



LUDLOW-TAYLOR ELEMENTARY

ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY SNAPSHOT



District of Columbia
Office of the State
Superintendent of Education

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

- Creating awareness of the DC Environmental Literacy Framework within Ludlow-Taylor Elementary School. After meeting with individual teachers and grade-level teams to introduce the Environmental Literacy Framework and Next Generation Science Standards, teachers were open to incorporate the ideas into their classrooms.
- Providing teachers with new environmental education opportunities that were consistent with and complemented this effort. Students engaged with the FoodPrints program and the American shad restoration project.
- Exposing Ludlow-Taylor students to more field experiences. A major success this year was bringing 40 grade 4 students to the Anacostia River to release the shad fry they had raised from eggs in their classroom.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Ludlow-Taylor is a fast-growing District of Columbia Public Schools elementary school located in the Capitol Hill neighborhood. The school serves students from pre-K through grade 5. Students come from all socio-economic backgrounds; however, a large number of our students rely on the Free and Reduced-Price Meals program, thus qualifying the school as a Title 1 school. One of the very unique qualities that make Ludlow-Taylor special is the vast array of special education programs that are a part of the school. Currently, the school has a partnership with FoodPrints that exposes all students to hands-on lessons about healthy eating and gardening. Ludlow-Taylor's staff are highly recognized and decorated as some of the District's top educators, which is reflected in the students' academic accomplishments. It has a very involved parent community that is always ready to assist with whatever the school needs.



"I am excited to take what I have learned from being a part of the Environmental Literacy Leadership Cadre and put it into practice to create awareness and craft viable solutions to some of the environmental issues that plague Washington, DC, our country, and the planet." – Alecia Francis, grade 4 teacher, Ludlow-Taylor Elementary





ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY PROGRAM

The goal of the environmental literacy program at Ludlow-Taylor is to provide students with real-world experiences to help them understand and devise solutions to solve major environmental and sustainability challenges that Washington, DC faces. A major part of the initiative centers around the school garden, which partners with the FoodPrints and RiverSmart Schools programs. The school is currently renovating the playground, which will provide much needed space to expand its garden as well as provide a quality outdoor classroom for students. As students move throughout the grades, they will continue to build on the crucial lessons they have learned about growing plants, composting, and recycling, and their important relationship with the environment. Students will learn about ecosystems and how living things get what they need. Students will also investigate how adverse changes affect the environment and organisms that depend on it. Students will also learn about the wildlife habitats that depend on the Anacostia River and how they play an integral part in making the river thrive again. Visiting the Bladensburg Waterfront and the Anacostia River will allow students to see how erosion impacts these wildlife habitats.



NEXT STEPS

Teachers hope to get much need inter-disciplinary professional development to fully incorporate environmental literacy with the work they are already doing. Additionally, we will continue discussions about about how to make this work align with science standards so it remains meaningful and sustainable.



LESSONS LEARNED

- Create a team or committee to thoroughly make an action plan to implement your environmental literacy program. Make sure your principal is a part of your team!
- Reach out to other schools that have developed and implemented an environmental literacy program and ask for assistance.
- Make teachers comfortable and give them the opportunity to work at their own pace. And be supportive.
- Start small and keep your students in mind.