

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 22, 2021

Gary Sabol
360-618-6217

Pioneer Elementary students enjoy outdoor learning in nearby wetlands

ARLINGTON- Just in time for Earth Day, Pioneer Elementary staff and students have been cleaning up the wetlands adjacent to the school so students can use it for outdoor education. Pioneer third grade teacher, Rebecca Rodriguez, and her class visited the wetlands and made a list of projects that could be done to repair and clean up the area.

The outdoor classroom features wood benches scattered throughout the area and students can walk in the wetlands, make observations and drawings, and complete math and writing projects. The path through the wetlands has also been made accessible for wheelchairs so Life Skills students can also enjoy the area.

“The students are able to get out into the fresh air and take mask breaks,” said Rodriguez. “Having this outdoor classroom has a huge impact on our students’ well-being.”

“It’s been fun helping to clean up the wetlands,” said third grader Logan Allen. “We hope other students are encouraged to clean up the area.”

Stephanie Howe’s fifth grade class is working on a project to install interpretive trail signs throughout the wetlands. Students are currently researching for the project and then will design the signs.

“Hands-on learning is so important for science classes,” said Howe. “Having this outdoor classroom allows the students to observe and make discoveries. Due to COVID-19, we can’t really have field trips so this is almost like a mini field trip for the students.”



Capri Klein and Kendan Roberts make discoveries in the wetlands adjacent to Pioneer Elementary School. Students and staff have been cleaning the wetlands so it can be used for outdoor education.