Famous KWS Trees

The Ginkgo:
The ginkgo tree is a very popular tree on campus. Every year during fall when the tree loses its leaves, the children in the lower school have leaf fights during recess and make a path of leaves leading to the door of their classroom. It also serves as a popular spot to sit during hot sunny days. I even remember a group of girls in my class used to sit under that tree everyday and talk when it was warm outside.

Botanist Peter Crane sees the ginkgo as an oddity in nature because it is a single species with no known living relatives; a living fossil that has been essentially unchanged for more than 200 million years. It is an inspiring example of how humans can help a species survive.

The Silver Maple:
The silver maple in front of the lower school is one of the largest trees on campus. It has a circumference of 204 inches and an estimated height of 91 feet. From this info we can estimate the age to be 195 years old. The silver maple will be entered as a champion tree in Pennsylvania, possibly being one of the top 20 largest silver maples in the Commonwealth.

The Dawn Redwood:
The dawn redwood was thought to be extinct for millions of years due to scientists finding fossilized remains of these trees. However, in 1944 a Chinese forester found an enormous dawn redwood in the Sichuan province of China. In 1948, a small group of Americans traveled to south-central China and found a few thousand of the trees growing in lowland canyons. Villagers in the Sichuan region were using the foliage for cattle fodder and the wood for bridges and other construction. The group brought young trees and cones to spread the tree throughout the world as beautiful ornamental trees.

The information on this map was put together by Jake Strevig and 11th graders Kayla Hirschfield, Rowan O'hara, and Avery Harmon as part of a unique main lesson. Special thanks to Mike Ruhl and Celia Martin for their assistance in the positive identification of the the tree species on campus.

Map of KWS Campus

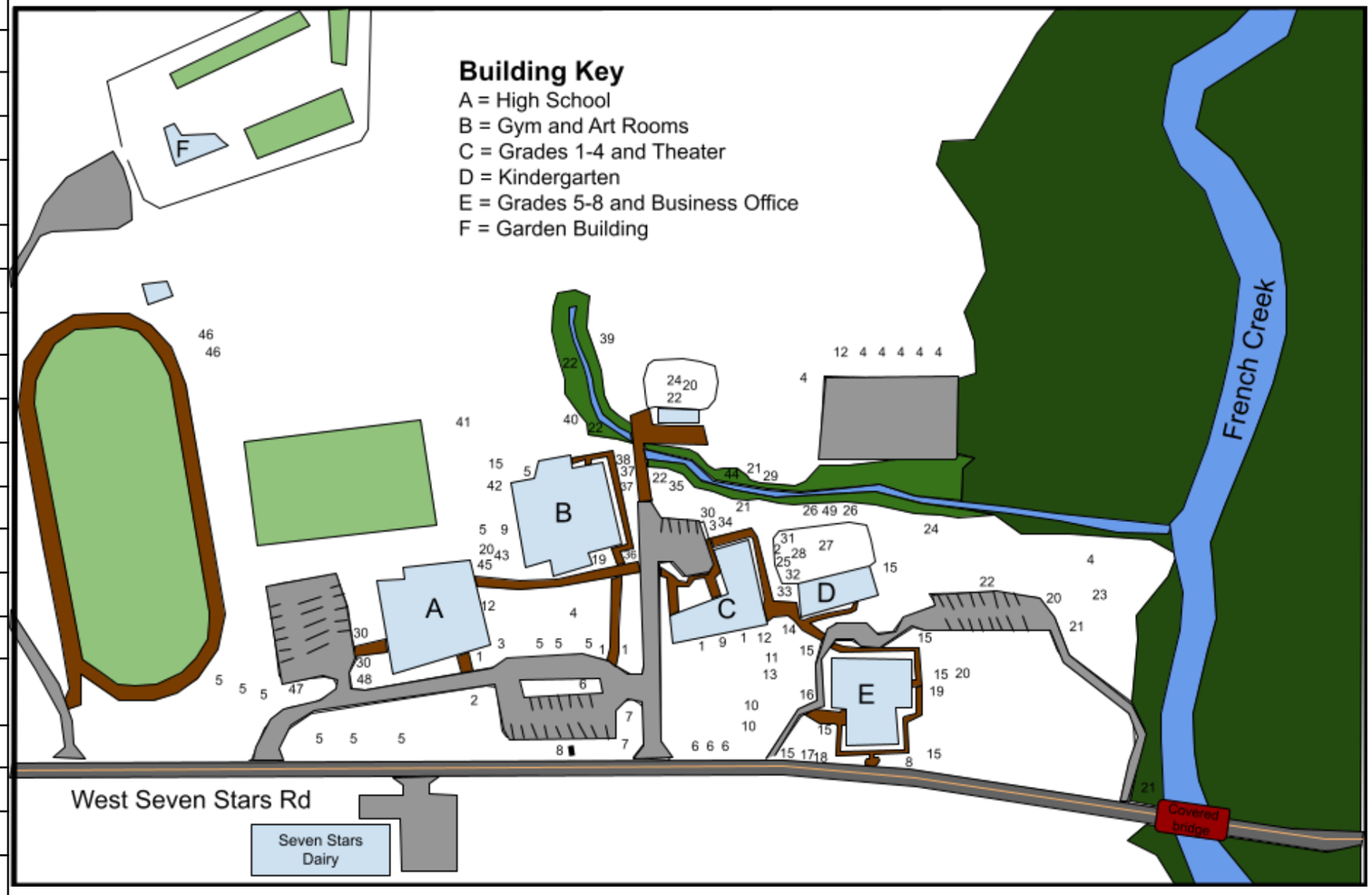
Kimberton Waldorf School sits on 400 acres of rolling pasture, meadows, and woodlands in northern Chester County. There are multiple creeks and woodlands that offer a great diversity of native flora and fauna. The campus itself, before even heading into the forest, has a plethora of ornamental as well as native trees and shrubs.

