits like apples and pears.

Asher: They give us our house because they give us wood.

Emily: You can sit under them.

Eric: Because they keep us alive- you know like if we don't have trees, we wouldn't have people. Because trees are the things that give people oxygen.

Gabrielle: Because they give us oxygen.

Hakeem: Trees - you can make a treehouse.

Hayden: Trees need water.

Jaasiel: The flowers grow on them.

Joey: We need trees because the monkeys climb on them.

Kane: They help us — well, let's just say they help not flood the planet. The roots go down into the ground and suck up the water.

Keila: Trees are great because we learn about trees.

Kenya: And they give us, like, shade when it's a very sunny day.

Kevin: They help us breathe. We need trees for pencils.

Kimberly: You can look at them.

Noah: Trees give us some vitamins.

Rudi: They grow.

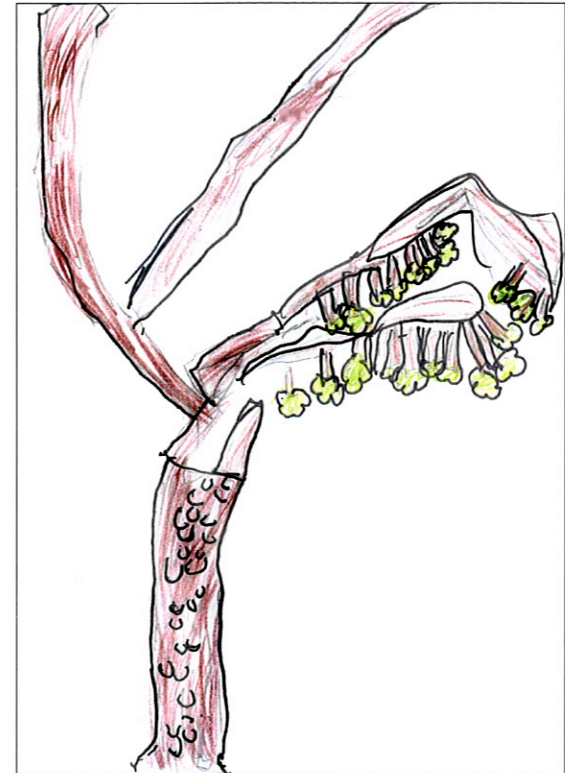
Talis: They clean the air.

Teo: They keep the Earth in place.

Wilmayra: They give us paper and food.

Flowering Dogwood

Anya, Asher, Eric, Gabrielle, Kenya, Rudi



The Flowering Dogwood is in the lower part of the park. It is at the beginning of the lower part on the right side near a Hemlock tree and the fountain.

Parts of the Flowering Dogwood

Leaves

There were some leaves in the fall and then they fell off. In the Fall they were pinkish brown. Now they are light green.



LEVS



FLAURS

Flowers

In the Spring, we thought the flowers were leaves when we looked at them from far away. They are light. In the beginning (the Fall), the tree did not have flowers, but now (April) it does.



How to live with the Plane Tree

Please do not hit or kick
our tree because
it could break down.
We do not use trees that way.

We use them nicely.
You can sit under the tree
and rest.

You can give our tree your air
and it will give you oxygen.

Trunk

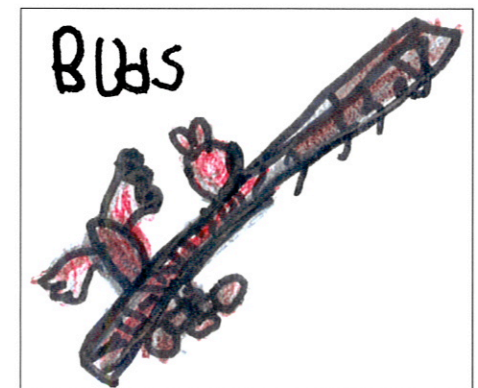
The trunk is dark brown, really bumpy on one
of the sides of it. There is a hole in it. The
bark looks like it has "u's" all around.



