March/April Inquiry

Class News

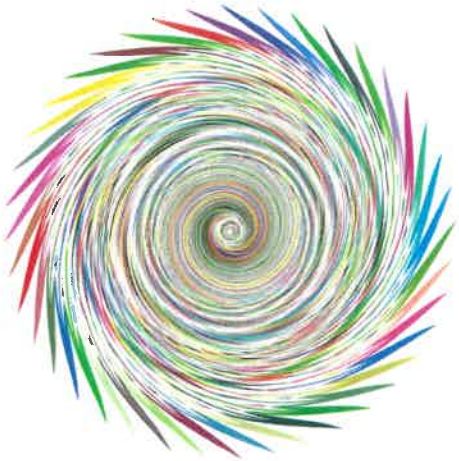
Dear Families,

Have you ever wished your child had a toy to clean up all of their other small toys? We are so excited to share this month's inquiry from KiwiCo with you. In this kit, your child will learn how to engineer their own mechanical vacuum that has an artistic twist. Check out:

The Mechanical Sweeper

- In this kit you will build a toy vacuum cleaner/sweeper with multiple moving parts that can be used to pick up pom-poms, small toys, and more. You'll also paint colorful watercolor whales for your mechanical cleaner and see a reaction between salt and water!
    - While constructing your machine, it might be helpful to learn more about Simple Machines We Use Every Day and how they work. Thanks to this NewsELA article, you can definitely ask your child if he/she can recognize any simple machines as you work!
    - For the Little Artists at home, learn how William Turner was inspired by color and light in this short episode of Art with Mati & Dada on Discovery Ed!

Have fun engineering this kit and learning how your sweeper works!



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Dear Families,

This month's KiwiCo kit is for scientists and artists alike. Do you remember using a spin art machine as a child? This time, you'll get to build your own. Check out:

Spin Art Machine

- In this kit, you and your child will construct a spin art kit while simultaneously learning about the laws of motion. You can even go beyond and consider how centripetal force is used in other objects, like roller coasters.
    - Check out NewsELA's article Everyday Mysteries: Why Don't I Fall Out of an Upside Down Roller Coaster? in order to learn more about the different forces of motion and specifically, centrifugal force.
    - Continue to learn and practice this force by watching Discovery Ed's video 3M Science at Home: Fidget Spinner. Your child may even wish to make his/her own after seeing how easy it was to create the spin art machine!

Have fun learning about the forces of motion and creating beautiful works of art!

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Dear Families,

As we approach the Spring, when all things begin to bloom, it will be fun to learn about how an irrigation system can help sustain multiple gardens. This may inspire your middle schooler to help you improve your gardens at home! Check out the:

Drip Irrigation Kit

- In this kit, your child will engineer a drip irrigation system which will hopefully sprout a love of botany and physics! First, he/she will construct the water tower and trellis. Then, set up the planter pots to grow your own bean, wheatgrass, and watermelon plants. Explore the science of irrigation and the different ways that farmers put water to work! (from flood irrigation to spray irrigation to computer-controlled farming!).
    - Learn about three different types of irrigation systems and which ones reduce water waste in Discovery Ed's video Irrigation Waste. You can also learn about what it takes to become a Water Quality Engineer, a career that your student might love after using this kit!
    - To learn a bit about the history of irrigation and how certain methods continue to help farmers, check out this NewsELA article Ancient Terraces are Protecting People's Food Supply in Peru Today.

Have fun helping your plants to grow!