

6 July, 2018

### **Friday Notes from Planet Protectors**

We at Laurel School hope your Independence Day this past Wednesday was full of fun and relaxation. Our first week of Planet Protectors was a success! Excessive heat followed by torrential rain made it easier to be inside working on our academic skills, although it did interfere with many plans for outdoor activities during our afternoon sessions. We managed to get outside to tend the garden and experiment with water rockets though! Next week, we hope to spend more outdoor time learning about science and the environment in the mornings and getting physical activity, gardening, and testing our model rockets in the afternoons.

It was wonderful for our year-round students to reconnect with a former teacher (welcome back for the summer, Ms. Fran) and friends from last summer, and meet some new friends as well.

Now that everyone has gotten to know each other and we are in the summer program groove, there's so much to learn! Students have been keeping their reading skills sharp, but also brushing up on their math skills with a mixture of standard math work and math-oriented games like "the Allowance Game", "Multiplication Divide and Conquer", card games and the like. Walk by any of our classes and you will see relaxed but focused learning at every turn.

In Science, we focused on Engineering and the Engineering Design Process by completing various design challenges, and we learned/ reviewed the answers to "What is an engineer?", "What is technology?", and "What is a scientist?" as we compared and contrasted science and engineering. Our main summer science theme was introduced as we learned about ecosystems, environmental engineering, oil spills, and materials science, through the book "Tehya's Pollution Solution". We also set up our long-term acid rain plant study to track during the whole month.

Our full-day students had a great week building robotic hands and hovercrafts, making bubble art, and dabbling in all kinds of fun little projects. They are looking forward to getting outdoors with Mr. Logan more next week, and they're also looking forward to working with Ms. Sharon on some cool art projects as well!

Enjoy the weekend! See you Monday.