



# Weekly Recap

*March 12 - March 16*

*Indian River Lagoon*

*Prepared by The Verdi EcoSchool education team*

## Monday 3/13

### FIELD DAY

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

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

Today the Shrimps explored marine communities as we circumscribed how mangroves support other species in the IRL. We spent time looking at how different animals (dolphins, birds, fish, insects, and other invertebrates) use mangroves on our kayak from Paddling Paradise to Ballard Park. We also learned how to identify the three species of mangroves that occur in the IRL, and discussed how each species is typically used by other animals.

Thank you to Sandra and Marybeth 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 energy, and that energy cannot be created or destroyed. They learned that instead, energy can be transferred, and that one of nature's way of transferring energy is through the food chain. The students then created their own food chains of organisms of their choice.

***Mr. Dave***

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

Today the students began with an important review of the concepts of fractions and decimals. This was then extended into finding the averages of groups of data. This tested everyone's basic arithmetic skills (multiplication, long division) and will translate into seeing trends in their collected IRL data in the coming weeks. Each calculation was recorded in their science notebooks.

***Ms. Savannah***

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

The students were introduced to energy, and that energy cannot be created or destroyed. They learned that instead, energy can be transferred, and that one of nature's way of transferring energy is through the food chain. The students worked together to learn about producers, primary consumers, tertiary consumers, scavengers and decomposers, then created their own food chains of organisms of their choice.

***Mr. Dave***

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

The students were tested on their abilities to add and subtract one, two, and three digit numbers, including large groups of numbers. These skills will help in their future analyses of their collected IRL data. Each calculation was recorded in their science notebooks.

### PE

The students participated in homeschool PE at the Civic Center.

The kids started by doing jumping jacks, stretching and running 5 laps around the gym.

After they were all warmed up they played a relay running game where they had a wiffle ball that they had to pick up off of one cone and run to the other end of the gym where they placed the ball on another cone, ran back to their team, gave the next runner a high five and then that team member ran, to the cone that was holding the ball, grabbed it and then ran it back to the first cone. They played three rounds of this game and they loved it each time!

### 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 took a pause on our journalism project to wrap up some loose ends for our cookbook project. We voted on which recipes should go in the cookbook, wrote reviews for our favorite recipes and healthy ingredients, and made title pages.

### Tuesday 3/14

#### FIELD DAY

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

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

Today we focused on the relationship between mangrove recruitment habitat and the life cycles of free spawning marine organisms by building light traps to catch phototactic zooplankton. We deployed our traps in a mangrove on the west side of Ballard Park and left them overnight.

#### 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.

### Morning Meeting

This morning we reviewed what we did and what we liked about yesterday's field day. We decided what additional information we could include in our mangrove diorama to show what we learned.

### IRL Coursework

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

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

Today, our main focus was "plankton" math. First, the kids made their own number cards by writing the number 1-20 by themselves on each card and gluing that number of "plankton" (beads) on the cards. We all worked on making edits to our cards by fixing any mix ups in cardinal order or number forms (many wrote some numbers backwards). The students who finished their cards, used them to practice adding within 1-20. The most advanced students practiced their understanding of 10s place and multi-digit addition with carrying. They were all so excited and concentrated! This group loves numbers.

### Physical Education

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

### Compost Route/ Farm Tending

We picked up 64 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 3/14**

### FIELD DAY

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

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

We began our day by recuperating our light traps in our kayaks, and analyzing what we had caught on shore. While we did not succeed in catching any larval fish, our traps rendered several copepods, veliger larvae, and a tiny polychaete worm. We also spent time looking at the 3 species of mangroves that occur in the IRL (all are found around Ballard Park), and had the students sketch the life cycles of their favorite animals found

in our lagoon.

#### IRL COURSEWORK - HIGHLAND

***Shrimps - Ms. Denise***

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

Some students started or continued on their plankton math. Those who were complete worked on the mangrove diorama - drawing animals, creating the title letters, gluing on the mangrove leaves, adding more details about the different types of mangroves we learned about!

#### Physical Education

The students had a blast practicing their dance moves with Salsa Kris! They also played a game where they split into two teams and two players from each team stood back to back with a ball in between their backs and their arms were linked. They had to run down the field, around the cone and back all while not dropping the ball. After that the kids played their favorite game of freeze dance. When they were tagged out for moving after the music stopped, they could get back into the game by practicing their salsa steps.

#### Victoria Landing Book Buddies

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

## **Thursday 3/15**

### **AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE**

#### ***Tribe Keepers - Ms. Camila Carson, Hendrik, Tyberius***

Today we expanded our lesson on nutrients! We learned the specific nutrients that plants need and how they contribute to proper growth. We also made a follow-up visit to victoria Landing to check on the garden bed we planted. We brought them gifts; a beautiful plaque, some worms, and marigolds! At the EGAD garden, we identified nutrient deficiencies and amended by adding worm tea.

#### ***The Green Manures - Ms. Mikael Andrei, Elliott, Hubert, James, Jayna***

Today at highland house we revisited macronutrients NPK and added on learning about micronutrients that are important for plant health. We used a nutrient deficiency chart to go around the garden and identify areas that are lacking in such nutrients. At the EGAD garden we played a game where we matched up micro and macronutrients to their appropriate spots correlated to plant growth. We dispersed our nutrient tea to plants that need them. Afterwards we harvested seeds for seed saving and documented our thoughts in our garden journal.

#### ***The Melon Eating Compost Dudes - Mr. Josh Gio, Jacob, Levi, Jacob***

Today at Highland House we went over macro and micronutrients. The Green Manures and The Compost Dudes teamed up and went over the topic together. At the EGAD Community Garden we identified nutrient deficient plants and used the nutrient tea we made last week. We then planted and spoke on the concept of using nutrient traps to prevent nutrients from leaving the EGAD Community Garden.

#### ***The Mulching Minions - Ms. Montana Genevieve, Nate, Neven, Sarah***

Today we learned about dissolved oxygen (D.O.) by measuring concentrations in our plankton culture, a sample taken from the IRL, salt water, and distilled fresh water. We also focused on how D.O. gets into the IRL (from wind mixing and from photosynthesis), and the influence of both salinity and temperature on D.O. concentrations. At the farm, we brainstormed on how to keep nutrient runoff from the farm entering the IRL, and planted seeds and nourished them with worm tea rich in (N.P.K.).

### Physical Education

The students participated in Capoeira with Mr. Pike. They started by doing 100 jumping jacks. They ran laps and worked on stretching to improve their balance. They then worked on their jenga moves and their handstands.

### Library

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

### **Friday 3/16**

NO SCHOOL!