

▼CHAMBERSBURG

Students learn impact of litter on bay

By BRIAN HALL
Staff writer

Sure, Dylan Johnson helped learn how to steer a canoe during a trip to Laurel Lake.

But, the Chambersburg Area Middle School sixth-grader also gained some valuable knowledge during a six-day instructional unit on the Chesapeake Bay.

"I learned that every time we litter here it ends up in the Chesapeake Bay because of run-off," Johnson said.

Team 6B at CAMS has filled in students about the bay every year since 1999 with a series of informational sessions and a field trip.

At CAMS, students spend days learning about the several subjects: the Chesapeake Bay watershed; wetlands and their important; water conservation and the water cycle; biodiversity and the food chain; and sources

of pollution, how to prevent it and clean it up.

"I never knew that all the water we have now is all we ever had," Johnson said. "It's always recycling."

The program was started 12 years ago by retired teacher Jeannie Bordlemay and CAMS teacher Pat Marthouse has helped keep it going. This year, funding was provided by a Pennsylvania Area Conservation District grant through NOAA and also a field trip grant from Target.

Students learn what a healthy ecosystem is and how it affects other ecosystems within the watershed. In Marthouse's seminar on the watershed, she takes her students around CAMS to test the school with a report card. The report card tests if a school is environmentally-friendly.

In the trip to Laurel Lake with members of the Chesapeake Bay Founda-

tion, students get to apply what they've learned. The foundation calls it a "meaningful watershed experience."

It's a hands-on program which includes students testing the biodiversity of Laurel Lake. Students test for nitrogen levels, phosphates, dissolved oxygen, temperature and the diversity of plants, animals and insects living around the lake.



Courtesy

Keep it steady! A field trip to Laurel Lake enlightened students to the problems facing the Chesapeake Bay.

