

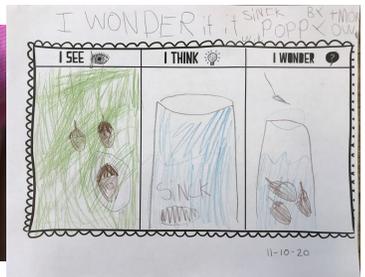
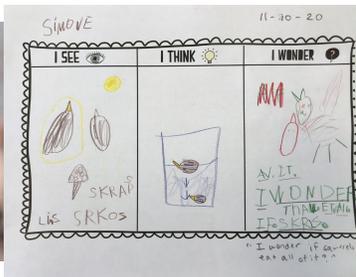
Service Learning in Kindergarten: Oak Tree Planting Project

Jeanine Harmon • Friday, Nov 13 at 1:39 PM • Kindergarten

Hello Kindergarten Families,

Have you noticed anyone in your house talking about acorns this week? Acorns are literally at the heart of our serving learning work in Kindergarten. PDS Kindergarten students have been learning about acorns, oak woodland habitats and watersheds for over ten years. Every fall, we take the students to Valle Vista Staging Area, an EBMUD watershed hiking area, to learn about oak trees and their role in a watershed. During our visit, we collect acorns and bring them back to the classroom to examine.

This year, we collected acorns ahead of time to share with the students. We used the sink/float method to determine which ones were viable for planting. Each student will have the opportunity to plant some of these acorns to care for over the course of the school year. Just like in nature, some will grow and others will not.



Since we can't visit Valle Vista together as a class right now, I created the **Valle Vista Staging Area: Self-Guided Tour** so you can visit the site with your family on your own. Like all EBMUD hiking areas, you will need to

purchase a day permit (\$3.00) online before you visit. If you can't make it to the site, you can still enjoy looking at the slide deck with your child.

Over the years, PDS Kindergarteners have planted over 100 trees in two different EBMUD watershed areas! This service learning project connects directly with our classroom curriculum, specifically in science, math and social justice. The act of growing and planting a tree is an act of hope. At Park Day School, we strive to create projects and experiences that connect our students in meaningful ways with the wider community. Even during the pandemic, we can (and will) pivot as needed and stay the course!

In community,

Jeanine Harmon

Director of Community Outreach and Service Learning