

K-K News

March 20, 2009

Dear K-K Families:

This week has been saturated with science in K-K! During stay days, the children extended their work from last week in which they found quick ways to melt an ice cube. This week, they worked to create "ice cube savers" - items meant to protect an ice cube from melting when placed on an overhead projector. Using cups, cotton balls, dryer lint, toilet paper tubes, wax paper, foil and plastic bags, the children created items to protect their ice cubes from the heat of the overheads. In the process they also worked on creating clear diagrams of their creations, and on making design decisions based on their observations. After sharing their successes or failures on Monday and Tuesday afternoon, the children had an opportunity to create a second ice cube saver on Thursday or Friday afternoon, using their observations from round one to inform their designs for round two. Ask your child to describe his/her ice cube savers and the things we learned about keeping ice cubes from melting this week!

In addition to our work with ice cube savers, the children enjoyed a wonderful program on Bubbles with a presenter from the Discovery Museum in Acton on Wednesday, and they created terraria with our science volunteers that day, as well. (Please note that your child should observe his/her terrarium through next Wednesday. If you are not witnessing condensation and precipitation in your terrarium, you may open the top and add a bit of water next week. Then reseal it and watch again.)

Next week, we will be continuing our work in the water unit with some discussions on conservation and pollution. Be prepared for reminders about your water usage from your child next week! In addition, please watch for a permission slip in home folders next week for our field trip to the Charles River on April 1.

In other news...

- To keep our learning as connected as possible, the children are enjoying many new "just right" books about water. We have also continued sharing books by author and illustrator Ezra Jack Keats this week.

- In home folders today are two math-related items: a bit of homework related to the work we have been doing with three-dimensional geometric solids, which your child should be able to complete independently; and an invitation to our math morning on March 30. We look forward to seeing you then!

- Please remember that Monday morning is our rehearsal for the Musical Mosaic. We appreciate having all of the permission slips, but we also need to have everyone here on time on Monday morning to allow us time to prepare for our trek across the street for our dress rehearsal. Thank you for your help with this!

- It has been a pleasure to see so many of you for conferences. We look forward to seeing the rest of you in the next two weeks. If you have any questions about your scheduled time, please let us know or check the bulletin board outside the classroom..

- Finally, if you attended the auction and contributed to the "Elmo fund," we want to express our deepest gratitude for your support of this great technology in the classroom. We are very excited about having regular access to this great tool in K-K!

Enjoy the weekend with your children, and know that we look forward to seeing them, and you, next week!

Sincerely,

Lynn and Julie