



## Waterway Stage Program Handbook

### PROGRAM CONTACTS

#### **ECHO Educator (All Schools):**

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#### **Very Merry Teaching Artist and Project Coordinator (JJ Flynn and All Sites as Needed) :**

Lauren "Larken" Scuderi  
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415-632-2731

#### **Very Merry Teaching Artist (Ottery Valley, Mountain River, Honeycomb Kids):**

Kim Hewitt  
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#### **Very Merry Teaching Artist (Union, Calais, Montessori):**

Sarah Hewitt  
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### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Waterway Stage combines the power of the performance arts with the joy of scientific investigation to engage students and their communities in their local watersheds. Classrooms collaborate with expert educators from Very Merry Theatre and ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain to research and perform original plays on a pressing water quality issue.

#### **2017 Play Topics:**

Grades PK - 2nd: Threatened/Endangered Aquatic Species of Vermont

Grades 3rd and up: Aquatic Invasive Species of Vermont

**Final Performance Date & Pizza Party**

Monday, April 10, 2017

10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Very Merry Theater

20 Allen St, Burlington, VT 05401

**Classroom Commitment** (estimated 10 - 20 hours class time):

- Researching a local watershed issue.
- Writing an original 8 - 15 min play.
- Constructing props and costumes.
- Practicing theatre warm-up games.
- Producing and rehearsing plays.
- Performing your play at Very Merry's Theatre Space in Burlington on April 10, 2017 and/or arranging an alternative performance for the community (schools are responsible for any student transportation costs and will lead fundraisers as necessary).

**Program Supports:**

- 2 in-person Very Merry teaching artist sessions (90 - 120 minutes).
- 2 in-person ECHO educator sessions (45 - 60 minutes). Optional complimentary ECHO field trip visit can be substituted for one school visit; schools are responsible for any student transportation costs.
- Remote support via email, phone, video chat.
- Online curriculum resources. Available at [www.echovermont.org/waterwaystage](http://www.echovermont.org/waterwaystage) (coming online January 16, 2017).

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Students will increase knowledge of the ecology and cultural history of their local watershed.
- Students will increase their interest in scientific and societal issues facing their communities.
- Students will increase their ability to work creatively with others.
- Students will increase confidence in their ability to understand scientific information.
- Students will increase confidence in their ability to express their ideas using language and the performing arts.

**Essential Questions:**

How does human activity affect native ecosystems?

What factors influence the ability of organisms to reproduce and survive?

How can narrative be used to accurately communicate information on scientific topics?

How can the performance arts be used to engage the community in scientific topics?

## Next Generation Science Standards

Standards	K - 2	3 - 5
ESS3.A	Living things need water, air, and resources from the land, and they live in places that have the things they need. Humans use natural resources for everything they do.	
ESS3.C	Things people do can affect the environment but they can make choices to reduce their impact.	Societal activities have had major effects on the land, ocean, and atmosphere, and even outer space. Societal activities can also help protect Earth's resources and environments.
LS1.B	Parents and offspring often engage in behaviors that help the offspring survive.	Reproduction is essential to every kind of organism. Organisms have unique and diverse life cycles.
LS1.C	Animals obtain food they need from plants and other animals. Plants need water and light.	Food provides animals with the materials and energy they need for body repair, growth, warmth, and motion. Plants acquire material for growth chiefly from air, water, and process matter and obtain energy from sunlight, which is used to maintain conditions necessary for survival.
LS2.D		Being part of a group helps animals obtain food, defend themselves, and cope with changes.
LS4.B		Differences in characteristics between individuals of the same species provide advantages in surviving and reproducing.
LS4.C		Particular organisms can only survive in particular environments.
LS4.D	A range of different organisms live in	Populations of organisms live in a

	different places.	variety of habitats. Changes in those habitats affects the organisms living there.
ESS2.E	Plants and animals can change their local environment.	Living things can affect the physical characteristics of their environment.
Practices	Asking questions Obtaining, evaluating, and communication information	Asking questions Obtaining, evaluating, and communication information
Crosscutting Concepts	Cause and effect Scale, proportion, and quantity Systems and system models Stability and change	Cause and effect Scale, proportion, and quantity Systems and system models Stability and change

### Common Core

Standard	K	5
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3	Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events, tell about the events in the order in which they occurred, and provide a reaction to what happened.	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7	Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., explore a number of books by a favorite author and express opinions about them).	Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8	With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.	Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase information in notes and finished work, and provide a list of sources.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5	Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail.	Include multimedia components (e.g., graphics, sound) and visual displays in presentations when appropriate to enhance the development of main

		ideas or themes.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6	Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.	Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, using formal English when appropriate to task and situation.

**P21 21st Century Skills**

<b>Skills</b>	<b>K - 5</b>
Communicate Clearly	Articulate thoughts and ideas effectively using oral, written and nonverbal communication skills in a variety of forms and contexts.
Collaborate with Others	Assume shared responsibility for collaborative work, and value the individual contributions made by each team member.
Think Creatively	Elaborate, refine, analyze and evaluate their own ideas in order to improve and maximize creative efforts.
Work Creatively with Others	Be open and responsive to new and diverse perspectives; incorporate group input and feedback into the work.

