



REACH

REACH is a program of
Educational Service District 112

NEWSLETTER



UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer is upon us, and we will be collaborating with Lyle School District again to produce an enriched summer school program for the first two weeks followed by two weeks of adventures with our smaller REACH family. Our partnership with Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries and the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center will play a big part in the summer school collaboration, providing exceptional experiences for all students enrolled. In July, we look forward to getting outside and exploring the Gorge, visiting sites near and far to develop a better sense of place and our relationship to it.

ACTIVITIES

Involving students more in the planning and implementation of activities was a real success this year. We started the year off compiling a list of activities students were interested in doing and voting on a few of their favorites. At the end of every month, we would review the monthly activity calendar and strategize on how to accomplish a few of these goals. Students learned about the process of planning and prioritizing, which lead to more investment overall. Student input was also a big part of summer planning as we discussed options for summer schedules as they were being compiled.

Older students also facilitated the monthly REACH Rewards Store activity. They would help younger students tally their monthly points to determine total points available, then support them in selecting prizes from the Reward Store and compare total costs to their budget. It was awesome seeing so many students step up to help each other in the execution of our weekly and monthly routines.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

As all the plants were blossoming this spring, REACH was fortunate enough to have our friends Brance from the USFS and Erin from Let's Get Out visit us to share their wealth of knowledge and experience as professional outdoors people. Erin was able to visit us twice to facilitate nature connection activities that involved dyeing handkerchiefs with natural plant dye and cooking maple flower blossoms. As a professional field botanist, Brance helped students identify plants around the school grounds, bore wood from a fir tree to determine its age, and document our observations in nature journals. The following two visits involved exploring the nature trails off site, culminating in a wilderness tracking and seed saving adventure that brought a small group of students to a beautiful overlook with views of the river and school below.



Student Highlight

LINCOLN, 5TH GRADE

What is your favorite thing about REACH?

Learning new things

What is something fun you did at REACH recently?

Made yarn crafts for Ms. Anna's baby presnet.

What have you learned at REACH recently?

How to treat nature right

Quote: "If you see someone getting bullied, tell a teacher"



FIELD TRIPS

In order to better steward our home ecosystem, students were brought on two field trips this spring to learn about the local habitat and first foods that grow there. Our dear friend, Laurie from Trout Unlimited sponsored a revisitation to the river restoration site along the Klickitat River to observe all the positive changes that have occurred there. Trout Unlimited even gifted REACH a load of supplies to continue our investigation of watershed wellness and healthy streams, including a rack of fishing poles to use this summer! Our friend Elaine from CRITFC visited REACH to share about Native American first foods along the Columbia River, then lead us on a tour around Catherine Creek to dig up a few roots and explore the landscape and all that it provides. We are grateful for our partners that help us understand more about where we come from, and bring us to places that connect us closer to nature.

PARENT EVENTS

We were proud to celebrate a few of our very own REACH students performing in Aladdin Jr. at The Dalles Civic Auditorium. REACH sponsored families to attend this local children's theater production to get a good taste of the arts while also supporting their friends. It was an amazing performance and we hope to make this a yearly tradition with perhaps more of our students on stage in the future.

Collaborations with Lyle School District to provide robust family events and community programming were well received this spring. In April, REACH supported the Lyle School Spring Carnival by recruiting a renowned magician/comedian from our partnership with Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries. Drawing in a mainstage crowd to round out all the carnival games facilitated by students in the Associated Student Body in addition to a few other community partners made for a really fun community and family event.

We culminated the school year with Art in the Park in May. Middle and high school students sponsored crafting and vending tables while all the music students performed for a crowd of supporting family members. PTO provided dinner for families to enjoy while they mingled

until it was time for the main performance. We give thanks to our dear friend Ian, Lyle School band director and REACH substitute, for his efforts and service to teach students how to sing and play all the instruments.

GRANT PARTNERS

The backbone for much of our monthly content is provided through strong and supportive grant partnerships. Lacey from Arts in Ed provided hands-on skill building opportunities with her metal and wood working background while Danny and his team from the Discovery Center helped students build bird houses and slime, creatively connecting these activities back to wildlife and STEM education. Miguel from SWISH Basketball helped students develop their hand eye coordination and work together as a team. Anna from Skyline Health continues to shine as a class favorite, visiting us weekly for cooking and food preparation classes highlighting health & nutritional wellbeing. Students even got to pickle their own cucumbers and make sauerkraut that were used in snack preparation thereafter.

