

Nature Notes

January 23, 2020

A digital journal documenting the search for truth, beauty and goodness in God's lovely creation throughout the diocese of Fort Worth.

I notice . .

A large tree near the lake with multiple trunks, and beautiful clusters of light-yellow to whitish colored berries. I was unsuccessful in identifying the tree using online searches, and Mr. Cox came to my rescue. He identified it as a Chinaberry. It's funny how once you see a particular type of tree, you start noticing it everywhere. Chinaberry trees are native to Asia. It is considered invasive here in Texas, but propagated by landscape and garden companies. The tree outcompetes native trees, and changes the chemicals in the soil around it. The berries are toxic to people, but the seeds of the chinaberry were once used as rosary beads. The tree also provides sturdy timber (it's in the same family as Mahogany).

<http://texastreeid.tamu.edu/content/TreeDetails/?id=57>





Building Nature Observation skills

Improving your observation skills is a challenge- because our brains are wired to prevent us from noticing everything around us. They're constantly filtering out observations and information we don't need to keep us from getting overwhelmed. However, retraining yourself to notice more in natural surroundings can open up a whole new world of discoveries- even in a place as unremarkable as your backyard. Next time you're outside, try these activities to help you see the world around you a little more clearly:

http://toolbox.biomimicry.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Nature_Observ_Exercises.pdf

(I noticed this plant down by the lake, it looks similar to Stork's Bill, but doesn't grow in clusters like the Stork's Bill. Its leaves look a little like parsley.)

Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.

-Albert Einstein

Courtyard Adventures

Lettuce has started sprouted in our raised beds- and in the decomposed granite gravel between the beds! Reminds me of a parable about seeds sown on good and rough ground. . . . I wonder how long the plants growing in the rocks will last.



Where to find Mrs. Breclaw next week

Mon- 10-2

Tues-9-2

Wed- 10-2

Thu- 9-2, 4-5

Nolan Outdoor Learning Headquarters

In the office immediately to the left of the teacher boxes in room D22.

Please come by anytime! Let's chat about how we can work outdoor learning into your lesson plans!

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