

an education program of the Earth and Spirit Council



Pilot Year funded in part by:





11年12年7

Habitat Awareness

In preparation for both oral and visual Storytelling, we

Q: Where does your animal live?

At In attre!

Q: What kind of a tree? Q: Do you know it's name? At A Big Tree! At A Christmas Tr

Q: Does it have another name? A: A Pine tree?

In the fall, images from children's drawings were enlarged,

hand-colored and laminated by our artists, becoming habitat props. Making decisions together, the children composited environments for their stories, using our traveling puppet stage and artwork designed by their peers. Images ranged from telephone poles to volcanoes.

The Volcano inspired several children's stories through the year - a beautiful example of image as creative stimulus.

Through the year artists worked to achieve a balance between science and the arts. In the spring, an interview session was added.

In flower costume, a guest came to our classes. Students used their animal puppets to teach the flower about themselves and their habitat. Then they interviewed each other to share even more information.

This session proved to be an excellent example of the power of children teaching children, and the effectiveness of orally reinforcing written information.









Oral Storytelling

- The adventure began in our first session, when miniature puppets were pulled out of a basket - a simple but delightful way to initiate relationship between child and animal.
- Two sessions were devoted to creating a group story featuring the animal buddies. Our artists first modeled a storytelling process, then initiated discussion about what makes a good story.
- Next we gathered in our story circle to imagine and collaborate. Our intent was to create a safe, fun space where children could participate easily as they felt ready.
- To encourage full participation, we used a stuffed otter named
 "29200" who inspired ideas when a child got stuck. One by one each
 child added a new piece to the story, and at sessions end, we read the
 whole thing buck to them.
- These stories were revisited in a second session to broaden understanding of story building, encourage cooperative decision making, adding depth and cohesion by weaving in more science knowledge, and developing characters and plot.
- Creative problem solving was a key element of this session, sparked by a flow of leading questions from the artists. This session provided the real foundation for the creation of the written storybook.







Visual Storytelling







Full of ideas from storytelling, the children drew pictures of what they imagined.

To help with animal details, we provided image sheets and discussed using basic shapes - long ovals, triangles, half circles, etc. - to define simple body parts, if kids got stuck. We emphasized the surprise and beauty of originality, encouraging them to explore freely,

When finished, the children marked their puppet animal with an X, and we enlarged that image on sturdy board.

We included elements from each child's drawing in our finished Storybook.











Making Animal Puppets

TO STURDY CUTOUT ...















Rigler School Puppets, November 2003 - grades 2 and 3









Sabin School Puppets, December 2003-grade 3













Harvey Scott Puppets, March 2004 - grade 2









Boise Eliot Puppets, April 2004-Grade 2









Puppet Plays





- In most cases, our pilot classrooms were able to present their puppets and story in a
 public setting. Sharing their creative efforts with others gave them an opportunity to
 practice public presentation skills.
- At Rigler School in the fall of '03, stories were transformed into puppet plays our original vision. The artists served as narrators while students manipulated animal puppets in the puppet stage and contributed dialogue, sound effects and action. They shared with family and classmates in both classroom and school auditorium settings.
- Because we wanted to enrich and broaden the storytelling focus of our work, we chose to create storybooks with our spring classes.

Storybooks









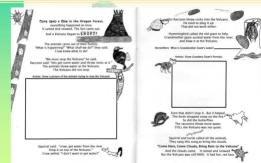


Prior to our last session together, arists shaped full group stories into a book formar, illustrated with the children's degraines. The Stept-books included new writing, problem solving, music and illustration opportunities. These activities were designed to extend the creative process and stimulate individual ownership of the book.





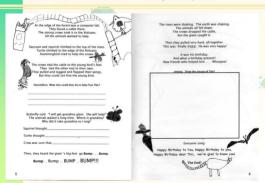
Thic in the Volcano sample Storybook



Thic in the Volcano - Sample Storybook



Thic in the Volcano - Sample Storybook







First reading of the Tiger and the crazy Animals

Storybook Readings

- At three of the four pilot schools, our final classroom session was devoted to reading the finished storybook.
- When each child received a personal copy of their Folk Tale, shouts of enthusiasm and pride filled the room, especially when they discovered their own illustrations.
- Once again in a story circle, the children read their book aloud, bringing the nowfamiliar characters to life, adding animal voices and sound effects.
- Though the language in the finished books was well above average grade level, the students were invested in the story they had created, and read with fluency and comprehension.







