

Barn Quilt

Project donated to Clearwater Farm by Driftless Pass School

The Bear Paw quilt pattern is a traditional block pattern that originated from another pattern, the Saw tooth. It actually saved lives. One of the most popular theories about the origins of the Bear Paw quilt pattern is that the quilt block was used to guide escaped slaves to food and water in the days of the Underground Railroad. When we saw the pattern, it looked like "hands". We felt that with the relationship we have formed with Clearwater Farm over the years, the paws are actually a representation of hands of friendship between Driftless Pass and Clearwater Farm.

Students and staff members worked on the quilt. Barb and Breta measured and drew the pattern on the 8X8 boards. Barb guided students through the painting process with help from support specialists. Barb, Breta, Olivia and Brianna did the finishing work of putting on the back frame, putty coverage, sanding and the final coat of white paint. Clearwater Farm volunteers helped hang the barn quilt in time for the Taste of Summer fundraiser.

Clearwater Farm has helped our students grow in ways that could never be taught in a classroom. From gardening, to animal care and identification, students at Driftless Pass have learned about how pollination works, how to garden chemical free and how to harvest and use produce in daily cooking. Feeding animals, cleaning the barn and petting animals are always the highlight among our students and staff. The real world learning opportunities on the farm have given our students a sense of accomplishment and confidence. This connection to the natural world will impact them for life.

Breta Lee

Driftless Pass

School Coordinator