

Evening at Eleven on 10/11/12

- Are you longing for a night of adult only conversation?
- Are your taste buds craving something other than mac and cheese?
- Are you dying for a date night? (Remember these?)

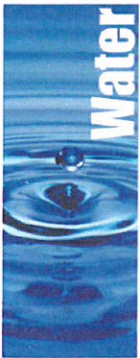
If you answered **YES** to any of the above, then please join us for a very special evening to celebrate and support the CMU Children's School at Eleven in the Strip District. Recently ranked as one of best 25 restaurants in Pittsburgh by Pittsburgh Magazine, Eleven and the Children's School have combined efforts to host a **fabulous five course dinner with wine pairing**. The evening begins at 6 pm and seating is limited to 38 guests so if interested please RSVP to Allison Drash. Cost/person: \$150 (check or cash only, payable to the CMU Children's School) with all proceeds benefiting the Children's School Scholarship Fund.



- Please contact Allison Drash to reserve your ticket!
- If you are unable to attend and would like to make a contribution, please contact Linda Hancock.

Water, Water, Everywhere

After experiencing floods during the summers of both 2009 and 2011, the Children's School staff was most likely primed to choose WATER as the topic of our Whole School Unit for the 2012-13 year. Though the thematic study is not scheduled to occur until February 2013, our educators will incorporate concepts related to water as a thread throughout the whole year. You may have already noticed some water imagery in the classrooms, as well as in this newsletter. Our choice of the WATER topic provides the opportunity for us to study **physical science** (e.g., states of matter, flotation, absorption, energy, purification, etc.), **life science** (e.g., the necessity of fresh water for life, adaptation to wet or dry habitats, etc.), **earth science** (e.g., the water cycle, effects of water on land, conservation and recycling, etc.), and all the related **technologies**. With respect to **the arts**, we plan to investigate ways to represent water visually, via music and poetry, and in dance or drama, as well as the ways that water can be used as a medium in all of the arts. We can also incorporate the social sciences as we explore the **geography** of fresh and salt water and the **history** of humans using and misusing water. We are currently researching the **social justice** issues related to water and are considering ways to involve our whole learning community in helping to provide clean water for some of the millions of global citizens who currently have limited access to safe water. If you have suggestions for ways to enhance our unit, contact Dr. Carver or Mrs. Rosenblum to share them.



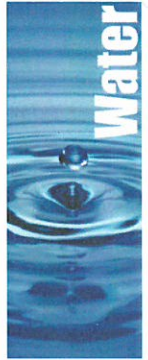
Meanwhile, if you are interested in beginning to explore issues related to water usage yourself, consider checking the following interesting web site from Tauranga, New Zealand, for simple steps to sustainable living, including both tips for reducing your water usage and taking better care of the wastewater and storm water systems where you live.

<http://www.tauranga.govt.nz/sustainable-living/water.aspx>

Easy ideas, such as fixing leaky faucets, switching to a dual flush toilet, and turning off the water while brushing your teeth can have large cumulative effects over a year's time!

Clean, Safe Water for Everyone

According to World Vision, an international relief organization focused on building a better world for children, "around the world, one in six people has no access to safe water. According to researchers, well over half of all childhood deaths are connected to dirty water." Statistics from www.worldvision.org indicate that every day more than 4,000 children die of waterborne and sanitation-related diseases (e.g., cholera, giardia, and typhoid). World Vision and other non-governmental organizations such as Water Aid (www.wateraidamerica.org) work to provide safe water and sanitation for everyone in the world. Small contributions can make a big impact for children and families. For example, in August, the administrative team honored the staff with a \$200 gift to Water Aid, which is enough to pay for a hand pump to serve 10 households in Nepal or provide sanitation and hygiene programs for 8 people.



Beginning in January, as we prepare for our Whole School Unit on WATER, we will talk with the children about the importance of clean, safe water for a healthy life. You can help them begin thinking about the role of water in our community by noticing the many ways that we encounter water each day and discussing the ways that people, animals, and plants depend on water for life.



We will also talk about the ways that people can help everyone in the world to have safe water. For example, scientists have invented ways to purify water quickly and inexpensively, such as water treatment tablets and PUR water purification powder, making water up to 99.99% safe. Others design irrigation systems to help families in dry areas with food shortages to grow more food year-round. Individuals can also raise money to drill wells for those who do not have the type of plumbing systems that we enjoy. A traditional well just 60 feet deep can provide more than 600 gallons of clean, safe water per day - enough for 150 people. Having a well close to home also enables more children to attend school rather than walking long distances to fetch water.

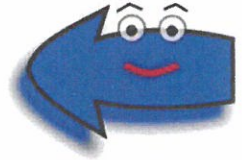
International Children's Digital Library (ICDL)

The Fred Rogers Early Learning Environment (*Ele*) at <http://ele.fredrogerscenter.org/> is "an innovative online space where early educators, families, and others who care for young children can come together in a safe environment to find and share digital resources that support early learning and development in children from birth to age 5." Several of our educators attended a session about the site at the September PAEYC Conference and suggest that you explore it, particularly the online book feature.

Welcome.
My name's *Ele*.
I'm so happy
you're here.

By clicking on Activities and then your child's age and books, you can choose to read / hear books online in many languages. For example, if you choose to read *The Royal Raven* (by Hans Wilhelm), you can hear the story in simplified or traditional Chinese, Croatian, Dutch, German, Italian, Korean, Macedonian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, and Spanish. Note that you can also offer to be a translator to help expand the site's collection. If you do a search within the activities for ICDL, you can download a few free books for your iPad or iPhone.

Stay Safe in Your Winter Wonderland!



For children, winter is not the end of outdoor fun. When properly prepared, children can enjoy safe and fun outdoor activities. "The inviting snow draws children to ice-covered lakes and ski slopes each winter, regardless of the frigid temperatures and the risks," says Heather Paul, Ph.D., executive director of the National SAFE KIDS Campaign. "Parents should watch their children closely, limit their outdoor playtime and make sure that they are dressed appropriately for the weather." Here are a few other winter tips to keep in mind:

- Parents and caregivers should inspect equipment and the environment for possible hazards before children engage in winter activities such as sledding, ice skating and skiing.
- Be aware that the increased use of hot tubs and whirlpools, as well as the danger of hidden bodies of water or weak ice, makes winter drowning a risk.
- If a child complains of numbness or pain in the fingers, toes, nose, cheeks or ears while playing in the snow, or if the skin is blistered, hard to the touch or glossy, be alert to the possibility of frostbite. Tell the child to wiggle the affected body part(s) to increase blood supply to that area. Warm the frozen part(s) against the body. Immerse frozen part(s) in warm, not hot, water. Frozen tissue is fragile and can be damaged easily. Avoid warming with high heat from radiators, fireplaces or stoves, and avoid rubbing or breaking blisters.
- Slippery driveways and sidewalks can be particularly hazardous in the winter. Keep them well shoveled, and apply materials such as rock salt or sand to improve traction.
- Make sure children wear appropriate boots and brightly colored (not white) clothing while walking and playing in snowy conditions. Use reflective stickers on clothing for maximum protection, especially at dawn and dusk.

