

Natural Resource Center Updates By Mr. Sixta

Wow, it's been a great and busy first month of school!

This year the 7/8th Grade classes are taking two field trips per month to the Natural Resource Center where they will practice reading, writing, research, and art inspired by their natural surroundings. We have already written several poems and created sketches of the plants and wildlife at the NRC.

The sophomores are investigating Big Butte Creek's watershed. Twice a month we are collecting water, soil, plant, and animal data from Ginger Creek and Big Butte Creek to monitor the watershed health. The sophomores have also been looking at jurisdiction and water rights issues around the creek. Jumping into local hot water politics, the sophomores met with Gary Harrington who has been in litigation for ponds on his property. Over the course of the fall the students will also meet with officials from the water bureaus of Medford and Butte Falls as well as water rights lawyers to become more informed about our local water issues. Government is dynamic and property issues are never static. The goal of this project is to witness local history as it unfolds.

Finally our Government class is in the process of drafting plans for the NRC. Meeting with Dr. Courtney they learned about some of the water use issues along Ginger Creek and the possibilities for our stream. We also experienced some local jurisdiction challenges when our trail to the NRC crossed 5+ property owners/managers and we were stopped by closures on the school's trail due to Fire Season. As we look at the long term plans for our NRC a permanent trail will be important aspect of ensuring access for the community and students. Students are also looking at ways to build infrastructure at the site to accommodate daily and overnight visitors in the future.

Other Happenings

Scholastic Book Fair/Title I Dinner/Reading Night: Wednesday October 29th at 6:00 p.m. at the elementary building gym.

Scholastic Book Fair: October 23rd - October 30th at the elementary library.