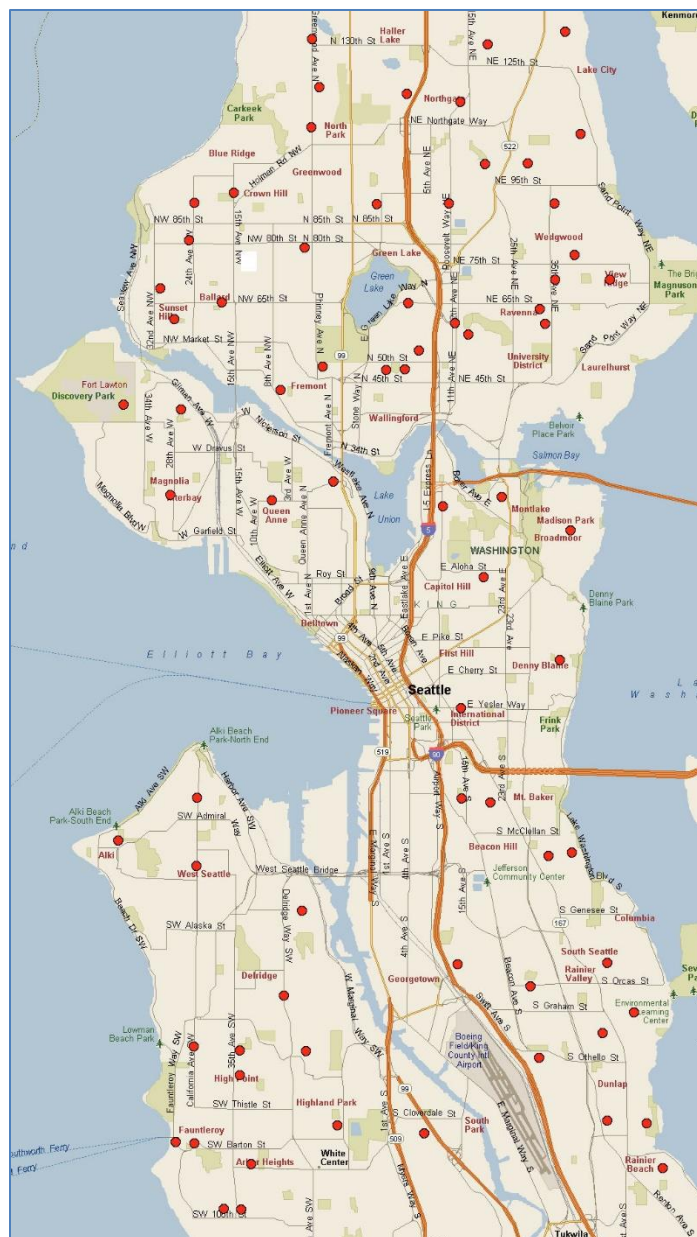


2023 - 24 ANNUAL REPORT

In classrooms and school communities across the city, Salmon in the Schools teachers put the Pacific Northwest’s keystone species to work this school year to cultivate environmental literacy and a stewardship ethic among their students. This report summarizes what they accomplished and support provided by the Salmon in the Schools-Seattle leadership team.

PARTICIPATION

This year, teachers and volunteers made participating in this environmental program possible at 70 public and private schools across the city (red dots on map).

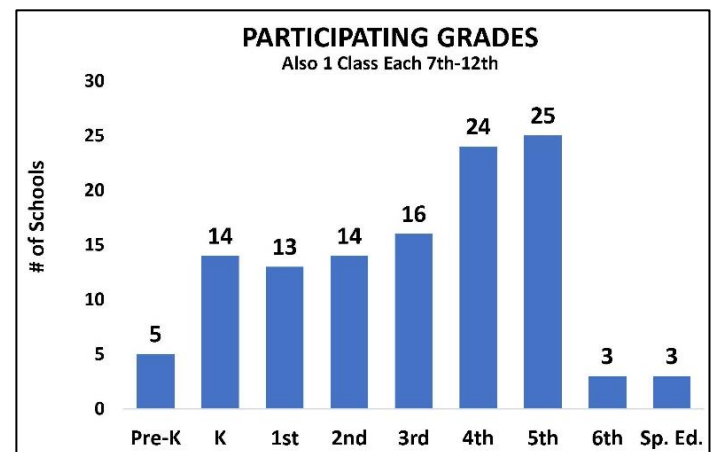


The leadership team backed them up by assisting with tank management, adding learning resources, and securing Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) permits to get eyed eggs (mostly coho) from the following hatcheries and release their fry in state waters:

- WDFW Issaquah Creek hatchery 34 schools
- WDFW Soos Creek hatchery 15 schools
- Suquamish Grovers Creek hatchery 21 schools

We also secured a permit for the Fauntleroy Watershed Council to rear “back-up” fish to ensure that all students in West Seattle schools had fry to release.

