

## Trash Talking By Megan Reggiani

When was the last time you had a soda? Did you throw it away? Maybe you threw it on the sidewalk, or



missed the trash can and didn't pick it up. You never know where that trash goes, but I have an idea. It traveled around town to places like Odiak Pond. When it rains the trash gets pushed into Odiak Pond.

You may ask, "What is Odiak Pond?" Odiak Pond is a small pond near the hospital. Yes, Odiak Pond is fairly small, but it is much more than it seems.

This past November through April the Cordova 7<sup>th</sup> graders monitored Odiak Pond. We found different species of fish such as salmon, cool bugs, and unfortunately a lot of garbage.

Every month for the past six months Cordova 7<sup>th</sup> graders have been picking up trash near Odiak Pond and it is disgusting. We found all sorts of things from candy wrappers and soda cans, to a t-shirt, and cans of motor oil. That isn't even the worst of the trash, but the point is Odiak Pond receives a lot of Cordova's trash.

When we monitored Odiak Pond we found so much junk that was on top of the snow, just think of the things that are under the snow that we didn't collect.

The trash really does harm the whole food chain. The trash can block sunlight or release toxic materials. The toxic material will kill the plant, and if the plants die the bugs have nothing to eat. If the bugs have nothing to eat that will decrease the bug population, and the fish will not have anything to eat. So by just littering one piece of trash into the pond, you could possibly kill a fish.

When you litter trash, metal, plastic, or even shirts you are hurting Mother Nature. Sure, the trash may not kill many of the fish or bugs in Odiak Pond, but it will make the pond look dirty and gross. As a Cordovan, I know that I don't want this town to look like a dump.

You should think that way too. If we all work together we can make this better, and save Odiak Pond from all of this trash. So the next time you shoot your trash into the trash can and miss, go pick it up. In the end it will all be worth it.