



Friday Notes-July 13, 2018

Laurel School Planet Protectors

We've already reached the halfway point in our summer program! Between our academics and our creative outlets, students have been busy, and they are having fun while learning new things each day. Friendships have grown, everyone is developing their strengths, and some students have even discovered they are pretty good at things they never even tried before, whether it's being a leader and mentor or designing structures and using tools.

Our Science program this week put students in the role of environmental engineers as they measured pH of soil and water samples and mapped out their findings to gain clues to identify the source of pollution in the fictional "Greentown." Gardening activities, discussions of ecosystems and the role animals like our classroom pets play in an ecosystem set the stage for next week's oil spill remediation activities.

In our Reading groups, students have been sharpening oral reading fluency and sight word spelling, as well as becoming better spellers and readers by using multisensory approaches: sounding and tapping out words and using a magnetic journal. In Language Arts, our younger groups have been expanding sentences and writing creatively, while some of our older students are researching and writing a report on an aquatic animal that interests them. 4th and 5th graders have been working on fractions and basic algebra skills in math.

Full day students are "full STEAM ahead": creating a wide array of art projects with Ms. Sharon, and applying art, science, and engineering to a multitude of open ended explorations from making crab habitats and kinetic sand to flying a 50-foot solar bag using the energy of the sun. We also picked flowers from our garden and played some capture the flag!

We are looking forward to welcoming even more new faces next week for the second half of the summer program. Enjoy the weekend, we will see you all on Monday!