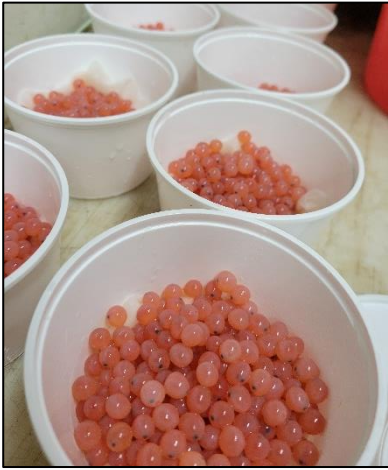
Student participation spanned preschool through high school, with fourth and fifth graders predominating:



Most tanks were situated in a common area so that the wider school community could witness fish development. Also, many teachers paired younger and older students for selected activities so that more were directly involved.

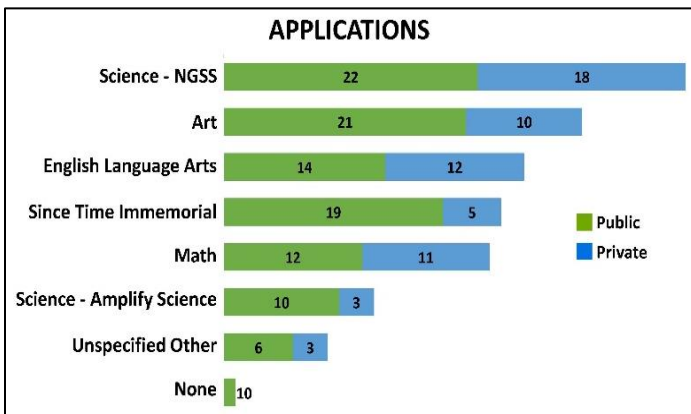
Each year is a new adventure and such a thrill to be able to release our fry with the students. We even had some middle school students come back to help us this year! Thank you!

Margaret Portelance, Our Lady of the Lake

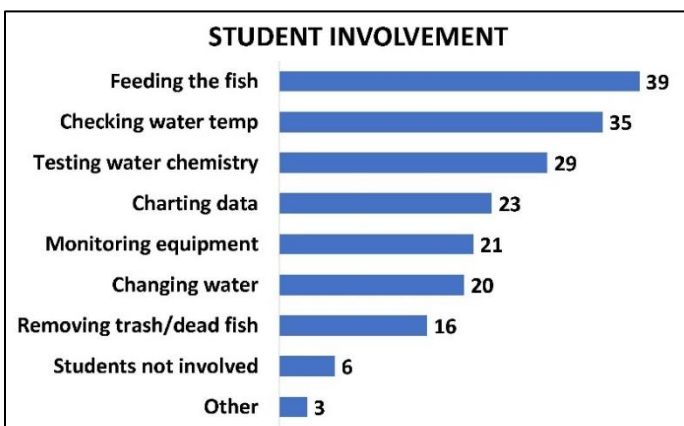


APPLICATIONS

Teachers applied salmon-related study toward meeting learning standards in seven areas:



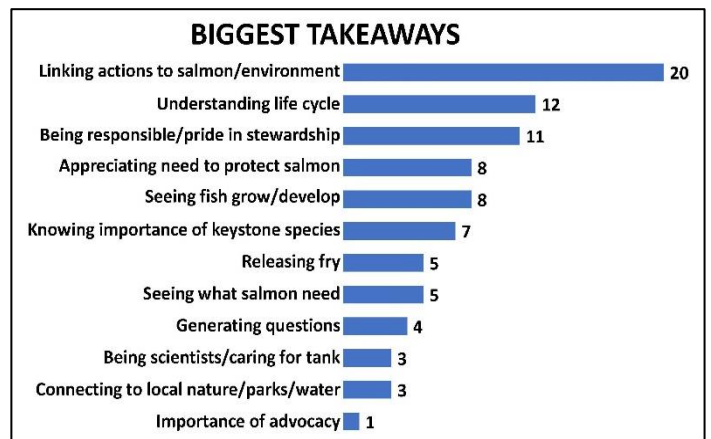
Teachers and volunteers supported students in keeping tanks healthy by checking water temperature, ensuring that equipment was working properly, removing debris, monitoring water quality, charting their data, and helping with water changes as their fish grew.



The SIS people are always responsive for anything I need – and knowledgeable, whether it be a simple question or an emergency with the tank.
Angie Nall, Arbor Heights Elementary

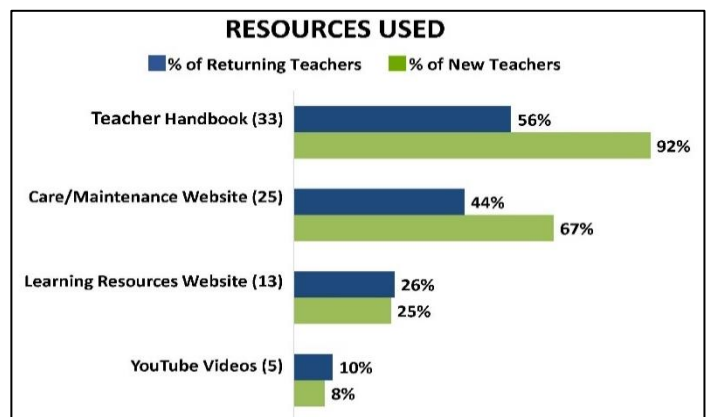
LEARNING OUTCOMES

On a scale of 1 to 5, 85% of teachers responding to our annual survey rated the program a 4 or 5 for cultivating personal behaviors that will positively impact watersheds:



