

Friends of the Van Duzen Proposal for Environmental Education at Loleta Elementary in grades preK-8th

Nurturing Nature : Overview

For the past 15 years, FOVDR has been monitoring the Van Duzen Watershed for water quality and salmon. Working with other fellow scientists, FOVDR has taught extensively in elementary schools in the Eel River Valley and at Fortuna Union High School. The two goals of the FOVDR are to train the next generation of young scientists and to preserve the salmon run. We are actively involved in both missions.

As the director of FOVDR and as a teacher, administrator, and environmentalist in Humboldt County for the past 42 years, I have developed extensive curriculum for the classroom and for working in the field. We have been active in field trips to the Sequoia Zoo, the Scotia Aquarium, Grizzly Creek Redwoods Park, Pamplin Grove, the Van Duzen Watershed Protection Zone, the Eel River from Fortuna to Ferndale, the Wildlife Sanctuary in Loleta, and exploring the incredible beauty of our local community.

Our goal in the Nurturing Nature Loleta is to share this extensive curriculum with students in grades preK-8. An important component to learning is to incorporate art, poetry, and writing to gain a better understanding of our environment. FOVDR, along with California Poet in the Schools Dan Levinson have produced two books of poetry/prose entitled the Van Duzen Voice in 2014 and Eel River Expressions in 2019. One of our FOVDR members, Barbara Domanchuk, is very active in the environmental community and is a proponent of combining art and nature. She has coined the term Ecology and the Arts and it is an important element for Nurturing Nature.



Recent studies of children going out in Nature show evidence that engaging in outdoor activities as a youth is an important component to achieving happiness as an adult!!!

Our major points of emphasis will be the following:

December : Planning and giving intro lessons preK-6th

January : Water, Salmon, protecting Planet Earth

February : Habitat, Watersheds, Biology and Botany

March : Birds and Plants and Trees

April : Trillium, Bird Drawings (Possible workshop by Gus Clarke, phenomenal local artist)

May : Water Monitoring Grades 5th-8th, Salmon Release 3rd-4th, Creek Days at CR

June : Final Wrap Up

IMPLEMENTATION:

Classes and field trips will be conducted on **designated alternative** Mondays and Fridays with 2-3 classes for each day beginning with Grades preK-4 starting on Monday Jan. 9th and grades 5-8 starting on January 13th.

Classes will consist of Environmental lessons adding art, poetry, and videos about Nature. There will also be guest lecturers and artists.

Field trips will be mostly on Fridays except for the Birds at the Wildlife Sanctuary in March and the Trillium season in early April where field trips may be on both days to get all classes to the Van Duzen River leaving from my home in Carlotta.

For the upper grades we will investigate the annual Creek Days Events at College of the Redwoods in May.

Loleta Elementary School 2023 Field Trip Possibilities

Note: The area surrounding Loleta Elementary School can be used for a very good art/nature study during the school year. Using sketch books or note pads, students can observe, record, and draw data especially the beautiful flowers on campus.

PreK-K and 1-2

Sequoia Park Zoo

Scotia Aquarium

Humboldt Bay Wildlife Sanctuary : Birds

Trillium Watch on the Van Duzen River

Grades 3-4

Scotia Aquarium

Mad River Hatchery

Crab Park

Humboldt Bay Wildlife Sanctuary : Birds

Trillium Watch on the Van Duzen River

Grades 5-6

Crab Park

Humboldt Wildlife Sanctuary : Birds

Eel River Monitoring Worswick

Trillium Watch on the Van Duzen River

Grade 7-8

Crab Park

Humboldt Wildlife Sanctuary: Birds

Eel River Monitoring

Trillium Watch on the Van Duzen River

VIDEO RESOURCES

Friends of the Van Duzen River has accumulated a vast network of video disks to share with teachers at Loleta Elementary School and with the Humboldt County Office of Education Library.

Some of these will be shown during my lessons and all are available for loan for your use in the classroom. There will be a check out procedure.

Additionally there are several very good water videos from the California Department of Water Education which are on my Web site www.fovd.org

Recently I found some excellent You Tube videos.

ON LINE VIDEO RESOURCES FOR KIDS ESPECIALLY YOUNG KIDS

National Geographic Kids You Tube Grade KK-3

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXVCgDuD_QCkI7gTKU7-tpg

Quick 1-2 minute animal videos and some 30 minute nature videos

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/videos>

More videos

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals>

Categories and animal facts

***** For all grades and all students *****

Scenic Scenes You Tube Videos Grades KK-8 (these are beautiful videos with animals, music, and no words for 30 minutes. Can be shown for lessons, quiet time, meditations on nature.

https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&tbm=vid&sxsrf=ALiCzsY-Ptzny_cUrBzM6kM8B_l-

[Mo2mVQ:1672423554014&q=scenic+scenes&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiLkOee96H8AhXhMEQIHYhvAlcQ8ccDegQIOBAH&biw=1200&bih=554&dpr=1.33](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&tbm=vid&sxsrf=ALiCzsY-Ptzny_cUrBzM6kM8B_l-Mo2mVQ:1672423554014&q=scenic+scenes&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiLkOee96H8AhXhMEQIHYhvAlcQ8ccDegQIOBAH&biw=1200&bih=554&dpr=1.33)

Friends of the Van Duzen Video Inventory

Water Videos

Grades 3-4

Avatar Book 1 Water Volumes 1-3 12 Chapters

Grades 5-6

Oceans Alive : 5 CD Set (10 hours total)

Grades 7-8

The Blue Planet 4 CD Set (98 minutes each)

Grades 3rd – 8th

Whale Rider Movie (101 minutes)

The Big Blue Movie (102 minutes)

EARTH VIDEOS

Grades 3-6

Sacred Planet by Walt Disney 47 Minutes

Curiosity Quest – Recycling

Mountains in the Mist : Discovering Cloud Forests 40 minutes

Grades 7-High School

Journey of the Universe Epic Story of Cosmic, Earth, and Human Transformation – 56 Minutes

The Elegant Universe by Nova 2 Disc Set – 180 minutes

Life Beyond Earth PBS – 120 minutes

Planet Earth BBC – 5 Disc Set

Evolution – PBS Special 480 minutes 4 Discs 7 Part Serie High School Appropriate

ENVIRONMENTAL

Grades 5 – High School

Harmony in the Eel River Basin – KEET – Eel River Recovery – 60 minutes

Becoming California : Environmental Change on America’s Western Edge – 112 minutes

An Inconvenient Truth: A Global Warning – 96 minutes

The Big Trees : A movie starring Kirk Douglas 89 minutes

BIRDS

Grades 5-High School

Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill – 83 minutes

March of the Penguins – 80 minutes

The Life of Birds hosted by David Attenborough – 3 Disc Set – 180 minutes each disk

FISH

Grades 3-8th

California’s Central Valley Chinook Salmon : 25 minutes

MISCELLANEOUS

Symbiosis : Piano and Rain Forest Costa Rica

Van Duzen Watershed Project : Toward a Working TMDL: Watershed Plan for Van Duzen River
2010 35 minutes

Kids in the Woods Young Scientists : The Next Generation by Barbara Domanchuk

Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve Costa Rica



Scotia Aquarium : BE the FISH