

The Plastic Predicament

Plastic: Drastic or Fantastic?

Dear Parents, Teachers, and PEAKers,



We had a great start to our new unit on plastic. Students learned about the 7 categories of recyclable plastics: their abbreviation codes, what they mean, what their properties are, how they are used, etc. They then presented these facts to the class, and in many cases, with real-world samples to see and handle. We'll be working with these types a lot in the future! Students then looked inward as they determined which type of plastic has attributes that aligned with their own personalities: strength, flexibility, transparency, environmental impact, etc. There were some very introspective responses, and it was interesting to watch the students examine their own personalities.

Then we assembled all the PEAK students in grades 3-5 and formed new teams for the PEAK Plastic Olympics*! (*Student-named!) We had five different events: a hockey bottlecap shootout, a ping-pong ball hoops challenge, a bottlecap/spoon relay, plastic bottle bowling, and a cup-stacking competition. It was a lively and energetic atmosphere, and the students got a chance at each station to implement the "reuse" part of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." This concept will expand to their final projects for the unit, which will also focus on the Reuse concept.

This week we'll take a look at the plastic in our lives every day. Students will be writing about their day, but imagining a reality with no plastic. How will they brush their teeth? What will they pack their lunch in? Will they build with wooden Legos, sit on an aluminum classroom chair, or drink from a glass water bottle? Let's see what they come up with! They will also be designing plastic audits to see what kinds and amounts of plastic we as a group are already using.

We'll also be discussing our final project and starting the brainstorming process of inventions they could create from existing plastic items that might otherwise be discarded.

This Week's Activities: Nov. 17 - 21

<p>Communication: Creative Writing I can create my own original written works to express my ideas.</p>	<p>A Day in the Life (Without Plastic) Students will write creative journal entries about what a day of their life would be like without the plastics that they use every day, including possible substitute materials for common plastic items.</p>
<p>Research I can gather relevant information with teacher guidance.</p>	<p>Plastic Audit Students will design and implement audits of the plastic used in their households each week: types, amounts, recycling, reuse, etc. Later, they will use this information as a baseline in a sustainability challenge.</p>
<p>Intrapersonal: Self-Expression I can express my own interests, values, emotions, etc. within a project.</p>	<p>A Plastic Brainstorm Students will learn the rules of brainstorming and then generate as many possible ideas as they can related to the use of plastics in our world.</p>
<p>Interpersonal: Teamwork I can assume an assigned role within a group and effectively contribute to a team.</p>	<p>Plastic Project Partnership Students will use teamwork to form teams and begin brainstorming ideas for their final projects.</p>

Being like Plastic: Flexible Yet Resilient,
J. Slead & C. Sieminski

PEAK GT3-5: Winter 2025

November 17	18	19	20	21
PEAK Middle School and High School Classes	Broadwater Bryant Central	Four Georgians Smith	Jefferson Jim Darcy Warren	Kessler Rossiter
24	25	26	27	28
PEAK Middle School/ High School Week (No Elementary PEAK Classes)		Thanksgiving Break No School		
December 1	2	3	4	5
PEAK Middle School and High School Classes	Broadwater Bryant Central	Four Georgians Smith	Jefferson Jim Darcy Warren	Kessler Rossiter
8	9	10	11	12
PEAK Middle School and High School Classes	PEAK Parent/Teacher Conferences	4Gs Smith Bryant	Jim Darcy Warren Rossiter	PEAK Parent/Teacher Conferences
15	16	17	18	19
PEAK Middle School and High School Classes	Broadwater Central	PEAK Parent/Teacher Conferences	Jefferson Kessler	PEAK Parent/Teacher Conferences
22	23	24	25	26
Winter Break No School				
29	30	31	January 1	2
Winter Break No School				