LIVING CLASSROOM

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

Your child's class recently participated in a Living Classroom lesson called **Water World**. During this lesson students learned that the water cycle is a naturally occurring cycle in which water changes states through the process of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation. Students created a self-contained ecosystem to model how the hydrosphere interacts with the geosphere, biosphere and atmosphere. They also played a water droplet game where they discovered that water can be found in many places on Earth (including inside plants) and that it is a limited resource that needs to be conserved!

The lesson began with students observing a poster of earth from space where students noticed that you mostly see water not land. They brainstormed where else water can be found besides the oceans (lakes, rivers, glaciers, ground, plants, animals, clouds, soil, etc.). They observed a water bottle demonstration that helped the students to visually understand that the majority of water on Earth is in the oceans which is not potable. The main idea is that there is a very limited amount of available potable water, which is a precious resource and essential to life.

The class was divided into two groups and rotated between two activities - water droplet game, and ecosystem project. During the water droplet game, students learned the phases of the water cycle. Students become a "Water Droplet" and took turns rolling special dice that directed them to a place on Earth where water is found. Students continued their water journey and realized that water can get "stuck" in different areas, such as in a glacier because the water droplet freezes. Be sure to ask your child about their water droplet journey! You may ask them what places did you visit or get stuck at?

The ecosystem project activity introduced the students to Earth's four systems (hydrosphere=water, biosphere=life, geosphere=land, and atmosphere=air). Students then worked in groups and built a mini-ecosystem using a tennis ball tub container. Sand, soil, grass seed, and water were added to the containers. The containers will stay in the classroom in a sunny location. Students will be able to observe and understand that the grass will sprout and continue to grow without any further care as long as the lid stays on the container. The moisture from the soil and plants will hydrate the self-contained system as it evaporates/transpires and condenses on the lid where it will then "rain" back down.

We wrapped up the lesson by having a discussion about conserving water and wasting water. Since there is a limited amount of potable water on Earth, it is important to practice water conservation. As a class we discussed ways to conserve water, including taking shorter showers, turning water off when brushing teeth, only running full dishwashers or washing machines, using a bucket to wash cars not a hose, etc. Ask your child what other water conserving ideas they remember and try to implement them at home!

Warm regards,

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The mission of the Living Classroom is to inspire children to learn about and value our natural world through garden-based education. Living Classroom staff collaborate with schools and communities to provide engaging, hands-on lessons that stimulate curiosity. Lessons are provided by trained staff, docents and classroom volunteers. We welcome you to become a part of the Living Classroom!

For more information, please visit: www.Living-Classroom.org. "Like" us on Instagram!