

Superintendent's Highlight of the Week

June 3, 2016



This week we take a closer look at our STEAM initiative with members of the class of 2028, the children at the Kindergarten Center. Their aptly titled *Plant Study: How Things Change and Grow Over Time* has provided students with a rich context for exploring. Students were asked to think about plants from a variety of perspectives – as readers, writers, artists, mathematician, engineers, and scientists. They have been immersed in colorful literature connected to plant life, such as *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle, among other well-known classics such as *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

They have examined various factors that affect plant growth such as light, soil, water, and types of seeds. To tie in art and science, Kindergartners were asked to sketch diagrams of their budding seeds and to measure their growth. They masterfully captured plant changes through sketching and digital photography. Beyond simply learning about plant life, the study provided opportunities for students to question, hypothesize, work with partners, research, diagram and label, and form generalization about *flora*. At the culmination of the study, the students reflected on their learning about plants and planned for possible future areas of inquiry.



STEAM learning provides opportunities for students to delve deeply into an engaging topic while looking at it from a multitude of disciplines, which is true of authentic real-world learning. They are certainly demonstrating readiness for elementary school and beyond!