A Winter Reminder

On days when snow or ice may affect driving conditions, please listen to the radio or the television. If the Children's School should close due to the weather, we announce our school closing on both WTAE and KDKA. WTAE will also announce school closings on their web page:

www.thepittsburghchannel.com/index.html. Because Children's School staff and families live in diverse areas in and around the city, we cannot factor travel conditions from every location into our decision about whether to delay or close school. Between 5:30 and 6:00 AM, we listen to the news, determine what other schools in the city are doing, and make our best judgment on whether to have a delay or close school that day. In all cases when school is in session, we encourage parents to use their best judgment about whether the roads in your area are safe to bring your child to school.



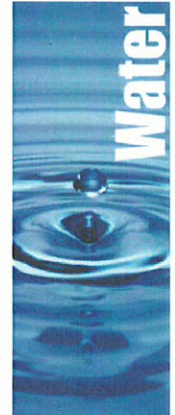
Depending on the road conditions, we will choose from three options:

- **One Hour Delay**: During a one-hour delay, we will greet the Morning Preschool and Kindergarten Classes at 9:30 AM. This option enables us to conduct the morning preschool classes, while giving our staff and families time for the road conditions to improve. Dismissal will be at the normal times and the Extended and Afternoon Programs will be on normal schedule.
- **Two Hour Delay/No Morning Preschool**: During a two-hour delay, we will greet the Kindergarten Class at 10:30 AM and dismiss at the normal time. The Morning Preschool and Extended Morning Programs will be canceled but the Afternoon Programs will be on normal schedules.
- **School Closure for all Programs**

Wonderful Ways with Water

In preparation for our Whole School Unit exploring **WATER**, we are planning a Staff / Parent Discussion on Friday, February 1st from 9:30 to 11:00am. Preschool 4's and Kindergarten children will be in school, and child care will be provided in the Red Room for 3's and younger siblings. Because school will be in session, please park in the East Campus garage or at one of the metered spots near the school.

According to the iSustainableEarth web site (<http://www.isustainableearth.com/water-conservation>), learning about water conservation can help your family save money now, while also building habits for a lifetime of responsible resource use among the next generation. For example, reducing the bath water level by just one inch saves about 4.5 gallons of water! Come join our discussion of ways to foster young children's learning in all developmental domains by exploring WATER.



Snow Day Ideas for Water Play

A little planning ahead will go a long way to helping you and your family have positive and constructive snow days this winter. Here are a few ideas for creatively using snow days to reinforce important lessons about Water.

- **Be creative while learning about properties of absorption and states of matter.** Do traditional water color painting, but try different types of painting surface (e.g., printer paper, construction paper, paper towels, cardboard, etc.). Then try ice painting (www.ehow.com/how_4537132_make-ice-cube-paintings.html) to promote creativity and observe the melting process.



- **Experiment with states of matter** by collecting snow and trying different ways to melt it outside (or keep it from melting inside). See www.ehow.com/list_6497888_experiments-salt-melting-ice.html.

- **Exercise growing bodies** by shoveling, rolling, packing and otherwise playing with snow outside. Then relax with a warm bath followed by a cup of hot tea or cocoa inside. Remember to highlight the fact that the snow, the bath water, and the steam from the boiling tea/cocoa are all the same substance – WATER!

- **Explore the prevalence and diversity of water** by going on an indoor scavenger hunt for all the ways your family uses water and/or for older children for pictures and words for water in books, magazines, etc.



- **Observe the properties of water and its effects on various food items** by cooking together. Consider making a salad (after washing the vegetables), a pot of soup, jello, or other foods that involve water in various ways, especially those that change state with heating or cooling.

Carnegie Mellon University Children's School

February 2013 Family Newsletter

Whole School Water Unit



On February 4th, both Preschool and Kindergarten classes will begin a thematic unit to explore the properties of water, the water cycle, the uses of water, and to reduce, reuse, and recycle water.



We will experiment with water in different states, water purification, using water in art, and making art to represent water. Plan now to bring your entire family to the **Wonders of Water Family Festival** on Thursday, February 28th from 4:30 – 6:30 pm. Consider bringing a camera to capture your family's water fun!

NOTE: There will not be an Extended Afternoon Program on the Family Festival day so that the staff can prepare the school for the event. If your child is enrolled in the Extended Afternoon Program, we will dismiss your child at 3:15 with the afternoon preschoolers. Thank you!

Enrollment Reminders

Registrations for the 2013/2014 Preschool Programs are arriving steadily and the Extended Morning Program is filling quickly, so please submit your re-enrollment materials as soon as possible. It is especially important that families let us know if you are NOT planning on re-enrolling so that we can notify families on the waiting list that we have spaces for their children. Even if you are not re-enrolling, ALL families need to return the corrected and signed "Child Information Form". Thanks!

Registration for the Kindergarten Program is being sent home February 1st. Remember that we send more re-enrollment packets than we have space available, so we expect to have a full class. If you intend to enroll, please respond as quickly as possible. Mrs. Rosenblum will begin to accept completed forms and deposits at 8am on Monday, February 4th. Based on last year's timeline and this year's projections, we do not anticipate the program filling within the first few hours, so please do not bring packets early or feel a need to begin the queue before 8am on the 4th. If you have any questions concerning admissions, please contact Mrs. Rosenblum at rosenblu@andrew.cmu.edu.

