



“Keep It Clean, Drains to Door Creek” Students Use Art to Teach Our Community about Stormwater

Do you know where the rain that washes into storm drains goes? Ask the students in LeahRae Rusu’s and Jessica Wells’ classes at Taylor Prairie School and they’ll tell you all about how the water that enters our storm drains travels to area lakes, rivers and streams carrying any trash and pollutants it runs across with it. They may even give you some tips on actions we can take as a community to reduce stormwater runoff and improve the quality of the stormwater that enters our waters.

These students participated in a new program led by the Madison Area Stormwater Partnership, Dane County and the Dane Arts Mural Arts (DAMA) that uses art as a vessel to learn about water pollution and solutions. The goal of the program is to educate future generations about simple actions they can take to protect our precious water resources and have them teach others. After learning about stormwater, students were asked to draw pictures and write simple messages to help others better understand where their stormwater goes and why it’s important to “Keep It Clean”. Drawings were collected by local artists at Dane Arts Mural Arts and used to inspire several storm drain mural designs. Students were presented with several options to choose from and selected their favorite.



"We have been working together on this project for the last few months and the kids are so engaged! They have really loved learning about the water cycle, storm water, and the water treatment process. We feel honored to be a part of this project and to help encourage kids to be environmental stewards at such a young age!"

-LeahRae Rusu & Jessica Wells

On Monday, June 4th, beginning at 8:15 am, a DAMA artist will paint the selected mural design with the help of some of our students on the storm drain located at 900 N. Parkview St. (in front of Taylor Prairie School). This mural will be one of 20 unique designs to be painted on highly visible storm drains across Dane County. For more information on the Storm Drain Mural Project or to learn about simple actions you can take to protect our waters visit www.ripple-effects.com.