

## Williams-Cone School

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November 13, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support Sarah Rodgers and the wonderful teaching that CREA has provided the second grade students at Williams-Cone School.

Last spring I was invited to attend a training to educate me about the Cathance River Education Alliance. What I learned is that we have a science resource right in our backyard. CREA is about 3 miles away from our school. I spent the day walking some of the trails and exploring the river to see what creatures might live there. There were so many connections that I could take back to the classroom to support our insect unit.

At the end of the summer Sarah and I met and made plans for all of our second graders at Williams-Cone School to experience CREA. First we were to have Sarah come to our classroom bringing pond water and then we were to visit CREA and apply student knowledge.

Last month we had our visit to CREA. The three classes at Williams-Cone went separately for hour and a half visits. The kids were split into groups of 7. They spent ½ an hour either walking through the woods learning about how insects winter on leaves and the power of decomposing trees or at the vernal pool on the dock. There they used nets to explore what was living in the water. They used resource sheets to look up the names of the creatures they found. They also used the knowledge they had from the classroom experience.

This reinforced to me the power of hands-on learning. With all that we are committed to teach in a school day science has been modified. In one day the students learned more than I could have taught them in two weeks. Plus the excitement of their learning has reminded me why I love to teach science.

Please support this organization. All students should be able to have the experiences they provide.

Sincerely,  
  
Dawn San Pedro

A nurturing learning community, where the connections between teacher and student are centered in each child's learning.