SUPPORT SERVICES

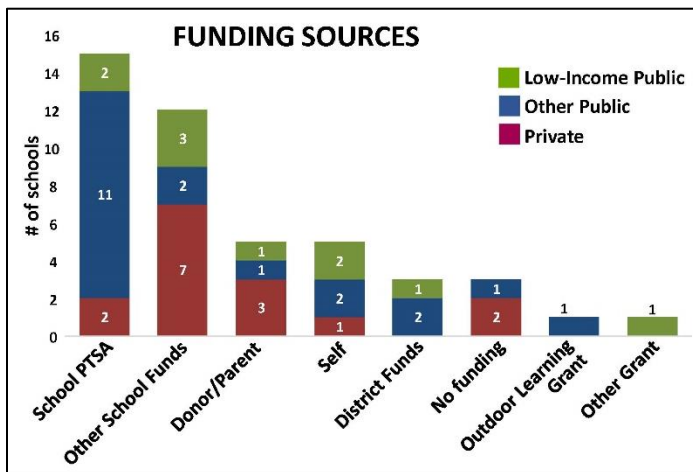
Supporting teachers and their tank volunteers was our highest priority, starting with hosting online and in-person workshops in the fall. Our handbook detailed every aspect of setting up and managing tanks, engaging students, monitoring water chemistry, recruiting volunteers, releasing fry, and supplementing learning opportunities.



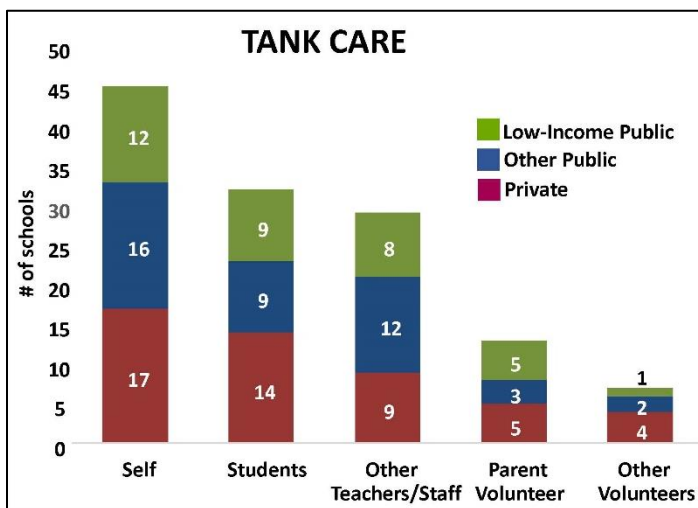
Teachers accessed our website (*sisseattle.org*) most heavily during the rearing season. Well over half of our visitors clicked on the "Learning" tab, where they found vetted lesson plans aligned with Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core.

ON THE GROUND

Schools tapped a variety of sources to fund their participation in this program. PTSA fund-raising enabled most public schools to purchase equipment and supplies, while teachers in private schools had other internal sources. SIS-Seattle provided the equipment and basic supplies that low-income public schools needed in order to participate.



Many of our teachers maintained their tanks themselves. Students also assisted as part of the learning experience, and many teachers took our advice to engage colleagues and volunteers in helping with tank care.



Photos: Islandwood, Cove School

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During 2023-24, the SIS-SEATTLE leadership team

- secured state permits and transported eggs from hatcheries for all schools.
- updated our handbook for teachers and tank volunteers.
- vetted learning resources to add to our website.
- distributed an annual report to all constituents.
- conducted an online workshop for 17 new teachers and tank volunteers, plus an in-person workshop focused on tank set-up and management for 19 teachers and tank volunteers.
- consulted by phone, email, and in person with dozens of teachers to respond to questions about equipment and address water-quality concerns.
- purchased supplies and equipment to keep pace with the needs of schools.
- supported 34 salmon search programs at Carkeek Park, 16 releases/habitat exploration in Fauntleroy Creek, 18 releases in Lake Washington, and 17 releases in Carkeek Park.
- began developing a cadre of trained volunteers to deploy to schools in need of extra tank support.
- conferred throughout the year to make decisions about participation, update databases and media, and resolve questions as they arose.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

The program relied this year on the educators and watershed advocates comprising our leadership team:

Ry Yahn, stormwater in the schools program manager, Seattle Public Utilities

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Dan Hannafious, technical support; greater Seattle area coordinator; 206-713-7704; danh@islandwood.org

Phil Sweetland, database; technical support volunteer; 206-938-4203; phil_sweetland@msn.com

Judy Pickens, volunteer Fauntleroy Creek area coordinator; 206-938-4203; judy_pickens@msn.com

David Koon, Carkeek Watershed Community Action Project volunteer; 206-819-0614

salmonprograms@carkeekwatershed.org

sisseattle.org