



# EARTH WORMS

## NATURE school

October 2019

www.palouseroots.com

### A Song about Inclusion

I'm a lot like you,  
And I have feelings too,  
When they get hurt  
I feel so blue,  
I'm a lot like you.  
No matter who you are  
I think you're a star  
Welcome to our space  
Where everyone has a place,  
I'm a lot like you.

### EMERGENT CURRICULUM

#### Nature Knowledge

In the winter animals die, migrate, and hibernate. Migration is when they go south where it is warmer and hibernation is when they sleep during the winter.

#### Peer Interaction

My friends and teachers have feelings just like I do and I can tell them my feelings.

#### Body Awareness

I only climb what feels safe. If I don't feel safe or if I need help then I'm not ready to climb that.

#### Kindness

Everyone at school is welcome and we want to make everyone feel included.

#### Motor Skills

Carrying water buckets up the hill, using a hand drill and chisels, building and playing on a seesaw.

#### Pre Literacy

Painting and writing notes. And reading our job board and morning message.



### NATURE NEWS :

The water boatman don't mind when the pond freezes.

Aspen trees are harder to climb than pine trees.

Orb snails and pond snails look different.  
After fruit freezes it is soft and not as tasty.

Geese migrate but honey bees hibernate.

Animals that want to be left alone move away from us.

Predators that want to eat our chicks are just trying to get their food.

Frost is different than snow.



DON'T FORGET!

NO SCHOOL NOVEMBER 25-29  
AND DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 3

### Kindness Check!

One of our main goals at school is to create a space where everyone feels seen, valued, and loved. We do not tolerate unkind words or actions and work with each child to understand how they can express their needs and wants in a way that cares for the others.

We use the phrase "Kindness Check!" to make it clear and simple. The kids know what is expected of them and often just need a simple reminder.

Whenever we notice kindness we point it out and voice our appreciation.

Difficulty with kindness often arises during a turn-taking activity. As teachers we believe that each child and situation is unique and that "it's not about fairness, it's about kindness." We use these turn-taking activities to teach conversation skills and empathy.



"Get some salamander soup!" -CL

"We're not going to eat them, they are alive." -CF

"They are really nice" -EB

"Ya, they don't do stuff to kill you" -CF

"They don't even pull your hair! They don't even have hands to pull your hair." -EB

"Well, they do have hands, they're just tiny" -CF

"They can't even reach to our heads to pull it" -EB

"Guys, how about we catch a salamander fish?" -CL

# CHICKENS!

and the many things we are learning from having our own.

The chickens started out as eggs from a local farm, the farmer assuring us that the rooster had fertilized these particular eggs. We placed them in the incubator, set the temperature and humidity to mimic a mamma hen and waited. About 5 days in we placed one of the eggs on top of a light and looked closely. We could see through the shell and into the yolk, the beginning formation of a chick. First to show up were the blood vessels, then we noticed a little black dot, pretty soon it started to look like a body. At day 20 the first chick started the difficult task of breaking their own egg shell and pushing their way out into the world. Soon others joined her and we had 9 fuzzy chicks. As they came out of their shells the chicks were wet and tired. We let them rest and began to imagine how lovely it would be to hold one. When they were dry and strong we took great care in holding them and watching them take in the world around. We held them so that they would not fall and so they would not be scared. We talked about how we wanted these chicks to like us and not be afraid. Everyday we watch them grow. We notice how they try to eat things that are not food but they are learning. We notice that they like to be together. And we notice that they are getting their wing feathers. When they are six weeks old they will have all their feathers and they will be able to keep themselves warm. We will take them out to the shelter we have built. We made them a yard to play and to look for bugs, and to keep them safe from predators. There are many predators at the Nature Center. We will protect our chickens from the Red Tail Hawks and from the Raccoons. And we will make sure they have food and water everyday. We will wait for them to grow big and strong and then we will wait for them to begin to lay eggs. We will make sure they have lovely little nests to lay their eggs and then we will gently collect them. We will give our eggs to our families and we will cook with them at school.

We have learned the hard things too. We watched as one chick got sick and then died. We talked about how that happens sometimes and we do the best that we can to care for them. We learned that our dear neighbor cat would like to eat our chicks and that we still love the cat. And we learned that chickens poop just like we do!

The chickens have brought a lot of joy and learning to our school and we look forward to continuing the adventure!

