

Mr. Grigg's Grade 4/5 Class



December 1st, 2016

Food Web Fun

Students headed to the school forest to reinforce their knowledge of food webs with a game of predator-prey! Students were given roles such as herbivore, omnivore or carnivore and their goal was to survive the duration of the game. To do so, they had to collect sufficient food and water while also working hard to avoid getting tagged (eaten) by someone in a higher trophic level!



May 18th, 2017

Animal Tracking at the Mudflats

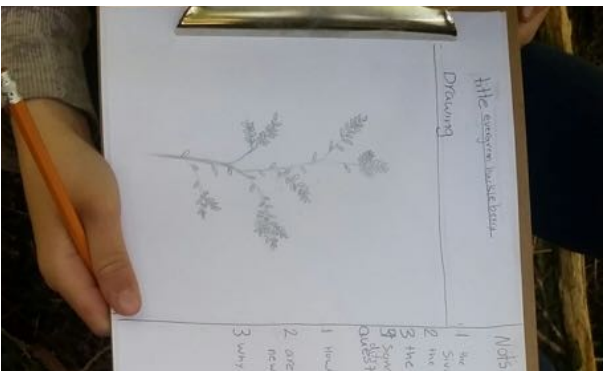
After spending a few weeks learning all about animal tracking with the Connecting Students with Wildlife Project, students headed out to the mudflats to test their knowledge and track animals in the coastal forest and in the mud! Students found squirrel middens, burrows, raccoon tracks, and shorebird tracks.



June 20th, 2017

Scientific Drawing

Students headed into the school forest to learn how to make a scientific drawing, take detailed field notes, and then noted some key identification features of local plants.



June 23rd, 2017

Plant ID at Schooner Cove

Students headed out to Schooner Cove to investigate the characteristics and identification features of plants that inhabit the coastal temperate rainforest. After learning about scientific drawings earlier in the week, students completed scientific drawings of an unknown plant, and then learned about biodiversity in the forest.

Ms. Burrow's Grade 1/2 Class



October 18th, 2016
Eelgrass Beach Seine

Students learned to care for, and respect their surroundings while exploring mudflats and catching eelgrass dwellers like fish, shrimp and plankton. All this exploring was followed by a group discussion on interconnectedness in a marine ecosystem. Thanks to Tofino Sea Kayaking for allowing the budding, young scientists to access the waterfront space!



November 21st, 2016
Intertidal Interactions

Students are learning all about interactions within natural communities, and about animal lifecycles in class. Today they spent the day learning more about these themes at North Chesterman's beach. Students learned about the crab lifecycle, played a plankton and mussel game and investigated interactions in tidepools! They also used their artistic skills and driftwood to depict the crab lifecycle they learned about.



April 12th, 2017
Terrestrial Habitats: Rainforest

Students are learning all about terrestrial ecosystems in class, and today they got to explore the rainforest ecosystem and search for bugs and slugs! With a magnifying glass in hand, students used their observation skills to find tiny critters, discuss their habitat and ask questions about their survival techniques.



May 10th, 2017
Terrestrial Habitats: Dunes and Bog

As part of their studies on terrestrial animals, students went out to Wickaninish beach to learn about the importance of sand dunes as a habitat. Students also learned about shorebird migration, and wrapped up the day in the bog to look closely at the bog ecosystem by getting up close and personal with a bog plant!



June 12th, 2017
Mudflat Megafauna

Students have been learning all about terrestrial megafauna this spring, and today they got to learn about the importance of mudflats for local animals – and how to search for signs that these animals have recently passed through!

Mr. Clarke's and Ms. McLane's Kindergarten Classes



October 11th, 2016

Mudflats at the Tofino Botanical Gardens

The kindergarten students joined forces today for a two-class field trip to the mudflats. Students played some tracking and camouflaging games in the forest, and then explored the muddy intertidal while learning about care and respect of plants and animals.



October 24th, 2016

Salmon Cycle at Thornton Creek Hatchery

After learning about the salmon cycle in class, students got to get up close and personal with some of the key players of a stream ecosystem. Students learned about how a hatchery runs, including some tricks to successfully rear salmon, and even got to see some spawning salmon get snacked on by a bear family!



November 28th, 2016

Bear Habitat and Adaptations

This Field School day was all about bear adaptations! Students learned about hibernation by going on a teddy bear hunt in the forest. After discussing hibernation habitats, students enacted the life of a bear through the seasons: crawling like a cub in the winter and spring, foraging for berries in the summer, fishing for salmon in the fall, and getting ready to hibernate themselves in a game of hibernate-hide-and-seek! Finally, students learned that cubs are safer near their momma bear in a game of momma bear-cub-wolf pack!

