



Newsletter, April 10, 2008

On Monday, April 14, we are going to the nose-wrinkling Iowa City landfill! Please remember to wear your squeaky boots and ancient clothes because we might get filthy!

On Monday this wet week we went to the water treatment plant where they get water ready for us to drink. We walked into different rooms. We found a giant generator that pops on when the electricity goes out. We saw a giant blue tub of water that was as tall as a semi-truck standing up on its side. There was so much water in it that they are starting to build another one. We also learned that our water comes from the river and from aquifers.

On Wednesday, We visited the water-ful wastewater plant, where they clean the dirty water. There was a big hole where the treated water slid away to the river. Tristan the Terrific asked our guide, Steve, if he ever rode on that water to get to the river. Steve had an electric microscope hooked up to his computer. We watched good guy bacteria swim around and eat bad guy bacteria. We learned that the plant is mostly run by computers and that only a few people work there. We got to walk over giant pools of bubbling, dark water. The air helps stir and clean the water. We were able to see the water go from yucky brpwn to crystal clear, then rush away to the Iowa River.

The older kids have been working all week on basic skills tests, but Friday they will be free! We will be at school and it won't be necessary to bring lunch or money to buy lunch. Our Friday field trip will be swimming at Mercer Rec Center, so make sure to bring a towel, shampoo, a swimsuit, and goggles. Those who choose not to swim or who forget their swimming materials will participate in alternative activities with Allison.

Written by the Great Galloping Younger Kids (while the older kids slave away on ITBS.)