OUTDOOR CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER

September 14, 2026

Since the start of school, our Pre-K through 5th grade students have been busy becoming scientists in our outdoor classroom! We began by slowing down and really taking in the space around us. Students practiced observing, noticing, and wondering about everything they could see, hear, touch, and discover in our mini farm. Instead of rushing to change the space, we wanted students to first become curious about what is already there. Their questions and observations are helping guide what we do next and reminding us that some of the best learning begins with simply stopping to wonder.

We have narrowed our focus to something we walk over every day: the ground beneath our feet! Students have dug into questions about soil, plants, insects, and other living things. What does something need in order to live and grow here? Is the soil in our mini farm ready to support those living things? Students are beginning to discover that creating a thriving farm isn't as simple as planting a seed. We have to investigate our soil, consider what plants and animals need, and make plans for how we might improve our space. These conversations look a little different at every grade level, but they are building skills in science, problem-solving, observation, and environmental stewardship.

Want to help our outdoor classroom and mini farm continue to grow? 🌱 We have two easy ways to support our students! Check out our Amazon Wish List to purchase an item we can put to use right away, or visit our DonorsChoose project to make a donation of any amount. Every contribution–big or small–helps us create more opportunities for our students to dig, discover, explore, and learn outdoors. 💚

Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/KF9O6E7F2HOG?ref_=wl_share

Donorschoose: https://www.donorschoose.org/sl/7TZsYVxrTv

We even had a rainy-day investigation that gave us a chance to see our mini farm change right before our eyes! After the rain, students noticed differences in the soil and began thinking about the important role water plays in a healthy growing environment. Each observation is giving us another piece of information that will help us decide what our mini farm needs next. The exciting part is that the students are helping figure it out. Rather than giving them a finished garden, we are building one together–using their questions, discoveries, and ideas along the way. Our mini farm may still look like a work in progress, but that is exactly where so much of the learning is happening!

Warmly,

Lindsay Wilson- Outdoor Classroom Teacher

scientists at work