



# Weekly Recap

*March 19 - March 23*

*Indian River Lagoon*

*Prepared by The Verdi EcoSchool education team*

## Monday 3/19

### FIELD DAY

***Shrimps - Ms. Montana and Ms. Denise***

***Adela, Andrei, Carson, Hendrik, Hubert, Magnolia, Tyberius, Zahra***

This week the shrimps learned about how freespawning organisms like most fishes and marine invertebrates have a bipartite lifecycle. We performed a zooplankton lab where each student had the opportunity to cut open whelk egg sacs and observe the developing veliger larvae inside. We also spent time focusing on how animals like oysters and clams make their living as filter feeders, and how appropriate habitat for these organisms is critical because they remove excess nutrients out of the IRL.

Thank you to Brendan and Amy for coming with us on our adventure!

### IRL COURSEWORK - HIGHLAND

***Ms. Savannah and Mr. Dave***

***Amaru, Genevieve, Harper, Nate, Neven James, Samuel, Sarah, Elliott, Gio, Hammoudi, Jacob, Olivia, Oliver***

### Yoga/Mindfulness

The students focused on their breath, and being grateful for the basic, foundational

things that they have.

#### Morning Meeting

The students received the run-down of the day, and shared their thoughts and events from the weekend.

#### IRL Coursework

***Ms. Savannah***

***Elliott, Gio, Hammoudi, Jacob, Levi, Olivia, Oliver***

The students were introduced to biodiversity and the Convention of Biological Diversity. The students brainstormed the difficulties that would present themselves when trying to protect our most precious biodiverse ecosystems and arrived at the point that the most difficult thing would be to change the minds and lifestyles of people. The students then came up with positive and realistic things that we could do to inform people.

***Mr. Dave***

***Amaru, Genevieve, Harper, Nate, Neven, James, Samuel, Sarah***

The students continued learning about data analysis with actual Water Quality Data from the Indian River Lagoon. We calculated the average pH and average salinity for the year 2008. We will continue next week with similar data and plot over time to see trends.

***Ms. Savannah***

***Amaru, Genevieve, Harper, Nate, Neven James, Samuel, Sarah***

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***Mr. Dave***

***Elliott, Gio, Hammoudi, Jacob, Levi, Olivia, Oliver***

The students built on their exercises from last week on adding and subtracting large numbers (3-4 digits). Subtraction skills including borrowing and carrying were stressed and developed.

#### PE

The students participated in homeschool PE at the Civic Center.

#### Journalism

***Ms. Savannah***

***Amaru, Nate, Neven, Samuel, Oliver, Olivia, Sarah***

The students continued to research problems that we are seeing within the Indian River Lagoon, and finding evidence to support their claims.

***Ms. Denise***

***Andrei, Carson, Elliott, Gio, Hammoudi, Hubert, Jacob, Tyberius, Zahra***

Today we finished our research and the writing of our article about the blue-crowned parakeets that live in our neighborhood. We also made illustrations of our birds to be included with our article in EGAD's newsletter.

## **Tuesday 3/20**

### **FIELD DAY**

***Ms. Montana and Ms. Savannah***

***Elliott, Gio, Hammoudi, Ian, Jacob, Levi, Genevieve, Harper, Nate, Neven, James, Samuel, Sarah***

Today we focused on how animals like oysters and clams make their living as filter feeders, and how appropriate habitat for these organisms is critical because they remove excess nutrients out of the IRL. Students dissected clams and looked at their internal anatomy (gills, palps, digestive system, and foot), and then combed the shoreline of Pineapple Park observing the resident filter feeders.

### **IRL COURSEWORK - HIGHLAND**

***Shrimps - Ms. Denise***

***Adela, Andrei, Carson, Hendrik, Hubert, Magnolia, Tyberius, Zahra***

### **Yoga/Mindfulness**

This morning, the students led yoga and mindfulness. Together, we took 10 deep breaths. Each student was prompted to take a moment to listen to their bodies and choose a pose that would make their body feel ready for the day and lead the group in that pose.

### **IRL Coursework**

***Shrimps - Ms. Denise***

***Adela, Andrei, Carson, Hendrik, Hubert, Maddox, Magnolia, Tyberius, Zahra***

Today, we practiced skip counting! We made a hopscotch board outside to help us

remember how to count by 5s and 10s.

We also worked on our IRL dioramas. We brainstormed our favorite facts that we've learned during our time with Ms. Montana and wrote them on the board. Each kid chose their favorite and practiced their fine motor skills by writing their fact on large format handwriting paper.

### Physical Education

The students were led in Capoeira with Mr. Pike and Ms. Jessica.

### Compost Route/ Farm Tending

We picked up 72 pounds of compost from our EcoCollective partner Anaya Coffee, added it to our compost system with hay. With the remaining time, students were given the option to help turn the compost, help water the garden, or check on/tend to their individual plots.

