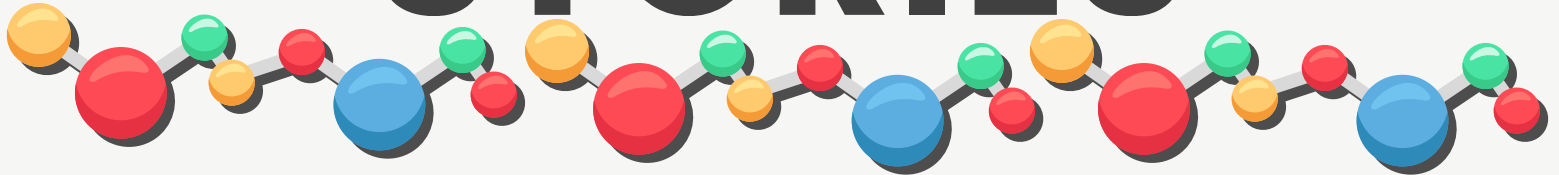
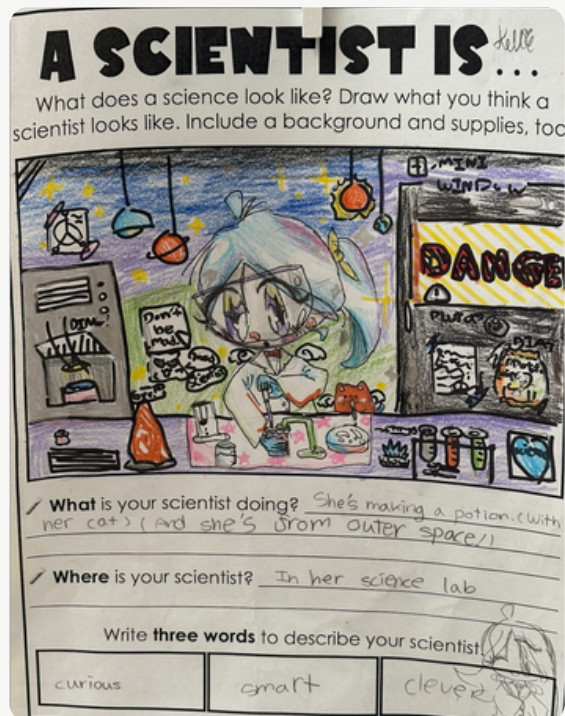


PPS STEM STORIES



Welcome to STEM Stories! The PPS Science Department is excited to share updates about the sensemaking students are engaging in throughout our buildings. Each quarter we will share updates from K-12 science to show how students are engaging in Science & Engineering Practices (SEPs) to construct an understanding of Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCIs) and scientific Cross-cutting Concepts (CCC). By incorporating all 3-dimensions of science thinking, students will become better equipped to grapple with science in their lives.

Academic Spotlight

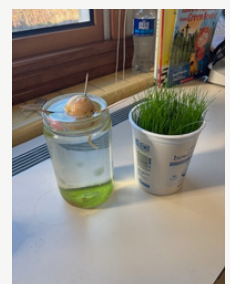
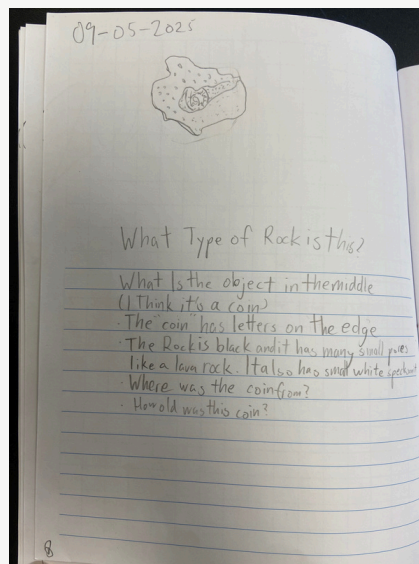


Elementary Science

- Fifth grade students at Littlebrook Elementary School started off the year with an engineering design challenge. They worked to design a contraption that would keep an egg safe when being released from a fire ladder 60+ feet in the air! Students were iterative and reflective throughout the process.
- Fifth graders in Mrs. Garriton's class at Johnson Park started to unpack the word scientist to explore how people they encounter in their everyday lives are thinking scientifically to solve problems (including themselves).
- The Princeton High School Genetics class visited the 3rd grade classes at Riverside to explore the structure and function of DNA. The scientists worked together to extract DNA from strawberries.
- Mr. Blejwas' 2nd graders at CP have been asking questions about the development of an avocado seed and collecting data about the effectiveness of garden compost in growing grass.

Elementary STEAM

Mr. Beck at Riverside is working with his students to set up STEAM notebooks. This is a place for students to record their scientific observations and construct their understanding of scientific phenomena.



