

# From the Director – Dec 2019

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Webmaster

December 1, 2019

This is the third year that Evergreen Audubon has offered the “Explore More! After School Nature Program.” Since we no longer have classroom space of our own, our six-week program has been meeting in a classroom at Wilmot School. We’ve had 8 students this fall, ranging from kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Heather Schwartz, our Environmental Educator, and our dedicated volunteer, Jenna Audlin, now in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, have joined me most weeks to help out.

We spent the first week getting to know each other; learning to use science tools such as rulers, magnifiers, and loupes; and creating individual nature journals before we headed outside to explore the natural areas near the school. Our young explorers took notes or made drawings of the things they found most interesting, and we used these entries to create our list of topics for further study. So far, we have dedicated afternoons to flower anatomy and seed production; things that grow on rocks; worms; the sky; rattlesnakes and venom; and the rainforest. (Editor’s Note: There is no rain forest at Wilmot School but that’s not slowing anyone down!)



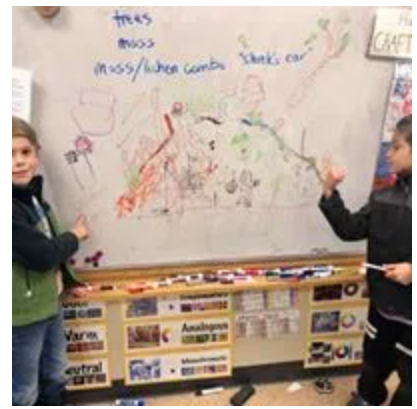
Two children inspecting worms

Some of our most fun activities have been using mini-microscopes to study live worms and conducting water cycle experiments. Our last day together will be focused on snakes, venom and the rainforest. We’ll compare two different species of live snakes, go on a short hike and engage in other rainforest related activities.

Our last session together will be bittersweet as we’ve had so much fun exploring and learning together each week. We look forward to our spring sessions which will start the first week of April 2020 at Wilmot, Marshdale and King Murphy Elementary schools. If you know any budding young scientists who would like to join us, we’d love to have them. Parents may contact me at [ENCDirector@EvergreenAudubon.org](mailto:ENCDirector@EvergreenAudubon.org).



Releasing cattail seeds in the wind



Two children at a whiteboard with a schematic of rocks and lichen.