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 dehuminifier 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 “Dont 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.