

# SCIENCE CURRICULUM

## KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is a time of new beginnings! It is a time to actively explore, discover, and develop a curiosity of new surroundings. To align with the Science & Technology Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, we integrate our Science curriculum with our Language Arts program.

### **I. Earth Science**

The study of earth science is incorporated in the Kindergarten curriculum by keeping a class weather chart indicating the daily weather conditions. Stories such as "Gilberto and the Wind" and "Rain Talk" reinforce students' understanding of weather. Nighttime is addressed through reading and discussing stories such as "Good Night Owl" and "Night Animals". In addition, children compare their nighttime routines with that of their classmates. Students also observe seasonal changes and other patterns found in nature.

### **II. Life Science**

The study of life science includes discussing animals that hibernate, sharing stories that illustrate animals that are camouflaged, and exploring different habitats of animals. In addition, we discuss why some birds migrate in the winter. We read and write stories about animals and plants. We look at how plants and animals resemble their parents and change in appearance with the seasons. Examples of stories used to help students build an understanding of these topics include: "Brown Bear, Brown Bear", "Polar Bear, Polar Bear", and "Allison's Zinnia".

### **III. Physical Science**

The study of physical science includes active exploration and discovery in both circletime activities and center-based activities. Circletime activities may include, sorting objects based on their size, shape, and color (unifix cubes, mittens, food) and making predictions. Students will be asked to answer questions such as, "Which way will the ice cube melt faster (in the mitten, in tin foil, or on the paper plate)?" Center-based activities include a "feely box" where the children draw the shape they feel. This activity helps to develop their tactile observation skills.

### **IV. Technology**

Technology is linked into the kindergarten curriculum through a unit on transportation. We look at different ways of travel: land, water, and air. Stories such as, "Wheels on a Bus" are read to the children. Extensions of stories are shared through activities such as, making graphs and making comparisons. Students are also engaged in conversations about "How did you get to school today?" to assist students in making the connection between science and real-life experiences.