

Maintaining and Sustaining

Reeths-Puffer Elementary

Community Partners:

- Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative
- The Market Place
- Joel Darling
- Carol LaPres
- Neighbor Judy
- Julie Batty
- Twin Lake Greenhouse
- Reeths-Puffer Children's Theatre



Student Learning Outcomes

Students learn where their food comes from and follow the plant life cycle from seed to harvest in the community garden on our elementary campus. Students also learn what plants need to grow: water, sun, air, and soil. Fourth grade students have been a part of this garden since they were kindergartners and continue to care for their garden. New this year to our learning was the installation of a hoop house to lengthen the growing season. Students (and staff) problem-solved how to provide water to plants.

Students planted nine fruit trees based on a needs assessment in 2014. John Mura taught students how to plant and care for the trees. The following year, students wanted to add to their orchard and planted an additional 20 trees. Current first graders maintain these trees each year. The orchard is a favorite

place to write!

Six bluebird nesting boxes were built and installed by first graders in 2013. Students were able to listen to Carol LaPres, a bluebird expert, and learn about their life cycle, predators, and invasive species. Each year's first graders make sure the nesting boxes are clean and ready for the next bluebird families.

Second graders have planted a butterfly garden and help build a garden shed with a living green roof! They continue to teach others about the many benefits of the green roof.

2015's first graders were fascinated with what they learned from Julie Batty about storm water runoff. They learned where water goes after it disappears down a drain and taught new first graders. Students labeled storm drains and installed a filter to prevent pollutants from entering our waters.



Each year, a new class. Each year, learning is carried on to a new group by prior students.

"It's a good thing we are learning how to care for our Earth."

Avalynn, 1st grade



"It's cool I helped the first graders learn about bluebirds and they taught me about storm drains."

Kyler, 4th grade





Learning **O**bjectives: Students will....

- learn the difference between natives and invasive species
- teach others the life cycle of blue birds
- inform others about storm water runoff
- learn the life cycle of fruit trees and what trees need
- be able to problem solve
- practice being less-wasteful
- eat healthy foods and knowing where food comes from

2015-2016 School Year Project Timeline

