

Environmentally Kids Newsletter

The Newsletter About Kids Saving Nature Year 1, Issue 2, June 3rd, 2021



Picture from Botanical Beach, B.C.

Hi there, Nature Lovers! We're so glad to see you again.

About the Newsletter (and club)

This newsletter is for people (especially kids) who want to save Nature. We hope it gives you the information and ideas to start doing just that.

Scotch Broom Season Update

Scotch Broom takes over so Native Plants can't grow. It's toxic to grazing animals and is a fire hazard. This is why we cut it. Cutting it in bloom stops it from coming back because when broom flowers, all the energy goes up into the flowers instead of down into the roots. Therefore, if we cut it close to the ground, we are removing the part where the energy is.

As we near the end of Scotch Broom cutting/flowering season, we can report that we have cleared approximately 2 truck loads of broom and hope to do another. The area we cleared last year... only a few broom plants showed up!

Keep on cutting until the seed pods mature! Then stop or you'll spread the seeds.

Oh, and just a warning, don't drop clippers on your leg. We learned that the hard way. Long story Also, remember to bring water to drink. You don't want to have to stop or get dehydrated.



We cut a big pile of broom, and look what we discovered! A big Douglas Fir and a beautiful Dogwood.

Garbage Walk Week! (June 7-13th) and... Badges!

Announcement for, drum roll please... Garbage Walk Week!!!

Okay, we know it sounds boring and gross, but really, it's lots of fun. Plus an awesome way to clean up Nature.

It's the second week of June, the 7-13th, so hope you're ready!

We will send badges to 5 people who send us pictures of your garbage walk. Please include a mailing address and let us know what type you would like. The badge types available are: with a pin, sew-on badge, or sticker badge.

How? Really, it's quite simple. Just get:

- a couple bags or buckets (for recyclables and trash. No need to pick up compostables),
- garbage picker-upper/tongs are helpful for the extra yucky bits or
- gloves if you don't have a garbage picker-upper or tongs (preferably reusable—no waste).

As for where? Anywhere there's garbage. Just keep these important safety tips in mind:

- Safety first!
- Only pick up hazardous materials with garbage picker-uppers/tongs or don't pick them up at all. These include masks, lighters, broken glass, needles, and other sharp, flammable or germy things.
- Put sharp/pointy things into a bucket so you won't accidentally poke yourself with them.
- Always bring an adult.
- Be careful of cars and avoid highways and busy roads.

- Dispose of trash properly and right away. This means putting recyclables in the recycling bin when you can, garbage in the garbage can. Be careful not to poke or cut yourself when you are handling the garbage.
- Always wash your hands when you're done, regardless of whether you're going to play a game, knit or eat.

News from Members And Pet Pics

Here's a picture (or drawing) of a forest!



Picture & text by Ella Behbahani

Text reads: "Here's a picture (or drawing) of a forest!"

P.S. This is how my backyard looks like!"

P.S. This is how my backyard looks like!

Pacific DOGWOOD

CORNUS NUTTALLII



Parallel Veins
in leaves

Flowers in Spring

Cornus nuttallii
Floral emblem of B.C.
Berries are bright red

Pacific Dogwood &
Bigleaf Maple
Haikus &
Drawings by
Amelie Nakatsuka

BIGLEAF MAPLE

ACER MACROPHYLLUM



opposite

5-lobed leaves

Flowers yummy in
fritters and pancakes

Your wood makes paddles

Winged seeds are called "samaras"

Flowers for fritters



We thought it would be fun to add pet pics. Here's one of our kitten, Cindy Lou Who Milligan, yawning after a nap. Isn't she adorable?!
Photo by Alya Milligan

Old Growth in Danger

Old Growth Forests are Ancient Ecosystems. They are important for the Environment because their beautiful Trees sequester carbon (which isn't bad in small portions but we have too much of it in the atmosphere, contributing to global heating). They are a Habitat to so many Endangered Species: the Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet, just to name a few.

Even though there is only 1% of it left in the province, they are still logging it! We need wood, but there are so many other places to get wood besides the 1% of this beautifully Ancient Ecosystem which supports so many of us. Logging second or third growth is so much more sustainable; it's not rare. Even when we log it, though, clearcutting is quite disruptive and leads to Soil loss and Water degradation.