CHUNK

Buds

A bud can turn into a flower or a leaf. At first the
buds were pinkish. They are turning into flowers.



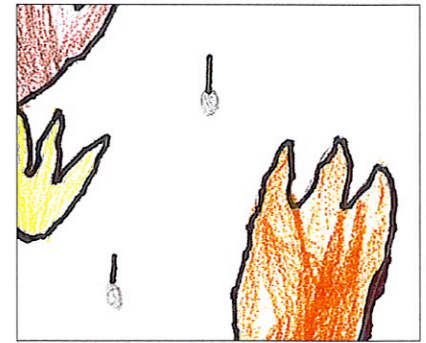
How to live with the Flowering Dogwood

Please treat our Flowering Dogwood nicely.
If you want to touch it, touch it nicely.

Please do not bring a ladder and climb to pick flowers.

Use it as your friend.
Sit under it and get some shade, or take a picture of it.

BAL



Balls

The Plane trees have little balls. They are round and brown and hang from the trees.

Trunk

The trunk has white parts. It is skinny and there are some things on the trunk that look like bumps. But it is mostly smooth. Some of the Plane trees have the roots sticking out by the ground, but ours does not.



TRNK

Parts of the Plane Tree

Leaves

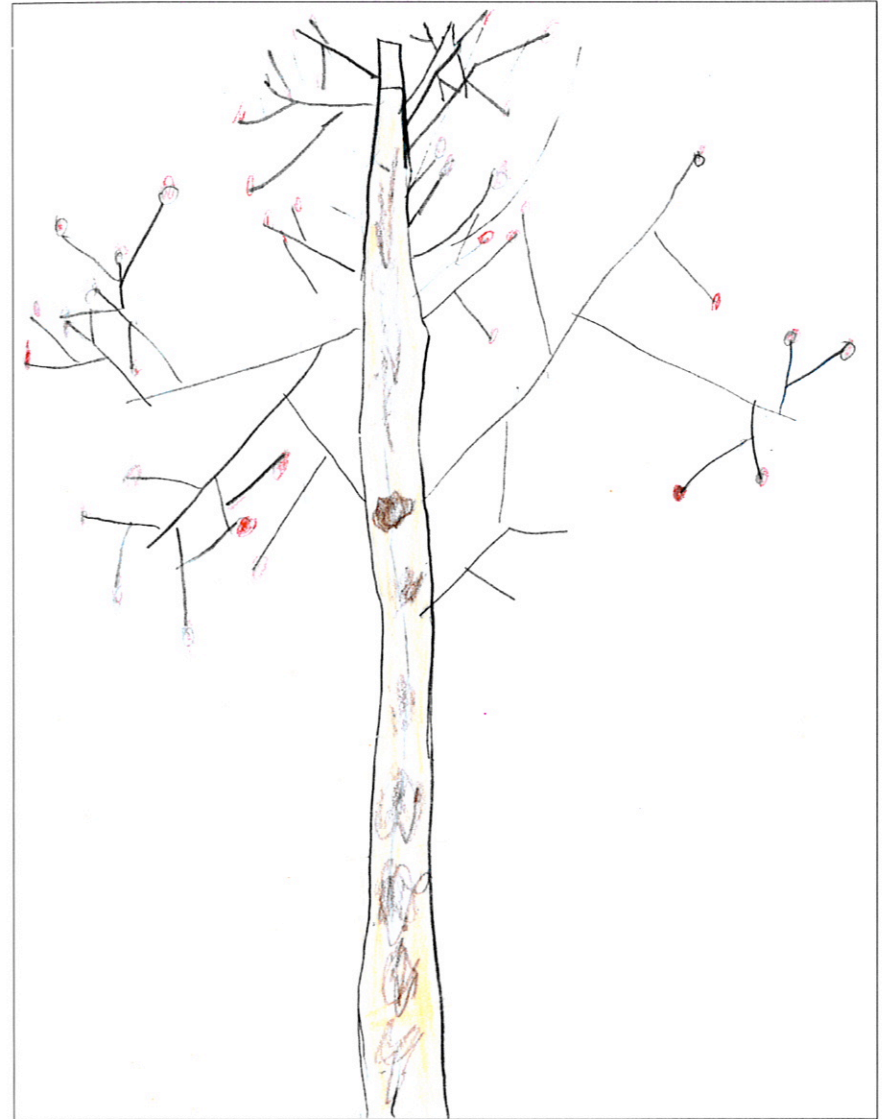
There are lots of points on the leaves. They are not prickly points. They kind of look like stars. The Plane tree is a Deciduous tree; it loses its leaves and then they come back.

