



2016 HIGHLIGHTS

- With help from the FoodPrints program, School-Within-School @ Goding staff successfully initiated and followed through with paper recycling in all classrooms and common areas at our school building. That, along with cafeteria organic composting, has earned the school special recognition as recycling superstars in the District.
- The two new grade 4 School-Within-School teachers were able to take both of their classes on a boat trip on the Anacostia River. On the trip, they were able to discover the rich ecology of the river and understand the stresses on the river. Students also began the process of generating ideas for ways they can help support the health of the District’s waterways.
- Grade 2 engaged in a year-long project to learn about the Chesapeake Bay Watershed as it is today and how it has evolved through its history. Topics included Powhatan Indians, watershed resources, ecology, and restoration efforts, including American shad restoration.
- Every student at School-Within-School was able to attend a monthly FoodPrints program in-school field trip. For the bulk of the day, kids worked in the garden, read books, wrote journal entries, and prepared healthy food, often from the school garden, that they enjoyed together at lunch.

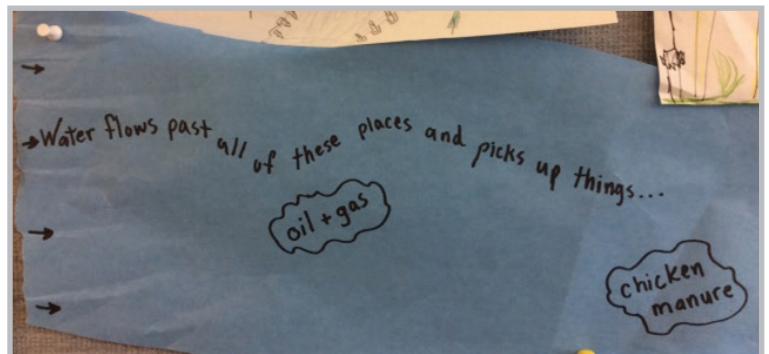


“Being outside and learning about the world is natural for kids. It creates an immediate and positive effect on their motivation for learning.”

– Alysia Scofield, grade 2 teacher, School-Within-School @ Goding

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

School-Within-School @ Goding is a District of Columbia Public Schools elementary school in the H Street corridor of Washington, DC. The school serves pre-K 3 through grade 5 students and also has two medically fragile classrooms and two autism inclusion classrooms. A Reggio Emilia-inspired school, School-Within-School incorporates project work and art languages into the curriculum at all levels. The school has a long history of environmental literacy and a commitment to green initiatives and outdoor experiences for adults and students.





ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY PROGRAM

At School-Within-School, students in the early childhood education (ECE) program are able to spend significant time outside on the school's playground and in its nature play space. They help raise monarch butterflies and hatch chickens. The ECE program also holds a yearly cherry blossom celebration in Stanton Park and goes on many other field trips to farms, gardens, and outdoor arts spaces. In grade 2, the students study the Chesapeake and Anacostia watersheds, while in grade 3, students raise silk worms. In grade 4, students learn about outdoor air quality and lead our recycling club. All of the elementary school classrooms participate in the FoodPrints program.

NEXT STEPS

Next year, School-Within-School will expand its recycling programs to include non-paper recycling and ECE classroom food waste composting. The school is adding grade 5, and is excited to connect that class with the Chesapeake Bay by sending them on an overnight meaningful watershed educational experience trip. Plans are currently underway for a student-created field guide of our school yard with the intention of submitting a student-created plan to Casey Trees to add more tree canopy to our school. School-Within-School also has begun teacher research into the possibility of submitting an application to become a US Department of Education Green Ribbon School in the next five years.

LESSONS LEARNED

The most important piece to implementing environmental literacy into School-Within-School was engaging and collaborating with administrators, teachers, staff and families that support these initiatives. Once projects begin, adults and children alike find such great joy and satisfaction in participating in outdoor experiences and environmental learning. The culture begins to shift and the integration of environmental projects, clubs, and initiatives becomes expected rather than feared.

It is also essential to partner with the many local organizations that are so supportive and helpful in engaging students in outdoor experiences and classroom environmental learning. Without the Anacostia Watershed Society, Washington Youth Garden, Aquatic Resources Education Center, US Botanic Garden, FoodPrints, OSSE, Living Classrooms, and many others, the environmental literacy programs at School-Within-School would not be possible.

