Dear Parent or Guardian,

This week, we have been experimenting with static electricity. The students learned that particles have negative or positive charges, and sometimes those charges become imbalanced. This causes static electricity.

We conducted several experiments to create static electricity and observe how particles either attract or repel. I invite you to engage your child in a conversation about this experience to help reinforce his/her learning. Also, I encourage you to continue to explore this STEM-based learning at home. Ask your child to demonstrate a few of the activities we did in class and explain what is happening to the particles.

I’d also like to share another experiment that you can do together. Blow up and tie a balloon. Charge the balloon with a piece of wool or acrylic fabric. Turn on the water faucet so there is a light stream of water flowing. Move the balloon close to the stream of water without touching it and talk about what happens.

There are some great picture books available to explore this topic further. I encourage you to visit the local library and continue to learn about electricity together. Not only will your child continue to learn about this important science concept, you’ll both enjoy this special time reading together.

A few titles that are developmentally appropriate for grades 1-3 are:

- Electrical Wizard: How Nikola Tesla Lit Up the World, by Elizabeth Rusch
- The Magic School Bus and the Electric Field Trip by Joanna Cole
- The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: by William Kamkwamba

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,