February Dates:

Friday, February 1st - Staff / Parent Discussion re: WATER 9:30-11:00 (child care provided)

Re-enrollment Packets Sent Home in Backpacks to Current 4's Families

Monday & Tuesday, February 4th & 5th - Vision Screening

Friday, February 8th - Kindergarten Orientation & Observation for All Interested Parents

Tuesday & Wednesday, February 12th & 13th - School Photos

Friday, February 15th Deposits DUE for 2013-2014 Preschool & Kindergarten

Monday, February 18th Presidents' Day Holiday (NO SCHOOL)

Thursday, February 28th, 4:30-6:30 pm, WONDERS of WATER FAMILY FESTIVAL

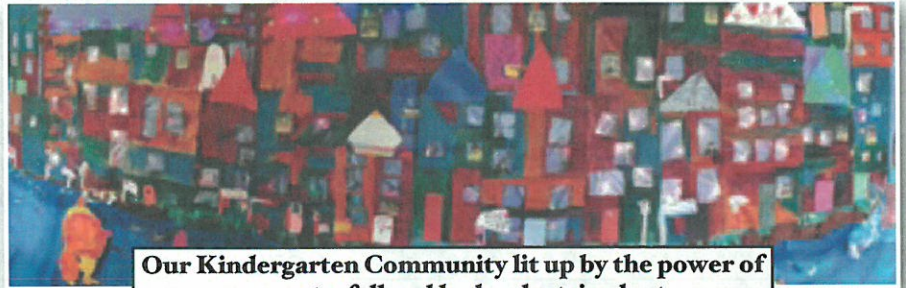
NOTE: There will be no Extended Afternoon Program on that day!

KINDERNEWS

Wonderful Water

Reminders

- March/Early April Theme: Russia
- No School: April 5th (Conference Prep)
- Parent Teacher Conferences:
April 19th and 26th



Our Kindergarten Community lit up by the power of our waterfall and hydroelectric plant.

Students test absorption using water and sugar cubes. Then they explore which materials will stop the process.



With the student's interest still lingering from our coral reef unit, the kindergarten classroom couldn't wait to begin our wet and wonderful exploration of H₂O. Students began by learning about the properties of water, exploring water's attraction to itself (cohesion) and how water molecules create a "skin" or surface tension, allowing things, such as a water spider to float on top of water.



Anna adds dirt and rocks to create her Water Cycle terrarium.

Discussing and recording the student's interests and knowledge of water, such as wondering why some liquids don't mix well with water, inspired many exiting inquiries, one being the creation of density bottles. We layered honey, maple syrup, oil, dish soap and alcohol and from the resulting layers discovered which liquids are lighter or heavier than water. As our exploration continued, students tested which foods contained water, how salt water changes an object's ability to float, how water changes the consistency of chalk, along with testing many fun and interesting ways to melt an ice cube using the Ice Cube



Lili and Kiana help make a model of how a well works.

Game (a kindergarten favorite). As we continued, we focused on the water cycle and the use of hydroelectric "water" plants to generate electricity. To help understand how water cycles itself through the earth, students created a water cycle terrarium, a self sustaining environment that demonstrates evaporation, condensation and precipitation. Students also learned the importance of clean ground water and the usage of wells throughout the world. With all the hands-on explorations and water play, this unit was definitely a favorite amongst the students!



Friends celebrate the 100th day of school with a parade, 100 sticker hats, 100 snacks and much more!

WHAT WILL DISSOLVE?

Students learned that everything on earth is made of particles that are always moving. When a solid is mixed with the right liquid, it forms a new solution, demonstrating the process of dissolving. With this understanding, we experimented and found that salt, sugar and coffee will dissolve in water (they are soluble). Pepper, sand and flour would not dissolve, which means they're insoluble. After exploring as a whole group, our dissolving experiment raised additional questions. Students became scientists themselves,



Aaron, Giovanni, Liam and Kiana examine their test tubes.



Shahrzad shares her bottle of dissolved cocoa.

choosing their own solid material from home to test, "Will my material dissolve in water?" Students shared their selection with classmates, added water and waited. After observing the test tubes for several days, commenting on indications of absorption and dissolving, we emptied the contents and recorded our observations. Just a few observations we noticed included that cocoa powder, pigment, and a hard candy dissolved, while goldfish, noodles and barley absorbed the water.



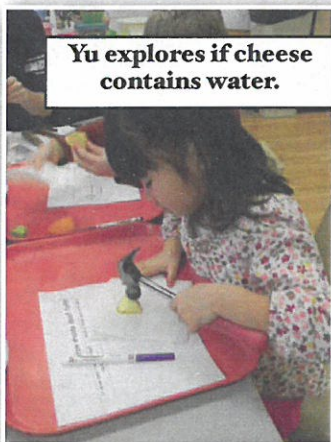
Anna pours out her test tube to observe what changes were made.

EXPLORING ABSORPTION

Just as when a person wears a raincoat or uses an umbrella when it's raining, or a house has a roof as protection from the elements, some materials are made to withstand absorption or be impermeable. As our discussion about water continued, we began wondering "When do we want water to be absorbed?" Students began brainstorming objects that absorb water, suggesting flowers, trees, dirt and even fruit. To test our hypothesis that food can absorb water, we used a hammer to flatten various foods, recording the amount of water found in each one. Students found that cheese, oranges, tofu, celery and carrots all contain water.

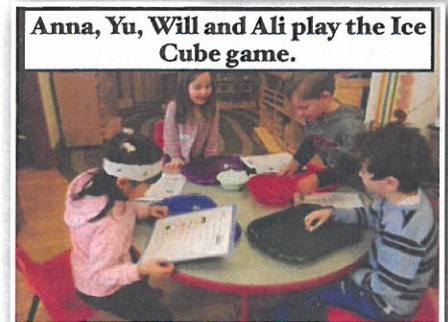


John explores how different materials absorb water.



Yu explores if cheese contains water.

As we continued our exploration, we became interested as to what materials found around the classroom would absorb water. Students' curiosity was sparked from our daily observation that paper towels absorb the water when cleaning the tables and drying our hands. We tested various materials by using an eyedropper to add water, then sorted the materials based on their ability to absorb. We concluded that construction paper, fabric, cork and cotton balls would absorb the water, while tinfoil and plastic wrap were impermeable. Even as the water unit came to an end, students were continuing to make connections with objects that absorb.



Anna, Yu, Will and Ali play the Ice Cube game.

ICE CUBE GAME

Friends played the Ice Cube game, discovering the different ways to melt an ice cube. Players rolled a die and had to complete the correlating task, such as adding salt or dropping it down their shirt!