Let's protect the Old Growth and find sustainable logging practices which support our economy as well as Old Growth!

Stay tuned for our next issue to learn about the links between Indigenous Peoples and Old Growth Forests.



Photo: Families for Forests gathering in Lake Cowichan on Sunday, May 30th.

Important Upcoming Days/Dates and Ways to Celebrate

Come up with your own, too, and let us know what they are!

June 5th is World Environment Day!

- Think about what you love about the Environment
- Limit how much electricity you use for the day
- Talk to someone about what makes the Environment special

June 8th is World Oceans Day! (UN)

- If you live near the Ocean, go for a garbage walk here. Just be careful of big or rogue waves.
- Learn about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Please note that there are a few "poor animal" pictures.
- Read a book about sea creatures &/or rogue waves.

June 10th is an Annular Solar Eclipse!

Check to see if you can spot this eclipse in your location.

Important safety note: Never look directly at an eclipse

June 21st is the Summer Solstice, National Indigenous Peoples Day (Canada) And World Giraffe Day!!!

- Solstice: Make Suns & Stars (for example, out of yarn, cardboard, fabric, etc.) and hang them Outdoors.
- Indigenous Peoples Day: Learn about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Check out their educational resources. Ask your parents to get a book (from a bookstore or library) to learn more.
- Giraffe Day: Learn about World Giraffe Day

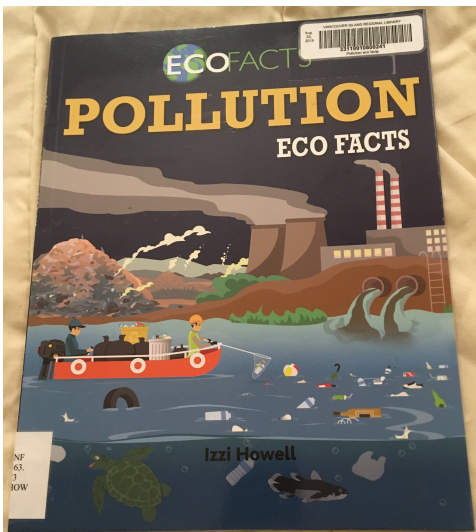
Sharing

We would love to hear from you all if you would like to share. Please feel free to submit things for the newsletter (e.g. pictures, poems, stories, etc.) to: kamillab@gmail.com

We would love to get your feedback about the newsletter too.

Please submit ideas for future crossword puzzles. The answers for the Botanical Beach Crossword Puzzle will be in the next issue.

