

# MAKING WAVES AT DCS



## Mill Creek Elective Highlight: Cadet Teaching



Students at Mill Creek Middle School have a wide variety of options when choosing electives to round out their academic schedule. Electives offer the opportunity for students to explore a passion or interest for a nine-week period, and most seventh- and eighth-grade students have room in their schedule for several electives per year.

Cadet Teaching is an elective course that combines an interest in teaching with a passion for service. Students assist Dexter teachers at Anchor, Beacon, Wylie or Mill Creek with general classroom projects or small group work with younger students. For nine weeks, cadets spend a half hour per day working in their assigned teacher's classroom cutting out project materials, making bulletin boards, organizing books, filing papers, and preparing classroom materials. Students interested in the Cadet Teaching elective must have a Mill Creek teacher recommendation to participate, as well as excellent attendance and citizenship.

This past quarter, Mill Creek seventh-grader Sophie Waitz worked with Cornerstone teacher Mary Leach in her Kindergarten classroom. This was a particularly special pairing, as Mrs. Leach was Sophie's Kindergarten teacher.

Olivia Munker, also in seventh grade, assisted Beacon teacher Eleanor Budd and other second grade teachers during their prep periods at the end of the day. Some of her tasks included sorting Scholastic magazines, making paper books, sharpening classroom pencils, taking down papers in the halls, and sorting student math packets. Munker signed up for the Cadet Teaching elective because she likes helping kids and thought it would be a good experience. “I learned that being a teacher has a lot of work to go along with it,” she says.

Kendall Brown had the same idea as Munker when she signed up for the elective: to help teachers and younger students. Brown worked in Wylie teacher Susan Karsch’s fourth-grade classroom stapling packets, printing class materials and hanging up posters in the classroom, among other tasks. “Being a cadet is really fun because you get to help with littler kids,” Brown shares.

The Cadet Teaching elective provides Mill Creek students with a behind-the-scenes look at what teachers do to prepare their lessons and make their classroom a welcoming space for learning. This introduction to teaching just might be the spark that inspires a future educator!