

## **Miquon School Final Report – 2022 Hardy Plant Society Grant**

The Miquon School is very grateful to have received a grant from the Hardy Plant Society – Mid-Atlantic Group in April 2022. This year we used the grant to purchase mainly smaller plant plugs from ArcheWild Native Nurseries in Quakertown. The species purchased were: *Chasmanthium latifolium* (northern sea oats), *Solidago caesia* (blue-stemmed goldenrod), *Symphotrichum prenanthoides* (crooked aster), *Cerastium arvense* (field chickweed), *Anemone virginiana* (tall thimbleweed), and *Mitella diphylla* (bishop's cap). We selected these plants with help and advice from an alumni parent who is a landscape architect.

Traditionally we have an annual spring work party where parent and student volunteers help with landscaping work on campus. Last spring we had to reschedule this day because of inclement weather. For this reason, the planting was done on several successive weekends by a smaller group of parent and staff volunteers. The plugs were planted in two places: first, on the banks of the creek that runs through our campus. Crayfish Creek is a naturally occurring spring that has become more robust in recent years thanks to more frequent "100 year storms" and increased moisture due to climate change. Our hope is that these plantings will stabilize the eroding creek banks as well as contribute to the diversity of our ecosystem. Because we chose smaller plant plugs this year, our budget stretched to many hundreds of plants, so we also planted some on a hillside on campus where in recent years we have spent a lot of energy removing invasive multiflora rose, poison ivy, poison oak, and other brambles. Photographs of both locations are attached; however it is difficult to see the small plant plugs.

Miquon is committed to the health and sustainability of our woodland campus, which is located on 10.5 acres just above the Schuylkill River. In Kindergarten, students learn three important tenets of basic stewardship: we take care of ourselves, we take care of each other, and we take care of the environment. Our 152 students and their families help us in this work. Removing invasive plants and replanting with native species is an important part of our care for the environment. We would not have been able to fund such extensive replanting this year with the Hardy Plant Society's help. Thank you for supporting our school!

