



# Weekly Recap

*March 26 - March 30*

*Indian River Lagoon*

*Prepared by The Verdi EcoSchool education team*

## Monday 3/26

### FIELD DAY

*Adela, Andrei, Carson, Hendrik, Hubert, Magnolia, Tyberius, Zahra*  
*Toda the Shrimps learned about the marine mammals in our lagoon by studying their biology, and then heading out onto the water to observe some animals in action. We came across at least a dozen dolphins while kayaking, and got to see them fishing together as a pod (one even caught a large jack and showed it off to us!). This reinforced the characteristics of all mammals, which was one of our focal points that day. In Ballard Park, we learned about the challenges that marine mammals face such as plastic entanglement and shipping lane noises.*

### 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 utilized the information that they learned through the Indian River Lagoon month to organize an Indian River Lagoon clean up. We decided on the date, time, and what the purpose of the event was. We also began to compile information that we wanted to include in a newsletter to hand out to the public, and began to compile the template via a creative online graphic design program.

***Mr. Dave***

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

Today the students completed calculating the averages of IRL water data quantities and graphing. We especially worked on solving for multiple decimal places using long division.

***Ms. Savannah***

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

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***Mr. Dave***

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

We continued to work on our basic arithmetic skills with the addition and subtraction of three and four digit numbers. We also began multiplication of two digit numbers with one digit numbers.

### PE

The students participated in homeschool PE at the Civic Center.

## Journalism

***Ms. Savannah***

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

The students continued their work in writing a piece for the Indian River Lagoon newsletter that they will be handing out during the cleanup event.

***Ms. Denise***

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

The students composed letters to a state representative and a state senator on Florida's ban on municipalities choosing to prohibit the use of single-use plastic bags.

## Tuesday 3/20

### FIELD DAY

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

*Today we focused on the marine mammals in our lagoon by studying their biology, and then observing a pod fishing together in the river. This reinforced the characteristics of all mammals, which was one of our focal points of our preliminary discussion in addition to challenges that marine mammals face such as plastic entanglement and shipping lane noises. We then created transects on the shoreline of Pineapple Park and observed the density and abundance of filter feeders within each transect. Students then practiced ability-appropriate math skills as they generated graphs to represent their data.*

## 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***

### 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

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

On this last day of our field course, students were given a chance to choose what information they had learned about the community as we reviewed to core concepts covered over the past month. We then kayaked around the IRL looking for marine mammals, and observed several dolphins and a manatee. In Ballard Park, half of the group drew a map of the Eau Gallie River mouth that featured salient information they had learned about this community waterway over the past month. The other group journaled about their experiences on the river.

### 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***

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 learned about whole systems! At the highland house, we discussed how a machine is made up of parts and pieces, all working together. We walked through our garden and identified all the working parts and pieces of our garden and tended to each one. At the EGAD community garden, we studied a map of the garden to point out all the parts that make it up. We discussed how if one piece is not functioning properly, the whole system may suffer. The students experimented with labeling individual domino pieces with the parts and pieces of a garden. We then set up the domino line and watched what happens when one piece starts falling and sets the whole system up for failure.

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

Today at Highland House Magnolia worked on mounting her plant specimens to paper and label them so that we can organize them into our herbarium. James worked on cutting sweet potatoes in half, putting them in cups with water mounted by toothpicks so that we can grow more starts to plant as ground cover for our garden. At highland house we moved mulch and talked about how fresh woody mulch can rob nutrients from the soil. We brainstormed ways to put nutrients back into the soil. We transplanted some moringa trees and planted seeds.

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

Today at Highland House we built on the concept of using observations to influence your decision in the garden. We used sight, sound, smell, and feel to observe our surroundings. At the EGAD Garden we mainly planted and did basic maintenance work.

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

Today we continued our discussion on macronutrients and plankton blooms by covering the situations that can cause a harmful algal bloom, and then tested this knowledge by playing a Kahoot game (a competitive computer game) on the subject. We also analyzed the nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations in samples of ocean and river water. At the farm we mulched our pineapple plants, moved cinder blocks that had been around our garden beds, and then solved math problems (addition subtraction, multiplication, and addition) using our cinder blocks.

**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:

**Ms. Savannah and Ms. Carrie**

The students worked diligently finishing projects, practicing mathematical principles, and creating shoreline ecosystem terrariums.

### STEAM Friday

***Ms. Keri-Anne***

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

***Mr. Dave***

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

For the majority of the day, we split into teams for a mathematics competition. Each team member had a chance to earn their team a point by coming to the board and working out a complex problem involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Toward the end each team was able to construct a very difficult problem for the other team to solve. Our other time consisted of calculating fractions and percentages.