

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This week, we learned about buoyancy, water displacement, and why some things float while other things sink. After gaining a basic understanding of some of these essential science concepts, the students put their engineering hats on to participate in the Build-a-Boat Challenge. Each group of students built a model boat that would be both cost-effective and support weight in the water. The students enjoyed building their boats and competing against the other groups to see which boat design was best.

I invite you to engage your child in a conversation about this learning experience. Also, I encourage you to reinforce this learning at home by building a boat together to give your child an opportunity to explain the scientific concepts we learned together in class.

Also, there are many great picture books that you can read together to reinforce these science concepts and extend the learning. A few suggestions to get you started are:

- Captain Kidd's Crew Experiments with Sinking and Floating by Mark Weakland
- Floating and Sinking by Kathryn Bryant-Mole
- Toy Boat by Randall de Seve

There is an abundance of research that demonstrates the positive affects of parental involvement on student achievement and social and emotional growth. The most accurate predictor of a student's achievement in school is how the family supports learning at home. I hope you will embrace this opportunity and enjoy working with your child on this valuable learning experience.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,