



42 BARROWS DRIVE • TOPSHAM • MAINE • 04086-1326 • (207) 725-1243

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my and my class' appreciation and applause for the wonderful educators and programs provided by the Cathance River Education Alliance. For two years now, my fourth grade classes along with the two other fourth grade classrooms at Woodside Elementary School have greatly benefited from the outreach that C.R.E.A. has offered. We currently have 67 fourth grade students who have been involved this year.

Our fourth grade science curriculum centers around ecology and our social studies curriculum centers around Maine history of the past and present. It is key that we as teachers expose our students to as many hands on, real life experiences around these key instructional areas as possible. C.R.E.A. and it's educators have provided our students with exactly the kind of community based curriculum support that they need to cement their learning.

In the past we have utilized the ecology center and trails for field trips to connect what we have learned in the classroom to the real ecosystems that exist in their own community. We have used mapping skills in the classroom that connect back to the wonderful maps provided by C.R.E.A. As an educator, I have attended valuable workshops put on by C.R.E.A. where I was able to learn from experts as well as collaborate with fellow teachers in the community.

In addition, we had the added benefit of having Sarah Rodgers, an environmental educator at C.R.E.A., craft three specific lessons around ecosystems, adaptations, and habitats for our classes. She came on three separate occasions and taught each lesson to our three fourth grade classes. The students benefited from having a community member and dynamic educator as a guest and expert in our classroom. Many students also recognized her from attending the wonderful summer camp opportunities at C.R.E.A.

In conclusion, the acronym C.R.E.A. has become a household name at Woodside and students have come to cherish the experiences they have had through the center. They always have great stories to tell and can't wait for another encounter.

Sincerely,

Jenn Pidgeon

Grade 4 Teacher