



— Friends of the —  
**RAINFOREST**  
From St. Louis, MO  
To Monteverde, CR

FOREST

FIELD

# NEWS & NOTES

SPRING 2022

SUPPORTING THE CHILDREN'S ETERNAL RAINFOREST SINCE 2002



## The Rainforest Grows!

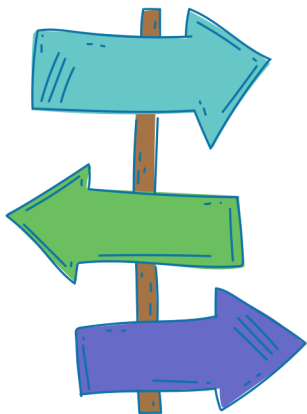
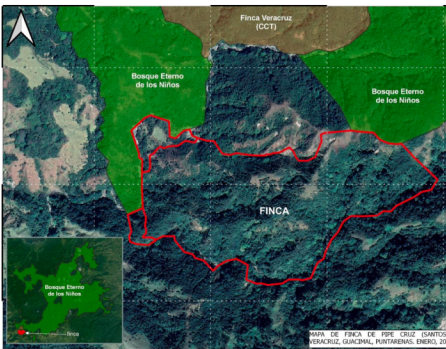
Thanks to a spectacular fundraising effort between Friends of the Rainforest and the Monteverde Conservation League (MCL), 135 acres of land have been officially protected and added to the private reserve of the Children's Eternal Rainforest (CER).

The Cruz-Madrigral property (outlined in red on the map to the left) is located in the southwestern part of the reserve, along the Pacific slope. This property helps MCL achieve more ecological connectivity down the Bellbird Biological Corridor, as well as protect land within the Premontane Wet Forest life zone, or "rain shadow forest", an area of Monteverde that conservationists recognize as needing urgent action and protection.

Of the 135 acres of land in the Cruz-Madrigral property, 20% was previously used as pasture land - an exciting opportunity for forest regeneration. Additionally, this "rain shadow forest" is home to flora and fauna different than that found in the currently protected CER and neighboring preserves. The particular makeup of this under-protected life zone presents an important opportunity for MCL and its team to care for and conserve this land and all its unique biodiversity.

This purchase would not have been possible without the support that Friends of the Rainforest receives from our enthusiastic and generous friends from all around the world.

The Rainforest has grown because of you.



## Looking to get away?

Friends of the Rainforest is organizing a community Ecotour to the Rainforest. Join our motley crew of board members, adventurers, and Rainforest Enthusiasts who will travel down to the Children's Eternal Rainforest to stay at Pocosol field station, hike the trails and bird watch in the misty mornings with delicious Costa Rican coffee.

**Join us August 10th-17th, 2023, in Costa Rica.**

Email [sophie@friendsoftherainforest.org](mailto:sophie@friendsoftherainforest.org) for more information or visit [www.friendsoftherainforest.org/communitytrip](http://www.friendsoftherainforest.org/communitytrip)



# Flora and Nathaniel's Stories

During our community trip last August, we were joined by two young adventurous siblings, Flora and Nathaniel (at the time ages 9 and 11). Neither Flora nor Nathaniel had been to the Rainforest prior to this trip. Their time was full of exploring trails at Pocosol field station, setting up camera traps, learning how coffee is made, and ziplining over the canopies of Monteverde.



**Nathaniel on what most impressed him about his trip to Costa Rica:** "The fact that Costa Rica is such a small percentage of the total land mass but it has such a high percentage of ecological diversity, and while we were there we got to see a lot of it."



## Flora's reasons why you should travel with Friends of the Rainforest to the Children's Eternal Rainforest:

1. You'll meet a whole bunch of new and kind people who can teach you about different cultures.
2. You'll get to see a whole bunch of things that you probably won't see if you live in a big city.
3. You will get to experience, smell, see, and touch super cool things.
4. It's a really cool place and I definitely encourage you to go!



## Welcome to Our New Board Members!

Within the last year, we have had the pleasure of welcoming four new board members onto our team. Each brings their own unique set of skills to our team, ranging from education and curriculum development to business and economics expertise.

What our new board members all share is a passion for the preservation of the environment and the beautiful biodiversity found all around the world, from the Children's Eternal Rainforest and beyond.

Pictured below from left to right: Marilyn Chandler, Sandy Laurie, Corissa Mantooth, and Alissa White.