Mr. Clarke's and Ms. McLane's Kindergarten Classes



May 4th, 2017

Tonquin Beaches and Whales (Ms. McLane)

In morning fog and afternoon sunshine, students learned about and explored the intertidal zone at Tonquin Beach and then got a surprise guest... a spyhopping whale!



May 16th, 2017

Echachis Hike (Mr. Clarke)

Students headed out to Echachis for a sunny, fun-filled day with cultural educator Gisele Martin! After exploring the intertidal zone, students learned about respecting the land and sea, went for a hike, and even got to see the blow hole go off!



June 14th, 2017

Intertidal Exploration

After an introduction to intertidal life a few weeks ago, students learned how to observe intertidal invertebrates carefully and respectfully. After some exploring, students learned how these creatures interact with one another, and how to identify creatures in this unique ecosystem!

Mr. Clarke's Kindergarten Classes



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Ms. Copeland's grade 2/3 class



October 20th, 2016

Our Photosynthetic Friends

Students have been learning all about plant lifecycles and anatomy in class, and this Field School session was all about our photosynthetic friends. Students learned about plant structures and discussed seed and spore dispersal in the forest. Then on the beach students explored seaweed diversity and created a beach map to illustrate the features of different seaweed species. Nice work Ms. Copeland's class!



November 24th, 2016

Seaweeds: Science, Art, and Food

Students learned all about seaweed lifecycles and biodiversity as an extension to their plant lifecycles and biodiversity unit. After learning about seaweed anatomy, students played a seaweed lifecycle game, and learned all about the importance of seaweed in the ocean. Afterward students pressed seaweeds to make nautical Christmas cards and got to taste some snacks that contain seaweed products, including chocolate milk and nori chips!



April 13th, 2017

Natural Resources: Water

As an introduction to the importance of water and natural resources, students hiked out to the water tower. Students made observations about water movement along the trail, made predictions about the volume of water in the tower and discussed the seasonal changes of water in our community.



May 11th, 2017

Natural Resources: Fishing

With a focus on connecting our local community to the global community, students went down to the dock to gather data on boats in Tofino. After discovering everything from crab fishing boats, to geoduck diving boats to recreational sailing boats, students had a group discussion about the impacts of fishing in Tofino on the rest of the world, and the impact the rest of the world has on Tofino.



June 22nd, 2017

Sunny Scavengers

After focusing on plant growth and diversity throughout the school year, students learned more about local plants with a forest scavenger hunt that required them to use all 5 senses to observe their surroundings. Afterward, students practiced their teamwork skills with beach games in the sunshine!

Ms. Hansen's & Ms. Aujla's Grade 6/7 Class



November 1st, 2016

Marine Biomes

In preparation for learning about marine biomes, students explored the dockside habitat to discover different adaptations of sea creatures, while discussing the challenges of living in a marine environment.



December 2nd, 2016

Mudflats and Movies

Students geared up and got out in the rain to learn all about the community of plants and animals in the mudflats. After learning about adaptations of mudflat organisms, students gained an understanding of the importance of mudflats for juvenile fishes, migrating birds and invertebrates. Afterwards, students warmed up while watching Finding Dory, and compared and contrasted the ecosystems in the story with the ecosystem they experienced in the mudflats.



April 27th, 2017

Ecosystem Exploration

In partnership with Gisele Martin, students learned about the dynamics of rainforest the sand dune ecosystems. To get an even closer look, students sat with an unfamiliar dune plant while observing its features and asking questions about the plant's survival techniques and interactions with other species.



June 20th & 23rd, 2017

Renewable Energy Options & Solar Experiment

After learning about electricity in class, students headed outside to learn about renewable energy! Students learned how direct current (DC) works, and what voltage is. Afterwards, students set up solar panels to test the efficiency of the panel at different angles. Students also wired a solar panel to a 12V battery, then used a multi-meter to test the battery voltage to discover that the sun was charging the battery!

Ms. Hovi's Grade 3/4 Class



October 3rd, 2016

Meares Island Ecosystem Exploration

Students headed over to Meares Island for a muddy adventure-filled day! After investigating the mudflats and witnessing the tide flow, students headed for a muddy hike on the Big Tree Trail loop. Along the hike, Gisele Martin taught students about rainforest biodiversity, sustainable tree harvesting, care and protection of plants and the interconnectedness of all things in forest ecosystem.



