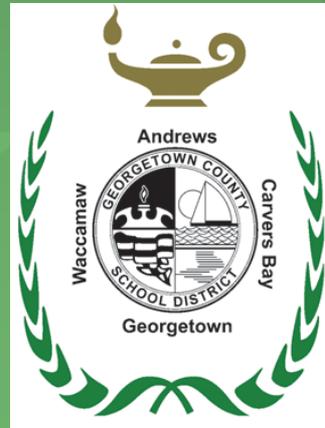


Nature-Based Inquiry



NBI Project Goal

To improve teacher efficacy in science instruction and to improve student performance in science through the use of outdoor classrooms.

Activities:

School Year 2009-2010

- Week-long training institute
- Monthly planning and design sessions for outdoor classroom
- Weekly mentorship in NBI Activities
- After-school Professional Development
- Trail guide project

Research States...

"Research shows that children are more imaginative, creative, and cooperative when they have opportunities to play outdoors" • **Burdette** and **Whitaker**

"Learning among young children requires active involvement .. hands-on manipulation, sensory engagement, and self-initiated explorations."

• **KidsSource**

"The woods were my Ritalin. Nature calmed me, focused me, and yet excited my senses."

– **Richard Louv**

Discovering the Nature Trail



So much just waiting to be discovered...



The excitement of making that discovery!!!

"Let nature be your teacher."

•William Wordsworth

A place for every
learner!

Concentration!!!

Journaling

3 Friends + 2 loblolly pines = 5 yr olds having Fun!



Some chose to work together and
other preferred working by
themselves!



You learn a lot about your
students when they are given
opportunities to make choices on
their own!



Journaling on the Nature Trail



I saw a pinecone. I saw mushrooms. Me and my friend were seeing where the mushroom was and it was red, orange, and white!

• McKenzie Miller



Harvesting our Mustard Greens



Busy, Busy



WoW!!! Look at what we grew!



Working Together



Harvesting the leaves



The Insects have been visiting our Mustard Greens!!!



Introducing Vocabulary

- Rows
- Harvest
- Fertilize
- Crop
- Maintain
- Insects
- Seedlings
- Sprouts



- Tools
- Roots
- Stem
- Soil
- Precipitation
- Observation
- Identify
- Cultivate

Enjoying our Broccoli



Journaling in the Garden

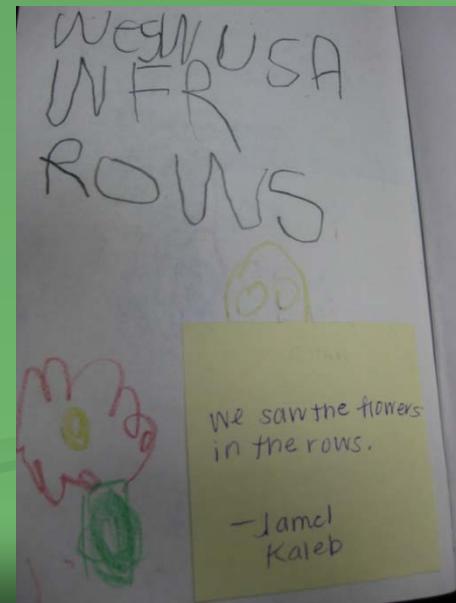


★Journaling offers the teacher prime opportunities to introduce vocabulary, evaluate student progress, and encourage literacy skills!



"Progress does not have to be patented to be worthwhile. Progress can also be measured by our interactions with nature and its preservation. Can we teach children to look at a flower and see all the things it represents: beauty, the health of an ecosystem, and the potential for healing?"

— [Richard Louv](#)



Journaling in the Garden



I watered my cabbage. I planted, I was a Farmer. -Evan



We planted roots in the garden. I love to play in the garden. It was so fun. These are my lilies. -Kayla Gainey