

P-5050: Student Education at the PLC

Final Grant Report

Grant funds from Greeley-After Hours Rotary were used in May 2024 to bring 58 second grade students from Linton Elementary to the Poudre Learning Center. Linton Elementary is located in southeast Fort Collins and is part of the Poudre School District. Of the 52 schools in the Poudre School District, only 4 receive Title I funds, with Linton being 1 of the 4. The school also serves McKinney-Vento students and 80% of total students receive free or reduced lunch.

Lead teacher Kayla Nelson brought the students to the PLC on May 15, 2024 . Students arrived at 10:30 AM and promptly participated in an Orientation session at Brown Amphitheater. Then, students were split into two groups, the first participating in Trees as Habitat and the second in Plant Life Cycles. Trees as Habitat is a lesson in which students explore various trees around the PLC to discover what wildlife live in and around them. They play observation games, look for tracks and signs of wildlife, and learn tree identification. In the Plant Life Cycles lesson, students explore the flora of the PLC and search for examples of the different stages of a plant's life cycle. They play a modeling game, create illustrations of their findings, and do a dance and song to memorize the life cycle stages. After their first lesson, students took a thirty-minute lunch break, then switched to participate in the second lesson. The day wrapped up with a reflection activity in small groups and students headed back to Fort Collins at 2 PM.

The students and teachers loved their experience at the PLC so much that Kayla Nelson reached out to us a week later with the following request:

Our class has been studying pollinators and plants for the last twelve or so weeks. Our students have learned the importance of pollinators, and we are working to get information out to our community regarding how we as a community can help. We would love to invite you and any of your team to join us at Linton Elementary on May 29th at 2:00pm to hear our call to action (planting native seeds for our pollinators, which you will walk away with so you can help us!) and listen to all our amazing students have learned!

Two PLC staff members attended the event on May 29th and listened to dozens of students present their pollination projects. The students did a wonderful job of sharing all they had learned about plants and pollinators through their PLC Field Experience and classroom learning! They were very excited to give us some of their projects to bring back to the PLC and put on display. We've attached a picture of the projects we were given below. Many of them can be found pinned to the display board in the InSTEM building across by the Conference Room.

Thank you, Greeley-After Hours Rotary for making their initial experience possible, and for being the spark that led to our additional engagement with these amazing second graders!



Instructions for Seed Planting

Step 1: Find a warm sunny spot where the sun shines for 4 or more hours a day.

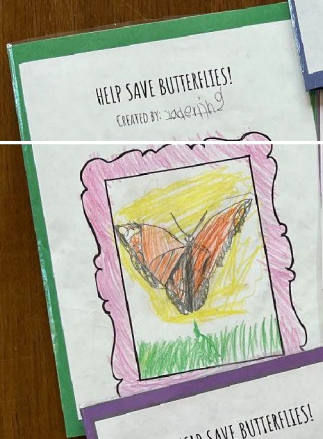
Step 2: Prepare the soil. Remove other growth and rake the soil flat. Make sure your seeds will have space.

Step 3: Press the seeds into the ground but do not bury them with soil. They need air to grow so it's best by walking on them.

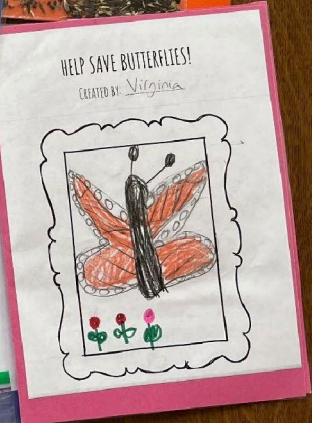
Step 4: Water each seed if it is moist. When plants are 4-6 inches, the rain can water them. If there is no rain, water them.

Notes:

You might wonder why are butterflies important? Well I'm going to tell you all about it. Butterflies are important because their droppings/poop give the soil nutrients and soil is important because it helps plants grow! That was one reason but there's so much more! Butterflies are a part of the food chain and if they were gone it would get messed up! So please plant these seeds so butterflies can pollinate and live!

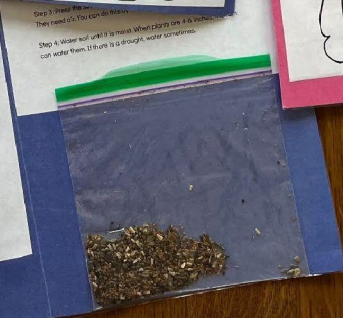


Why shall we help butterflies? Here's one reason. We shall help butterflies because they pollinate food that we eat. Another reason is butterflies are part of the food chain which means there's a line of animals and the animal they eat will be under them so if butterflies die it will make it harder for the animal that eats them to find food. **PLANT THESE SEEDS TO HELP BUTTERFLIES!!!**



Notes:

Help butterflies because we are not going to not have any butterflies. Butterflies are important pollinators. They pollinate other flowers and they start growing. They help other animals live by the other animals eating them (food chain). Plant these flowers for the butterflies to have flowers to pollinate!



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