**Pickett’s Mill Small Fry Labitat Weekend Volunteer Guide**

Welcome Parents! Thank you for volunteering to take care of our rainbow trout fry! We are so excited that you get to be a vital part of our STEM Lab ecosystem!

This guide will walk you through step by step exactly what you need to do. If you have any questions, or if you feel that something is not working properly, please call or text Mrs. Allen. She is happy to assist!

Labitat Facilitator/STEM teacher- Leanna Allen (404)-353-5663



Scan this QR code if you would like to watch a video from Mrs. Allen showing you what to do.

**STEP 1:**Check the thermostat. It should be between 57 and 59 degrees in order to keep our fry nice and happy. If the temperature is above 59 degrees, please notify Mrs. Allen. **Record the temperature in the Labitat Log Book.**

**STEP 2:**Take a look at the labitat. If any foam has formed on top of the raceway, use the net to scoop it out. Use the net to scoop out any black or dark green algae that you see growing in the raceway. *Some* algae is good, but we don’t want it to get too gunky. You can empty the net in the bushes around the labitat. It will help fertilize our plants! There is a blue algae scrubber and can be used to clean stubborn algae-especially on the raceway screen.

**STEP 3:**Feed the fry. (If they are still eggs, you can skip this step.) The fish food is in the Labitat Bin. Sprinkle three small pinches of food and scatter it across the top of the raceway closer to the water pipe and further from the raceway screen. This will give them a little longer to eat the food before it disappears. Do not over feed the fry because uneaten food will pollute the water more quickly. **Record the feeding in the Labitat Log Book.**

**STEP 4:**Locate the test strips in the Labitat Bin. You will need to test the water’s pH levels. If the levels are low or medium, you will need to do one five gallon water exchange. If the levels are too high (very lime/dark green) you will need to do two five gallon water exchanges. **Record all pH levels and water exchanges in the Labitat Log Book.** See detailed instructions on the following page.

**How to do a Water Exchange**

Water exchanges are conducted to help keep the water clean and healthy for the fish. Cycling in new, de-chlorinated water helps to decrease the ammonia levels that can build up, killing the fish. Water is removed from the labitat and refilled with water that has been de-chlorinated.



Pour water here

Reservoir Barrel-filled to halfway up the black basket with de-chlorinated water

Spigot to remove water from the labitat

Buckets that are either empty or filled with water ready to be poured into the labitat

**How to do a water exchange**

1. Remove water from the Labitat
   1. Place a 5-gallon bucket under the spigot at the left end of the Labitat trough.
   2. Open the valve to release water to fill your bucket. If younger children are helping, fill the bucket half way two times to take enough water out.
   3. Close the valve again before removing the bucket.
   4. Use the water to fertilize any of the plants near the building.
   5. Put the bucket back under the trough and double check that the spigotis closed so that it does not drip water from the Labitat after you leave.

1. Add water back to the labitat
   1. Take one of the 5-gallon buckets that contain water from under the labitat trough (see first diagram)
   2. Pour that 5-gallon bucket of water into the black basket that sits in the top of the white reservoir barrel that is connected to the labitat. This should bring the water level back up to at least halfway up the bottom of that basket.
   3. If for some odd reason the buckets under the Labitat are all empty, you may see if water from the reserve barrel is suitable. (The other white barrel to the left of the labitat.) Do not add water to this barrel. Only fill a bucket with water from this barrel if the sign says it’s okay. (It is not ok to use this water if Mrs. Allen has filled it up less than 24 hours prior.)
   4. Please note-you need to replace as much water as you take out. (Take one/give one, take two/give two) etc.
2. Remember to **record all information in the Labitat Log book** and place it back in the bin.

**STEP 5:**Look at the water level in the reservoir barrel. It should be halfway up the black basket. If it is too low, you will need to add more water. Only use the orange buckets under the labitat or water out of the reserve barrel providing the sign says its ok to use. **Never use the hose!**

**Thank you for coming and taking care of us!**

**Love,**

**The PMES Fry**

