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Valley View fourth-graders learn about stormwater

By NICOLE KLAUSS staff writer 2 hrs ago



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Ellensburg Stormwater Manager Jon Morrow teaches children at Valley View about stormwater equipment and stormwater drains on | Buy

Fourth-graders at Valley View Elementary School learned about the city's stormwater system on Friday from city officials.

City of Ellensburg Stormwater Manager Jon Morrow taught a short lesson to students, talking about drains, what the city does to keep stormwater clean and what equipment the city uses to keep them clean.

“Wherever you see one of these drains — they’re all over town — that doesn’t get treated,” Morrow told kids. “It goes right into the Yakima River so whatever is on streets, rooftops and yards — it gets kind of icky.”

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“Eww!” said students as they listened to Morrow.

Morrow told students the way to help the situation is to keep drains clear of leaves, oils and gas, trash and pet feces.

“Only rain goes down the drain,” he said.

After looking at the drain, the students and Morrow moved on to look at the city’s sweeper and vactor truck used to clean up stormwater drains.

Morrow explained the city’s sweeper truck picks up the sand and leaves from the streets around town, while the vactor truck takes the lids off drains and cleans them out.

Wheat Week

The lesson was held during Wheat Week, a series of lessons over the course of one week where students learn about water, soil, watersheds, energy systems, salmon and wheat.

Liz Scully, with the Franklin Conservation District, taught the Valley View fourth-graders during Wheat Week last week.

“I’m doing a program this week called Wheat Week funded by the city of Ellensburg and the Washington Grain Commission,” she said. “The city of Ellensburg also funds another program called Water on Wheels that focuses around stormwater and we’ll be back in the spring to do all of those lessons, but we also incorporate stormwater into Wheat Week. That’s why we’re doing it now.”

Nicole Klauss