What's Happening in Science and Technology

Science

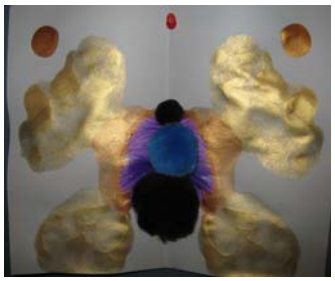
The Bugs Study Insects.

This Spring the Bugs are learning about insects. They are learning the special attributes that make bugs insects. They have explored body parts and life cycles of butterflies, moths and ladybugs. The Bugs were excited to go on their trip to the Museum of Natural History's Butterfly Conservatory in May to learn more about these creatures. The Bugs were able to watch their class caterpillars undergo metamorphosis.

The Three Bugs: Alex, Ian and Troy

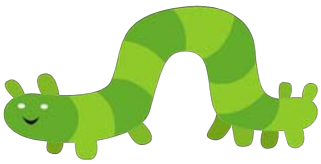
Gabriel with Antennae

Our Friend Lilly became a bug too!



Symmetrical Butterfly Print by Ian

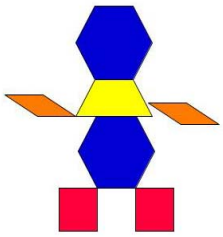
Spring 2009



The Bugs' Inspirations Through Kidspiration 3

This Spring the bugs are learning how to utilize a new software program called Kidspiration 3. Kidspiration 3 allows students to explore science, math, and language arts through visual learning by creating graphic organizers.

During the Bugs' exploration of this program, they created patterns and graphic art representations using the program's pattern blocks. Learn more about Kidspiration 3 at : http://www.inspiration.com/Kidspiration



Robot

Harry looking at butterflies

The Grapes Engage in the Exploration of Insects

During the spring the Grapes are learning about insects-their lifespan, life cycle, anatomy and physiology, and adaptations to their habitats.

They will continue their investigation by studying other creatures that undergo, changes such as- ladybugs, frogs and moths.

The Grapes will further explore how adaptations aid survival in the animal kingdom.

Finally, the Grapes will explore how to compare and contrast physical characteristics in animals.

Some Grapes pose as insects.

A Tobacco hornworm

Scientists Julian and Shayna observe a hornworm.

Anacondas Examine Earth Materials

The Anacondas are currently exploring recycling and earth materials. They will do further investigations by observing the properties of soil, rocks and minerals.

They will also investigate the organic (living) and inorganic (non-living) components of soil, such as worms and insects and rocks and minerals.

We will follow up this summer with learning about rock outcroppings and soil compositions in Central Park.

Satchel and John observe rock samples.

Henry observing a sand sample using a stereoscope microscope.

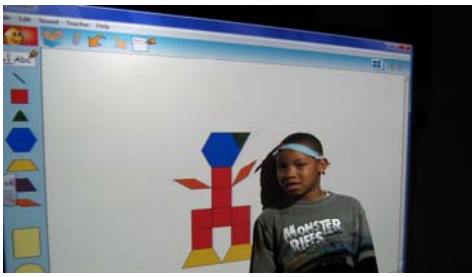
Technology with the Anacondas, Alligators and Grapes

How do budding graphic artists learn how to build a web page?

Through the construction of 2 dimensional objects using graphic software such as Kidspiration 3. The Anacondas, Alligators and the Grapes learned how to construct 2 dimensional objects using pattern blocks.

The creativity witnessed was incredible. The students each created different creatures out of the geometrically shaped pattern blocks. From robots to a penguin, each creation was unique!

Students learned to rotate, enlarge, click and drag, construct and deconstruct pattern block images using Kidspiration. This software also enables students to practice and enhance their mouse skills.



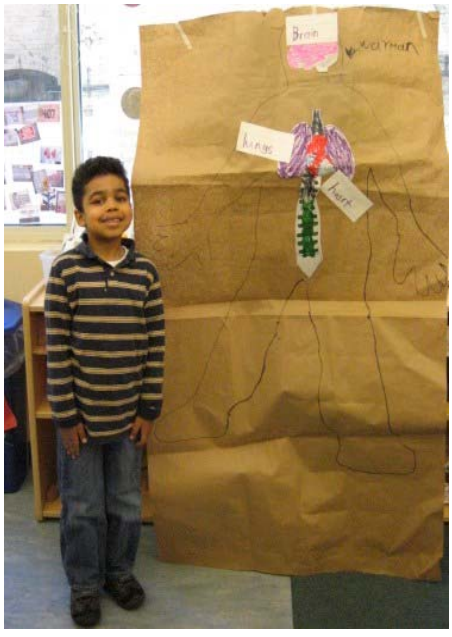
Noah and his Smartboard creation "Peguino" using Kidspiration 3.

The Alligators Explore the Human Body.

