ECO

Educating Children Outdoors

(Note: The original presentation contained student pictures. Those pictures and slides were removed from this document.)
ECO Schedule Overview

- **Getting Ready/ Inspiring Activity**: grab bags, books, pictures, natural objects (happens inside)
- **Morning Meeting**: check in on how we are feeling, schedule, song (happens both inside and outside)
- **Cooperative Game**: engages the senses, release energy (happens outside)
- **Walk to “classroom”**: stopping along way to observe and record
- **Snack/Story**: gather around circle for oral story while we eat snack
- **Guided Exploration**: integrating math, literacy, science and social learning
- **Forest Choice**: cooperation, community building, teamwork, pride/ownership
- **Sit Spot**: 10-15 minutes of sitting alone connecting to nature with senses, writing in journal, reflecting on day
- **Thanksgiving circle**: share of what we are thankful for from ECO day
- **Walk back to school**: back by 11:45
ECO Curriculum

Still to learn this year at ECO…

Red text denotes Next-Generation Science Standards.

How plants and animals can change their environments to meet their needs: K-ESS2-2
Importance of weather forecasting: KESS3-2
Force in Motion: K-PS2-1, KPS2-2, K-2-ETS1-1, K-2-ETS1-2, K-2-ETS1-3
The sun warms the earth: K-PS3-1
Building structures reduces heat: K-PS3-2
Humans can reduce the impact they have on the land: K-ESS3-3
Family Connections

- We are projected to have had 12 different parent volunteers from the beginning of the year to the end of December.

- At least 4 families have reported going to the ECO classroom outside of school hours with at least 2 more specifying plans to visit our outdoor classroom in the future.
## ECO survey (November 15th)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I feel that my child enjoys ECO.</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel that my child does good learning at ECO.</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel that my child has or is supplied with the proper clothing for ECO</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(sometimes)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel that my child is safe at ECO.</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel that it is important for my child to spend time outdoors.</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(weather permitting)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Feedback

“I felt that the ECO day was a great way for the kids to gain a better appreciation for the outdoors. I also believe that being outdoors helps the kids to form tighter bonds with one another. Having the kids work in groups outdoors, I believe, will help to form a lasting learning experience that they can not fully receive in the classroom.” - Parent Volunteer

“G loves ECO! He looks forward to it each week and talks about it all the time!!” -Parent

“C absolutely loves ECO day. She enjoys working with other students and gets very excited. I think it’s great to get outside the classroom and learn. It’s hands on and I think C really enjoys that and learns well that way” -Parent

“Very well organized, great opportunities for learning outside a traditional classroom.” -Parent Volunteer
Feedback

“We went to the ECO classroom and T showed me the shelters she and her friends made and her sit spot. It was very impressive. I am so happy that she has the opportunity to participate in this program. I wish every class was able to do this.” -Parent

“We plan on making it to the ECO classroom the next time we enjoy the playground. Our daughter loves it and can’t wait to share it with us.” -Parent

“I hope that Barre Town adopts this concept and partners with Nature Branch (North Branch Nature Center) through all the grades. They would see a significant decrease in undesired behaviors and an increase in attention span.” -Parent Volunteer