



Grade 1-2

December 7, 2007

Dear First and Second Grade Families,

The students have completed their first science experiment. It all began with a lesson on the scientific method. After discussing what good scientists do, the children realized that they already use the scientific method naturally in everyday life. They observe, question, predict, experiment and draw conclusions about the things in their lives.

With the scientific method in mind, our first experiment involved radish seeds. First the children carefully observed the seeds, and then we asked the children "What do seeds need to sprout?" The children predicted what they believed seeds need in order to sprout and they generated a list of possible variables. Some students said seeds need water, sunlight, soil and a pot in order to sprout. Others thought the seeds need worms and fertilizer. While a few students mentioned that water, soil and love were important.

The next step was to test our predictions with an experiment. We decided that in order to test our predictions we needed to set up a controlled experiment. The children decided to test five variables for our controlled experiment: 1. soil, seed, water and in the cold (in our mini refrigerator) 2. soil, seed in the dark (in our draw) 3. soil seed water and sun 4. water and seed and 5. seed, water and sunlight (in a plastic bag with a paper towel).

We had the children work with their table partners to set up their experiments and as a way to build their group working skills. Then groups were asked to check on their seeds every day they were in school. As days went by they noticed that the seed in the plastic bag was growing and the other seeds were not doing so well.

The final steps for the groups were to closely examine each seed, record their results and draw conclusions based on what they observed. Lastly, each group shared their results with the class and concluded that in order for a seed to sprout it needs only water and sunlight. Our seed experiment is on display for your viewing outside our classroom door. Please stop by and to see the phenomenal work your children produced.

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1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Post Office Information: We have mailed each child a letter that has important information to help us solve a mystery post office message. The letter should arrive by Saturday December 8th. Make sure your child gets this letter and reads it. We will be using both the envelope and letter. **So PLEASE help you child remember to bring in the envelope and letter to school on Monday December 10th.** Thank you for your help with this.

Have a good weekend,

Luisa and Amy

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