

# Eagle School Intermediate



## 5<sup>th</sup> Graders Collect, Plant, and Grow Native Oak Trees at School

The two-hundred-eighty 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Eagle School Intermediate, Martinsburg, WV, continued the PHLOW Growing Native program into this fall. The students started the program in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. The education focused on their local watershed, pollution,



stormwater runoff and erosion. Students planted trees around the school grounds to reduce their impact on Opequon Creek—the local stream that drains into the Potomac River.

The now 5<sup>th</sup> graders, reviewed watersheds and pollution in class then the education shifted to focus on the parts of a tree, both internal and external, identifying trees, and

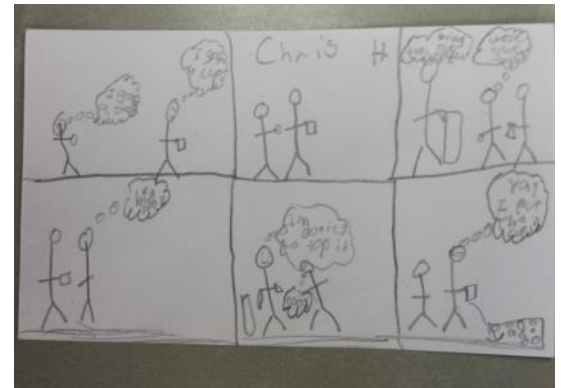
the role riparian forest buffers play in keeping our stream systems clean.

Students collected acorns outside of class and brought them to school for planting. Students made observations and compared how a

collection of acorn were alike and different. Student performed a float test on the collected seeds to test for viability. Floaters were discarded and the sinkers were planted in the schools fenced grow-out station.

Planting materials included a plastic cup with a hole pre-drilled in the bottom, a seed, and soil. Outdoors, next to the fenced grow-out station, the students worked in pairs to fill the cup with soil, plant their seed, and place it inside of the grow-out station.

Students compared trees that were already growing in the station from other projects in the county. Students were able to see trees ranging in age from one-



year old to approximately eight-years old. After the planting, students drew cartoons about the process of planting their seed.

The grow-out station as been established at the school for one-year and serves as a county-wide tree growing facility.

