



WMRSD Leaders and Learners – Your Community Connection White Mountains Regional School District

Issue 29 - May 10, 2023

At Whitefield Elementary School

Our students and teachers will be spending some time at the summit of Mount Washington in the next month. Recently, Brian Fitzgerald, Director of Education for the Mount Washington Observatory (WMOBS) reached out to offer an opportunity to participate in a pilot program designed to create a formal field trip program for schools. Through the award of a Tillotson Grant, MWOBS will be designing field trips aligned to middle school Science standards. A student leadership component would allow a couple of WES students to participate in the planning and goal setting for the trip. They will work collaboratively with the Observatory staff to identify a focus for the trip and activities to support their learning. In June grades six, seven and eight will take part. The days will start with a trip to the summit via the Cog Railway. Once there the group will have an opportunity to tour the Observatory, the museum and learn about the flora and fauna at the summit. After lunch the group will depart the summit via the Cog. Once back at WES the students will work on culminating projects, reflecting what they learned during the trip. These projects will be displayed for school and family and can be supported by funds from the grant.

Whitefield School is very appreciative of being one of three schools in the north country who have been invited to participate in the pilot and is hoping that this will be the first of many partnered experiences with the Mount Washington Observatory.

At White Mountains Regional High School

On April 21st, the Society for Sustainable Spartans at WMRHS celebrated its third annual Earth Day with a range of activities for students to choose from.

One of the activities was a roadside cleanup, where students were able to pick up litter and garbage along the school road teaching students the importance of taking care of the planet. Another activity was repurposed arts, where students were able to get



creative with recycling materials and create beautiful pieces of art from cardboard and old newsprint. Classroom platform building and raised garden bed construction were popular options, where students were able to construct three garden beds for the new pollinator garden. The classroom platform is part of an ongoing project to hold more classes outside in the fresh air. Germinating native pollinator seeds was another activity that will help beautify the school grounds and also provide a habitat for bees and other pollinators, which are essential for the health of our ecosystem. Hiking and a nature scavenger hunt were also popular options allowing students to explore the natural world around them and learn about different plants and animals in their area.

Overall, your school's Earth Day celebration was a great success! It is inspiring to see students and staff come together to promote sustainability and the protection of our planet. It's important to remember that we can all make a difference in our own small way, and that every action counts when it comes to preserving our environment for future generations.