

Oregon State University Extension Service

METRO CONNECTION

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Live Science Egg to Fry



"I am so happy because I got to see salmon in person!" Jaden, grade 3 from Multisensory Learning Academy (MLA)

Over 450 students, teachers and parent volunteers from six Portland 4-H Partner Schools wrapped up a seven-week 4-H Fish Stewards project just before the winter holidays. The hands-on citizen science curriculum was created by Maureen Hosty, Extension 4-H professor and educator for grades 3 -5.

Each school received 250 Chinook Salmon eggs. They are provided by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as part of the ODFW Salmon Trout Enhancement Project. Kanaiah wanted to say, "Thank you for giving us the eggs and thank you for trusting us with the salmon." His third grade class at MLA charter school raised salmon in their classrooms from egg to fry. One thoughtful third grader realized "they did many cool projects based off our salmon in almost every subject!"

The project began small and over the past twenty years has been updated and revised to become a sought after classroom STEAM project. Over 40 schools have taken part throughout Multnomah County. Participating schools this year were Creston Elementary, Kairos Charter School, Metropolitan Learning Center, Tucker Maxon School, and Sunnyside Environmental School.



Throughout the process students keep journals of the fish development, monitored the tanks daily and learned lessons in salmon life cycles, anatomy and salmon habitat. Another student commented, "Thanks for letting us learn how salmon live. Now that I think about it, well since forever or a long time I've wanted to make an animal video game, so the first game I'll make will be a salmon game!"

The culminating activity was the December salmon release to their new home, the Willamette river. With the students attentive monitoring and care of the fish tank all but six or seven fry at each school survived through the release. Meg said, "thank you because it was so much fun I wanted to be a marine biologist the entire time."

The 4-H Fish Stewards project is one of a dozen hand-on projects provided to Portland 4-H Partner schools.

To learn more about this program visit the **4-H Partner School Website**.