

## The Sixth and Seventh Senses

### A Sense of Place

A sense of wonder can connect a child's heart to the nature around them. All of the sensory perceptions together give children a sense of place – the natural and cultural world in which they live.

*"..linking curriculum with an engagement in the real world not only provides students with the thinking skills needed for whatever test comes their way, but also helps them grow into responsible citizens and stewards of the earth."* David Sobel, *Childhood and Nature*, 2008

#### Some Sense of Place Adventures:

- **Make a map of the schoolyard.** Name your favorite places? List all of the trees. Use your math, science, social studies, art and communication skills to portray your school.
- **Find your special place on the schoolyard.** Use it as a Sit Spot for frequent observations. What do you see, feel, smell, hear? Reflect on your experience.
- **Keep records of the daily weather.** Create a simple weather station.
- **Make a list of Phenological events,** the seasonal happenings in nature.\* When do you see the first or last green bud, leaf, flower, bird, insect? When do the birds migrate?
- **Keep track of the phases of the moon on a wall chart.** \* Can you ever see the moon during the day?
- **Follow animal tracks in the snow.** Who lives here? What do they do?
- **The children's bodies are more than 70% water.** Shouldn't they know where it came from? Every time it rains, the local creek or river starts on the roof of your school. Trace the raindrops down the spout, across the lawn to the drains on the street. Use maps to see how the water may travel to the Mississippi River.
- **Plan an Earth Friendly project:** Trash collecting. Recycling. Conserving natural resources. Planting a tree, pollinator or vegetable garden.

\* The Minnesota Weatherguide™ Environment Calendar is a great resource to getting to know the world around you. It contains data about weather, the moon, sun and seasonal happenings that will help you become better observers.