Letter One

Dear Parents,

In the STEM Stories program today, your child read a book called *Stanley at Sea* by Linda Bailey. This book tells the story of Stanley, a dog who is always hungry and whose owners always seem to be eating. One day, after being told to get, Stanley wanders down to the river where he meets Alice, Nutsy and Gassy Jack. Soon their keen noses lead them to a delicious treat on a small boat with no people in sight. When the boat's mooring comes loose, the boat floats away with the dogs still on board! The book follows the dogs adventure as they try to get back to land. Ask your child to tell you about one of the "big ideas" from this book!

During the next session, the students will take on the role of engineers, designing a prototype of a flotation device that will help a "dog" (a soup can) stay afloat. Ask your child to share the ideas he or she brainstormed about their prototype today and talk about the steps they plan to take to build their model during the next session.

Thank you for sharing your child with us for this exciting program!

Letter Two

Dear Parents,

In the STEM Stories program today, your child worked with his or her team to start designing their flotation device. As a team, they planned what the flotation device would look like and worked together to draw out design ideas. After receiving design "approval," teams began building a prototype of a device that would keep a soup can afloat. This simulates a device that would help save a dog if it fell overboard on a family boat trip. Ask your child to share the ideas his or her team brainstormed about their flotation device today and talk about how they worked as a team to build a prototype!

During the next session, teams will test their flotation device. After testing, groups will discuss what went well and how they could improve their design.

Thank you for sharing your child with us for this exciting program!

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Letter Three

Dear Parents,

In the STEM Stories program today, your child worked with his or her team to test the flotation device they built last session. The teams watched all of the flotation devices be tested and applauded for each design. At the end of the session, teams reflected on what they liked about their design and how they may change or improve it. Ask your child how his or her finished flotation device stood up to the test, and what they learned during this lesson!

Thank you for sharing your child with us for this exciting program!

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