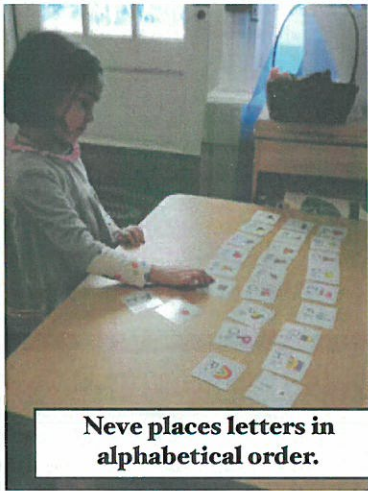
ABC CHALLENGES CONTINUED

The kindergartners have eagerly continued with their classroom challenges, often asking for "more of a challenge!" This month we focused primarily on language arts, letter recognition and beginning letter sounds. During the first challenge, students were asked to place ABC cards in alphabetical order, then match various objects to the

initial letter. For example, they matched a duck with the letter D. This activity was an independent task that each child had the opportunity to complete. During the second challenge, students worked as a group, searching through magazines, finding photographs and matching their beginning letter sounds to the challenge alphabet board. Each day, students had to find pictures for five new letters and at the end of the week, were challenged to find pictures that began with the tricky letters E, O, Q, U, Y and Z.



Liam and Megumi add pictures from magazines to the ABC challenge.



Neve places letters in alphabetical order.



Roland matches a gorilla to the letter G.



Jacob explores the "Math Racing" app on the iPad during free choice time.

TECHNOLOGY...2 NEW ADDITIONS!

As you know, in the kindergarten classroom, students use technology on a daily basis. We have been fortunate enough to add two new additions into the classroom. This past month, we acquired a second iPad for the children to use. They were very eager to begin exploring various apps, including Sudoku, "Where's My Water", a challenging adventure of moving water to connecting pipes, and "Rush Hour", a logic game focused on removing a specific parked car from a crowded parking lot. These types of logic games help stimulate the child, building upon their problem solving skills, along with developing eye hand coordination.

Our second addition was more of an enhancement to the classroom. Our Message From Me kiosk has been removed from the classroom and replaced with a MFM App! This transformation has allowed students the opportunity to move freely around the classroom, taking pictures and sharing their day with family members. We've also explored using the iPad and



Giovanni enjoys the iPad.



Will uses Message From Me to take a picture of Noah to send to his mom.



Yu solves a Sudoku puzzle using the iPad.

MFM app on the playground, capturing and sharing special moments that once wasn't possible.

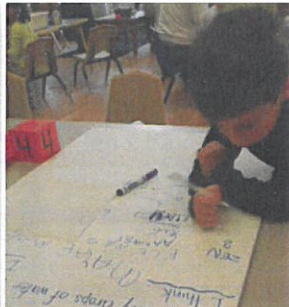
KINDERGARTEN DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION

The Science/Discovery Area has continued to be a busy place in the kindergarten classroom! We have explored several experiments involving the basic properties of water, cohesion, surface tension, and absorption.

I think... "The gummy bears will shrink in the water." "They will stay the same." "The bears will grow really big, as large as the bowl."

Water Drop Cohesion

I wonder... how many drops of water can stay on a penny at one time? **I think...** the children worked with Mr. Rood to make some predictions about how many drops they could fit on a penny. Some friends predicted: "Only one drop will stay on the penny." "The drops will pile up and make a large pile." and "I think 15 water drops will fit."



Zen makes a prediction for how many drops of water will fit on a penny.

I learned... when you place water drops on a penny, three important forces are tugging on the water molecules: gravity, cohesion, and adhesion. Gravity flattens the droplet, cohesion holds the droplets together, and adhesion holds the drops on the surface of the coin. The cohesive force is the pull of the water molecules on themselves. Water molecules are attracted to other water molecules. Each successive drop sticks to the water that's already on the coin, hence being able to drop over twenty droplets onto a coin at one time before gravity wins.



Sasha and Thomas use an eye dropper to place water on a penny.

I learned... the gummy bear candies are porous and can therefore absorb a lot of water. When the gummy bears are added to water, the water molecules will move into the bear. After the bears are enlarged with water and left out, the opposite of absorption will take place, dehydration. The gummy bears will lose water (through evaporation) and return to their original size.



Maya observes the gummy bears after being in water for 1 day.



Liam and Elena closely monitor the gummy bears for any change.

Surface Tension

I wonder... what will happen when we add pepper in a bowl of water?

I think... The children made predictions about what will happen to the pepper. "The pepper will sink to the bottom." "I think the pepper will float to the top."

I learned... that the pepper will rest on the surface of the water, but when you add dish soap, the "skin" breaks, causing the pepper to sink to the bottom. Surface tension is the name we give to the cohesion of water molecules at the surface of a body of water. The cohesion of water molecules form a surface "film" or "skin." Some substances (dish soap) may reduce the cohesive force of water, which will reduce the strength of the surface "skin" of water.

Growing Gummy Bear/Water Beads

I wonder... what will happen when we submerge gummy bears and water beads into water?

WATERTABLE EXPLORATION



Gabrielle, Jacob, Elena and Lili used funnels, tubes and pitchers to move water.



can I move water through the tubes? Will an object sink or float when placed in water? How will connector pieces change the flow of water? What interesting discoveries they made!



Maya, Lili and friends explore water beads.



Abigail and Aaron create a fountain using glasses.

When learning about any subject, one of the best ways to build understanding is through hands-on exploration. Students had the chance to explore water in many ways, including building a fountain using plastic champagne glasses, observing how water moves using funnels, tubing and a milk crate, and learning how a material absorbs water. By providing numerous materials, our environment conveyed the importance of exploring water. We challenged the students to think,

SUBTRACTION

Benjamin subtracting using Pete the Cat.



Ali's Pete the Cat and subtraction sentence, 8 buttons - 4 buttons = 4 buttons.

As students mastered the basic concept of addition, we began to gradually introduced subtraction. We learned the process of finding the difference between two numbers, inspired by our current unit and a favorite book character, Pete the Cat. Students began by using raindrop gems and paper clouds to create a number story. "One gloomy day, the heavy clouds had ten raindrops. It began to three raindrops. How many raindrops were left in the cloud?" Students practiced subtraction with the help of a teacher, then worked with a partner, with one student creating the story problem, while the other solved. As students gained a better understanding of the meaning of subtraction ("to take away"), they made their own Pete the Cat subtraction sentences, subtracting the buttons that fell off his shirt. Students created Pete and the buttons that sprang loose. They then asked classmates to solve their missing buttons math problem. As we move on to our next unit, we will continue exploring all that



Elena and Noah subtract using raindrops and clouds.

pour down

subtraction has to offer and begin to explore addition and subtraction using larger numbers.

