

Buzzing Through a Year of Ag in Kindergarten



I love teaching kindergarten & infusing agriculture throughout my curriculum into daily lessons. Agriculture goes hand in hand with science, as well as reading and mathematics. We made ice cream, adding Root Beer to investigate the 3 states of matter. It was so yummy!

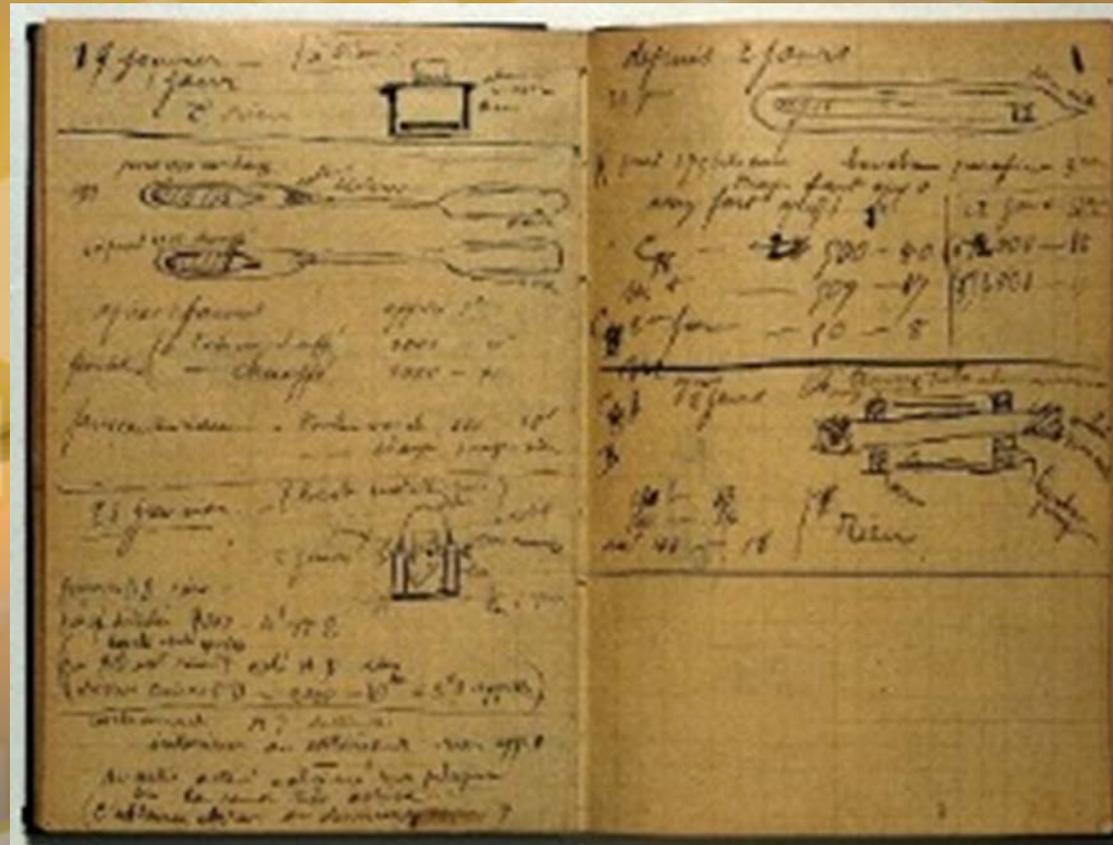


Learning Logs/Journals: How do journals help us learn?