LEAF



Plane Tree

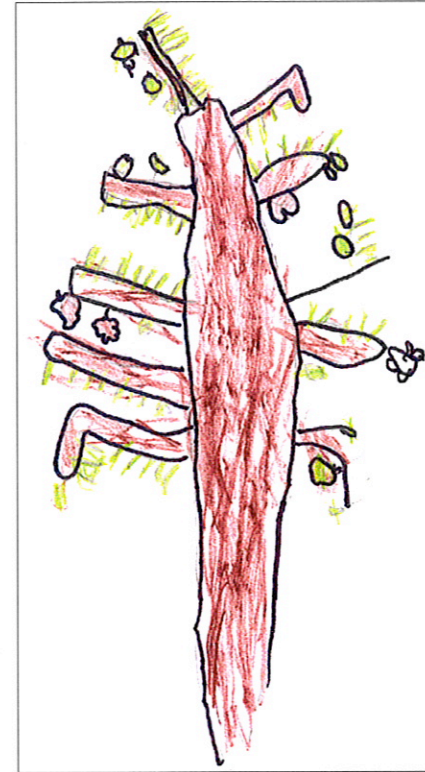
Emily, Hayden, Jaasiel, Joey, Kevin



The Plane tree (also called the Sycamore) is in the lower part of the park where the grass is. By the Holly bushes.

Hemlock

Aria, Kimberly, Noah, Teo, Wilmayra

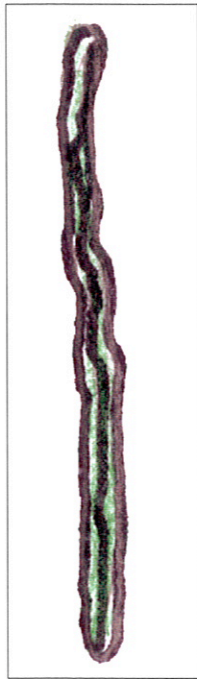


To find our Hemlock tree, you go down the stairs where you can see the water, turn, and go straight down to the bottom of the park. The tilted one is the one we observed.

