**Naturalist Lessons at Fenner Nature Center 2022-23**

ANIMAL HABITATS

* Animals need a lot to survive! Explore how an animal’s habitat provides all of the resources that it requires, such as food, shelter and nutrients. Search for animal homes as we investigate the variety of habitats at Fenner.

PRECIOUS PLANTS

* Join our naturalist for a journey through the forest and prairie to learn why plants are so important to all other life on Earth.  Students will learn about plant life cycles, parts of a plant, important native species, and the impact of invasive plants on the ecosystem.

AQUATIC ECOLOGY

* Visit a pond for an investigation of life in the pond-- Examine the wonders of life in the water!  Develop an understanding of how aquatic habitats are formed, how they sustain life, and why we need to protect these fragile ecosystems.

BUGS & SLUGS

* Beetles and millipedes and worms, oh my! Bugs & Slugs will introduce students to the wide world of insects and invertebrates. If it’s creepy and crawly, we will investigate it. From essential decomposer bugs that live beneath our feet to high-flying, winged insect predators of the sky, students will follow the paths to some of Fenner’s creepiest and coolest critters

GROSS NATURE

* Sometimes nature is downright gross. But where there is gross, there is FUN! Students will get their hands dirty with the micro science behind slime, mud, muck, and other sticky and gooey natural materials, while learning how nature’s grossest residents survive and thrive within their environment.

NSI: NATURE SCENE INVESTIGATION

* Tracks in the mud; a trace of fur; there seems to have been a struggle. But what has happened to the prey, and who is the predator? As NSI agents, students will hone their detective skills as they forensically scour nature’s “crime scenes” and link the clues they find together to solve the mystery.

SCALES AND TAILS

* From snakes to salamanders and turtles to toads, Scales and Tails introduces students to the fascinating cold-blooded world of reptiles and amphibians. Students will learn how they survive in our northern climate, the places they call home, what and especially HOW they eat, as well as investigate some very common misconceptions about these scaly and slimy neighbors of ours.

*Sam Ansaldi*

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