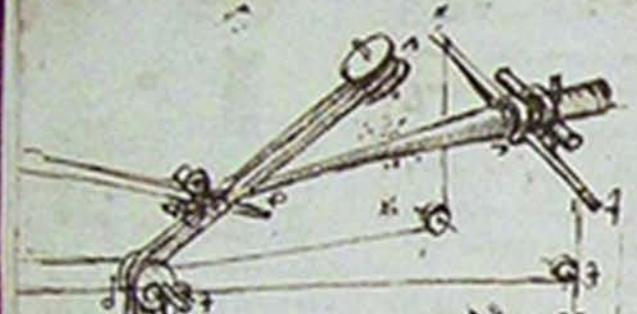




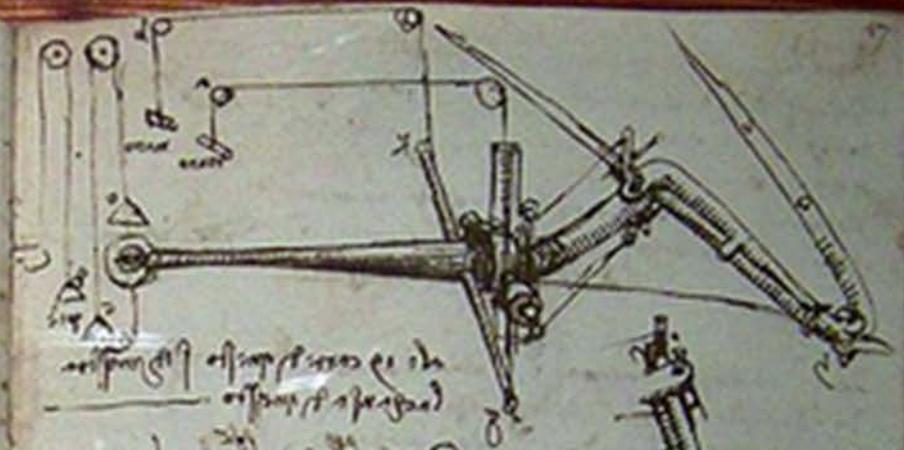
Discovered 2 new elements: Radium & Polonium Excerpt from Marie Curie's Journal



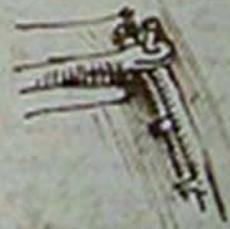
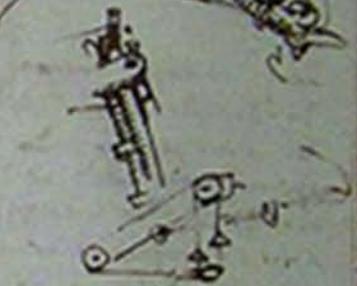
Handwritten text in a medieval script, likely Latin or Greek, located at the top left of the page.



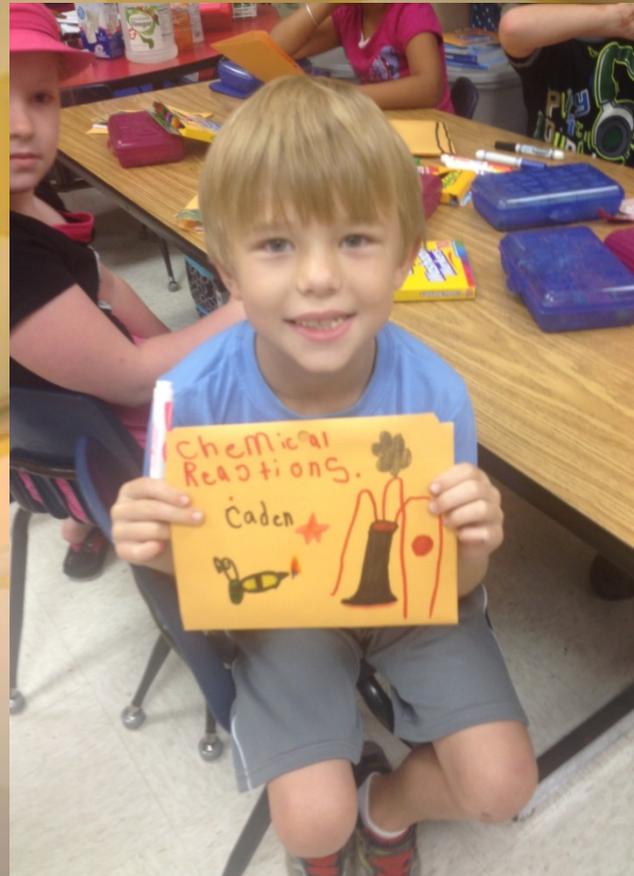
Main body of handwritten text on the left page, describing the mechanism shown in the drawing above.



Handwritten text on the right page, likely describing the mechanism shown in the drawing above.