FAMILY WATER FESTIVAL

Thank you to all the families who came to our Wonderful Water Family Festival on Thursday, February 28th! We really enjoy seeing all our friends and families again. We hope everyone had a great time exploring our water experiments, ice cube art, food tasting, slushies and more. We could tell all the children couldn't wait to share what they have been learning about water density, cohesion, absorption, and much more. A special thanks to all the families who helped us successfully raise the funds to build a well in Africa.



Benjamin and his mom explore the with sink and float experiment.



Megumi and Yu play the Ice Cube game with their mothers.



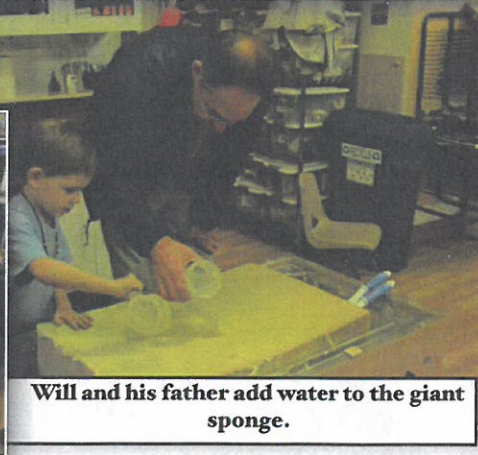
Neve, Gabrielle and John hold an ice Cube while playing the Ice Cube game.



Lil and her mom create a density bottle using water, Karo Syrup and Vegetable oil.



Zen , Aaron and John enjoy the sponge, while Abigail determines which objects sink and float with her mom.



Will and his father add water to the giant sponge.

3'S WATER NEWSLETTER



- CARLOS AND FRIENDS SEE-SAWING!
- RHIANNON AND MIN WOO EXPLORING AT THE WATER TABLE.

Splishing and Splashing!

Our school-wide Water theme started off with a splash! The first week, the children answered the question, "Where do you see water?" They had many great answers: a swimming pool, the water table in the Discovery Area, a bathtub and at the beach. We read

stories like, "Amazing Water" by Melvin Berger and "Watch What Happens" by Marsha Grant to find out more about the three different forms of water and the special things that water can do. The second week, we began to learn about the water cycle. We

listened to songs like the "Water Cycle Boogie," acted out the water cycle and did science experiments to show evaporation, condensation and precipitation! The children explored water through the use of funnels, tubes, fountains and art projects that highlighted water.



RED ROOM FRIEND'S HOLD OUT THEIR HANDS TO CATCH THE RAIN!

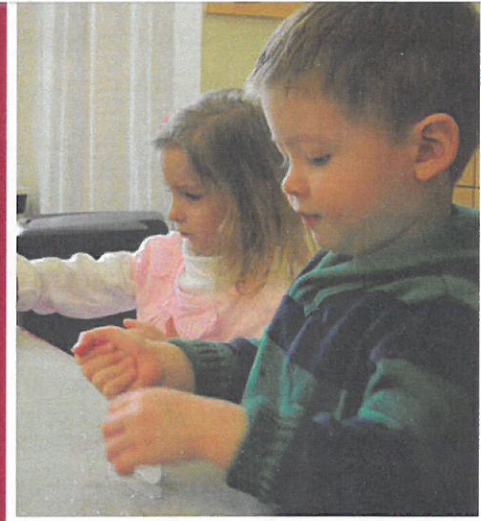


JAMES PRACTICING HIS HOCKEY STANCE.



WESLEY SHOVELING SNOW ON THE PLAYGROUND.

WONDERFUL WATER



(STARTING WITH TOP-LEFT AND MOVING CLOCKWISE...)

- WESLEY COLLECTING WATER FROM THE FOUNTAIN AND POURING AT THE WATER TABLE.
- CARLOS PAINTING WITH WATER AND COLOR-BLEEDING TISSUE PAPER TO MAKE A SEA TURTLE SHELL.
- JAMES FEELING ICE AND WATCHING IT BEGIN TO MELT.
- MR.SALINETRO EXPLAINING THE WATERAID BANKS.
- RHIANNON SHOWING OFF HER SNOWBALL.

WATER - RELATED FUN



(Starting with top left and moving clockwise)

1. Yee Ha Chiu playing water music. 2. Blue Room friends making ice cream. 3. Carlos trying on Chris Grill's scuba goggles. 4. Friends drawing on the mirror where condensation has formed. 5. Legos model of Pittsburgh's water filtration system.

Water is important and so are you!

During the third week, we began to think about how we use water. Each friend chose a type of flower or vegetable that they would like to grow and helped to plant the seeds. The children have also enjoyed playing with bubbles, sponges and spray bottles as well as reading funny stories like, "To Bathe a Boa" by C. Imbior Kudrna and "But No Elephants" by Jerry Smath.

In our final week, we learned about how vital it is that everybody has clean drinking water. We have continued adding coins to our classroom bank. Thank you for helping your child to collect coins at home for WaterAid's construction of wells in Africa.

Over the month we had many special visitors who helped to present a diverse look at water.

Thank you to wastewater engineer, Anna Mehrotra, who demonstrated Pittsburgh's filtration system with assistance from her son, Naveen (4's group). Also, thank you to concert pianist, Yeeha Chiu (and grandmother of Kiana in the Kindergarten). We had the pleasure of listening to her play different water-themed music. We also appreciate Basil's mom, Amy Kim, who was happy to get messy making Slime with friends and Chris Grill (Rhiannon and Shaylee's father) who surfaced at the school with full scuba gear!

Last but not least, thank you to everyone for making the Family Festival truly special! See the last page for pictures!

Mrs. Tomer

Miss Stevens

Mr. Salinetto

FUN AT FAMILY FESTIVAL!



(STARTING WITH TOP LEFT AND MOVING CLOCKWISE)

- LENA BRUSHING TEETH WITH UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH DENTAL STUDENTS.
- A FRIEND PLAYING WITH GLOW STICKS IN WATER.
- EMMA AND NATALIE PAINTING WITH WATER.
- JOYA AND SALLY WASHING BABY DOLLS.
- TAYSHAWN AND NEW FRIENDS EXPLORING THE FOUNTAIN.

Green Room News



Carnegie Mellon Children's School

February 4th- March 1st

Water

During the month of February, the friends have really enjoyed rolling up their sleeves and exploring water! We added a "Water Discovery Zone" to the Green Room to serve as a space for children to play with water and conduct water-based experiments. Each week brought about a new focus on water, which allowed the children to learn just how amazing and important water is.