One Good Book



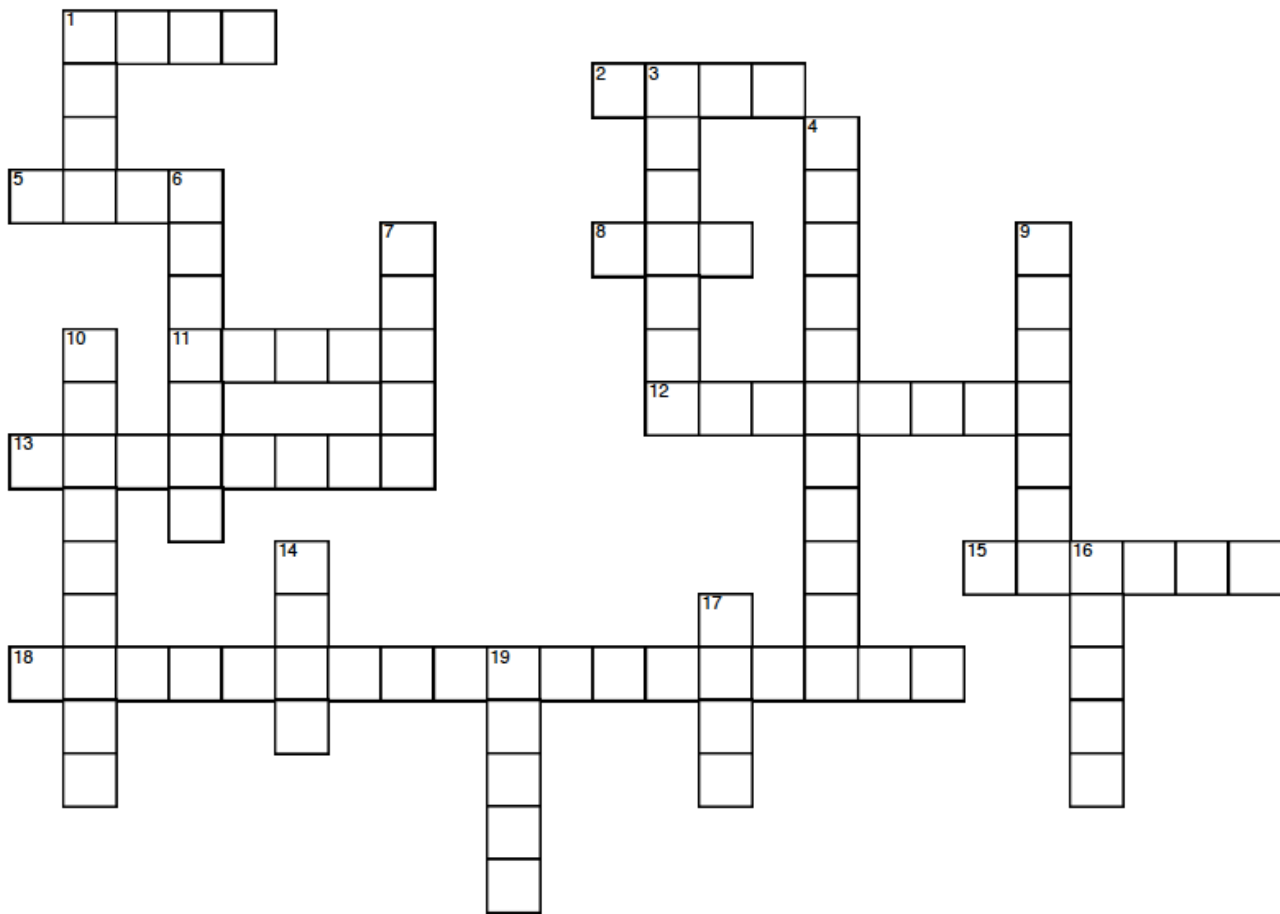
Pollution Eco Facts by Izzi Howell (2019) by Crabtree Publishing Company.

The reason we chose this book for the “One Good Book” section is because our Earth is suffering terribly from pollution right now. It’s also a fairly newly published book so it is up to date. In particular, we learned about light and sound pollution. The “Focus on” sections are fun, especially because you get to learn from examples.

At the back, there is a whole spread on what we can do to help stop pollution. This book is highly recommended, as well as the others from this series which we, unfortunately, haven’t had time to read yet :).

Keep at it! Remember, together we can make the difference!

Botanical Beach Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 Moving air
- 2 As well as the sun, this controls the tides
- 14 Ground-up rock & shell + other things
- 16 A vertical rock face
- 17 A hole in something that bears often hibernate in
- 19 Where lots of these things are found
- 5 Another word for seaweed
- 8 Thick mist
- 11 Another name for salty water
- 12 Another name for beach glass
- 13 A hole in the rocks filled with water, often with anemones in it
- 15 A small ball of spikes, often found in tide pools
- 18 A type of barnacle named after a bird

DOWN

- 1 A less dramatic tsunami
- 3 A sea creature that has 8 tentacles and shoots ink to hide from predators
- 4 A trail that you walk on
- 6 Small rocks
- 7 A seal has to break one of these open to eat a clam
- 9 A sea creature shaped like what make up constellations in the night sky
- 14 Ground-up rock & shell + other things
- 16 A vertical rock face
- 17 A hole in something that bears often hibernate in
- 19 Where lots of these things are found

By Katia Roman and Alya Milligan

Glossary

These are our definitions based on our understandings of the words.

Environment: The complex intertwining Plant and Animal life, as well as the surrounding Geological Formations.

Annular Solar Eclipse: An Annular Solar Eclipse occurs when the moon is too far away from the Earth to completely cover the sun. You can see it in Russia, the Arctic Ocean, Greenland and Canada.

adapted from the 2021 Multifaith Calendar; Living Legacies by the Multifaith Action Society

Summer Solstice: The longest day of the year (in terms of light).

Rogue waves: A big and unexpected Wave.

Sea creature: An Animal that lives in the Sea (e.g. Octopus, Shrimp, Blue Whale, etc.).

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