

The Science Edition Classroom Connection

Dear Families,

Your child is encouraged to think like young scientists and engineers. During the next few weeks your child will be inquiring, investigating, interacting, and inventing to create a better product. One of the hallmarks of a scientist is to ask questions. Another is the effort to seek answers through effective investigations, tests, and experiments. Our goal is to encourage your student scientists to practice critical thinking by asking thoughtful questions and developing creative ways to test possible solutions.

STEM is underway in our lab! STEM activities blend four essential and related learning experiences into one activity. The science project provides the platform for engineering design experiences in virtually every activity. For example, a science activity dealing with the motion of a pendulum involves learning the elements of engineering design to achieve the best results. Technology-both simple and high tech-provides the framework and recording information. Some of the technology is related to the materials and techniques used in constructing the pendulum; computers are effective in recording and comparing results. The math element will involve comparisons expressed in decimals, fractions, ratios, and percentages, as well as measurements, graphs, charts, and other visual representations.

Scientifically speaking,
Mrs. Shari Gigante



Grade	Units and Lessons
1	The students explore how the external characteristics of animals are essential for their survival. Students also make observations of parents and their offspring, determining how they are similar and how their behaviors help offspring survive.
2	The students begin to develop an understanding of the world's animal biodiversity. They explore animal classification and the traits that define each group. Students then turn their focus to habitats and how the surrounding environment affects what organisms live in that environment.
3	The students develop an understanding of how animals and their environments have changed through time. Fossils provide a window into the animals and habitats of the past. Analyzing the traits of animals that are alive today and comparing them to fossils, provides evidence of how these ancient organisms and environments of the past may have appeared.
4	The students explore the adaptations of animals and plants. Students investigate how the external and internal structures of an organism work together as an interconnected system that aid in their growth and survival. They also use models to explore how a combination of instincts and memories influence animal behavior.
5	We are learning about the web of life, the food chain. We ask ourselves when we see an animal, "what does it eat and who eats it?" These questions help us identify predator/prey relationships.

*It always seems impossible
until it's done.*

-Nelson Mandela