Dear Families:

This past week, we have been studying dandelions. We have been busy picking dandelions and observing the diameter of each dandelion blossom and the length of each stem.

Today we discussed where the seeds from the dandelion seed heads go when we blow on them. The children then estimated how many seeds they had blown into the air.

Then we conducted an experiment to see if the seeds would travel a greater distance if we blew fast or slow. We also made predictions about what would happen if the children held the dandelions closer to or farther from their lips.

This was science in action as our students observed, collected data from their peers and solved problems by making changes to their original ideas. The children began to engage in “scientific thinking” as they talked about their discoveries with friends.

Back in the classroom, we experimented with small bits of paper and a box fan to test out the children’s theories about force and motion. We used different fan speeds and different sizes of paper, made predictions and marked and measured distances. By asking questions and testing out their hypotheses, they arrived at conclusions.

Children who engage in active investigations like these are engaging in the work of real scientists. You can perform these same experiments at home with your child and continue the discussion about force and motion. Ask your child to predict what might happen and explain why he or she made this prediction. Happy experimenting!