Journaling



Learning Log

- **Let's create one together and you can use it for notes during this session or others.**
- **These journals can be used for different units, lessons and at your Science or Literacy Center.**
- **You can purchase large manila folders at The Dollar Tree to create them. They are inexpensive and easy to create!**
- **These "logs" can be used to store vocabulary or key concept cards.**
 - **I have the supplies, so let's get started and make one together.**

“From Plant to Seed”

- <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/teacher-toolbox-resources/ela-kindergarten---from-seed-to-plant-1-0-unit.pdf?sfvrsn=3>



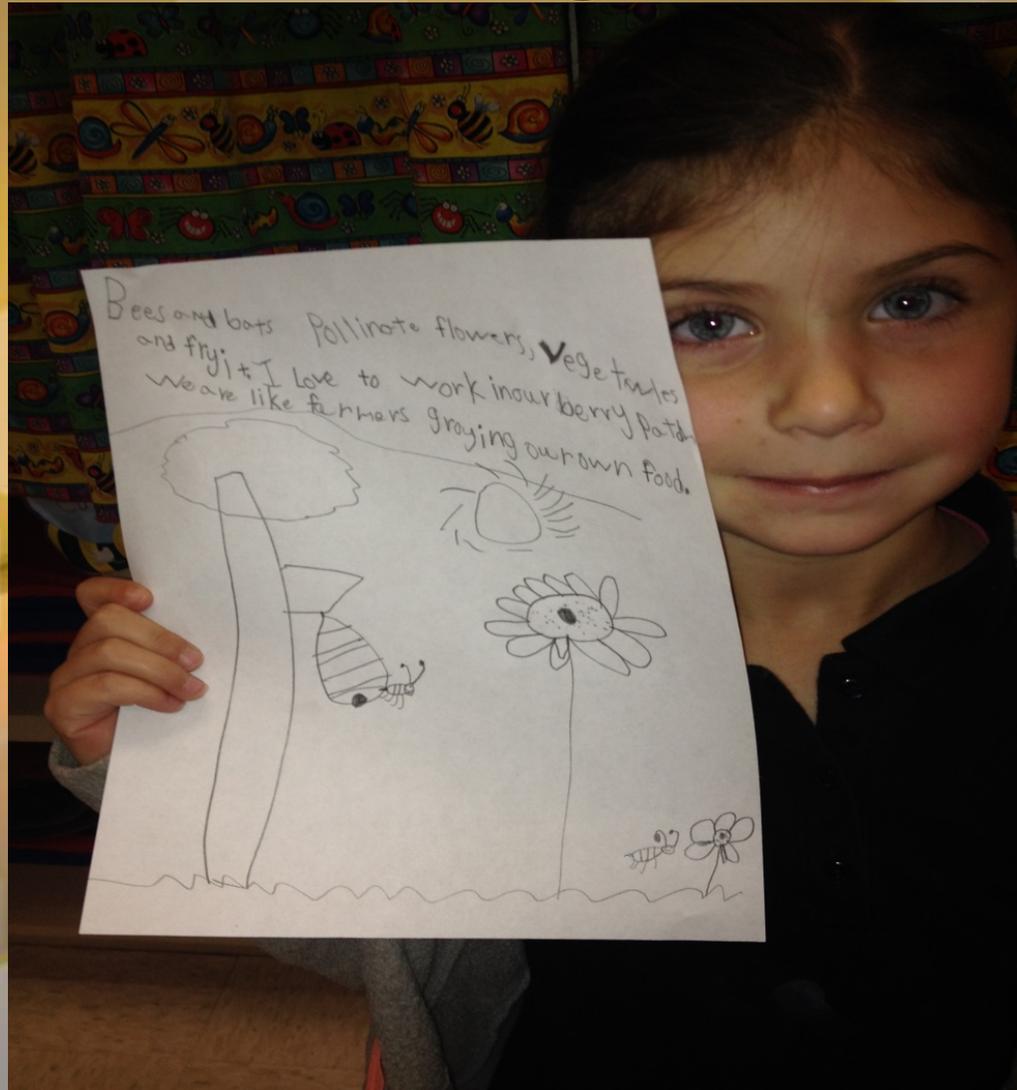
From The From Seed to Plant unit, my friends and I went on a scavenger hunt to look for different types of seeds. So much fun investigating, exploring and writing about our discoveries.



Exploring Soil – Creating the layers of soil – An edible extension



Exemplar: Journaling Seed to Plant Unit



Germination

- Seed sponge activity.



