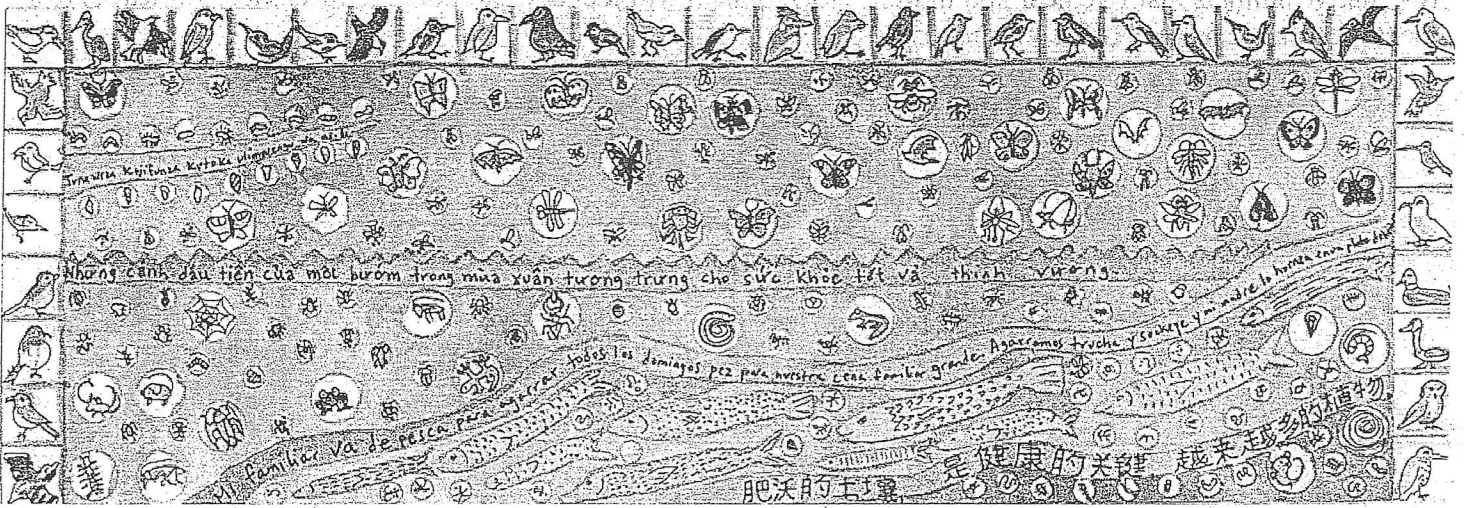


Stories of PLACE

People Language Art Culture Environment



* Tile and mural art in the garden project at Atkinson Elementary School, conceptual model for the 'Our Local Ecosystems' Wall

Project Description:

Stories of PLACE is an exploration of natural science and cultural history through art. Murals and ceramic tiles will be installed on the walls of the outdoor classroom, which is located in Atkinson's wildlife habitat. The project results in permanent interpretive signage for Atkinson's gardens, and provides students with hands-on art activities integrated with PPS standards-based science curricula. *Stories of PLACE* invites the entire Atkinson community to share their diverse cultures and languages.

Project Goals

The goals for *Stories of PLACE* include:

