

EXPLORER DAYS

WITTENBERG-BIRNAMWOOD

OCTOBER EXPLORER DAY

During the month of October, students in K-5th grade spent a day at the WB Nature Center to explore and learn about forest ecosystems.

October Goal: I will explore forest ecosystems to understand their processes and cycles.

Explorer Days include:

- Nature Hike
- Nature Notebooks
- Story Time
- Forest Exploring Stations/Activities
- Free Play in play area.



We used our listening spot along the trail to observe the forest canopy.

NATURE NOTEBOOKS:

This month we took a close look at things that come from trees: leaves, seeds (pinecones), and tree cookies/stumps. We noticed shapes, sizes, patterns, textures and colors. We found similarities and differences. We wondered where it came from, what it will grow into, how old it is. We use these sentence starters when we do our nature journals to build curiosity and science/observational skills.

I notice...

I wonder...

It reminds me of...



Math skills come to life as we practice being foresters this month.

FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

Forests are more than just trees. They consist of many living (biotic) and non-living (abiotic) things that rely on each other for survival. These connections define an ecosystem. As you explore forests, trails and backyards this fall, see if you can observe ecosystems in action. Here are some questions to challenge your students thinking...

- Where do all the leaves that fall from the trees go?
- What are some living and non-living things in this area?
- What would happen if our forests had a drought and they didn't get the normal amount of rain (abiotic factor) for a few years.
- What is a decomposer? What is their role?
- What if we removed a predator (ex: foxes) or prey (ex: rabbits) species from the forest completely?



The largest tree on the school forest property is over 126 inches around.

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

Explorer Days are more comfortable and enjoyable for your child when dressed for the weather. This includes waterproof boots, and/or sneakers, pants, and layers/jackets. A spare set of clothes and warm socks might come in handy. Please don't wear anything too fancy as we are likely to get dirty...sometimes learning and exploring can be a messy job!

Check the LOW temperatures for each day and send hats, mittens and even snow pants (for warmth, even if there isn't snow on the ground yet) so we can explore outdoors as much as possible.

If you have extra, gently used, winter gear (hats, mittens, snow pants, boots) that you would be willing to donate to the school forest's extra supply closet, we would appreciate it.



tree cookies....not edible :(



Paper comes from trees! We made our own paper from recycled materials.



A blue/teal fungi helps decompose a rotting log.



Looking closely at a red pine pinecone



While doing our nature notebooks, some students discovered interesting details using the sunlight coming through the windows!