

Parent Newsletter- Science (April 2025)

Kindergarten

We are continuing our unit into how light from objects like the Sun affect temperature and how this goes with weather in general. The kindergarten recently had time with scientist Goodluck Benjamin, a plant scientist, as we discussed his career and information about plants, fruits and vegetables.

1st Grade

We are continuing into our current topic on Animal Survival, focused to three primary parts: spikes/spines, shells and camouflage. The objective is to understand how, besides what organisms require daily to survive (food, water and air), how can organisms survive other elements of nature, such as predators. The first grade recently had time with neuroscientist Susan Campbell, who helped us discuss the role of the brain in the controls of the human body.

2nd Grade

We are continuing into our topic about changing landforms, especially in how landforms change a little at a time over long periods of time. We are recently discussing that while rocks appear super strong and are hard, things like water can “erode” them by wearing them down over long periods of time. The second grade recently met with mathematician, Shareef Porterfield-Jackson, who discussed how his career in math came to be related with science.

3rd Grade

Third grade is towards the start of the unit about “Weather and Climate.” Our primary understanding is that weather includes things like sunny, rainy, windy and stormy days (as learned in kindergarten), but also understanding that these things can change not only day to day, but hour to hour as well. We have also discussed the more specific kinds of precipitation (rain, snow, sleet and hail). We took time to try our hands at correctly measuring temperatures with a thermometer, as well as measuring given water amounts and then either removing or adding water to reach a given amount

using a graduated cylinder. The third grade was matched with physicist Margorie Gonzalez, who has now met with one third grade class and is scheduled to meet with the other soon, discussing the role of physics in medicine. Third grade will have an upcoming Investigation hands on during class time.

4th Grade

The fourth grade has been focusing on studies of sedimentary rocks and fossils, while also comprehending how layers of rocks work and their respective ages. We have come to define that “fossil” refers to the bone remains or imprints left behind by ancient organisms, which may also include fossils of more soft bodied organisms as well, which is rare. The fourth grade had been matched with archaeologist Patricia Chirinos Ogata, who explained her job in finding artifacts in a similar fashion that paleontologists may find fossils in the rocks of ancient ruins.

5th Grade

The fifth grade is continuing our studies into matter and the various forms, which include: atoms, molecules, substances, mixtures, etc. We have been discussing how certain substances attract or repel others based on various properties (which include, but not limited to: color, texture, smell, taste, grain size, etc). We have also recently been discussing how “dissolving” and “solubility” work. The fifth grade was matched with chemist Blair Soshawn, who has met with one class, but the other is to be scheduled soon.