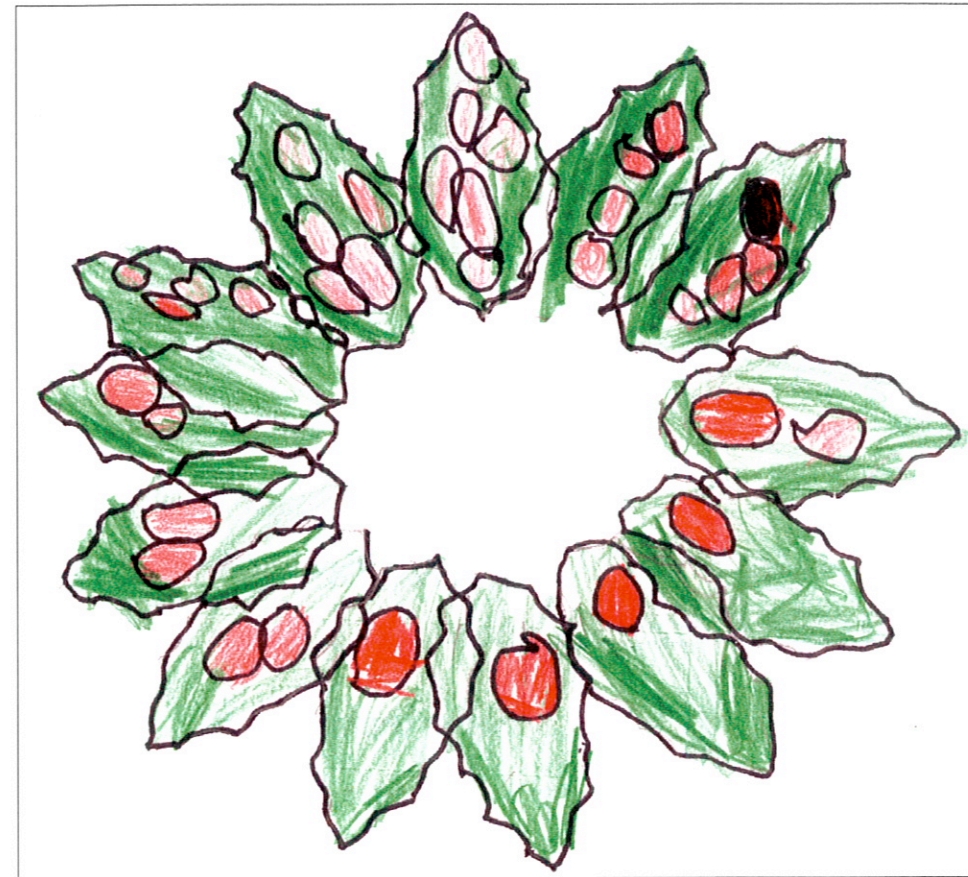
Parts of the Hemlock

Needles

The Hemlock has needles and the needles have not changed since we started looking at the tree. The Hemlock is an Evergreen- it stays green all year long. The needles on the Hemlock are thin with one vein. They are pointy at the end. They are really small and green.



Needles



How to live with the Holly

To take care of our Holly,
you should not kick it.
Please do not chop our
Holly tree.

You could pick the
dead leaves off.
But you should do that
carefully, not picking the green
leaves off.

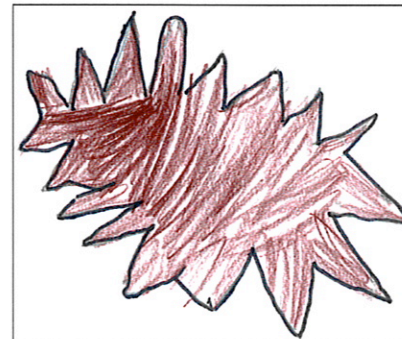
the



Trunk

The trunk of the Hemlock tree is bumpy. The bark is brown and there are spaces in between the pieces of the outer bark.

PINE CONES



Pine cones

The Hemlock has pine cones. When we first saw the Hemlock in the Fall, the pine cones were brown. In the Spring, they are little green things.

How to live with the Hemlock

Please treat the Hemlock trees nicely.
Please do not pick the bark off, or if you can reach the branches, please do not pull them down.
Please do not cut our Hemlock down!

You can live with this Hemlock by resting under it.

TK



Trunk

The trunk of the Holly tree is kind of bumpy. We took paper and a crayon and rubbed on the Holly tree and we could see the bumps.



Bec

Berries

We saw a lot of berries in the fall. If a Holly tree has berries, it is a girl. If it does not have berries, it is a boy. When we looked at our tree in Spring, there were not a lot of berries.

Parts of the Holly

Leaves

The leaves of the Holly tree are green. They feel dry and are pointy. The pointy part feels like a needle. The Holly is an Evergreen- it stays green all year long.



leaf



Holly

Akili, Hakeem, Kane, Keila, Talis



Our Holly trees are in the upper part of Meridian Hill Park. They are by the steps into the park and by the flowers. Some of us observed the tree on the left and some of us observed the tree on the right.