October 27th, 2016

Spider Finders

Big Buddies led their Little Buddies on a spider hunt through the rainforest. Ms. Hovi's class is learning about the scientific method and Ms. Seibel's class is learning about spiders, so they worked together to form a hypothesis and collect data to test which forest habitat is most populated by spiders! Students also made spider behaviour observations with magnifying glasses and even found some spider eggs!



November 30th, 2016

Predator-Prey Relationships

Students headed to the school forest to reinforce their knowledge of food webs with a game of predator-prey! Students were given roles such as herbivore, omnivore or carnivore and their goal was to survive the duration of the game. To do so, they had to collect sufficient food and water while also working hard to avoid getting tagged (eaten) by someone in a higher trophic level!

Ms. Hovi's Grade 3/4 Class



April 4th, 2017

Rock Science (it rocks!)

After studying rocks in the classroom, students headed to the beach to put their newfound rock-knowledge to use! Students collected a few unique rocks and worked together to determine whether the rocks were sedimentary, igneous or metamorphic. They also discussed where the rocks might have originated from, and what minerals they are made of. Afterwards, students played a game to simulate the geological formation of Vancouver Island.; they emulated accreting igneous rocks by clustering together to understand the formation of mountainous terranes of the west coast!



April 28th, 2016

Habitat Exploration

Students walked the Schooner trail to identify and learn about different habitats in the coastal environment. From salmon streams to murrelet nests to bug-filled nurse logs to intertidal rocks, students used their scientific observation skills to seek out unique habitats and discuss the features, benefits, and challenges of each.



May 31 - June 2

Meares Island Campout!

What a camping extravaganza on Meares Island! After spending the school year learning about biodiversity and sustainable land use, students got to deepen their knowledge by learning about local plants and animals during a hike on Lone Cone Mountain and some time in the intertidal zone. Students also put their teamwork skills to good use by building some shelters in the camp.

Ms. McLane's Kindergarten Classes



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Ms. McLane's Kindergarten Classes



May 4th, 2017

Tonquin Beaches and Whales

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June 14th, 2017

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Ms. Michaud's Grade 2/3 Class



November 9th, 2016

Intertidal Observations at Tonquin Beach

Students geared up for their year-round science experiment to investigate changes in the intertidal zones through the seasons. The first step was to get familiar with intertidal zonation and biodiversity, and learn how to use transects and quadrats to measure species abundance. Next up, students will head to the beach with their big buddies for the first round of intertidal data collection!



November 22nd, 2016

Big Buddies Intertidal Observations at Tonquin Beach

Big and little buddies teamed up for the first round of intertidal data collection in order to answer the following scientific question: *Are there significant changes in the intertidal zones over the seasons?* Students laid out quadrats in the low, mid and high intertidal zones and recorded species abundance in each quadrat. Next students will be analyzing their data, learning how to communicate it effectively, and come spring they will replicate their data collection to discover if there are changes in species abundance.



December 6th, 2016

Big Buddies Intertidal Observations at Tonquin Beach 2.0

Big buddies and little buddies headed to Tonquin Beach for another step of the scientific method: data analysis and communicating results! Students brought the data they collected during their previous Field School session to answer their scientific question. With data sheets in hand, students graphed out intertidal species abundance in the sand, and then communicated their results to other students.

Ms. Michaud's Grade 2/3 Class



April 18th, 2017

Scientific Drawing

Students learned how to make scientific drawings, to better inform their intertidal study. Students headed back to the study site at Tonquin Beach to observe intertidal creatures in the new season. Using their field observation skills, students made detailed drawings of sea anemones and mussels while taking notes of their habitat and asking questions about the animals' lifestyle.



May 2, 2017

Scientific Drawing 2.0

Students are part way through the second round of their intertidal zonation project. For this Field School day, students explored Cox Bay to make observations and scientific drawings on species in the lowest part of the intertidal zone. Today's intertidal models were sea stars, gooseneck barnacles and chitons.



May 11, 2017

Intertidal Research Project Wrap-Up

As a wrap up to their intertidal project, students headed to Tonquin Beach once more to investigate the lowest part of the intertidal zone. Some students discovered species they had never seen before! This was the final day to create scientific drawings and make detailed field notes about interactions between organisms in the intertidal zone before creating an installation at the school!

Ms. Morris's Grade 5/6 Outdoor Classroom



September 2016

Wya Point Camp Out

For the last week of September students spent a few days together in yurts at Wya Point campground while practicing their outdoor and leadership skills. Students worked together to build bonfires, do beach clean-ups and build shelters in the woods using only natural materials. What an inspiring first month of school for these students!



