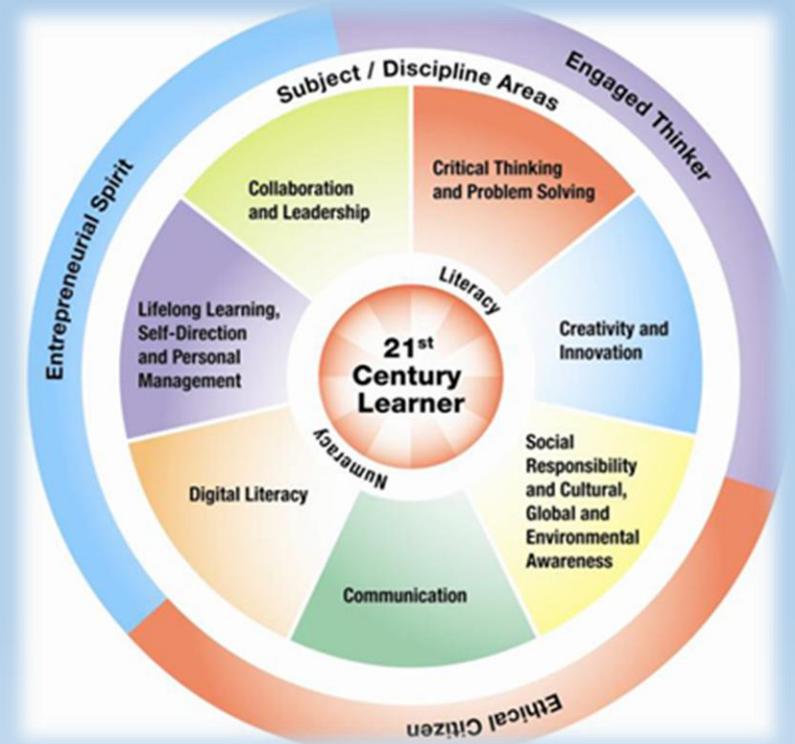


# Implementation of Interdisciplinary Units at Duzine Elementary

Presented to the Board of Education  
by Debra Hogencamp, Iva Profaci,  
Kerri McIntyre, Rebecca Burdett,  
Luke Biffar, Laura Bilodeau, Andrea  
Miele and Kathryn Gulitti  
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# Why Interdisciplinary units?

We're committed to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning.

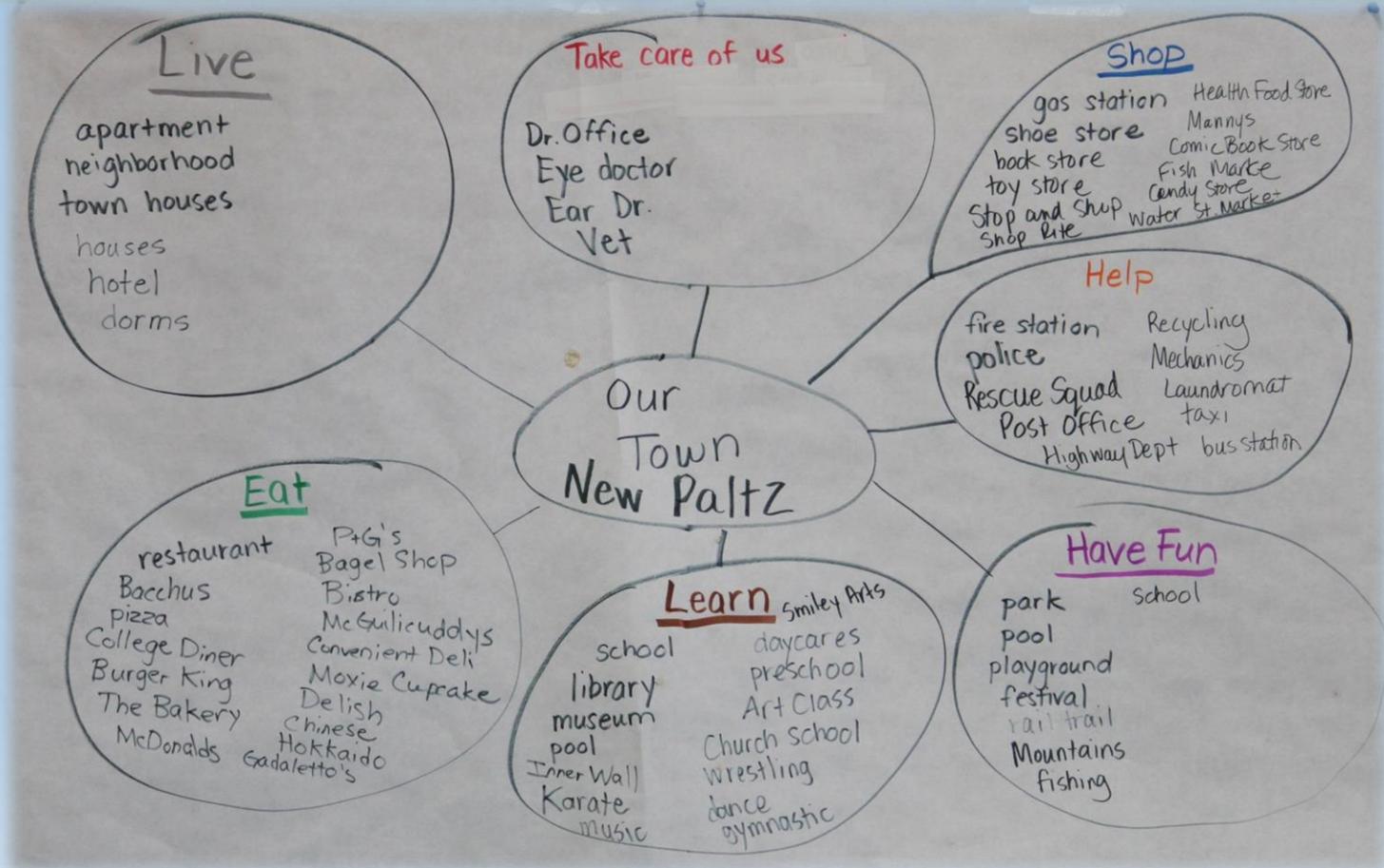
- Collaboration/Cooperation
- Student Choice
- Problem-Solving
- Discovery through Investigative Research
- Critical Thinking
- Visualizing and Representing
- Refining and Adapting
- Risk-taking
- Innovation

