

Nellie B. Chisholm Middle School

Learning by Doing and Serving the Community

Community Partners

- Montague Department of Public Works
- Greg Johnson, Montague Resident

Removing invasive plants in the community!



Student Learning Process

Students learn about invasive species in sixth grade science class.

They can explain how the species are introduced to the environment and how the species impacts the balance of the ecosystem.

Invasive plant experts, Sarah Pregitzer and Randy Butters, present to students about various types of invasive plants in West Michigan.

Each student selects one invasive plant and researches origin, identification, and impact.

Garlic mustard is identified as an issue in the Montague area. Students set a goal to remove or reduce garlic mustard to restore balance to the ecosystem.

Montague Department of Public Works is contacted prior to the garlic pull to make plans to dis-

pose of the pulled garlic mustard properly.

Community member, Greg Johnson, gives permission for the students to pull on his property near Coon Creek.

Students write an article for the White Lake Beacon to inform the community about the impact of invasive species. Garlic mustard traits are highlighted in the article, and the community is invited to join the students during the garlic mustard pull.

Students travel to Coon Creek and learn the correct way to pull garlic mustard. Before pulling, students discuss possible ways that the garlic mustard was introduced to the area and how it has changed the ecosystem in the area.

Students are motivated to look for invasive plants in their own yards.

Nellie B. Chisholm Middle School
2013-14

School Year Team:

- 60 Students
- 4 Teachers
- 2 Classrooms

“I thought the garlic mustard was going to smell worse. It wasn’t that bad.”

Eli, 6th grade

“I can’t believe that there were so many invasive plants growing at Coon Creek.”

David, 6th grade

“What I like about this project is that we had a part in helping the community.”

Hannah, 6th grade





Students worked together to remove 1, 575 pounds of garlic mustard.

Students filled 39 33-gallon bags and 14 13-gallon bags in 2.5 hours. Data was entered into The Stewardship Network's Garlic Mustard Challenge 2014.



Pulling invasive plants at Coon Creek preserve.

Learning Objectives: Students will....

- learn to identify invasive plant species;
- be able to explain how invasive plants may be introduced to an area;
- describe the environmental consequences of garlic mustard in an ecosystem;
- describe how human activity can purposefully or accidentally alter the balance in ecosystems;
- inform the community about the importance of removing invasive plants.

2013-2014 School Year Project Timeline

