

## Fourth and Fifth Graders Helped Restore Bay Grasses

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, the Fourth and Fifth Graders set off for an adventure on Wye Island. Students spent the next three days learning about the Chesapeake Bay region through a series of planned activities. Despite the soaring temperatures close to 100 degrees, the students participated in a variety of activities that helped explain the work that is needed to restore the health to the Bay. The students took an Eco-tour

with Captain Ed Farley on a skipjack, learning about the history of the area and the delicate balance of nature around the area. He pointed out to them the use of riprap to help slow down the erosion along the shore. They spotted osprey and vultures on their canoeing practices, discovering close-up the erosion from the tides and loss of habitat for some of the birds. Finally,

they planted sea grasses along the shore to help restore the areas where the grasses could provide a barrier against the wearing away from the tides. The students came away with an appreciation of the beauty of the area and its history and agreed that they felt good about being able to contribute to the health of the Bay.

## In Their Own Words: Fourth and Fifth Graders Report on Their Trip

### **By Joshua and Brinton:**

Reporter: Today on WSB TV we are interviewing a Fourth Grader who went on a camping trip to Wye Island. What are some things you learned on the skipjack?

Student: I learned how to steer the boat.

Reporter: Did you learn anything about oysters?

Student: I learned how to tell how old they are by the rings on their shells.

Reporter: Did you learn anything about catching crabs?

Student: Yes, they are caught on a trout line.

Reporter: Did you learn anything about how big the Chesapeake Bay is?

Student: Yes, on a clear day from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge you can see on 10% of the Bay.

Reporter: Did you learn anything of the effect of the runoff fertilizer into

the Bay?

Student: I learned that years ago you could see the bottom of the Chesapeake Bay but now because of the fertilizer brown algae has over grown, making it impossible to see the bottom.

Reporter: Did you learn how some people stop erosion?

Student: People use riprap, which is a line of rocks on the shore.

### **By Nicholas and Liam:**

Jake: I am here on WSB News. I'm Jake, and I will be interviewing a student from WSB. Now Joe, what was your favorite part of the Wye Island trip?

Joe: Well, I liked the skipjack.

Jake: Did you learn anything?

Joe: I learned that the skipjack was used to collect oysters and crabs.

Jake: How do they do it?

Joe: They have a net which is attached to a rake that is dragged

along the bottom of the body of water and when it is full they hoist it up.

Jake: What else did you learn?

Joe: I learned two ways to stop erosion. One, to build rip-rap and two, planting sea grass!

Jake: What is riprap?

Joe: Riprap is a wall made of stone that helps prevent erosion.

Jake: Good interview. Thank you!

### **Emmy and Emma:**

Olivia: I am here today with Erika to talk about the wildlife that the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders of WSB saw on their trip to Wye Island. Erika, what wildlife did you see?

Erika: We saw osprey, toads, bald eagles, fish, deer, and turkey vultures. They were beautiful creatures.

Olivia: How do you think the erosion happening along the Wye

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## Fourth and Fifth Grade Interviews (continued)

River affects the habitat of these animals?

Erika: When the tide comes in it causes erosion by wearing away the land. Some trees fall, which affects the birds' nesting habitats.

Olivia: Did you see anything that

could help with the erosion?

Erika: Yes, we saw riprap, which is a barrier to stop the water from eroding the shoreline. Riprap is made of big rocks.

Olivia: Did you do anything to prevent the erosion?

Erika: Yes, we planted sea grass with the ranger. It made me feel good to be helping the environment.

Olivia: Thank you for sharing your knowledge on wildlife at Wye Island.

## Upper School International Students

The upper school is enjoying the visit of three international students,

Johanna Schwarz (Germany) Lukas Brandl (Germany) and Nastya

Lazutkina (Russia), who will be with us during the fall.



Left to right: Nastya (10<sup>th</sup> grade) with Monu Kunkel and Susie Gittelsohn (8<sup>th</sup>) at the school picnic.



Left to right: Johanna and Lukas (11<sup>th</sup>) with Ian Harris (10<sup>th</sup>), also at the school picnic.