We planted tomatoes, bell peppers, parsley & mint with our local high school 4-H students. After tending our garden for weeks, we harvested our tomatoes, parsley & mint to make mini pizzas & mint infused tea. Each student took home a tomato & bell pepper plant to grow fresh produce at home. The project was a success & was featured in our local newspaper.

10015

Live Oak High students help out kindergartners

Advocate staff report

Live Oak High School helped Karen Parrino's kindergartners at North Live Oak Elementary in Watson discover their green thumbs this spring.

Delanea Gates and her Students Teaching and Reaching class and 4-H members helped the youngsters plant a garden, teaching the children the importance of sustainable agriculture.

The Students Teaching and Reaching class is for students interested in becoming future teachers, a news release said. The students learn about all areas of child development, educational psychology and other areas in education.

Live Oak High's 4-H members worked with the Students Teaching and Reaching students to secure materials and supplies for the project.

Parrino's class planted tomatoes, bell peppers, parsley and mint and tended the garden daily, observing and charting the growth of the plants and documenting the time it took for them to produce.

The Students Teaching and Reaching students created a meal of mini biscuit pizzas and mint-infused tea for the kindergartners with the fresh produce harvested from the garden.

Every kindergartner went home with a tomato and bell pepper plant.

Gates and Parrino are collaborating on another agriculture project for this fall.



Photos provided by KAREN PARRINO

Lauren Ginn, left, and Irin Jacobson teach a lesson to Karen Parrino's kindergartners at North Live Oak Elementary School.

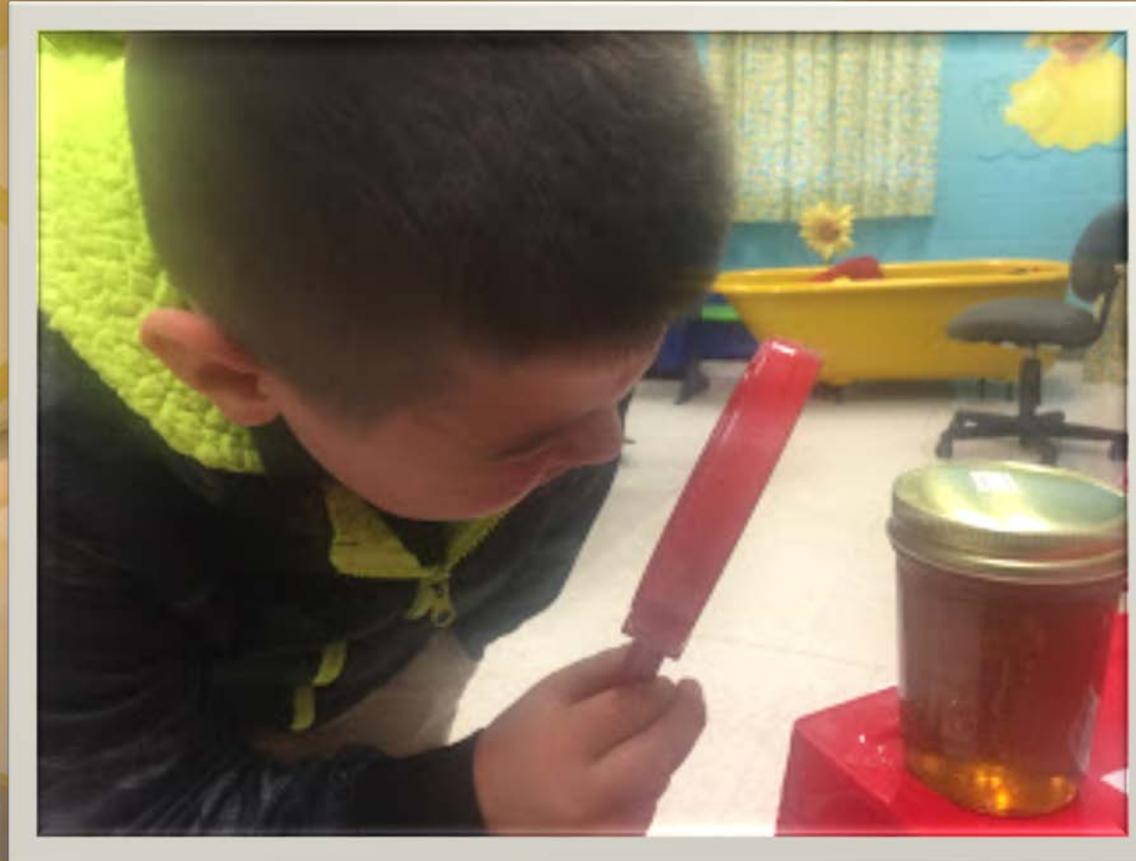


North Live Oak Elementary School student Hunter Perry shows his produce he grew at home.



