

Nature Notes

February 6, 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

Animals behave differently during winter. Birds look fatter because they have eaten more to insulate themselves from the cold, and because they fluff their feathers to hold body heat close. Lizards move more slowly. I nearly stepped on a Mediterranean House Gecko the other day. The cold weather made him sluggish, and even the grating noise of a gate opening didn't make him flinch. I was surprised to see one of these lizards out in the grass, usually I see them around our porch lights!



<https://citybugs.tamu.edu/factsheets/household/misc-house/ent-2006/>



<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/course-list/>

I wonder. . . .

How do you enjoy the outdoors when it's freezing cold and rainy, like most of this week has been? If you can, bundle up and go outside anyway. Even if it's just for a short time, you can still learn so much by noticing what birds are still singing in the rainy weather, how the squirrels behave differently, what the rain and ice looks like on the leaves.

But you can also stay inside and find creative ways to explore outdoors anyway, like journaling about birds you can see out your window, or taking online classes to learn more about outdoor skills. Cornell Bird Academy has some fantastic classes about nature journaling, bird identification, and even learning to identify bird calls!

Are you, or is someone you know, working towards an Eagle rank, Gold Award or Stars and Stripes Award? We have lots of service project opportunities available at

Nolan, from building fountains to blazing nature trails and designing interpretive signage. Please e-mail Mrs. Breclaw for more information.

Courtyard Adventures

The peas are starting to bloom in the raised beds. Look how similar the flower shape is to a tiny wild plant I found growing near the lake. I wonder if the two are related?



This type of flower petal shape and arrangement is called “papilionaceous.” It means “like a butterfly,” and is characteristic of plants in the legume family.

Where to find Mrs. Breclaw next week

Mon- 10-2

Tues-9-2

Wed- 10-2, 4-5

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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