# What is an Interdisciplinary Unit?

- Long term, deep learning experiences that integrate Science, Social Studies, Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking, Math and the Arts
- Authentic, real-world, project-based learning
- Developmentally-appropriate research using a variety of sources
- Honors student choice and interests
- Field trips
- Supports our social curriculum through collaborative learning groups, self-assessment and presentations to the school community

# What does it look like in Kindergarten?

- Our Town
  - What are the essential places in any community?
  - How does my community affect me?
  - How are people and their community interdependent?
    - Researching:
      - Places to live
      - Places that help and take care of us
      - Places to shop
      - Places to eat
      - Places to learn
      - Places to have fun







# Homes and Housing in New Paltz

## What do we know?

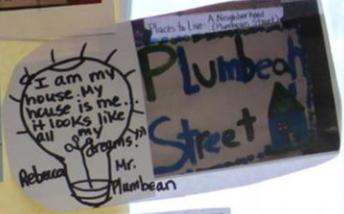
 People live in houses. -Stella	 Houses have doors. -Zoe	 Every house has a roof. -Nya
 Houses have bedrooms. -Amalia	 Houses have bathrooms. -Willoughby	 Houses have kitchens. -Michael G.
 Houses have living rooms. -Layla	 Houses have tables for eating. -Maple	 Houses have bath tubs. -Halle
 Every house has a sink for washing. -Cassidy	 Houses have couches for sitting. -Jaybriel	 Houses have electricity. -Derek
 Some houses have basements. -Bryson	 Some houses have garages for cars. -Some	 Houses have places for beds. -Jayda
 Some houses have fireplaces to keep people warm. -Evan	 Some houses have decks. -Some	 Houses have windows. -Andres

