

In The Lab with Mr. Kearney

Kudos to all of the Glenridge scientists out there who participated in this year's science fair! Fifty-one of our students worked either alone or together to put forty-four projects on display! The district-wide Elementary Science Celebration was a HUGE success, thanks to everyone involved – parents, staff and (of course) students. A great time was had by all. I'm already looking forward to next year's fair...I hope you're interested in being a part of the fun! ☺

There is a lot of science happening at our school. Please encourage your child to make connections with their learning outside of school, whether they are currently working with specific concepts, have in the past, or will be in the future.

Kindergarteners are continuing to notice changes that take place in trees throughout the year. They are also exploring the properties of wood, paper, and other materials. The students are developing their skills as scientists as they make observations and measure matter in the lab. Soon, they will be observing the structures and functions of animals, including fish, snails, worms, and isopods.

First-graders are budding meteorologists, discovering the tools that are used to study our weather. They just completed a unit on solids and liquids and can now say that, "Matter matters." Soon, they will be exploring the life cycles of insects and taking their first trip to the Litzsinger Road Ecology Center.

Second-graders have been learning about the growth and adaptations of plants and animals. They are taking their knowledge to a new level as they conduct careful scientific observations with all kinds of plant species and structures. Soon, they will be exploring physical science concepts involving balance and motion. As we enter into April and May, they will be making a second visit to the Litzsinger Road Ecology Center.

Third-graders are in the midst of learning about the many ways that matter can be measured. They have taken a deep dive into the complexities and simplicities of the metric system. Through a series of discrepant events, students come to realize the need for standard measurement units, and get loads of practice at both estimating and measuring with a multitude of tools. They make mixtures and explore phase changes as they develop a foundation for chemistry and physical science.

Fourth-graders have been studying earth science in the unit, "Weather on Earth." They are taking their learning to new heights as they explore weather and climate, collect and communicate data patterns, and analyze and interpret graphs & weather maps. Who needs the news? These meteorologists are becoming pretty accurate at predicting the weather. ☺

Fifth-graders are budding chemists in the lab. They have been exploring the ideas of saturation, concentration, and even chemical reactions with mixtures and solutions. Their skills in the lab are being developed as they deepen their understanding of the scientific processes. They are also gearing up for the upcoming MAP test this spring, where they will have the opportunity to show off all of their scientific knowledge learned in these elementary years.

Spring is here...finally! Continue to notice all of the changes that take place in the natural world around you. Make connections and ask questions – it's how we do science.

Go Green! The Glenridge Green Team will soon be back at work in the garden and continuing to develop sustainable strategies for being good stewards of our Earth. Be on the lookout for our environmentally friendly efforts and ideas for how you can help benefit our community with us...not just on Earth Day (April 22nd), but every day!