Lesson Plan to be taught on Friday, December 13, for 5th grade Ecology Club

**Enduring Understanding:** Understanding what it means to be a caretaker, not just for one day, but for several weeks. Growth of plants shows the positive results of being a good caretaker. Learning to work in a group, as a team, to create a skit, develop a project. Learning to be an audience for other’s skits and stories.

**Lesson focus:** Continuation of previous and on-going lessons. Recording and observation of plants, sharing of what students have learned from growing plants. Plan to take the plants home over break. Continuing work on stories and skits, sharing stories and skits. Important to have this wrap-up of activities that we’ve been doing this past month, bringing the semester to a conclusion.

**Question:** What have you learned from growing plants? What would you think about working with younger students to help them grow plants? What does it feel like to be an animal or a plant?

**Evaluation:** Are the kids still involved and interested in their plants? Talking with individuals, small groups, our observations. Performance of the skits will be the evaluation of the skits. Stories: those who want to share their stories will have the opportunity, if they don’t want to share that’s fine. We will ask each person or group to turn in their story or their skit at the end of the class as a part of evaluating the skits and the stories. The goal of the evaluation will be not to judge, but to see the kids’ creativity, get an idea of their writing skills, what are their strengths and weaknesses?

**Method:** First, the kids will measure their plants and take pictures, write down new observations about their plants. We’ll also talk about taking the plants home. When they take them home they should carefully put a plastic bag over the top to keep the plants from getting too cold. Talk in a group about the plants – wrap-up. Have them each write down either something they learned from planting seeds and growing plants, or anything else they want to say about growing plants. Also, we’ll ask them to write down their thoughts about working with younger students and teaching them how to grow plants. Second: there will be more time to work on the skits and the stories. Third: perform the skits, those who want can share stories. They will then turn in their stories, skits, and plant folders.

**Materials:** pencils, paper, plants, digital camera, rulers, lots of imagination…. (They have all of this in the classroom)

**Engagement and Sustained Enquiry:** Our hope is that growing their own plants will spark these kids’ interest in plants and make them aware of the growth of all plants from seeds. Even if they don’t continue growing plants, it opens up possibilities for them to
know how to grow plants. During the activity, they are definitely engaged, and I see more learning for the sake of learning than I have seen at other times.

Stories and skits: this gives the kids a chance to let their imagination run, to see what they can create themselves, after reading other stories. The groups creating skits have a chance to work together as a team to create something new.