



## WINTER NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

### 20 YEARS OF NATURE VISION

“Thirty-two giggly, wiggly 4th graders were strewn out along the edge of the meadow. It was a partly cloudy May day at the local park...This month’s science lesson was on ecosystems...The teacher had asked me to try and focus specifically on predator-prey relationships during our time at the meadow...I had just directed the class’s attention toward [a] flock of robins when (as if on cue) a Cooper’s hawk glided silently over our heads into the meadow. With lightning speed, it struck a robin, killing it instantly and then proceeded to take it up to a nearby branch, where it began to eat.

The class was silent. (Do you know what it takes to silence a class of 4th graders on a field trip?!) The teacher turned to me and exclaimed ‘You planned that!’ Of course, I hadn’t. It was just nature doing what nature does in the meadow ecosystem. Once I had convinced her of my non-culpability, she said ‘Now that is what I call real-world learning.’

Instantly, the learning opportunity provided by the hawk and robin was afoot! Questions started popping out of the kids like popcorn. Everyone was fully engaged for the rest of the field trip.

In a later phone conversation with her, the teacher used the word ‘priceless’ to describe the learning outcomes that the kids had from the experience that day.



‘Priceless’ learning experiences happen daily in Nature Vision programs. We are now 20 years old and have reached one million (Yes! A million!) students over the years. However, those priceless experiences don’t happen for free. Nature Vision has all the myriad of expenses that any healthy functioning non-profit does...All of this supports each one of those priceless learning experiences, and we couldn’t do it without the help of many.

That’s why I’d like to invite you to join me...by donating what you can to Nature Vision and ensuring that kids continue to have priceless learning outcomes for a long time to come. Thank you!”

– Clay Heilman (Board Member)

Support Nature Vision by donating for our 20th anniversary: <https://naturevision.org/donate>

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### SPRING BREAK CAMP REGISTRATION

Nature Vision’s Spring Break Camp is now open for registration! Join our Forest Explorers program for a week of science and art activities in nature. With our professional educators, campers will explore the forest, interact with nature in new ways, and learn how our environment changes in the spring. Camp runs April 8th to 12th from 9:00am – 4:00pm at Farrel-McWhirter Park. Available for ages 6-11 at a rate of \$490 for Redmond residents and \$588 for non-residents.

Register to secure 1 of our 30 spots at [bit.ly/springbreakcamp-2024](https://bit.ly/springbreakcamp-2024)



Above: Campers and NV Educator.  
Far Left: Students exploring a decaying log.  
Center: Students testing water quality.



## PRESCHOOL SPOTLIGHT



The Nature Vision Preschool is now enrolling new families for the 2024-25 school year! Choose from three programs based on your preschooler's age and interests: Preschool Explorers (waitlist only), Creative Play, and Pre-K Discoveries. Want to enroll for the current school year? We have one open spot in Creative Play right now!

With curriculum focused on holistic learning and nature connections, these outdoor programs offer hands-on environmental exploration, play-based learning, and meaningful experiences at Farrel-McWhirter Park in Redmond.

Sign your preschooler up now at <https://naturevision.org/preschool>



## TEACHER QUOTE

**"Being outside is in itself a wonderful experience for young people. With a teacher helping students focus on making observations in nature, it only heightens the wonder! Sara brought my students outside to play a watershed game. They learned about water travelling through the watershed in a wholly tactile way. Bonus, while they were outside, they noticed a dense fir cone on the ground and wanted to learn more about it. We now have this cone in our classroom and are watching it "bloom" open daily. This is what is so special about nature vision - it opens up new worlds! The interest they have in this cone will connect them more deeply to the idea of stewarding our watershed. Win win!"**

**- Bellevue 5th grade teacher**

**PROGRAM  
REGISTRATION IS  
OPEN FOR WINTER  
AND SPRING 2024!**

Register your K-12 class now for our free science programs (or pass the word on to any teachers you know) by visiting [naturevision.org/free-programs-for-schools](https://naturevision.org/free-programs-for-schools)



Above: Students exploring a tree. Top Right: An Educator and students investigating aquatic insects. Left: Preschoolers planting shrubs.

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