November 4th, 2017

Intertidal Survey

Students in Ms. Morris's class set out to Tonquin beach to conduct an Intertidal Survey. They learned how to set up transects and use quadrats to measure species abundance and diversity in the intertidal zone, and gathered tons of biodiversity data. They also made predictions to answer the scientific question: are there significant changes in the intertidal zones over the seasons?



November 22nd & December 6th, 2016

Intertidal Survey with Little Buddies

Big buddies and little buddies headed to Tonquin beach for their first round of intertidal data collection. Students laid out quadrats in the low, mid and high intertidal zones and recorded species abundance in each quadrat. Next students will be analyzing their data, learning how to communicate it effectively, and come spring they will replicate their data collection to discover if there are changes in species abundance.



December 9th, 2016

Shelter Building in the Forest

This rainy day provided students with ideal weather conditions to practice their shelter building skills. After learning the basics of shelter location and overnight survival requirements, students got to decide which shelter would be best suited to the current weather conditions; an A-frame shelter or a wedge shelter.



April 11th, 2017

The Water Cycle

After learning about the importance of water in class, students worked in teams to invent a fun, active and educational game about the water cycle. After some brainstorming and teamwork, students tested out their game while considering its effectiveness and reflecting on any improvements they might need.

Ms. Morris's Grade 5/6 Outdoor Classroom



April 25th, 2017

Watersheds and the role of the Forest

After learning about the importance of water, students went out into the forest to learn about natural water filtration systems and to investigate the most effective way to construct their own water filtration system using natural materials. Snacks over the fire in the rain was an added bonus to this fun, water-filled day!



May 5th, 2017

Riparian Restoration with CWFS

Students have been learning all about the riparian zone in class, and today they got to learn about salmon streams from the restoration experts! Central Westcoast Forest Society's biologists showed students different stages of restored riparian zones, and then students got a sneak peak into smolt trap monitoring. Big thank you to CWFS staff for their time and energy!



May 12th, 2017

Rainforest Restoration

Students have been learning about the structure of the rainforest in class. To compliment the classroom lessons, students headed out to examine different states of rainforest (old growth, 2nd growth, and 2nd growth restored) in Clayoquot Sound. Students also participated in local restoration efforts by planting trees in the riparian zone.



May 26th, 2017

Forest-Ocean connections

After spending the bulk of the school year learning about the rainforest ecosystem, students headed to South Beach to study where the land meets the sea! Students learned about the spruce fringe and kelp forests, while drawing parallels between terrestrial forests and kelp forests.



June 5 - 8th, 2017

Year end Campout!

What an amazing week of camping! Students used their excellent teamwork skills to build their home for the week. After a school year of learning about the coastal temperate rainforest, students further explored the interface between the land and the sea by learning about kelp forest dynamics and the importance of the spruce fringe.

Ms. Seibel's Grade 1 Class



October 5th, 2016

Surfs Up!

Students headed to North Chesterman's for a fun ocean day! The kids had endless energy for catching waves and were smiling all morning. Following their morning surf, everyone warmed up by the fire over lunch and then learned about water movement and gravity while testing out the uses of bull kelp on the beach. Thank you to Pacific Surf School for the amazing lesson once again, and to parents for their fire building and driving help.



December 6th 2016

Frosty Beach Seine

During this field school session, students headed out for a frosty morning beach seine. They learned how to handle animals with care, the importance of eelgrass habitat, and how to use observations to form predictions about species diversity through the year. Students worked together to pull the seine net up on to the beach. We discovered lots of perch, sculpin, crabs and shrimp!



May 1st, 2017

Wind and Directions

After learning about cardinal directions by racing North, South, West and East in the school field, students made predictions about cloud and weather movements for the week. Students all spent time making observations by seeking out unique patterns in the sky to test their predictions!



May 17th, 2017

Echachis with Gisele Martin

Led by cultural educator Gisele Martin, students explored the beaches and forests on Echachis. Gisele spoke about the Nuu-chah-nulth whaling practices, while exploring the expansive whale middens left on the island.



June 16th, 2017

The Samlon Forest with Tsimka Martin

Students spent a beautiful day learning and exploring at Schooner Cove. Along with Tsimka Martin, students learned about the biodiversity of the rainforest and the importance of salmon. At the beach they investigated the intertidal zone and tied it all together with a game of bear, salmon, mosquito!