Innovators

Kindergarten teacher Deb Zehnter from Broadus Wood Elementary School is engaging her students by integrating genius hour while also bringing choice and comfort to her learning space. As a result of the work Deb and a team of teachers from Broadus Wood conducted at last summer’s CAI institute, Deb integrates her version of Genius Hour, “Wonder Time,” with her kids multiple times a week. During this time, students participate in interest-based activities based on personal questions they have about their different units of study. Wonder Time activities this year have included the beginning of a class garden and the integration of a “creation station” where students complete hands-on projects. Wonder Time is tapping into students’ curiosity and giving them a voice in their learning. In addition to this, Deb and her students have created a class igloo that they made out of used plastic milk gallons. The igloo helped them in their study of the varied types of structures in which people live, and has now become a popular work space for students when they are involved in independent reading, writing or other activities.

Do you know an Albemarle Innovator who should be recognized? Click here to submit your nomination.