Leter One

Dear Parents,

In the STEM Stories Program today, your child read a book called *The Knights Before Christmas* by Joan Holub. This book tells the story of three brave knights who were just settling in for the night on December 24th when out on the drawbridge, there arose such a clatter! The knights work together to try and get rid of the invader, Santa Claus, a “red-and white knight” and his eight dragons. The book is told in poetry form, mimicking *‘Twas the Night Before Christmas*. 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 catapult and a cushioning device. 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 catapult and cushioning device. As a team, they planned what the catapult and cushioning device would look like and worked together to draw out design ideas. After receiving design “approval,” teams began building a prototype of their catapult and cushioning device. This simulates presents being flung over the castle walls and not being damaged. Ask your child to share the ideas his or her team brainstormed about their catapult today, and talk about how they worked as a team to build a prototype!

During the next session, teams will test their catapult and cushioning 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 catapult and cushioning device they built last session. The teams watched all of the catapults 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 catapult and cushioning 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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