SEASONS SCAVENGER HUNT

Investigate the Signs of Spring (and other seasons) as a PHENOLOGIST!

A phenologist studies phenology (fee·**naa**·luh·jee) of course!

Simply put, phenology is nature’s calendar. Phenology refers to important seasonal changes in plants and animals from year to year like: bird migration, mammal hibernation, flowering of plants, ripening of fruits and the colored leaves of Autumn.

**Plant Phenology:**

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🞏 Skunk Cabbage ‘Flower’ – if you find it, bend down and smell it!

🞏 Tree bud just about to open

🞏 Tree bud that has just opened

🞏 Plant with newly opening baby leaves

🞏 Tree/shrub with a brown “flower” hanging like a tassel (Alder)

🞏 A flower starting open

🞏 Samaras/Helicopters – Maple seeds that fell last fall or spring.

🞏 3 different types of leaves (on the ground is ok!)

🞏 Pine cones on a conifer (a tree with needles)

🞏 Acorns/Oak Tree Seeds from last fall

🞏 Berries or leftover fruits from last year

🞏 Tree with some leaves that didn’t fall off over winter

🞏 Milkweed pods from last summer

**Animal Phenology:**

🞏 Insects on the ground

🞏 Insects flying

🞏 Squirrels searching for stored acorns and seeds

🞏 Chipmunk holes

🞏 Robins feeding (sticking their beaks in the ground)

🞏 Birds gathering nesting materials

🞏 Honking of Canada Geese

🞏 Drumming woodpecker

🞏 Animal scat

🞏 Animal track

🞏 2 different bird songs

 Describe what they sound like here:

🞏 Singing frogs

🞏 Woolly Bear Caterpillar

**Challenge Item** – Snow or ice that hasn’t melted yet!

**Challenge Activity** – Collect a few items you’ve found on the ground (like leaves, sticks, acorns) or use ones near you to create art! Shape them into a bird, a person or any interesting design.