

Getting Dirty Learning About Biology



Science Lead Teacher Anne Sywilok (the “Queen of Science”) and her students have been busy readying the vegetable and flower beds for spring. Each grade level has a raised bed with a unique theme. Kindergarteners work on their strawberry bed, first graders on their Peter Rabbit garden, second graders tend a Native American bed, third graders cultivate native Virginia plants, fourth graders have a herb garden, and fifth graders care for a red and white school colors garden.

Learning about nature through real-world activities like gardening is an integral part of Abingdon’s special Science Lab class. Students in kin-

dergarten through fifth grade engage in hands-on scientific investigations. One of three extra courses offered at Abingdon,

Science Lab is part of the school’s Gaining Instruction, Fostering Talents (Project G.I.F.T.) school focus, which is about offering authentic contexts for exploring academic concepts.

Daisies and Brownies to Plant Flowers for Abingdon

Abingdon’s Daisy and Brownie Scout troops will be planting flowers this month in the school’s front planters to earn their rose-colored petal, which stands for “Make the World a Better Place.” Led by Abingdon parents Dana Andy, Kate Maxwell and Cheryl Goodman, the troops meet two evenings a month to share character-building activities together. Throughout the year, the Daisies’ little blue tunics gradually fill up with multi-col-

ored petals that stand for the values they have learned.

Parents interested in having their daughter join one of the Abingdon troops should contact Susan Weaver at Susan.Weaver@juno.com or (703) 671-4280. (Daisy Girl Scouts are for kindergarten girls, Brownie Girl Scouts are girls in grades 1-3, and Junior Girl Scouts are for grades 4-5.)

Caterpillars and Bubbles at the “Last Sundays” Playdate

The big hit on the Abingdon playground at the FANS (Friends of Abingdon Neighborhood School) playdate on April 29 were the fuzzy caterpillars that seemed to be falling like pollen from the trees. Parents of an Abingdon pre-schooler brought a bubble machine that added to the magic of the bright afternoon. Families and kids turned out in numbers to wind down the weekend together.

Every last Sunday of spring and summer months, from 3 to 5 PM, future and current Abingdon families meet at the playground for chatting, snacking, and playing. The next playdate is scheduled for Sunday, June 24. Families are encouraged to come out and play, even if their children are far from kindergarten age.

To find out more about FANS, visit www.friendsofabingdon.org.



Examining caterpillars at Abingdon’s ‘Last Sunday’ Playdate in April. Photograph courtesy of Amy Suardi.

