

# The Great Outdoors at WHS ! 2017 - 2018



Photo credit: Bob Mugaas, U of MN

# Faculty

Models behavior & outcomes

Professional Learning Community (PLC) groups

Professional Development Plan (PDP) goal



# Modeling Behavior & Outcomes

Solar Eclipse Science Log shared in each classroom & distributed a “sun” Cub Tag to each child to kick-off the year!



## Professional Learning Community (PLC) groups

Co-mingled groups of teachers who do not normally work together to focus on a common goal

Presentations to share & harvest ideas!



## Professional Development Plan (PDP) goal

Expand academic opportunities for students by integrating Outdoor Learning and merging it with the following potential areas: SEL, science, technology, social studies, mathematics, literacy, physical education, art, social skills groups, etc.

In order to meet this goal, I will utilize outdoor spaces, collaborate with my principal & PLC group, and work with district supervisors and relevant community partners (e.g., Rutgers Master Gardeners, etc.)

My PLC group will then share our integrated Outdoor Learning ideas during a presentation at our group's scheduled Faculty Meeting.



# Character Education and Social - Emotional Learning

- Grade 3: *Getting to Know You* activity
- Kindergarten and Grade 3 “Buddies”
- Service Project: River-Friendly Clean-Up with Raritan Headwaters Association & TBS friends during National Green Apple Day of Service on September 30<sup>th</sup>
- SEL Journal Writing
- Outdoor “Lunch Bunch” meetings
- Guidance Social Groups and *Good Deed Tree*

# WHS Vegetable Garden

- “Seeds to Salad” Project
- *Grab and Go* Harvest goes school-wide
- FOSS Science Kit Alignment with Garden
- WHS Partnership with Rutgers Master Gardeners!



# Rutgers Master Gardeners Program

This is a volunteer program administered by the Rutgers Cooperative Exchange (RCE) with the goal of providing horticultural knowledge and information to the general public





# Rutgers Master Gardeners Program

## Goals & Objectives of “Seeds to Salad” Program:

- Educational component of growing your own food and enhancing science knowledge about plants & plant growth
- Teach proper horticultural practices & promote healthy eating
- Education and use of organic, pesticide-free, sustainable garden practices
- Support the school curriculum and oversee/guide garden support



## Sensory Garden

- Colorful plants and painted items
- “Mindfulness” practices & brain breaks
- Pumpkin Patch: Crop Failure Discussion
- Texture Box & Mint Plants



# Mathematics

- **Kindergarten: Bean Bag Spots**
- **Grade 1: Rain Gauges**
- **Grade 2: Multiplication Sidewalk Scoot**
- **Grade 3: Math Facts Scavenger Hunt**



# Literacy

Reading, Word Study, & Writing in the Gardens & Courtyards



## Social Studies and Science

- **Field Trip outside of the Eversole-Hall House presents “Surveyors of the Past” teaching students about measuring property lines**
- **Map Madness – Learning our states and capitals by the grade level**
- **Kindergarten Adopt-a-Tree: New Science FOSS Kit Activity**
- **Grade 1: Water Cycle Learning on the Jungle Gym**



# Specialty Area Teachers

- **Spanish Classes:** Lessons using new **Outdoor Whiteboard**
- **Physical Education Classes:** **Outdoor Activities & the Painting of new *Cub Paw Prints* outlining a One-Mile Outdoor Track**
- **Computer Classes:** **Map Design of Garden using Google Draw & Bird Identification Books**
- **Art Classes:** **Tree Study**



# Outdoor Learning Assemblies

- Raritan Headwaters Association Partnership
- Fire Safety Education



*Looking ahead: We remain open to new outdoor opportunities and partnerships!*

Now, you can see our students engaging in some of the learning experiences that we just talked and thank you for having us with you this evening!