Properties of Water

Water exists in three states: Solid, liquid and gas. The friends had the opportunity to explore each state of water in a variety of activities. The friends observed the different states by feeling water in a cup, holding an ice cube and putting their hand above a dehumidifier to feel the cool water vapor rise. The books "Amazing Water" by Melvin Berger and "The Drop in My Drink" by Meredith Hooper were great conversation starters during Circle Time.

Water Cycle

There is the same amount of water on earth today as when the earth was formed. The friends have learned that the water gets recycled in a process called the water cycle. We decorated water cycle prop pieces and used songs like "The Water Cycle Boogie" and "Water Travels in a Circle" to introduce and reinforce



vocabulary words like precipitation, condensation, evaporation and collection. The interactive big book "The Water Cycle", by Donna Merrit was a great introduction to the concept.

How We Use Water

During circle time, the friends brainstormed a variety of great ideas of the many uses of water during circle times. We focused on the concepts: we need water to live (to drink and to add to food), we use water to clean, we use water in the bathroom, and we use water for fun!

Water is a Precious Resource

The books "I Love Our Water" by Carol Greene and "Water Wise" by Alison Hawes began the discussion about how we can care for our water and not waste it. We also discussed how not everyone has access to clean water. This idea was reinforced by having each child contribute to their individual banks and bring it in to add to our whole school bank. They learned that this money was going toward building a well that can bring clean water to people who do not have it.



Water Activities

Here is a closer look at some of our favorite water activities, games and experiments that we have enjoyed during this theme.

Water Books



Each child had an opportunity to make a “states of water” book. We began by writing the word Water on the front cover. For the inside pages, the children would choose a picture that showed water in its liquid, solid or gas form, glue that picture to a page and then practice writing the vocabulary words: solid, liquid and gas. The children were proud to take home their very own book, and it was a great exercise in building fine motor, writing skills and vocabulary skills

Sink and Float



The sink and float experiment is one that we have done since the beginning of the year. It helps children learn the skills of making a prediction and then testing that prediction. During the water unit, we asked children to bring items from home and come prepared with a prediction. Children can start to make generalizations about items that float or sink, like items made of wood tend to float while metal items sink more often.

Bucket Brigade



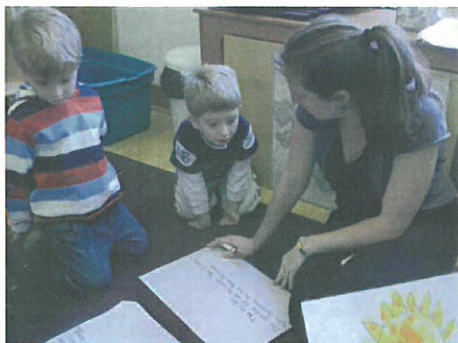
Bucket brigade is a game in which children stand side by side with a small cup in hand. On each side of the table there are buckets- one filled with water and one that is empty. The goal is to transfer the water from the full bucket to the empty bucket using only the small cups and cooperation. In this wet activity, the children learned the importance of working together to complete a task.

Lima Bean Experiment



To reinforce the concept that all living things need water to grow, the friends participated in the Lima Bean Experiment. The friends observed and compared lima beans that were in plastic bags. Some of the bags contained only a bean, while others contained a bean wrapped in a wet paper towel. The friends learned that the beans that had a water supply started to sprout, while the waterless bean remain unchanged.

Creative Writing: The Water Cycle



After hearing stories, listening to songs and participating in water cycle themed activities, the friends were asked to tell the story of a raindrop. They dictated their stories as the teachers wrote their words. It was wonderful to see that children were using words like precipitation, collection, evaporation and condensation to tell their stories. There was a space reserved at the top of their story for the friends to draw a picture to illustrate the story.

Water + Food Experiments



Water does different things to different foods. In the kitchen, the friends had the opportunity to experiment with water and the effect it has on foods like teddy grahams, pretzels, berries and spaghetti. Each child was given an uncooked, hard spaghetti noodle and they were asked what would make these noodles ready to eat. The friends quickly discovered that adding the noodles to boiling water made them soft, delicious and ready to eat. We enjoyed that spaghetti for snack. Sometimes, experiments are delicious!

Recycle Sculptures



The friends were invited by the Carnegie Mellon design students to look at sculptures that they created using recycled materials. With just a short walk up the stairs, the friends saw a bear made of an iced tea carton, a lizard made from a tide bottle and much more. As we learned about water conservation, caring for our planet and recycling, the friends collected some materials to create their very own recycled sculptures. The friends had the challenge of making something that goes into or lives in the water. The friends made penguins, boats, ships and water treatment plants. We displayed our sculptures and invited the design students to see what we created.

We inspired each other to use recycled material to make more art!

Exploring Water



Nile is making his water-themed locker tag.



Greta sees the water vapor.



John and Briggs are playing "Don't Break the Ice."



Shaylee and Ezra are filling test tubes with water.



Dany and Emma are comparing items that do and do not absorb water.



Nera is changing the shape of water by pouring it into a different container.



Nana, Greta and Dany play with snow in the water table.



Amanda, John and Amelie sort beads for water cycle bracelets.



Friends are playing "Go Fish."

Exploring Water



Hugo, Sam and Sammy investigate new apparatus in the water table.



Benjamin, Naveen, Amelie and Mae are using eye droppers to fill test tubes.



Brady and Chase are making clouds with cotton balls.



Woojin is making an alligator.



Savanna is constructing her sculpture.



Agatha is making a sun prop for the water cycle.



Friends are observing the "Walking Water" Experiment.



Ben is adding to his submarine sculpture.



Rohan is hanging the clothes to dry.

Special Guests and Birthdays



Collin's grandfather shows the friends a cloud experiment.



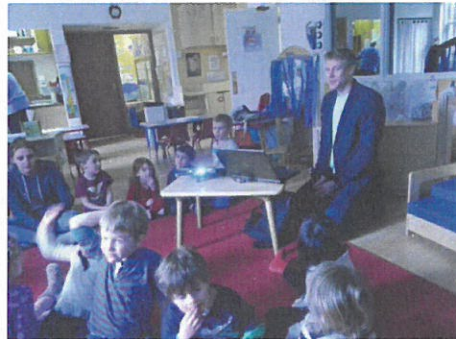
Naveen's Mom gives the friends a demonstration of how water filtration works.



Kiana's grandmother plays a beautiful water concert.



Christine, a volunteer, shares music with the friends.



Sam's Dad shares his robots with the friends.



