THE SCIENCE EDITION

Classroom Connection

Dear Families,

As educators, we place more emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) to ensure that our students will be prepared for their future careers. It is important that children learn and practice the 21st century skills of collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving, and digital literacy in their daily curriculum.

Project-based learning, simply put, is learning by doing. PBL tends to be deeper learning that is more relevant to students, and thus remembered longer. We need to educate students to be global competitors; and to do so, we must help them to think creatively, take risks, and put what they are learning into practice. After all, it does not do much good to know a formula if you do not know when to use it. Students also need to learn the value of failure as a learning experience. Some of the ideas and efforts they will make during an activity will not work. This can turn into a very positive experience since knowing what will not work, and why, may lead to the discovery of what will work!

Reading informational material provides needed background, but doing makes the difference. Concepts, ideas, and experiences of hands-on activities remain lodged in the brain for retrieval when needed.

Scientifically speaking,
Mrs. Shari Gigante

Give me a place to stand and I will move the earth.
-Archimedes



Grade	Units and Lessons
2	Students explore the incredible diversity of animals and habitats. They investigate animal classification and the traits that define each group. Students then explore habitats to discover how the living and non-living aspects of the environment affect the diversity of organisms. They use this information to design a bird feeder that will attract birds with specific food preferences.
3	Students explore the forces all around them. They investigate the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces, the pushes and pulls of bridge structures, and the effects of gravity and friction on the motion of objects. Students also explore the power of magnetic forces and design solutions to everyday problems using their knowledge of these forces.
4	Students explore ways that both internal and external structures of plants and animals support their survival within their environments. Using models, students investigate ways that animals use their senses to gather, process, and respond to information in different ways. They develop and use models that demonstrate an understanding that reflected light allows objects to be seen by the eye, which relates to animals use of sense receptors
5	Students explore patterns of the Earth, Sun, Moon, and stars. They investigate how shadows change throughout the day, how the Sun's position changes throughout the year, and how stars change throughout the seasons. They also create Earth, Sun, and Moon models to explore Moon patterns.

You can find all of your student's Science lessons in their Google Classroom under the topic, ***Science with Mrs. Gigante***.