Extended Learning

Individual teachers successfully used the residency as a springboard for these additional activities:

- Library and internet research
- Essay writing
- Creative writing
- Formulating math story problems , featuring Earth Arts animals
- Biomes categorizing ecological communities
- Schoolyard exploration to introduce puppets to actual habitat
- Field trips to urban wilderness sites such as Whittaker Pond









Sample Classroom Essays

Boise Eliot - grade 2

The crom is Winter large with angel that another large. The cross of the Book Tag. The cross of the Book Tag. But a cross of the Book Tag. But a cross of the Book Tag. But a cross of the Comment of the





Butterfiles Are Amazing!

Butter flux, hip no ctar from an outs, part, that is, that of the an event flat called a probability. Butter flux in yet to sip 000 pits, an event flux it of flowers. Cot or pillow, are, pick, and expenditudes only, each one, kind of pillots flow, and will be in the flux and by the flux in the flux and by the flux in the flux in

When I diest started learning count from I thought they were posts But now I think they're I full trying at 8 ft is with the restor the werly.

I think butterflies are amazing I Mative amazing and that God made butterflies to Thate children happen you think thats true think its you be to succeed any think that the succeeding the

Family and Community

- Family Art Workshops
- Public Readings
- Art Shows
- Neighborhood Parade
- Rigler School Peace Garden





Family Workshops

SABIN SCHOOL EARTHWEAVING





We held five Family Art Workshops to celebrate the Children's learning. Over 500 Family and Friends made animal masks in honor of Earth Day.

At several schools, children and parents wove dreams for the world and each other into "Earthweavings", which remain at the schools and the dream weaving continues.

We hosted a resource table with outreach information for a variety of community organizations, and shared a really fun take-home activity for families to make together!





Family Workshops













What is Earth Arts?

Our Core Intent

Earth Arts is an Art and Environmental Science enrichment program, designed to nutrue self-esteem, peer support, creative expression, benchmark learning and community involvement in culturally diverse PPS K-5 children and their families.

During residencies, our artist-educators guide children through a multi-disciplinary art process, during which they learn about species and habitat in our bio-region.

In our pilot year, for example, young students created animal homes using a pupper stage and props we provided. Within this "habstat", they imagined and illustrated Folk Tales, while learning about the lives and needs of six neighborhood-soccies.

Puppets were made from the children's artwork. They were given names and personal histories in the children's creative writing. These ideas were often shared in story circles, later integrated into our collaborative Folk Tale.

Families participated in the fun and learning, through special art workshops held at each school we served. These events offered parents the opportunity to honor both their children's learning and Earth Day.

We plan for Earth Arts to grow sequentially over the next three years, expanding curriculum and classrooms served, to include grades 1-5. Following the tradition of our parent organization, the Earth and Spirit Council, we believe that wisdom from many cultures is needed now to restore environmental balance on earth. This will take time.

We are committed to nurturing our children to take leading roles in this restoration effort. In order to create a viable, just and inclusive vision for living together on the earth, our children need to know that each one of them is important, with a unique personal voice, and wondrous effits to share.

Children from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds are at the creative heart of this program - dreaming, storytelline, and learning to manifest their visions.

Acknowledging that a healthy culture keeps growing, our activities are designed to honor diverse perspectives, while inviting children and their families to create new stories and community traditions that integrate wisdom and beauty from all.

> Together in this new century, may we find the way, to live in harmony, as One Family.

Public Readings



Public Readings

Children gave public readings of their storybooks at two of our schools. As part of the Sabin Science fair, puppers were displayed in the library, and students read their stories to a packed house of family and friends



The four classrooms at Boise Ellot invited family members and other classes to join them for a daytime event, followed by a reception. The large responsive audience was treated to four dramatic readings as well as puper cameo, on stage, as chaldren shared facts about their animal fiperal. We improvised a Thank You song with children, teachers and audience to say coodive.





- The beauty of the children's work was appreciated by many outside their own families and classrooms
- At Harvey Scott, puppets were on display in the auditorium during Art Week in May.
- An art show was held in the library at Sabin School, as a prelude to the all school Family Science event in February. The librarian noted how engaged other children were in the 3rd grade classes' work.
- Our corporate partner, Starbucks, hosted a month long showing of work by children from both Rigler and Sabin Schools, in March-April.
 A comment box beside the display was stuffed with thought off encouragement and appreciation for the children.







