



Grade 3 PYP Newsletter

May 20, 2010

Parent Information Sheet

Unit: Seeds to Forest

Transdisciplinary Theme: How the World Works

An exploration of the physical and material world; of natural and human-made phenomena; of the world of science and technology.

Subject Area Focus: Science, Language Arts, Art, Drama and Technology

Central Idea: Plants and plant communities (places where a variety of plants live together) are very important to humans and their environment.

Lines of Inquiry:

- What is a plant? How does it grow?
- How are plants important to humans and their environment?
- What are the many ways we use plants?
- How do plants fit into life on the earth?
- What is a flower? Why is it important to us?

Key Concepts:

Form – What is it like?

Function – How does it work?

Causation – Why is it like this?

Change – How is it changing?

Responsibility – What is our responsibility?

Connection – How is it connected to other things?

Summative Task:

Students will invent their own plant. They will create their plant using modeling clay and/or construction paper and identify the parts of their plant. Students will “make up” a name for their plant and write a brief report about its germination and growth including photosynthesis,

pollination and seed dispersal as well as its form and function. Students will present their plant and report to the class in a short presentation. This assessment will be peer- and teacher-evaluated with a student-created rubric.

Science

Students will:

- assess ways in which plants have an impact on society and the environment, and ways in which human activity has an impact on plants and plant habitats
- investigate similarities and differences in the characteristics of various plants, and ways in which the characteristics of plants relate to the environment in which they grow
- demonstrate an understanding that plants grow and change and have distinct characteristics
- assess the impact of soils on society and the environment and of society and the environment on soils
- investigate the composition and characteristics of different soils
- demonstrate an understanding of the composition of soils, the types of soils, and the relationship between soils and other living things.

Language Arts

Students will:

- read a variety of nonfiction and fiction books about plants and soils and continue to use effective reading strategies (making predictions, inferring, summarizing, evaluating, asking questions) to develop comprehension and convey meaning and understanding
- further develop note-taking strategies by using effective graphic organizers
- use nonfiction text features effectively to write a report
- analyze a variety of media text of healthy and unhealthy food products

Art and Drama

Students will:

- artistically create their plant
- create dramatic healthy food commercials

Technology

Students will:

- use programs to draw and label the parts of a plant
- create their written report

Special Events

- Scientist in School Workshop “Investigating Soils” – May 26
- MacSkimming Outdoor Educational Field Trip – June 14