Jacob Vellier, left, and Jesse Bradley plant tomatoes and bell peppers at North Live Oak Elementary School.

We enjoyed exploring bees. We learned that bees are the best-known pollinators because they carry pollen over their entire bodies as they fly from flower to flower. We brainstormed how we can help to save the bees. We investigated a honeycomb & tasted honey.



We incubated chicken eggs in our classroom. We learned that chickens are one of the most numerous birds in the world. We discussed poultry production & what an important component of American agriculture it is.



We learned about the Pilgrims & Native Americans & the crops they grew. We compared & contrasted American farmers of today with the Pilgrims. We read books, wrote stories & compared the tools the Pilgrims & Native Americans used for farming to the equipment used by farmers today. We celebrated with a Thanksgiving Feast in our class.



We learned the story of cotton, from the field to fabric.



We learned that Monarch butterflies are more than beautiful, they contribute to the health of our planet. While feeding on nectar, they pollinate many types of wildflowers. We read about & observed complete metamorphosis. After the butterflies emerged from their cocoons, we released them outside.



My students were excited to participate with 4th grade classes in maintaining our Strawberry Patch at North Live Oak. We sprayed the plants to treat them for fungus. We discussed what American farmers use to spray their plants because they have so many.

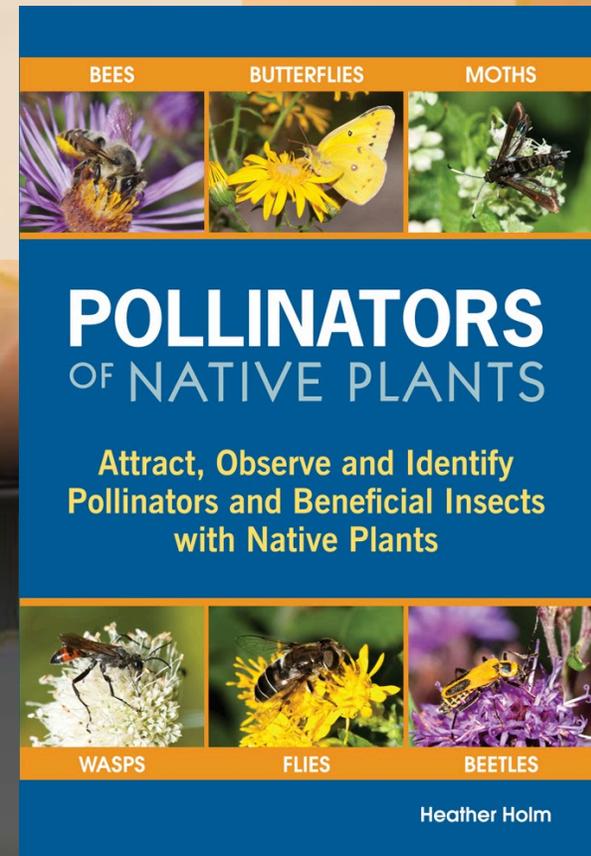


We learned where wool comes from! When a sheep's coat gets long and full in late spring, it is cut, spun into yarn, and then woven into cloth.