## What do we wonder?

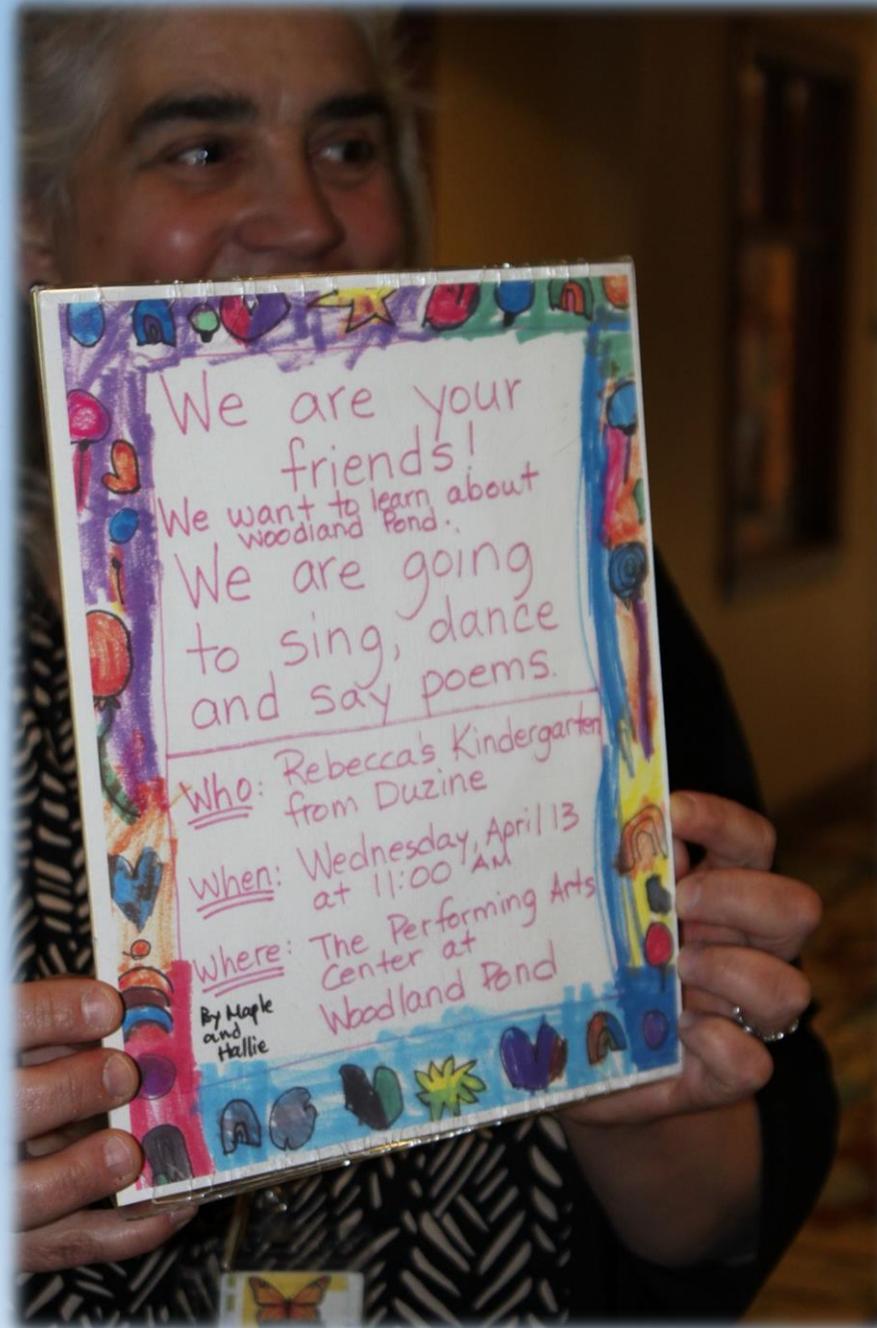
 How do a toilet flush? -Jayda	 How is the deck made? -Michael	 How do they make the chimney? -Evan
 How do you make the door? -Jaybriel	 How do they put in a window? -Cassidy	 How do they make the lights turn on? -Andres
 How do floors go on top of each other? -Zoe	 How are windows made? -Halle	 How does the stove get hot? -Michael G.
 How do the walls stand up? -Ava	 How is the floor made? -Devin	 How do they make the water pump? -Bryson
 How do they make the water pump? -Zoe	 How do they make a garage? -Bryson	

## What have we learned?

 It's easy to make a little house and hard to make a big one! -Devin	 In a park, people put in wires so that electricity can come in and turn on the lights! -Devin	 Water comes from a well which comes up into your house with a pump. -Nya
 I learned how to make a kitchen: a stove, a refrigerator, a table. -Bryson	 In a farm, the barn needs water, so they have to put in pipes and pumps. -Stella	 You can build a house with all kinds of materials. -Stella
 You can build a roof out of wood. -Amalia	 Houses are made out of all kinds of materials. -Alina	 It is hard to make cement. -Deck
 The stove can work with a propane tank. -Willo	 Houses can be made of bricks! -Ava	 Bathrooms need doors for privacy. -Jilly
 The people making a house have to work together. -Zoe	 Windows are plastic or glass and cut out of the wall. -Cassidy	 You can make a door out of wood. -Maple
 Doors can be made from wood and steel. -Jayda	 Some houses have garages. -Michael G.	 Some houses have decks and some don't. -Michael G.
 A garden needs water. -Halle	 Windows are made of glass and wood. -Halle	 Lights turn on with electricity. -Andres



Woodland Pond





# First Care







Communities have places to live

Places to Live: SUNY New Paltz Student Dorm and Gym



WO LEEVOW FRM



X-ray Room



# Visiting "Our Town"



# What does it look like in First Grade?

- Animal Island
  - How do animals meet their basic needs?
  - How does the environment influence how animals survive?
  - How are animals and their living environment interdependent?
    - Researching:
      - Interdependence of living things in the environment
      - Local birds, fish and mammals
      - Food
      - Habitat/Ecosystem
      - Life Cycle
      - Physical Features
      - Mapping





# First Grade News



# What will it look like in Second Grade?

- Biomes – A self-contained ecosystem
  - How does growth and change happen over time?
  - How are plants and their environment interdependent?
    - Researching/Exploring:
      - Water Cycle
      - Life Cycle of Plants
      - Habitat/Ecosystem
      - Measurement/Data Collection (e.g. observation; predictions; recording; interpreting)
      - Cause and Effect



Biomes



# Second Grade Ecosystems



# Results and Revisions

- Kindergarten and First Grade Teachers have reviewed our qualitative data (e.g. portfolios, end of unit projects, presentations, anecdotal evidence)
- Through these units our students are:
  - Highly motivated
  - Deeply engaged
  - Demonstrating 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and competencies
  - Applying learning through real-world experiences and play
- Each year, we meet to reflect on the results and learning outcomes of our units.
  - In grade level groups, we revise our curriculum to better meet the learning needs of our students.