



Community Park Elementary School

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DLI Science Instruction

We are very proud of the instruction our DLI students receive in all subjects. Science is no exception. There has been some conversation in the community about DLI science, and we want to clarify how science is taught in the DLI program, in addition to sharing some Science Lab highlights for each DLI grade level. If you have any questions after reading the information below, please feel free to speak to Ms. Gruchacz.

Key Information

- Science for all CP students, including those in our DLI program, is taught by the regular classroom teacher and meets all NJ state standards.
- Science Lab is an additional period of hands-on science all CP students receive once a week that goes beyond the state-mandated science that is taught in the regular classroom.
- The Science Lab for our DLI students is taught in Spanish by a certified teacher.
- There is not an elementary science certification for teachers, though all elementary teachers do receive training in science.
- The Science Lab lessons are often coordinated to the science that is taught in the classroom.
- This year, a science curriculum review is underway across the district to prepare for the launch of NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) in September of 2017. CP teachers are part of the curriculum team.

Science Lab Highlights

Kindergarten:

- Learning names of colors and then classifying buttons by size and color. Students also practiced observation skills by looking at fall leaves and drawing the many colors they noticed.
- Exploring the five senses and learning names of body parts we use to see, hear, touch, listen, and smell.
- Discovering which objects either sink or float in water and asking what makes a particular object sink or float.

First and Second grade:

- Using the story "The Three Little Pigs" as a starting point for an investigation on building materials. Small groups made houses from one of five materials: pipe cleaners, popsicle sticks, large toothpicks, index cards, plastic straws. Students were challenged to create houses that would resist the blow of the wolf (a hair dryer disguised as a wolf) from various distances.
- Recycling, reusing, reducing. Students are looking for alternate uses for common items.

We continue to work to provide all of our students with the best education in all fields. While we know challenges will arise with any new program of this size and scope, we are proud of what we have already achieved through the DLI program. We appreciate your care, concern, and support as we continue growing this valuable program.