The trees are an integral part of the daily lives and the yearly rhythm of everyone who spends time on campus. The trees mark the changing of seasons. The magnolias, service berries and red buds light our campus with color in the springtime. The deep green and cool shade from the trees provide a respite from the summer heat. A rainbow of colorful leaves splashes the landscape in autumn. In the winter, the great trunks and branches display their strong boughs against the winter skies

Our campus has many trees which we would like to acknowledge and inventory, as they are a big part of nature and biodiversity. There are many trees on campus that are known and loved within the community and we would like newcomers to become familiar with them as well.

Tree Species of Kimberton Waldorf School

Common Name	Scientific Name	# on map
Serviceberry	*Amelanchier sp.*	1
Douglass fir	*Pseudotsuga menziesii*	2
Crabapple	*Malus sp.*	3
Norway spruce	*Picea abies*	4
Pin oak	*Quercus palustris*	5
Redbud	*Cercis canadesis*	6
Red maple	*Acer rubrum*	7
Weeping cherry	*Punonus pendula*	8
Paperbirch	*Betula papyrifera*	9
Ginkgo	*Ginkgo biloba*	10
Silver maple	*Acer saccharinum*	11
Cherry	*Prunus sp.*	12
Red cedar	*Juniperus virginiana*	13
Linden	*Tilia americana*	14
Magnolia	*Magnolia grandiflora*	15
Star magnolia	*Magnolia stellata*	16
Yew	*Taxus sp.*	17
Concolor fir	*Abies concolor*	18
Japanese maple	*Acer palmatum*	19
American holly	*Ilex americana*	20
Sycamore	*Platanus occidentalis*	21
Black walnut	*Jugland nigra*	22
Katsura	*Cercidiphyllum jabonicum*	23
Willow	*Salix sp.*	24



Apple (Agricultural)	*Malus sp.*	25
Riverbirch	*Betula nigra*	26
Sour gum	*Nyssa sylvatica*	27
Pear tree	*Pyrus sp.*	28
Mulberry	*Artocarpus sp.*	29
Red oak	*Quercus rubra*	30
Paberpark maple	*Acer griseum*	31
Pussy willow	*Salix discolor*	32
Witch Hazel	*Hamamelis sp.*	33
Locust	*Robinia sp.*	34
Weeping willow	*Salix babylonica*	35
Dawn redwood	*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*	36
Dogwood	*Cornus sp.*	37
Sweetgum	*Liquidambar styraciflua*	38
Heirloom apple	*Malus domestica*	39
Balsam fir	*Abies balsamea*	40
Sugar maple	*Acer saccharum*	41
White pine	*Pinus strobus*	42
Hemlock	*Tsuga canadensis*	43
Juniper	*Juniperus*	44
White oak	*Quercus albus*	45
Blue spruce	*Price pungens*	46
Trident maple	*Acer buergerianum*	47
Cornelian Cherry Dogwood	*Cornus mas*	48
Copper beech	*Fagus sylvatica*	49

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