Shaylee's dad talks to the friends about SCUBA gear.



Shaylee celebrated her birthday with Dad and frozen yogurt.



The librarian shared water stories with the friends this month.



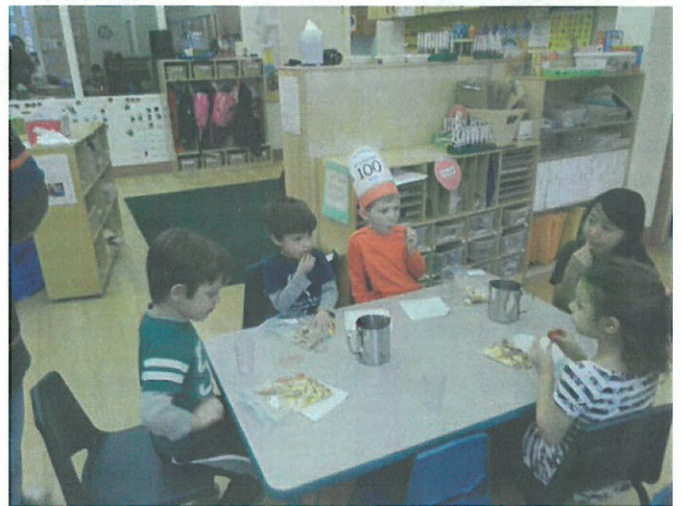
Henry is joined by his family to celebrate his half birthday.

100th Day of School Celebration!

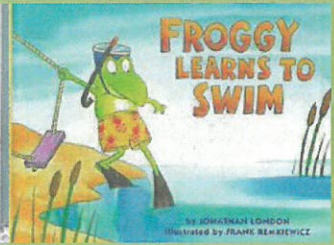
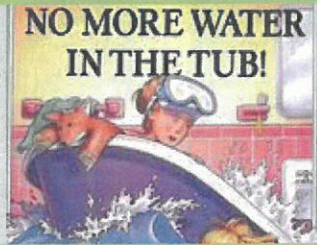
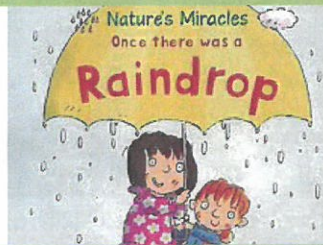
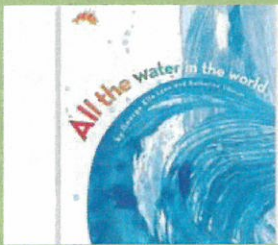


Can You Believe We've Been In School 100 Days?

To celebrate the 100th day of school, the friends enjoyed a variety of special activities. Friends had the opportunity to get a "100" face painting on their cheek or hand. Special 100th day of school headbands were made and worn throughout the day. Friends helped make a chain consisting of one hundred links and added one hundred items to a three dimensional banner. Both the banner and the chain were used in our 100 days of school parade! For a special snack, children enjoyed counting ten cheerios, ten teddy grahams, ten goldfish and other treats until they had one hundred pieces of snack.



Extended Morning Newsletter



February 2013

Children's School Carnegie Mellon University

Did you know that salt water oceans make up 71% of the earth's surface? Were you aware that cold water is heavier than hot water? It may interest you to know that only one percent of the earth's water is available for drinking water. We have been enjoying making observations together about water. There is so much to discover! Read on to find out more about what we have learned!

We have been having a blast learning about water, starting with the book, "All the Water in the World" by George Ella Lyon. The book explains the water cycle in lyrical verse. During this week, we jumped



into activities such as: coffee filter art, a river collage, constructing a three dimensional Earth, playing a "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" game, doing rain and absorption experiments, and fishing!

Next, we enjoyed "Once There Was a Raindrop" by Judith Anderson. This book encouraged children to explore the natural world by observing nature's activities. This informative book also encourages children to take part in activities that promote responsibility toward natural resources. The children learned further about these messages through activities like our evaporation experiment, making drip castles in the sand, producing rain sticks, observing water on feathers, practicing the sequence of the water cycle, and drip painting.

We moved on to a book entitled, "No More Water in the Tub". This delightful tale depicts the imagination of an older brother as he dreams up a bathtub situation that only children could enjoy. This involved an overflowing bathtub that floats down the stairs of an apartment building. Many others get swept away, riding a tidal wave of bubbly pleasure! Some of our activities during this fun story included: bathing baby dolls, overflowing water glasses with pennies, practicing rhymes like the examples from the book, and floating rubber duckies!



"Froggy Learns to Swim" by Jonathan London concluded this unit. Strangely, the main amphibian is fearful of water. With the help of his friends, he gains

enough courage to brave his fears. By the end, he is an expert frog-kicker! Frog feet, masks, story making, and water toy testing filled our days! We are so grateful for all the ways that water is available to us and for the opportunities to study it this month!



We'll have the cleanest babies in town!



This is just a sample of the smiles that flood our school each day!



This friend takes a break from play to pose for a snapshot.



Mrs. Tomer transforms the water table into a duck hunt extravaganza!



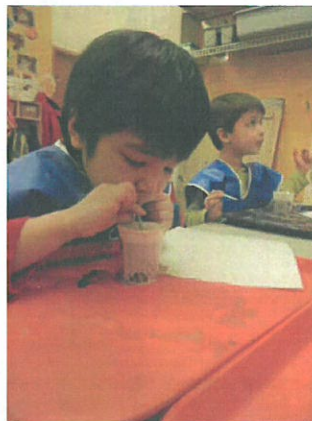
Real clouds, rain, and sunshine are not always tangible, but this circle time representation really makes the water cycle come to life.



Did you know that watermelon contains 92% water?



Using ramps, Mrs. Bird made an interesting activity to show the gravitational pull of water droplets.



Some water, a straw, and dish soap make a great combination for bubble art!



Displacing water in glasses was an interesting experiment. It took 24 pennies to make the water overflow.



Everyone had the opportunity to fish from their own "pond".



"Row, Row, Row Your Boat" was a fun new game to learn!



Cotton balls were a fun alternative to our more typical use of play-doh. They are fun to squeeze together and pull apart. This is a great activity to strengthen little fingers!



We had so much fun choosing items and matching them to their rhyming mate!



We pieced together the broken hearts according to their matching patterns.



What an accomplishment to catch a fish with a magnetic pole!



"Rubber ducky, you're the one!"



That is one giant rainstick!



Here are the smaller versions of rainsticks. Both required different skills, but were a fun challenge!