## Wednesday 3/21

### FIELD DAY

***Ms. Montana and Ms. Savannah***

***Elliott, Gio, Hammoudi, Ian, Jacob, Levi, Genevieve, Harper, Nate, Neven, James, Samuel, Sarah***

Students began the day by breaking into two groups; those who had brought fishing gear went cast netting and dip netting along the shore while the others made their own handline rigs out of recycled bottles. We then learned about the morphology of common fishes in the IRL and their associated habitats. After documenting our progress in our field notebooks, we went fishing off of the Eau Gallie pier with the aspiration of catching real fish to use as specimens for our fish biology lesson.

### IRL COURSEWORK - HIGHLAND

***Shrimps - Ms. Denise***

***Adela, Andrei, Carson, Hendrik, Hubert, Magnolia, Maddox, Tyberius, Zahra***

### Yoga/Mindfulness

This morning, the students led yoga. Together, we took 10 deep breaths. Each student was prompted to take a moment to listen to their bodies and choose a pose that would make their body feel ready for the day and lead the group in that pose.

### Morning Meeting

This morning, we did a guided meditation. Each student shared out one gratitude (something they are thankful for in their lives) and one intention (a goal for today to make their day or someone else's better).

### IRL Coursework

#### ***Shrimps - Ms. Denise***

***Adela, Andrei, Carson, Hendrik, Hubert, Maddox, Magnolia, Tyberius, Zahra***

Today, we practiced skip counting once again with our hopscotch outside.

We also worked on our IRL dioramas. We brainstormed our favorite facts that we've learned during our time with Ms. Montana and wrote them on the board. Each kid chose their favorite and practiced their fine motor skills by writing their fact on large format handwriting paper.

### Physical Education

The students had a blast practicing their dance moves with Salsa Kris!

### Victoria Landing Book Buddies

The kids practiced their reading fluency by reading to their book buddies!

## **Thursday 3/22**

### AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

#### ***Tribe Keepers - Ms. Camila***

***Carson, Hendrik, Maddox, Tyberius***

Today we expanded our community lesson into the world of a food forest! We discussed how all the different creatures in the soil are a community of their own contributing to building soil. We explored the various soil animals we found and shared their tasks, in the food web as well as contributing to soil.

#### ***The Green Manures - Ms. Mikael***

***Andrei, Elliott, Hubert, James, Jayna***

Today we revisited our plant presses. We taped and labeled them to start filing them into our herbarium! At the EGAD garden we had a lesson with Ms. Maria Lombardo, an environmentalist, who taught us about nutrient leaching into the Indian River Lagoon. Afterwards we spoke on the differences between common agricultural practices and

permaculture design practices. We utilized the first permaculture design principle of observation. We shared 5 observations using our words, song, or interpretive movement.

### ***The Melon Eating Compost Dudes - Mr. Josh***

***Gio, Jacob, Levi, Jacob***

Today we focused on the importance of observation. We observed our surroundings using all our senses and spoke on how we could use our observations to influence our decisions in the garden. At the EGAD Garden we talked about pollution in the Indian River Lagoon and built a small scale nutrient trap.

### ***The Mulching Minions - Ms. Montana***

***Genevieve, Nate, Neven, Sarah***

Today we learned about how macronutrients are important to both plankton and terrestrial plants. We performed water quality analysis on our plankton culture and a sample of water from the IRL, and compared concentrations of nitrate and phosphate in each sample. At the farm, the students participated in an activity highlighting the relationship between stormwater runoff and turbidity. We also planted seeds and nurtured individual farm plots.

### Physical Education

The students participated in Capoeira with Mr. Pike.

### Library

We returned our books, checked out new ones, and read individually or with teacher assistance during the remainder of library time.

## **Friday 3/23**

### Portfolio

### STEAM Friday

***Ms. Keri-Anne***

***Adela, Andrei, Carson, Hubert, Maddox, Gio, Magnolia, Tyberius, Oliver***

Today in STEAM we read about several inventors and their inventions. We also learned that there are some typical traits inventors often display, such as determination, self confidence and a willingness to try new things. We then explored the terms force, stored and kinetic energy, fulcrums, torque and resistance. We applied these terms while experimenting and assembling several different “toys”. Students had the opportunity to

make: a spinning top out of recycled materials, a ball launcher, a catapult and a paper rocket that can be launched with lung power. They were also able to use a large variety of open ended materials to invent something of their own design if they chose to do so.

***Mr. Dave***

***Amaru, Jacob, Elliott, Sarah, Nate, Neven, Olivia, Samuel***

Today the students were given the task of code-breaking using numbers associated with letters in the alphabet. They began with sending messages across the room to partners, and built up to having to do an arithmetic operation before determining each letter in the code. The students then stayed in groups and learned to make an electromagnet out of a battery, wire, and a nail, to pick up paperclips.