

Environmental Education Committee Agenda/Minutes 2023-2024

EE Committee Mission- To support EE Goals and Initiatives

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

Norms:

Stay on task, if off task put drink or prop in the middle of table

Be on time, if not you will be clapped for

Time keeper- Claire

Recorder- Melanie

Attendance Taker- Melanie

Facilitator-Melanie

EE Committee Meeting Goals:

-monitor EE goals monthly

-initiatives

Norms:

Be on time. Stay on task. Assume positive intent. Have fun!

March 12, 2024

Attendance- Colin, Melanie, Rachael, Claire, Joe, Lance, Beth

Solarium- Things in the solarium are looking good and in full swing. Aquaponics system is working well. We are growing cabbage, arugula, kale, cilantro, red wave lettuce, and romaine. Things overall are looking great. Melanie has been tracking our iron levels and it seems they are still a little bit low, but she is working on trying to stabilize it.

All of our soil beds are growing well. Bud made some wooden stands and then he installed grow lights about all of the soil beds. Our tomatoes are finally starting to flower- so are our peppers that we planted in the fall. Our zucchini and squash plants are starting to take off. Our cucumbers and watermelon are a little slow to grow. We got a donation from the Crosslake Garden club and purchased some soil kits. We have 2 classes - Mara and Colin that are interested in potentially doing some soil testing. Let me know if you are interested in that too. We have enough to do 40 tests.

School Forest- The Lakes foundation came out and took down all of the dangerous trees and also cleared our path out. It looks really good. If you could have your class write them a thank you note, that would be great. They are going to come out again when the weather is a little bit better and lay down some mulch to help keep our trails looking good.

Solar Eclipse- Melanie put in an order to get solar glasses for all of our students. She will also have some activities on hand for teachers that they can do with their classes. The partial solar eclipse is on April 8, 2024

Solar- We did get the OK and support from The Lakes Foundation to pursue looking into solar. Melanie has reached out to Peter Lindstrom from CERT (Clean Energy Resources Teams) who

specializes in helping schools get solar. I have not heard back from him yet, but will keep the committee posted as I get information.

DNR Visits- Melanie has reached out to the DNR to come out and speak to some of our students. We have them coming out in April to see Ms. Shoe's middle school students to explain the benefits of using non-lead fishing tackle. Our contact will also work with us to partner with the MN pollution Control agency to do a get the lead out campaign here at school.

The DNR is also coming out in the beginning of May to speak with our Third and Fourth Grade students about loons. Protecting their habitat and teaching us about them.

Climate Generation- Melanie organized a virtual visit in April for 5-6th grade students in STEM to learn about clean energy.

All of these guest speakers were set up to support teachers with their EE goals. Teachers are making some good progress on working toward them.

Melanie will reach out to a recycling person to potentially do some guest speaking about recycling.

Compost- Melanie hasn't taken the time to do a lunch compost lesson yet, but will be sure to do +one prior to our next EE meeting.

Joe is looking for pallets to do a woodworking project.

Earth Week- T-shirt project was cool from last year. Do that again. Melanie will look into some easier things for classes to do. Maybe do the recycling monsters again and the sun catchers. . Melanie will purchase puffy paint and cork with EE Money.

Roadside clean up Middle School in the past has started at the old school (5th and 6th) and 7-8 started at Manhattan and then they meet in the middle. Make sure to have Annette add trash pick up in her parent letter so that parents are aware.

Anything else?