

BARN Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2014

CRELLIN CORPS OF DISCOVERY



Students harvested vegetables from our gardens, cooked them, and enjoyed them as part of their meals!

Crellin Science Summer Camp

Crellin students didn't waste any time jumping back into their research! This summer each grade level met with their teacher and learning partners to tackle projects and plan research studies. These activities gave students a head start on what the new school year will bring. With the new barn and greenhouse

being constructed we will have many additional opportunities for students to engage in meaningful studies related to sustainability. Students also explored our Environmental Education Laboratory and all the ecosystems and habitats that exist there. Read on to learn about their experiences.

The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled.

Plutarch

Today you are you! That is truer than true! There is no one alive who is you-er than you!

-Dr. Seuss

Kindergarten Students Join the Fun!

Our youngest students jumped into the fun this summer at our Summer Camp. With the help of Mrs. Friend and Mrs. McCauley these budding scientists explored Snowy Creek in search of benthic macro-invertebrates! They documented their findings with photographs and created 3-dimensional art projects to illustrate what these indicator species look like. They got up close and personal with our sheep and chickens and completed all their barn chores. In the garden they learned about the parts of a plant and helped to harvest the broccoli, peas and squash. It was a great start to an exciting school year!

Second Grade Collects Data

Second grade scientists worked with Mrs. Mayne and our learning partner, Sarah Deacon, to learn how to calculate the mass of our farm eggs through water displacement. They calculated the weight of the eggs using the measurement lab on the PASCO sensors and a balance scale. Students went outside and began investigating soils by examining soils found in various sites in the EEL. They looked at soil characteristics found in the wetland, vernal ponds, meadow, riparian area, vegetable garden and on the amphitheater. They spent time in the barn and constructed roosts for our chickens using materials found in nature. Over the course of several days these roosts were redesigned and rebuilt. These students proved to be quite the engineers! In Snowy Creek they conducted a biological stream study, finding and identifying benthic macro-invertebrates. It was a very busy week for our second grade scientists!



Crellin Learning Partners

At Crellin we are fortunate to have community partners who serve as our learning partners. We call them our learning partners because as a team, teachers, partners and students work together to enrich and extend all of our learning. These partners bring their passion and expertise related to a specific content area and interest. They encourage us to think outside the box, investigate new ideas, and most importantly ask questions!

We want to welcome Sarah Miller, a senior at Southern Garrett High School. Through the Schools to Careers Program, Ms. Miller has been assigned to Crellin Elementary to assist teachers and teach all of us about agriculture. We are looking forward to having her, a former Crellin student, return to Crellin to teach us!

A big thank you goes out to former Crellin students, Georgi, Heather, Lauren, Nathan, Trenton, and current fifth grade student, Tre, who worked with students at our Summer Camp. We admire their willingness to give back!

Fifth Grade Explores Concepts for Future Studies



Fifth grade students spent the week with Dr. Miller and Mrs. German exploring the transfer of energy, harvesting and cooking vegetables from our garden, investigating light, conducting a biological stream study, and designing a map of the EEL to scale using measuring tools and a compass. These student scientists began documenting their ideas and thoughts in their "I Wonder..."

notebooks. Fifth grade students were given the challenge to begin thinking of how to design and build an automatic chicken door that will be solar powered. They began drawing and discussing their ideas and will start the school year building prototypes with Legos. The final product should be completed this fall.

First Grade Students Explore the Schoolyard

First graders joined Mrs. Gilpin this summer for several adventurous days. They ventured into Snowy Creek to find benthic macro-invertebrates and, with the help of former students, they located and identified these indicator species. They created three dimensional art projects of various



species found. These student scientists also explored the wetlands and Hemlock Forest in our EEL. They spent time at the barn and welcomed one of the goats that will soon call Sunshine Farm home! Students ate lunch and snacks made from the vegetables harvested in our own gardens!

Third Grade Students Dig In!

Our third grade scientists worked with Mrs. Hordubay and Ms. Deacon to learn about the soils found in our EEL. They examined the soils and conducted chemical tests on each sample. This is the beginning of a class research study that will continue throughout the school year. After learning about our watershed, students used scientific data collection techniques to explore Snowy Creek and collect benthic macro-invertebrates. Third grade students also did their barn chores, took care of the animals, and harvested vegetables from our gardens. It was a very busy week!



Fourth Grade Explorers

During the week of camp, fourth grade students built upon their prior knowledge of soil to begin learning about decomposers and composting with Mrs. Stephens and Ms. Deacon. These students explored the meadows and Snowy Creek, conducting studies to discover the animals that live in each ecosystem. Using Global Positioning Systems, students went on a scavenger hunt, following waypoints and answering riddles to complete the task and explore the EEL. Students also completed barn chores, harvested vegetables, and took care of the animals.

