



## FOLE Making Marks

What is the FOLE? The Fremont Outdoor Learning Environment, (FOLE) is a forty acre natural environment located behind Fremont Elementary and Fremont Intermediate schools that has been developed through the efforts of the Fremont Education Foundation, (FEF). It is a natural outdoor environment that transcends traditional classroom settings by inviting students and users to explore a variety of sensory experiences within several fields of study including: ecology studies, biology, chemistry, animal observances, agriculture, meteorology, nutrition, music sensory, and gardening to name a few.

With thoughtful curriculum development in process, the FOLE will be a sustainable, academic arena for promoting interaction within all aspects of the environment promoting math, science, sensory, music and stewardship applications. Students will not just be admiring natural settings for its beauty; but, rather, students will be actively interacting with the environment.

### Evolution of the F.O.L.E.

The Fremont Education Foundation has supported these and other supplemental activities to get the FOLE ready for your students' use. Many people have been extremely busy!

- Surveyed the site
- Worked with architects to design layout
- Trimmed trees
- Cleared buckthorn
- Created paths
- Constructed benches
- Created directional signs & distance markers
- Worked with school to create usage policies & procedures to cover safety concerns
- Toured site with teachers to show potential uses & activities
- Launched stipend program to develop future curriculum
- Hosted Volunteer Days in August



### Best Writing Assignment Ever!

As part of the unit on Edgar Allan Poe and classical nineteenth century horror literature, the eighth grade, gifted language arts students hiked the FOLE seeking "monsters" about which to base a narrative. Using digital cameras, the students captured their "monsters", and, using computerized cropping and enhancement techniques, brought those monsters to life. Amazing stories were then penned which told the tales of the exploits of the monsters and their brave but frightened protagonists. The students report that this was one of the best writing assignments ever!



### Many Thanks

The FEF and the FOLE committee would like to thank all of its dedicated volunteers, teachers, students, and participants without whom this vibrant area could not reach its full vitality. In particular, the FEF would like to thank:

- Karen Stanley, who has been instrumental in planning, developing, implementing the FOLE the past three years. She represents the heartbeat of the entire FOLE taking beats one at a time, while continually pumping vitality into the 40 acres.
- Kathy Reilly - for all her enthusiasm, hard work, encouragement and new ideas
- Mike Moon - whose hours of selfless work have made many of the FOLE's dreams come true.
- All of our "Volunteer Days" students, families and staff who worked so hard to make this area usable.
- Dr. Zimmer - Who is spearheading curriculum development in the back 40 acres.
- Dr. Taylor - Who has enthusiastically supported the development of the outdoor area in all aspects.
- The Outdoor Education Committee - Who have continually supported, donated time and efforts to grow the FOLE into what it is today.

We are looking for volunteers in these areas: marketing, data entry, corporate outreach, communications, and outdoor learning. If you would like more information, or if you are interested in volunteering, go to [www.fef79.org](http://www.fef79.org)

## Unique Cross-Curricular Applications

The FOLE provides a unique and appealing setting that inherently promotes life-long learning through cross-curricular applications. Following is a list of applications and usage by our own Fremont school teachers:

- All of the kindergarten classes took a nature walk. They gathered materials from the FOLE and created a collage.
- Ms. DeFord hosted not one, but *two* summer school courses. The first course, entitled, "Garden Grows", showed students the process from which seeds grow into plants. The second program, "The Great Outdoors" encouraged the love of nature and the environment.

- Second graders had the chance to design, build, and decorate fairy houses made of sticks, flowers and other leafy materials. Make sure to keep a watch out for fairies on your next nature walk!

- Second graders also conducted their annual bug hunt in the FOLE. It was bug-o-riffic!

- Ms. Junia the Elementary librarian, hosted reading time in the FOLE as weather permitted.

- Ms. Buehring took her third graders on a nature walk to look for compound and simple leaves. The students used digital cameras to photograph pictures of leaves and plants they saw. They also gathered leaves, flowers, and other materials to make nature posters.

- Ms. Heath continues to pursue outdoor educational ideas by having third, fourth, and fifth graders taking pictures of various landscape scenes in the 40 acre woody area and then, sketching black and white landscape scenes from those pictures.



- Meanwhile, sixth grade science teacher Ms.

Ward, has been busy building upon her summer, biodiversity program. The biodiversity program began in the summer and focused on capturing native plant and wildlife in the FOLE, identifying, classifying, and journaling students' observations. They now have their own website complete with pictures and details!

- Last week, Mr. Rezac took his students out to the FOLE to create an audio tour of the FOLE. They used sound sensitive devices to capture the distinct sounds heard only in a natural, wildlife setting.



## FEF Celebrates No Child Left Inside Day

October 13th is the official date to celebrate, "No Child Left Inside Day" during Earth Science Week. Students in all three schools will be participating in various stations throughout the 40 acre FOLE where they will be actively engaged in cross-curricular activities hosted by Fremont teachers, outside guests and volunteers. As a special reminder of this event, the Fremont Education Foundation is gifting *every* student in the District a blue, reusable tote bag. Students will be able to use the bags to: carry books, supplies, Halloween treats, and groceries. The bag is a reminder that the Fremont Outdoor Learning Environment is making its mark on Fremont, and we hope that all students can make their own, unique mark on this beautiful earth! Look for your blue bag this week!

## FEF Lays Groundwork For Stipend Program

Recently, the FEF approved funds to pay a stipend to teachers interested in developing curriculum in the FOLE. Curriculum development is a key area necessary to lay a strong foundation for active learning in the 40 acres. Thanks to administrative support, the program has taken off and multiple teachers will be working on developing multi-age curriculum to use in the outdoor environment.

## 2010 FEF Golf Outing & Live Auction

Save the date for the FEF's biggest and most exciting fundraiser on **Monday May 3, 2010**. The day is filled with rounds of golf, putting contest, hole-in one contests, dinner, and live/silent auctions. We hope you will consider supporting the FEF by joining us this year for a fun-filled evening benefitting Fremont District 79 with unique and innovative learning opportunities!

## FEF Partners with Student Council

The FEF partnered with the Intermediate School Student Council, to award the art teacher, Ms. Heath, a grant to implement a *Paper Shapers* program. With this program, students will combine the study of art and science and apply that knowledge to create artwork. Students will study plants and gather materials from the FOLE, create sketches of those items and incorporate those images into works of art. The third graders will embellish a frame that will matte their sketches and the fifth graders will build structures using their found materials. Both grades will learn about Earth Art and influential Earth Art artists.