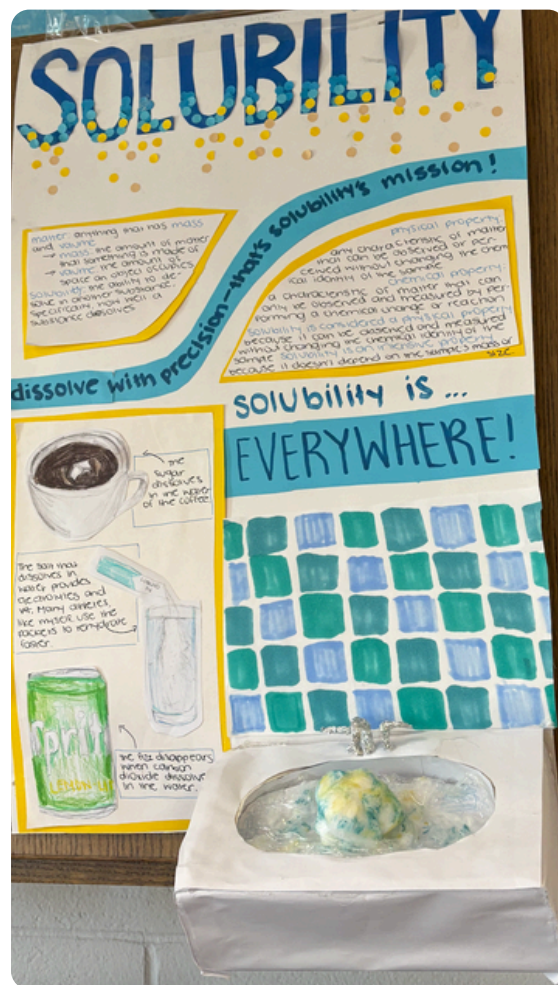
Academic Spotlight

PMS Science

- Eighth graders in Mrs. Gaudino and Mr. Merritt's classes visually represented everyday phenomena that could be explained with the phase changes they were studying in class.
- 7th graders were visited by the Graduate Entomology Student Association of Rutgers to discuss the evolutionary relationship between plants and insects.
- The 6th graders launched the year with their Environmental Education trip to the Watershed Institute. This trip gives students the opportunity to get to know their teachers and peers as well as explore their environment. This is a vital foundation for future conversations about human effects on the environment.

PHS Science

- The Forensic Science classes hosted speakers from the NJ State Police and Centurion to see how the topics covered in class can be applied to future careers.
- The Research Program had their 3-Minute Thesis Competition. Students have one slide and three minutes to explain their research. This process pushes students to consider how to clearly and succinctly explain their work to an audience with various levels of experience.
- Environmental Science students took a field trip to Mountain Lakes to collect data about water quality in our own environment.



Food Systems Spotlight

Fork & Field News

We kicked off Garden State on Your Plate 25-26 by honoring peppers, tomatoes, apples, and beets. The students in Ms. Brennan's Kitchen Science class at PMS helped the cafeteria prep salsa for a tasting that was hosted in September. A dietician was present for the cafeteria tasting to discuss the nutritional value of the salsa. Each of the elementary STEAM teachers hosted apple tastings in their classroom and farmers from Fairgrown Farms visited each of the elementary lunch periods throughout October.

Recipes showcasing fall produce items in the cafeteria can be found on the link below!

[Recipe Link!](#)



Sustainability Spotlight

Electric Buses

Some students at Community Park and Littlebrook have been riding new electric buses to school this fall.

Each school has been engaged in the Power Down for Popcorn competition to save energy throughout the fall. The goal was to reduce energy usage compared to last year. The winners were Johnson Park & Littlebrook!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Harvard University & Princeton University present:

*Science: From the Everyday
to the Extraordinary*



Princeton University Holiday Lecture

Bring your family to this year's Holiday Lecture for kids. Discover how everyday objects like bubbles and origami inspire scientific breakthroughs in health, energy, and technology. Enjoy hands-on experiments, interactive demonstrations, and activities that reveal how scientists explore the world. Recommended for children ages 7 and up. Children receive a free T-shirt. Two lecture times available on December 6th: 10am-11am & 1pm-2pm.

McDonnell Hall
70 County Road 526
Princeton, NJ 08540

Event Link!

Princeton Plasma Physics Lab: Summer Internship

PPPL's Science Education department offers a limited number of internship positions for outstanding high school seniors for the summer after their graduation. The high school internship offers students the chance to work on a project with a member of our research or engineering staff. The summer internship schedule is Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 40 hours per week. Application open: November 22. Application closes: March 1

Dates of internship: June 30 - August 1, 2025
Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory
100 Stellarator Road, Princeton, NJ

Science Under the Stars

Science Under the Stars

Science Under The Stars is a free monthly lecture series held Saturday afternoons at the New Jersey State Museum Planetarium. Science Under the Stars brings local experts to the planetarium to share their work in astronomy, earth science, and other topics with you!

Saturday, December 20th, 4:15pm

NJ State Museum
205 W. State St.
Trenton, NJ 08608

Event Link!



Seasonal Science: Holiday Programming

Attend one of the Franklin Institute's Holiday Programs including the Creation Station, the new Planetarium Show: Reason for the Season, and Live Science Shows with a holiday remix!

December 20th-December 30th
The Franklin Institute
222 N. 20th St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Event

Link!



Event Link!

