Dear Families:

Today we took a break from the heat and made root beer floats! Working with the ice cream as our solid, the root beer as our liquid and the foam as our gas, we conducted this fun and easy experiment to introduce the children to the different states of matter.

We began by reading the book,***Change It! Solids, Liquids, Gases and You*** by Adrienne Mason. States of matter is a pretty complex concept for young brains, but this simple science experiment turned out to be a great way to help the children gain an understanding of the three states of matter.

We discussed ice cream, which is a solid (meaning it has a fixed shape). Then we discussed **liquids**, which have a fixed volume but conform to the shape of a container. Finally, we discussed **gases**, which have no fixed volume or shape. To help the children grasp this concept, I described gas as a substance that fills the entire container, like when we blow air (a gas) into a balloon (or like the bubbles that are created when we mix the liquid with the solid in our root beer floats).

As we integrate science into a child’s life, we also begin to build their science vocabulary. Words such as hypothesis, prediction, experiment, observation and cause and effect were easy to incorporate into today's investigation.

You can perform the same experiment at home with your child and continue this discussion about states of matter. Ask your child to predict what might happen and explain why he or she is making this prediction. Add ice cream and root beer to this week’s shopping list and treat your family to a delicious night of scientific investigation and discovery!