The Alligators learned about the human body early this spring. They learned how germs are spread and how to protect themselves and others by good hand washing and by covering their mouths and noses when sneezing or coughing. While learning about different body parts (brain, heart, lungs and skeleton), they also created life-sized bodies using various art materials. This representative body was used as a teaching tool to explore scientific inquiries such as, " How many bones are in the human body?" and "What does the inside of the human heart look like?"

Andrea teaches Jack how to use a stethoscope.

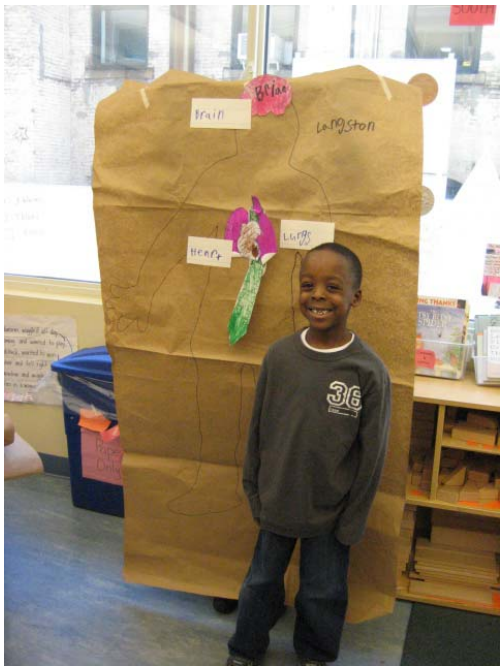
Patrick listening to his heart.



Wayman stands next to his "Body" creation.

Langston Seamus Malcolm

Future Doctor's Without Borders!



Langston stands next to his "Body" creation.

The Praying Mantises and Komodo Dragons Study Electricity by Creating Tiffany Lamps

During the early spring the Komodo Dragons and the Praying Mantises studied electricity and how it is used in our daily lives. During their exploration they discovered how Louis Comfort Tiffany created his decorative lamp masterpieces that so many revere.

The Dragons learned the basics of electricity, electrons, circuits and switches.

Above: Director of Education programming of NYHS Todd Muller, discuses Tiffany lamps with the Dragons and Mantises in the E. Neustadt Collection.

Next they did research on Tiffany lamps by going to the New York Historical Society and viewing one of the largest collections of Tiffany lamps in the world. While researching, the students discovered that the lamps designed with a nature theme were not created by Mr. Tiffany but by a female apprentice named Clara Driscoll. In collaboration with Kate, the art teacher, and Don, GBS' volunteer, the students designed their own Tiffany-style lamp, which were displayed in our showcase for all to enjoy.

Lamps created by the Praying Mantises and Komodo Dragons

Brainware Safari Comes to GBS

This spring the Dollars, Dragons and Praying Mantises were introduced to a new software called Brainware Safari. Brainware Safari is educational software program that is designed to enhance students' cognitive skills that are critical for learning. Within the program students are able to navigate their Safari pal through 20 learning games. These games aim to improve attention skills, visual and auditory processing skills and memory skills.

Dollars using Brainware Safari.

The students quickly became acclimated to the software, and couldn't wait to use the software during technology time and watch their Safari pal to grow.

The Dynamic Dollars Learn About Volcanoes

Left: Scientists Robert and Nichelle forming their masterpieces.

Right: Scientist Sarah showing off her creation

Below: Scientist Jaquan waiting for the next step.

Right: Scientist Ben shows off his creation.

Below: Scientist Yuvraj presents his volcano to his peers.

This spring the Dollars are exploring different landforms. They were curious to learn how volcanoes are formed and how they erupt. They learned the different parts of a volcano and the different types.

The Dollars watched PBS NOVA's Volcanoes and learned about Vulcan, the Roman mythological god of fire. By reading current event articles, they learned about Mt. Redoubt near Anchorage, Alaska. This active volcano erupted during our study. The class was able to view the magnificent eruption first hand, through Teacher Tube and other multi-media resources.

Finally they were able to create there own model of a volcano and make it erupt!

Science and Technology Tidbits

Some interesting exhibits and websites to check out.

Extreme Mammals at **The American Museum of Natural History.** Opening May 16th—January 2010

http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/extrememammals/index.php

Nature Unleashed **at Liberty Science Center in Jersey City.** This interactive exhibit displays how natural disasters change our world. Age groups 8 and up. Opening May 23rd—January 2010

http://www.lsc.org/lsc/ourexperiences/exhibits/natureunleashed

Charlie and Kiwi's Evolutionary adventure This new exhibit at the New York Hall of Science May 23rd.– January 2010

Amusement Park Science **The Children's Museum of Manhattan.**
Learn about the laws of physics as you play with fun, hands-on models of amusement park rides and games. **May 23 – September 10, 2009**

A Special Note from Andrea

I just wanted to express my sincere thanks to all of the students, fellow colleagues and families for another wonderful year! I wish the best to all of the students moving on and look forward to next year.