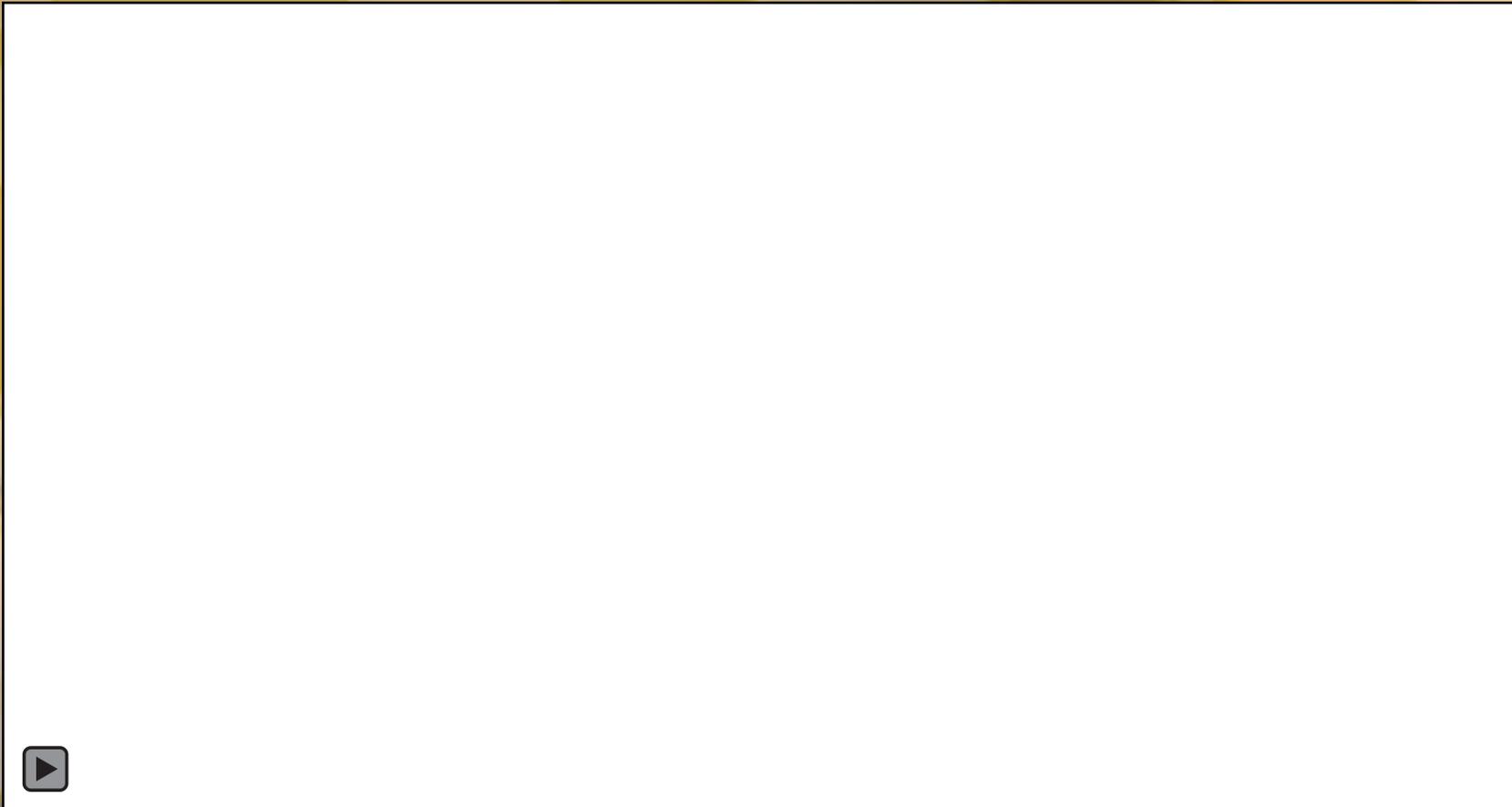


30 Million Word Gap

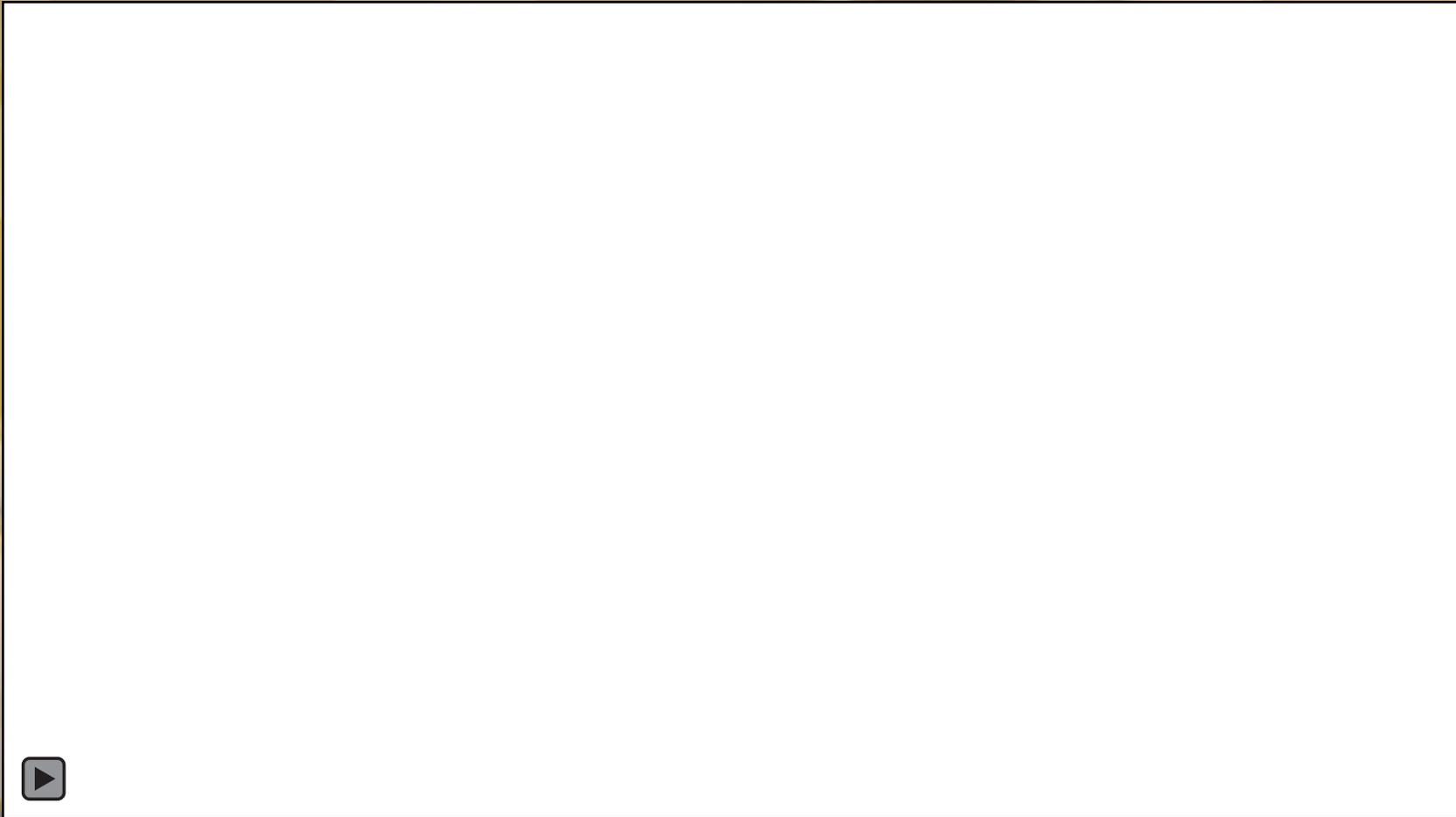
- The importance of children being exposed to books at an early age cannot be underestimated. It's crucial!
- Some books I use in my classroom.



Researchers have found that music can help children improve literacy skills. So keep singing, learning and be happy.



Don't Forget to Sing



Engaging Parents Kinder Kicks Blog:

- <http://kparrino13.blogspot.com/>
- A way to communicate with parents and help them to feel a “part” of our classroom.
- When parents feel connected and are comfortable they are more likely to be supportive of the curriculum and standards that you are teaching in your classroom.
- How are some ways you connect parents to the learning that is taking place in your classroom?
 - Discuss with a partner
 - Share

The importance of our curricula spreads further than the classroom – we need agriculture to survive. If you eat, you need agriculture. If you wear clothes, you need agriculture. If you take medicine, live in a house or write with a pencil, you need agriculture. It's important to begin immersing our students in agricultural lessons at a young age.





I am honored to share with you today.

Karen Kelley Parrino, karen.parrino@lpsb.org

- **LSU grad with Master's + 30**
- **Teacher Leader Endorsement**
- **Reading Specialist**
- **27 years of experience in early childhood education**
- **Kindergarten Teacher at North Live Oak in Watson, La.**
- **National Board Certified Teacher - 2010**
- **America Achieves Fellow**
- **LSTA's 2016 Elementary Science Teacher of the Year**
- **Ag Elementary Teacher of the Year - AITC 2017**
- **Member of the Science Standards Elementary Workgroup and Science Standards Steering Committee**
- **North Live Oak Teacher of the Year - 2006**