- The Storybook Parade is a tradition at Boise Eliot School. All Students celebrate the power of literacy and imagination, in a costumed parade that winds through their neighborhood, preceding the Mississipol St. Multi-Cultural Fair.
 - This year, all four second grade classrooms paraded the puppets they made - Folk Tale characters created during our Storytelling sessions. They proudly carried the banners of their favorite Storybooks this year:

The Dreaming Forest Thic in the Volcano Idunno's New Friends The Tiger and the Crazy Animals.

Stories we made together







Rigler School Peace Garden

In May and June, 2004, our Program Director collaborated with Rigler School Children and Sun School staff to create mosaic stepping stones and a mural for the new Community Peace Garden on the school campus.

The Children imaged beneficial beings for the garden stepping stones: flowers, hummingbirds, worms, and even a dinosaur, to remember the ancients.

At the same time, we created a folk tale about Peace, and how it came to the Rigler Garden. From Illustrations of the story drawn by children and staff, a portable mural was created. During the summer it can hang in the garden, and winter inside the school.

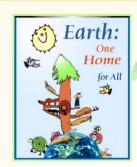


Portable Mural



Program Sustainability

- Fiscal Growth
- Program Achievements
- Recommendations
- Community Response





METRO

Fiscal Report 2003-4

These donors invested in the pilot year of Earth Arts:

The Autzen Foundation

Hanna Andersson Children's Foundation,
Leupold &Stevens,
Metro Greenspaces,
the Starbuck's Foundation

Fred Meyer Foundation, Juan Young Trust, McKenzie River Gathering, Regional Arts Council Private Donors



- Cash contributions totaled: \$33,700.
- The total projected cost of the program was \$68,000.
- Our income plan included in-kind donations of time and materials totaling \$29,600.
- To address the funding disparity we made internal budget cuts and increased our in-kind donations.
- Earth Arts Staff, and Earth & Spirit Council Board members, work together to shape and implement an on-going funding plan that, as the program grows, is designed to achieve a balance between earned and unearned income.





Fiscal Growth 2004-5



- Our primary fiscal goal in 2004-5 is to diversify and increase program income.
- As of June 1, 2004, we have received \$24,000 from new sources for the 2004-5 program. We strive to maintain long-term relationships with existing funders, as we continue to invite new partnerships.
- We collaborate with other community artists to grade environmental art - stepping stones, banners and festive masks made from recycled materials. They will be sold to help support the naturalist position added to the program in 2004-5.
- Professional development workshops conducted by the Earth Arts team will be sold to regional school districts.
- A limited number of in-school residencies will be marketed to schools districts within the metropolitan area.

Program Achievements

More than 800 people were touched by Earth Arts: Eleven classrooms in four NE Portland Schools

Five Family Art Workshops

275 students and 600+ family and community members

We integrated our family workshops into established schoolwide events in order to reach as many families as possible and introduce them to the fun of Earth Arts.

We established a process of ongoing teacher feedback and self-evaluation that enabled us to make critical improvements to curriculum throughout the year. For example, the evolution of punnet plays to storybooks.

By testing curriculum at grade levels 2 and 3, we exceeded original expectations. We designed seven classroom sessions that interface best with 2rd grade benchmarks, and support the development of 4rd errade curriculum.

Through innovative means, Earth Arts adapted multiple art forms to support science and literacy learning. Feedback from participants overwhelmingly indicates that teacher objectives and student learning experience were both enrished.

We have strengthened our partnerships with Portland Public Schools curriculum specialists, Sun Schools, Cascadia Wild, the Community Peace Garden, Deerdance, Scrap and CaF.







Recommendations

Our year end evaluation process, which includes input from teachers, PPS Curriculum Specialists and Earth and Spirit Council Members, led us to target the following improvements for next year:

- Work with Earth and Spirit Board members to secure the services of a Naturalist Education as a fully integrated member of the Earth Arts seam. This person will be actively engaged in the program for the '0.4-0's school year, providing each classroom with a hands-on-acience activity that extends into the community.
- Consider Earth Arts a research project that extends beyond the normal top to of artist-in-school residencies. Work deeply with one or two schools to develop and text the full multi-year curriculum over the next three years. This will enable artist to establish on-going relationships with staff, students and the surrounding community. We will be able to track the same students through several grade levels and measure the cumulative effect of the program to support and enfirsh traditional curriculum. Our goal is to grow the program through the receistion of a template that can be taught to other artists and teachers.
- Expand our advisory committee into an active body that assists with volunteer coordination, administrative
 tasks, fundraising and promotion. Increase regular volunteer support to assist with materials preparation
 and family/community events.
- Market professional development workshop for teachers conducted by the Earth Arts Team.
 Sell a limited number of school residencies



Pilot Year Goals

- Develop environmental-arts curriculum that supports benchmark and literacy learning for grade 3.
- Serve 800 children and their family members in residency and family art workshops and community outreach.
- Develop plan for program growth and sustainability.





