



Science Explorations

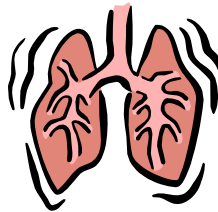
Kindergarten

We began our unit on anatomy with the study of the digestive system. The students made a page in their body books showing the organs that work together to break down food into tiny pieces and get it ready for our bodies to use. We did some fun experiments to learn about how our teeth, esophagus and stomach do their jobs and looked at pictures of the intestine taken with an electron microscope.



Then we began learning about the circulatory system that takes food and oxygen all around the body. Students learned about veins, arteries and capillaries and of course, the heart. We looked at a model of a heart and did some experiments to learn how it pumps harder and faster when we exercise. They also made a page in their body books showing how the circulatory system reaches all parts of the body. We also studied blood and looked at models of white and red blood cells as well as real blood under the microscope.

Then we learned about the respiratory system. We learned how the lungs work by making our own working models. A powerful muscle called the diaphragm pulls air into our lungs. We have some control over this muscle and we tested to see how long we could hold our breath and how much air we could blow out in one breath. We have also been preparing an exhibit for the science fair. We shared a story with the first grade on a funny science fair project and then began making decisions about what of all the many cool things we've done, that we wanted to share.



First Grade

We learned about fish and examined the characteristics that make a fish kosher under the microscope. We saw the gills that they use for breathing as well as other ways they are



adapted for living in water. Then we went



on to learn about amphibians.

Amphibians have an amazing life cycle that starts out like fish with gills and then later they grow limbs and lungs and most can leave the water. We



made a little book about how frogs grow and made some origami frogs. We also looked at live frogs. It is fun to watch them catch bugs. Many of the world's most amazing frogs of the tropical rainforest are threatened by loss of habitat and disease.



After frogs we moved on to reptiles. These animals have adapted to live their lives on land and lay eggs with a covering so they don't have to return to the water to lay eggs. Reptiles are classified into five orders and we got to meet representatives of some of them. The students have also been working on preparing an exhibit for the science fair.



Second Grade

We went to Japan to study strato volcanoes. We learned that on rare occasions underwater earthquakes can cause tsunamis. We experimented to see how the waves travel unnoticed in the open ocean but can be devastating when

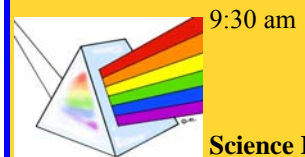
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Keep in Mind

Important Dates

Open House

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

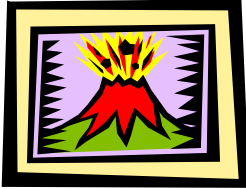


Science Fair and Spaghetti

Dinner

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they reach land. We also experimented to see how the coastline effects the waves. The magma of strato volcanoes is more viscous and causes the volcanoes to



be shaped much more steeply. Sometimes the sticky lava gets stuck and makes a plug. Later eruptions can make the hole volcano top blow off like with Mt. St. Helens. We mapped some of these volcanoes and enjoyed eating sushi.

Then we continued our journey by visiting Nepal. We found it on the map and Earth's highest mountain. We studied the rock layers of Mt. Everest and took measurements on where different layers of rock could be found.

We found evidence of ocean fossils thousands of meters above sea level and because of tectonic uplift, Mt. Everest is still growing. We enjoyed eating



Nepalese Baht Dal before moving on to Iceland. Iceland is located over the mid-Atlantic ridge. This is a place of sea-floor spreading. We began looking continental drift. We have also been preparing an exhibit for the science fair. It was hard to decide what of all the many cool things we've done, that we wanted to share.

Third Grade

The third through sixth graders have put in a lot of in class work on their science fair projects, making a list of materials, designing procedures for their experiments, and using the internet and other sources to research their topics.



Third Grade

The third grade started learning about air pressure and how it can be used to predict the weather. It can even be used to do some cool magic tricks and float a giant

flying trash bag. The students made their own barometers to take home and used the school's weather bug station to calibrate their instruments and learn more about how air pressure is used to predict the weather.

Air pressure gives us clues as to what is happening in the atmosphere even if we can't see it. Changes in the air pressure often mean a change in weather. The students also worked with isobaric maps on which the marked areas of low and high pressure. These maps can also be used to predict wind speed and direction.

Fourth Grade

The fourth grade finished making their biomes- in-a-bottle. They carefully measured and calculated the mass or volume of everything inside, sealed them up, and took them home. We have now moved onto bigger and better things.



This year the fourth grade will be doing a more extensive project on the rainforest. They began learning about the rainforest and how it can be divided into layers. The students selected a layer to study and have begun designing tanks to support representative plants and animals and making lists of needed materials. They have also been spending class time working on their science fair projects.

Fifth Grade

The fifth grade finished learning about physical properties and how they can be used to test and identify unknown substances. They then began learning about chemical reactions and some of the characteristics that identify when a chemical reaction has taken place. They learned about reactants



and products. They then worked on a series experiments where it was not always easy to identify all the reactants and products in a chemical reaction. The students learned about the symbols used to represent elements in the periodic table and enjoyed a song about it.



Considerable time class time was devoted to working on their science fair projects.

Sixth Grades

The sixth grade spent a lot of class time working on their science fair projects. They also made models of cells to help them learn about the different organelles in plant and animal cells and their functions. They played games, saw a video and did activities to review cell processes and functions before taking a test on the subject.



Hebrew Day Institute

1840 University Blvd., West

Silver Spring, MD 20902