



E-Inquiry Lab Midyear News

From the Desk of Mrs. McGowan Pre-K-1st and AUI E-Inquiry

The first half of the year flew by because we have been having so much fun learning in the PreK-1 E-Inquiry Lab!

PreK students have been studying the weather, evergreen trees, and what to wear in the winter. We also made bird seed suet to feed to the birds in this cold, cold weather.

AU1 students have been learning about so many things as well. We studied trees, weather, evergreens, made bird seed suet, and have been working through a unit all about Forces and Motion. We experimented with sponges and shaving cream to demonstrate precipitation; we used binoculars to look for clouds; we hung cheerios garland for the birds; and created miles of hot wheels tracks and marshmallow catapults to demonstrate forces. We've been very busy soaking in loads of science concepts!

During the first quarter, Kindergarteners worked through a Problem Based Learning Unit (PBL) about how to "Make Sense of their Environment". We discovered different ways to use our 5 senses to explore our environment and spent loads of time outside! During the second quarter, Kindergarteners completed an in-depth study of different types of weather. We used binoculars to study the clouds, made a wind sock to test the wind, did a rain experiment using sponges, and so much more!

In the first quarter, First Graders went GREEN! We learned about helping our environment by studying landfills, learning about reducing, reusing, and recycling, and created our very own recycling superheroes! We finished our PBL by either writing a Going Green Brochure or by recycling crayons to send to a company that makes new ones for children in the hospital. During the second quarter, first graders learned all about Earth Materials (rocks, soil and water). We found our own rocks to describe and keep, we went on a soil hike to find different soils around our campus, and each student chose a type of soil (sand, clay, or humus) to plant grass seeds in. We discovered that grass seed will grow in all three soils, but it definitely grows the best in humus!

Looking forward to more discovery and wonder during the second half of the year!

From the Desk of Mrs. Brumble 4th and 5th E-Inquiry

* It has been an amazing first semester with our 4th and 5th graders in the E-Inquiry Lab. During our first quarter fourth graders became geologists and participated in a variety of hands on landform simulations to understand how weathering and erosion play a role in creating various landforms. We ended this unit with a green screen video that consists of a landform game where all students were able to watch their videos and were asked to.... Name That Landform!

*In Quarter 2 fourth grade students became nutritionists and explored the driving question, "Why Is It So Hard to Eat Right?". They explored a variety of foods through experiments with their edible environment and researched some healthy food options and their nutritional benefits.

* Our 5th graders, explored air pollution during quarter 1. You may have received a brochure in the carpool lane that they created. They are trying to make our air cleaner here at MECME by asking that all families turn their cars off when idling in the carpool lane. Students studied the air in 3 different locations on our campus and found that our carpool lane was the most polluted. Thank you to all our carpool families for your support.

* This past quarter 5th graders learned about how organisms depend on each other to survive and thrive in their ecosystems. They researched a variety of invasive species and studied how these species can cause imbalances in their ecosystems. We explored some of our campus ecosystems and throughout the next few weeks we will be working on installing an aquatic ecosystem on our campus for future 5th graders to observe and learn!

From the Desk of Mrs. Avilez 2-3rd grades and AUII E-Inquiry

As you might know, in our school we use the teaching method of Project Based Learning, or PBL, to help students learn better. A project motivates students to gain knowledge, and they remember it longer. Projects give students the chance to apply the skills they learn in school to personally relevant and real-world situations. Your child also learns skills in PBL such as how to think critically, solve problems, work in teams, and make presentations.

Our 3rd graders project is called Food, Grow, Love. Students will learn how to grow, care for and harvest plants and vegetables. The project's Driving Question, which focuses our work, is: How can we as junior botanist provide healthy food choices for our school community? Students will be involved in researching on the Internet, interviewing community members, growing healthy food choices such as vegetables, coming up with recipes and creating a video. During Q1 our 2nd grade students became experts on how to create and use meteorologist tools. Our students displayed their expertise when they created a how to video instructing other kids on how to make their own weather tools and how to use them effectively.