

SCHOOLS

School participates in Trout in the Classroom program

Walnut Ridge Primary School in Vernon participated in the Trout in the Classroom program again this past school year. The program is cosponsored by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife and Trout Unlimited. It provides brook trout eggs from the Pequest Trout Hatchery to classrooms throughout the state so that students may learn about the development of this environmentally-sensitive species.

Eggs are delivered in October of each year and placed in a specially chilled tank in the Walnut Ridge art classroom where all kindergarten and first-grade students could observe the development of the young trout. First-grade students viewed the eggs through a microscope, noting that the eyes and spine were visible. Students practiced their representational drawing skills as they made drawings of the eggs.

Kindergarten students observed each stage of development. The first-grade students made drawings of each stage and created booklets depicting the parts of the brook trout lifecycle that they witnessed. Some students also worked on a mural that documented the trout's growth. On a Saturday morning in May, students and their families were invited to join Walnut Ridge art teacher Denise Docherty to help release approximately 75 young trout into Wawayanda Creek. Rob Henry from Glen Meadow Middle School, who also raised trout in his classroom, attended with his



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Students and their families gathered in May to release young trout into Wawayanda Creek.

students to release their trout. Following a short lesson on trout development, approximately 60 Walnut Ridge students and siblings received transparent cups

containing the young brook trout and released the fish into the stream, assisted by family members and teacher volunteers.



Approximately 60 students and siblings received cups with a young brook trout to place into the creek.