In the kitchen, Ms. McMichael reveals many culinary secrets. These friends are working together to stretch pizza dough!



These friends take interest in a book together. This is a step toward literacy!



“Hands on the top when you chop!”



Using kitchen tools promotes team work and independence at the same time!

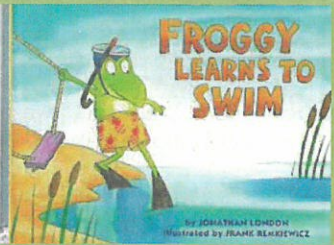
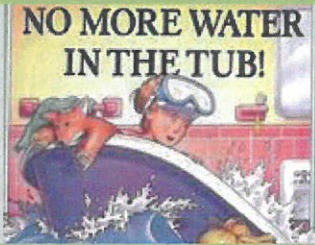
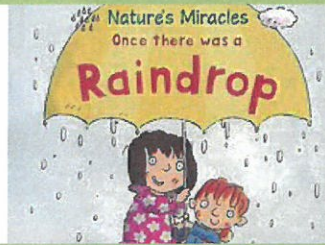
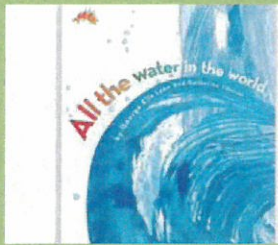


There are so many opportunities for hands-on experience in the kitchen!



These blocks were just as much to build with in the Green Room as they were on the light table!

Extended Afternoon Newsletter



February 2013

Children's School Carnegie Mellon University

Did you know that salt water oceans make up 71% of the earth's surface? Were you aware that cold water is heavier than hot water? It may interest you to know that only one percent of the earth's water is available for drinking water. We have been enjoying making observations together about water. There is so much to discover! Read on to find out more about what we have learned!

We have been having a blast learning about water, starting with the book, "All the Water in the World" by George Ella Lyon.



The book explains the water cycle in lyrical verse. During this week, we jumped into

activities such as: coffee filter art; experiments with hot and cold water, salt water, celery and food coloring, water cycle rain, and sponge clouds. We also enjoyed using the dehydrator!

Next, we enjoyed "Once There Was a Raindrop" by Judith Anderson. This book encouraged children to explore the natural world by observing nature's activities. This informative book also encourages children to take part in activities that promote responsibility toward natural resources. The children learned further about these messages through activities like using the overhead projector to explore different substances on screen, using a microscope, making jello, producing marbled paper, and invisible ink!

We moved on to a book entitled, "No More Water in the Tub". This delightful tale depicts the imagination of an older brother as he dreams up a bathtub situation that only children could enjoy. This involved an overflowing bathtub that floats down the stairs of an apartment building. Many others get swept away, riding a tidal wave of bubbly pleasure! Some of our activities during this fun story included: bubble art, comparing containers of water, and spray bottle art!

"Froggy Learns to Swim" by Jonathan London concluded this unit. Strangely, the main amphibian is fearful of water.



With the help of his friends, he gains enough courage to brave his fears. By the end, he is an expert frog-kicker!

We enjoyed leap frog, making frog masks and feet, and testing water toys. We are so grateful for all the ways that water is available to us and for the opportunities to study it this month!



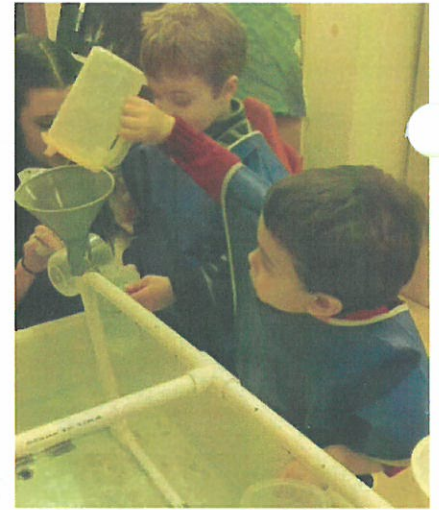
“Row, Row, Row Your Boat” was a perfect water game!



It's never too early to learn responsibility in the kitchen!



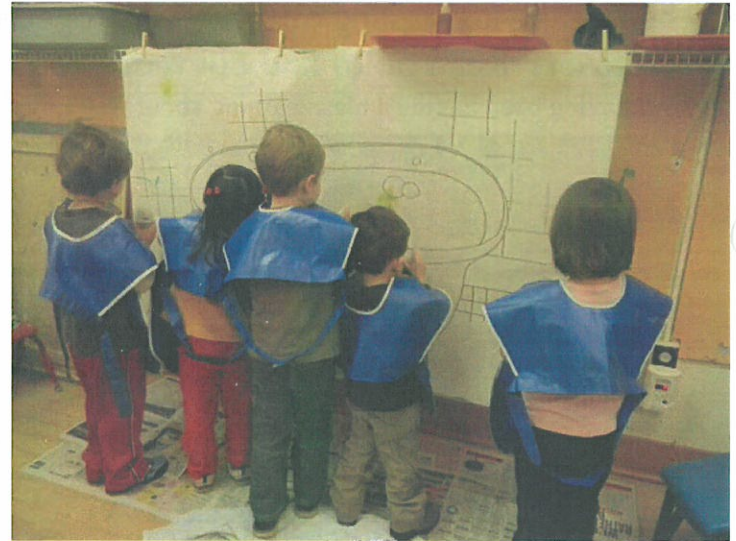
“Hands on the top when you chop!”



Water + Tubes + Funnels = FUN!



Looking at water through a microscope opens up a whole new world. How interesting!



We love working together to create a masterpiece. What's it gonna take? TEAM WORK!



Is it magic? NOPE! Just bubbles!



Straws are great for drinking smoothies... or blowing bubbles for bubble art!

Wonders of Water Family Festival

On Thursday, February 28th, over 250 Children's School family members and friends participated in our **Wonders of Water** Family Festival. Together we explored many ways to play with water, move water, pump water, and make bubbles and art with water. We experimented with the properties of water, played a game with ways to melt ice, and saw demonstrations of how to change water's state of matter (solid to liquid to gas) and how to filter water. We learned that water is both wet and fun!



More Family Festival Fun with Water

We got to try snow cones made by shaving frozen water, learn about the amount of water in different fruits and other foods, and then practice proper ways to brush teeth with water to keep our teeth healthy. Pattye Stragar, CMU's Operations Manager for Fitness and Aquatics, organized a tour of the pool and a swimming / diving demonstration for our families, followed by a family free swim time.

