

Fountain Primary School



Students K-4th Dirty Hands for Cleaner Streams

Elk Garden Primary School, Keyser, WV, participated in Cacapon Institute's Potomac Headwaters Leaders of Watersheds Grow-a-Garden project. Under the leadership of Principal Roberta Unger, the entire school participated in four education



sessions and got their hands dirty for a cleaner Potomac River.

The five classes at Fountain Primary took part in four educational classes leading up to the installation of a rain garden on their school campus. The classes included students from Kindergarten to 4th grade. The educational programs included themes of defining watersheds,

discovering how water travels, pollution issues and solutions, discovered stream creatures, explored the water cycle, researching patterns in nature, and defining native plants. 3rd and 4th grade students assisted in a designing a scale drawing of the rain garden by arranging plants in accordance with the quantity of plants and the height differences between species.

May 5th was planting day for the rain garden. Although the weather was not ideal, there was a break in the rain and the students were able to successfully plant the rain garden. All of the students worked in groups to install one or two plants and mulch around their plant. Students were excited to get their hands dirty and play a role in reducing stormwater runoff at their school. Not only does the rain garden reduce the runoff, it beautifies the playground area for all to enjoy. The rainy weather allowed students to see all of the topics they had been discussing throughout the program in action. They also saw how water from the gutter was entering the rain garden allowing the



plants useful water for growth and also stopping it from traveling further over the playground.

Into the future, the rain garden will not only provide an ecological benefit, but it will be an educational resource for the staff and students.