**TEACHER CHECKLIST**

**Print, Distribute, and Collect Program Permission Forms**

Distribute the provided program permission and media release form. Forms should be returned to the ECHO educator during her first visit. This document also collects information valuable to you, the teacher, about families' willingness to support the project as chaperones, event attendees, fundraisers, and prop/costume makers.

**Schedule ECHO Visit #1**

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Contact the above-listed ECHO educator with possible dates and times. This visit should precede your first Very Merry visit. Each session is 60 minutes and includes a hands-on program introducing your topic area (threatened/endangered native species or aquatic invasive species) and guidance on the specific subject focus of your play. Your school's number of sessions will depend on the number of students participating. We ask that schools with multiple participating classes combine groups to create sessions of 20 - 30 students when possible.

**Reserve Your Play Subject**

**Subject** \_\_\_\_\_

Contact your ECHO educator to reserve your play subject. Each school will select a *unique* subject for its play within the larger topic areas. We suggest having multiple choices in case your first choice has already been reserved. Possible subjects will be introduced during your first ECHO visit, and include the following:

Threatened/Endangered Aquatic Species of Vermont: Select from Vermont Fish and Wildlife's "Endangered and Threatened Animal of Vermont" list. We ask that you choose an aquatic animal (fish, amphibian, turtle, waterfowl, and wading birds). List available at <http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=268519>

Aquatic Invasive Species of Vermont: Select from: Asian Clam, Water Chestnut, Alewife, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Spiny Water Flea, Rusty Crayfish, Tench, Zebra Mussel, Didymo (Rock Snot), Purple Loosestrife, White Perch, Japanese Knotweed

**Research Your Subject**

Visit the program website at [www.echovermont.org/waterway](http://www.echovermont.org/waterway) stage (coming online January 16, 2017) for additional guidance around locating research resources as well as program specific curricular support materials.

**Schedule Very Merry Visit #1**

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Contact the above-listed Very Merry teaching artist with possible dates and times. This visit should follow your first ECHO visit. Each session is 90 - 120 minutes and focus on performance skills, character development, selecting a genre and writing a script for your play. Your school's number of sessions will depend on the number of students participating. Each group should have no more than 30 students. For schools with multiple classrooms the VMT artist will work with teachers to customize visits to maximize productive learning and collaboration time.

**Begin Developing Your Script**

Completed plays should be no longer than 15 minutes. Scripts writing resources are available on the program resource page. Final scripts should include scientific information about:

Threatened/Endangered Aquatic Species of Vermont: What threats are causing the species' decline. What people can do to support the species' recovery.

Aquatic Invasive Species of Vermont: How the species impacts the local ecosystem. What people can do to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

**Being Costume/Prop Planning**

We encourage you to invite families and art teachers at schools to participate in costume and prop planning.

**Share Your Script**

Email a draft of your script to your ECHO educator and Very Merry teaching artist. They will review your script and offer suggestions around scientific and dramatic elements.

**Schedule Very Merry Visit #2**

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Contact the Very Merry educator with possible dates and times. This visit should precede your second ECHO visit. Each session is 90 - 120 minutes and includes a blocking/sound design and continued prop/costume planning. Scripts will continue to be finalized. Students should be learning their lines and working on acting, voice projection, special effects, and blocking (movement on stage).

**Schedule ECHO Visit #2**

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Contact the ECHO educator with possible dates and times. This visit should follow your second Very Merry visit. Each session is 45 minutes and includes a rehearsal and post-performance discussion prompt development.

**Invite Families to Play Performances**

Schools are encouraged to invite families to attend final play performances. Invitations should include the following details:

What: Class Play

Why: We are participating in Waterway Stage, a collaboration between ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain and Very Merry Theatre. Waterway Stage combines the power of the performance arts with the joy of scientific investigation to engage students and their communities in their local watersheds. Seven schools from across Vermont will gather together to share original, short plays on a pressing water quality issue for your education and enjoyment!

Where: 20 Allen St, Burlington, VT

When: Monday, April 10, 2017, 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Details: Intermission will include a pizza lunch for performers and audience members.

Parking: There is a parking lot behind the theatre space. It is accessed via North St (adjacent to 191 North St, Burlington, VT 05401). Street parking is also available.

Funding for this project came from a 2017 Local Heritage grant from the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership.

**Share Information for Program by March 27, 2017**

Email the ECHO educator with your play title, student names, and any other credit information you would like to include in the official program.

## **Perform Your Play**

All participating schools will gather on Monday, April 10, 2017 to perform at Very Merry's Theatre Space, 20 Allen St, Burlington, VT and to celebrate their work. Schools are responsible for arranging and paying for transportation costs. Plan on arriving at 9:30 a.m. for a 10:30 a.m. start time. Schools unable to participate on this date can work with program organizers to arrange an alternative performance. Pizza will be provided by the program organizers for all participating schools and guests.

*Funding for this project came from a 2017 Local Heritage grant from the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership.*