



Intentional learning

Kirsten Rude holds her son Henry while she goes through a book about camouflage with, from left, Reed, Harrison, Ryan and Aaron. Organic Roots

Schoolhouse will teach intentional thought practices and Rude said she might incorporate yoga and other practices. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

SCHOOL continued from page 1a

School to hike in nature every day

gave some hints of what types of projects they could create that involved camouflage, and let them choose their own project.

Some painted pictures, one made a lean-to shelter, others worked with wood to create a scene with animals figures.

"I call it an invitation to play but it is actually an invitation to learn, a time to use your imagination," Rude said.

Reading and math lessons will be added to every unit. Rude said higher level math concepts such as the Fibonacci sequence and the golden ratio are found in

nature and can be used to study how nature works.

Rude plans to have daily hikes and explorations. Students will be able to forage and identify plants and animals. Students will participate in life lessons, such as helping prepare their food, growing a garden and collecting eggs from the chickens on the property.

As another example of how to integrate nature into learning, Rude had the children play a tag game where each student chose an animal card that listed their diets and traits, and the students had to figure out which other animals

they could tag to survive. They also had adaptation suggestions on how not to get eaten, such as traveling in a group.

The school's website, organicrootsschoolhouse.com, has more information on the type of education Rude is offering. She plans to start full time this fall.

Organic Roots Schoolhouse is currently collecting shoes for an organization that sends them to people in need. She has a drop off site at Ernie's Grocery in Staples, for gently used shoes with no holes. Proceeds from the shoe drive will go to the school.



Variety of nature projects

Henry, Aaron, Ryan and Reed work on creating their own individual projects.

DRESS continued from page 1a

Reminder of women who are missing

decrease every year. If the United States wants to still have a representation of its native people, they need to take seriously these cases of murdered and missing Indigenous women.

She believes the red dress project began in Canada, but has now made its way to the United States. The scarlet color was chosen because it's believed that red is the color that their

ancestors' spirits can see... they hope to call to all those women who are missing and be able to lay them to rest.

Domita is hoping to add even more red dresses to the three along Highway 64. "That's all I could find," she said, going on to mention she'd welcome donations from others. If anyone has a red dress they'd like to donate toward this cause,

Domita said they could just drop them off by the others and she'll make sure they get hung up in the trees.

The plight of the Indigenous people may not be at the forefront of news these days, but Domita hopes they will not be forgotten. Perhaps a red dress will serve as a reminder of the thousands of Indigenous women who have been murdered or are missing.



What to do at forest school

Right, Harrison Rude shows a bark mask he made, below, Henry Rude puts some glue on a piece of wood to make an airplane. Below right, Shelby chases Aaron in a game of animal tag, where one animal can be a predator and the other the prey. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



FACT:

MOST WOMEN BEGIN TO EXPERIENCE

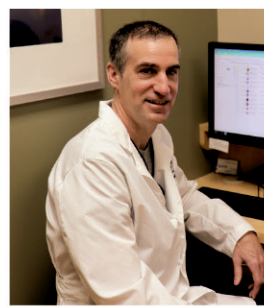
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IN THEIR 40s AND 50s,

AFTER CHILDBEARING.

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