



Ribbon Grass Alert by Joseph (grade 7)

One day, you are walking on the shore of the Metolius and you see all of the native plants, then you see a grass. It looks cool. But when you come back, it is the only plant there. What happened?

Ribbon grass is invasive in the Metolius basin. Ribbon grass got here by humans bringing it for their gardens. Ribbon grass was bred to have the white stripe. There's a difference between invasive and non-native. Non-native means that it is not from a particular place. Invasive means that it is taking over where it is.

The US Forest Service is trying to get rid of the ribbon grass along the Metolius. The only thing that seems to be working is the herbicide Roundup. Roundup is an herbicide that can cause cancer. The Forest Service claims to be using too little to cause cancer or injure the fish and native plants.

Black Butte School is partnering with the US Forest Service to help monitor a few locations of ribbon grass where treatments have been applied. We will visit the locations a few times a year to measure the effectiveness of the treatments. We will take pictures, write a description of what we see, as well as document what species are present.

What can you do? You can pull it up, but don't leave it on the ground, because it can come back. You can volunteer to help get rid of the ribbon grass. Give suggestions to the Forest Service. Stay informed on the ribbon grass status. Do what you can and stay informed. What are you going to do?



Students monitoring ribbon grass on the Merolius

Wild Turkeys by Keanan (grade 5)

Turkeys, the glorified chickens of Camp Sherman. They have chicken-like feet and chicken-like feathers. A turkey has a bigger body than a chicken, and they taste so good for Thanksgiving dinner. Turkeys are a dull brown color. This is because they live in a dull brown environment. It is very easy to hunt them. You just have to find where they are and that is the hard part because they never stop moving. They really like to hang out at our school. There are 5 to 100 in a flock. One flock will range up to 1000 acres.

Wild turkeys like to eat insects, invertebrates, and other small creatures. Male turkeys are bigger than females and they have giant tail feathers to attract a mate. Wild turkeys are pretty smart for how small their head is. They have super cute babies in the spring. I think that wild turkeys are pretty cool, amazing, and interesting. How about you?



Students learning the foundation of color mixing

Art Changes Me by Hanna (grade 5)

I love doing art at Black Butte School. Early in the year we used paints and designs to make a colorful piece of paper. The colors that I used are magenta, cyan, and yellow. Yellow and magenta make orange. Yellow and cyan make green. In 2019 last school year when Black Butte School did art it made my heart glow and come alive to art. Art changed my life. Now when I see color I turn it into art!