Children's Response



Children's Response



THE PARTY OF THE P

Teacher's Response

Quotes from the Boise Eliot 2nd grade teaching team:

"You provided a nurturing environment in which each child's authentit work was accepted and recognized. As one student observed, "I found out things about me I clidn't even know before From a teacher's point of view, we know that a comment like this reflects the balance your program provided to our current benchmark-weighted curriculum."

"As teachers, we loved having outside professionals come in to work with us. From the outset, you asked us for feedback so you could align your program with curriculum requirements in language, science, and even helpharic."

"In science, you provided a well thought-out and researched theme aligned with the second-grade Habitats strand.... we were wowed by the colorful folders containing accurate, high-quality pictures and text for each student's research."

"An outstanding part of Earth Arts is how the children each came away with a strong sense of identification with the animals they studied. On a field trip to a nature park soon after, students immediately related to the widdle there in a personal way."

"We appreciated the infusion of Native American legends and traditions into the learning."

"Perhaps more than anything, we valued the strength of the "Eving language" component of your program...
"It served to bolster self-esteem and confidence like no other. You showed the students the value and
purpose of language in personable and periment ways that could not be obtained through any text books."

"As you can see, you inspired us! You reminded us all how to value each other and our creative and imaging life lives, not solely our ability to achieve benchmarks."

STATE OF

Teacher's Response:

Questions from the Boise Eliot 2nd grade teaching team:

How can we learn more about developing oral language?

How did you learn to model working deeply and spontaneously as an integrated team?

How did you learn to infuse so much community-building into your teaching?

- How did you keep track of so many eager children's ideas enough to construct and weave an authentic story thread from beginning to end?

How did you make editing decisions which shaped a next presentation to provide more opportunities for students to develop language?

Finally, do you teach workshops touching on any of these skills?

Does PPS know what a valuable resource you are?



Who We Are



Earth Arts is an education program of: The Earth and Spirit Council.
 To learn more about us, visit our website at: www.earthandspirit.org
 To contact us in person:

Robin Chilstrom
Program Director
tribal@spiritone.com

Judith Yeckel Curriculum Director jyeckel@saw.net



Curriculum Development

- Species Biographies-Grades 2 and 3
- Supplemental Teaching Materials
- Habitat Awareness
- Oral Storytelling
- Visual Storytelling
 - Making Species Puppets
 - Puppet Plays
 - Storybooks
- Storybook Readings
- Extended Learning





Biographies



- We developed six neighborhood species biographies, for both 2nd and 3rd grade reading levels.
- Biographies included habitat and species facts, native myths, and fun activities tied to art and science benchmarks.
- City animals like Crow, Squirrel and Butterfly were chosen so the children can enjoy and learn from their Earth Buddies by observing them through the seasons.
- Each child received a personal biography of their animal buddy.



Sample 3rd Grade Bio - Squirrel







Sample Bio Activity Page - grade 2







Draw a Habitat for Me Buddy!

Teacher's Supplemental Material

Raccoon Biography

Excepts from Teacher's Version:

11 put my paw in your hand, it would feel just like a titus human hand waring a soft jobe. That's because lhave s long, flexible toes on each from paw. They work like your fingers. I can turn on a water functe or a houe. I can uncrew jurs and open doors and gates. And I can ship the like of graduage cans. I can even ent corn on the cob the same way humans long.

Corn is my favorite food. But I'm not particular. I cat vegages, auts, fruit slags, woring and honey from bees. Also mice and opothers. If you see my tracks on the edge of wetlands or water it means I'm booking for trutte optishe, good problem and the start from the contract of the con

■ Fun Facts & Questions

- Hummingbirds have many names: Flower Kisser, Fly-size bird, and Beams of the Sún. What name would you give hummingbird? Why?
- Pond turtles can only swallow under water. They can stay under for more than one hour at a time. What is something you can do for one whole hour?
 A new-born squirrel weighs less than your house.
 - key. Do you know how much you weighed when you were born?
- Butterflies can see the same colors humans can plus ultraviolet, a color we can't see. What is your favorite color?
- Crows can tell the difference between a straw scarecrow and a person. What clues might help Crow figure this out?
- No one knows why raccoons dunk their food in water. Is Raccoon washing the food? Is Raccoon making the food soft? Is Raccoon just bored? What do you think?

