

Ecology lesson comes to life for St. Therese students

Students and staff from the Academy of St. Therese in Cresskill recently gathered on the banks of the Saddle River to release trout that the school has been raising since October.

The school participated in the Trout in the Classroom program, which provided trout eggs and guidance to help the school care for the fish until they were ready to thrive in the wild. This involved not only acquiring the equipment, but learning how to maintain it and how to provide the optimal environment for the fish. Each grade was involved throughout the whole process. From

journaling their observations to art projects about trout, the program was worked seamlessly into the curriculum. This also required extra dedication from the staff, as at least one staff person had to be available to care for the fish on holidays and days off.

The trout were released into the river individually, each being placed in a cup of water for a student to place in the river, allowing the fish to swim into their natural habitat. Some parents and teachers waited downstream to see the fish come by. A few expressed concern that the fish might be shocked by the cold water of the river and might not make it. However,

each one swam away on its own, the school having done an excellent job of raising them.

Anne Marie Ryan, the fifth grade teacher, and Therese Higgins, principal of the school, thought the program was a great fit under the broader STREAM curriculum. STREAM stands for science, technology, religion, arts and math.

The trout program is one of many wildlife conservation initiatives Rosemary Iannone, the

member of the school's STREAM Team, has brought into the school. Every year, she collects caterpillars that transform into butterflies right in the classroom before being released. She constructed a small nature walk pathway beside the school, and many afternoons she can be seen giving out magnifying glasses so the kids can do some exploring on their own. Earlier this month, three baby chicks hatched in an incubator in one of the classrooms.

Members of the Academy of St. Therese STREAM Team will be traveling to the National Catholic Education Association's STREAM 2.0 Symposium in June to report on the implementation of the Trout in the Classroom program and other STREAM initiatives the school has undertaken. After gaining so much knowledge, overcoming the challenges, and proving successful, the school plans to participate in the program again next year.

Letters to the Editor:

FROM PAGE 2

March on Lt. [James] Tracy's complaint. Tracy, who is also a member of our police force, alleged in a legal document made public in late April, that he "was called harassing and improper names on numerous and several occasions based on his sexual orientation by Deputy Chief [Michael] McMorrow." We all know that sexual discrimination cannot be tolerated in the workplace. In Wyckoff, the police chief temporarily stepped down while the attorney general is investigating an ACLU complaint that he condones racial profiling.

So, in addition to a lack of transparency, there is also a double standard. The mayor and

council suspended Cioffi over what proved to be non-existent claims, but no Rice Notice was ever prepared for McMorrow, nor has any action been taken to address Tracy's egregious civil rights allegations against McMorrow. Instead, McMorrow was made acting chief! There is something very wrong with this picture.

I am beginning to see a pattern of backroom maneuvering that may be serving the questionable political objectives of the newly elected mayor and council president, but is not serving the best interests of the Englewood Cliffs community. Residents, it is time to be vigilant!

Carin Geiger
Englewood Cliffs

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