

Q&A with Fawn Ferguson

What is your connection to the Chimacum community?

My school career started in Chimacum. I was a student here from kindergarten through 4th grade when I moved to the east coast. I recently returned to my childhood home where I get to reconnect with friends from my past, as well as get to meet new people. It's been amazing returning to a place I call "home" and being accepted with open arms from so many. It has also been an experience teaching students of friends I went to early elementary school with. This is an incredible area to live, raise a family, explore and immerse one's self in nature. Life has been full circle for me starting at Chimacum and now returning as a teacher. This is home.

How does Chimacum Primary support STEAM learning for our youngest learners?

We have such talented teachers with creative ideas with the support of a principal that encourages us to put these ideas into the classroom. Many of these ideas are STEAM based. We know the importance of making science authentic, especially to the area that students can make connections with their community.

What are your students learning about in science this year?

In our school garden, my students are learning about plants, pollinators, and life cycles. We are hoping to expand on pollinators this school year with a project about honey bees and their importance to plants and nature. Hopefully, we will be connecting with local apiarists (beekeepers) and gardeners to make bee boxes and donate locally to help encourage the bee population. Other classes and grade levels use the garden as a focus for their projects too.

What other science learning happens at Chimacum Primary?

We all have MysteryScience which are videos that usually have some great hands-on activities to go with the topic. For technology, we have Bee Bots that are introduced in kindergarten and explored more in first grade. These robots introduce basic coding. Some teachers also use programs such as Code.org.

Discovery opportunities are presented through science experiments where students are presented with a question or problem that needs to be solved. Last year, students discovered what owl pellets are. And other students learned about what is in the seed of a Jumping Bean that makes them jump and why.

Why is STEAM important for second graders?

STEAM is powerful and motivating for students. Learning about the world around them is natural and inviting. Connections are easily made with the world and through other subjects such as reading, writing and math. Learning through science helps students be patient, problem solvers, creative, inspired, collaborative, talkative, open minded and thinkers. Science is fun. Kids love it and so do teachers!