## Friends of the Rainforest

Our mission is to promote a sustainable world by educating and inspiring children and adults to take action to protect, support and expand the Rainforest in Costa Rica and beyond.

### Board of Directors

**Maggie Eisenberger**  
Chair

**Alissa White**  
Secretary

Marilyn Chandler

Jeremy Crandell\*

Sandy Laurie

Corissa Mantooth

Dr. Peter Raven\*

David Robnak

Alissa White

\*Advisory Board Members

**Sophie Arp**  
Executive Director  
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**Jamie Kisela**  
Education Director  
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**Tori Green**  
Lead Educator  
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# Students Save the Rainforest!

Written by Year 3 teachers at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Junior School in England



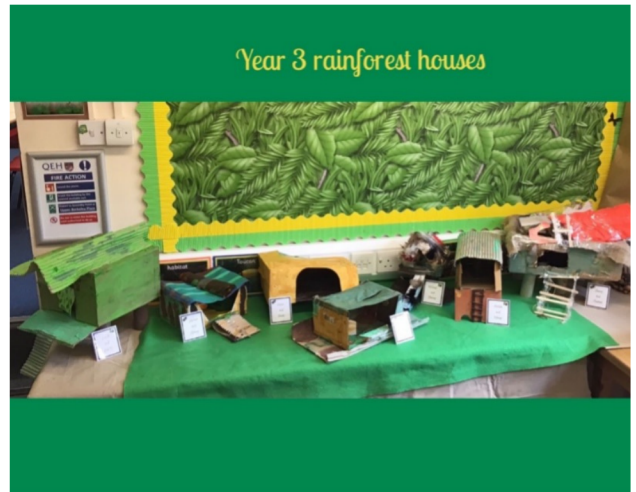
At QEH Junior School, Year 3 have been learning all about the rainforests that inhabit our planet. To begin their topic, they used maps and atlases to find out where the rainforests are located in the world. They learned that there are two types of rainforests: tropical and temperate, tropical rainforests are found closer to the equator where it is warm, and temperate rainforests are found near the cooler coastal areas further north or south of the equator.

The children carried out their own research on a rainforest of their choosing and used this information to make a documentary.

After finding out about the indigenous people of the rainforests, they went on to design and make their own rainforest homes.

The children went on to learn about the different layers of the rainforest and the different species of animals that might live there.

Most importantly, the boys showed great enthusiasm and interest in how we can protect our rainforests. After reading the book 'The Vanishing Rainforest' by Richard Platt, the boys engaged in a debate that forced them to consider the effects of deforestation on all groups involved.



**“ You may think a rainforest is just a rainforest but it actually has a lot of things that you need in life. Food chains rely on the rainforest! ”**

**Joe S, Year 3 at QEH Junior School**



On Friday 17th June 2022, the whole of the Junior School participated in a sponsored 'Silent Lunch' and home clothes day in support of The Children's Eternal Rainforest, where we raised £191.25 for Friends of the Rainforest.

To finish off our learning on rainforests this year, we had a fantastic trip to The Living Rainforest in Berkshire, England. The children got a real feel for what it would be like to visit a real rainforest; a hot and humid environment teeming with life. The boys learned about a variety of the animals that roam in the rainforest from poison dart frogs to sloths. They enjoyed a guided tour all about how plants and animals have adapted to life in the rainforest.

Learn more about QEH Junior School at [www.qehbristol.co.uk/junior](http://www.qehbristol.co.uk/junior)



## Welcome to Our New Lead Educator, Tori Green!



We are thrilled to introduce the newest member of our Friends of the Rainforest team: Tori Green. Tori will be joining us as our new Lead Educator, a role that was created in order for us to better keep up with the growing demand for our Rainforest lessons. Her work with Friends of the Rainforest will allow us to reach more schools, take on more volunteers, and grow our St. Louis-based programming.

**About Tori:** Tori's lifelong passion for wildlife and global conservation drove her to obtain a B.A. degree in Conservation Biology and Ecology with a minor in Geography. Prior to Friends of the Rainforest, Tori's background includes a mixture of fieldwork (as a salamander researcher!), education, and wildlife research. Outside of work, Tori cares for her rescue ranch of animals and plants, goes hiking and kayaking, and dabbles in art and wildlife rehabilitation.



Tori is pictured here with her chicken, June (above), and with one of her salamander friends (below).

**Welcome to the team, Tori!**