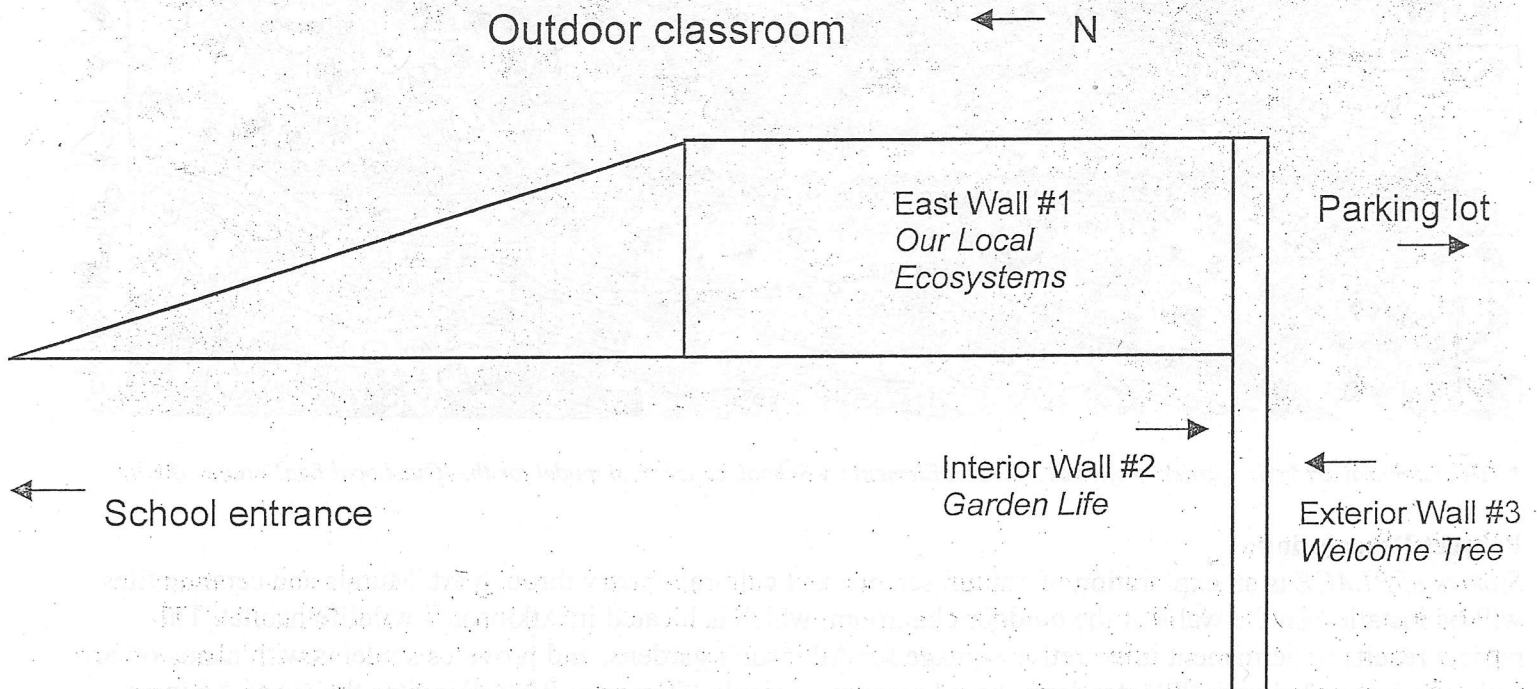
- *Interpretation and learning:* creating permanent signage with engaging species identity keys and habitats to assist future Atkinson students and families in their studies of the area's flora and fauna.
- *Keeping the dream alive:* sustaining our community knowledge base about the purpose and meaning of these gardens so that as learning garden founders (parents and teachers) move on, the vision remains.
- *Style and substance:* providing students with fun, experiential learning art projects geared to multiple intelligences and which reinforce grade-specific science and writing curriculum benchmarks and enhance 2nd/heritage language learning.
- *Inclusion:* providing outreach to non-dominant voices in our community and celebrating our diversity.
- *A Confluence of cultures:* sustaining and nurturing languages/cultures present in our community (e.g., Chinese, English, Spanish, Vietnamese) and increasing our knowledge of endangered Native American languages/cultures in the Pacific Northwest region.
- *Sharing the vision:* making *The Stories of PLACE* project of the OLG a community resource.

East Wall #1 – Our Local Ecosystems – The entire eastern wall of the outdoor classroom (beneath the glass) will depict scenes of Multnomah County ecosystems; a stream, a prairie and woodland interwoven with multilingual, nature-themed stories gathered from the Atkinson community. Diane Jacobs will paint this landscape mural on the wall. Students will create clay tiles identifying animals that live in each habitat.

Interior Wall #2 – Atkinson Garden Life – The interior large wall of the outdoor classroom (wattle and daub)** will have identification tiles inviting exploration of plants and animals found in the Atkinson Outdoor Learning Gardens. Students will make I.D. tiles of birds that frequent the gardens and press leaves, seeds, and flowers of plants found in the NW habitat and pollinator gardens into clay. Multilingual stories from Atkinson families will weave around a large painted picture of 8 of the most common invertebrates found in the School's gardens.

Exterior Wall #3 – *Welcome Tree* – The Atkinson community

The exterior outdoor classroom wall (wattle and daub)** will welcome people to the Atkinson Learning Gardens entering the school from the back (south courtyard) entrance. A large tree formed out of clay will have “welcome” carved in the branches in heritage languages spoken at Atkinson. Students will make low relief clay NW native animals that live near and in trees. Each branch will identify and house a different set of leaves from the various trees on the Atkinson campus.



Planning for September 2010 - December 2011:

The animal tiles will take 3 – 1-hour classes

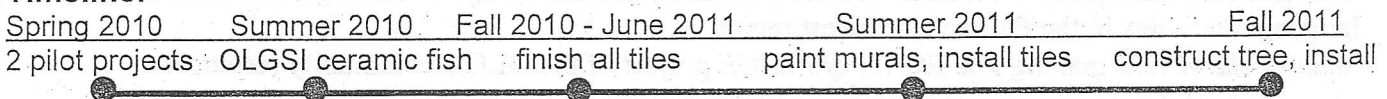
Plant tiles will take 2 – 1-hour classes

Low relief clay animals – 3 or 4 – 1-hour classes

Grade level participation and potential curriculum tie-ins:

- Kindergarteners will make animal tracks in clay - patterns
- First graders will draw and paint invertebrates on tiles - insects
- Second graders will draw and paint reptiles, amphibians, or small mammals on tiles - habitat
- Third graders will make all the plant tiles by pressing plant material into wet clay – growing things
- 4th and 5th will make clay animals for the welcome tree – advanced
- Life strategies – fern border

Timeline:



We have lots of opportunities to get involved, contact Diane Jacobs 503 288-6166 dianejacobs@igc.org

* This is a preliminary sketch. The animals and stories will vary from this drawing. Please excuse any translation mistakes in the various languages.

** The wattle and daub wall will be reconstructed with cement brick