



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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For immediate release

May 16, 2018

Leland Elementary School partnership helps students learn about the water treatment process



Vice President Barbara McGowan and 8 year old Laura discuss the water treatment process while coloring a schematic of the MWRD's water reclamation facility.



Vice President Barbara McGowan and Laura show off their MWRD shades.

George Leland Elementary School continues to bring programming to students to help them achieve their potential, and the recent Family Night and Career Fair helped acquaint students with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) careers. These two events also continued the partnership developed with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD).

During Family Night on May 3, MWRD Vice President Barbara McGowan explained the water treatment process and helped students color a water reclamation display. MWRD Public Affairs Specialist Rebecca Wooley gave a water quiz to older students for a chance to win MWRD sunglasses. During the Career Fair on May 10, MWRD Lab Technician Bonnie Davis showed students samples of microorganisms under a microscope and explained their importance in helping to clean used water.

Turon Ivy, M.Ed., is Leland School's Principal. He explained that the school's mission is to provide an academic program in a caring and supportive learning

environment while tailoring curricula to meet the needs of students.

"Our students have a variety of needs so we develop programming such as Family Night and the career fairs to ensure each student has the opportunity to attain his or her maximum potential," said Principal Ivy.

The MWRD/Leland School partnership began in 2014 when Leland was selected as a Space to Grow School, a partnership between the Healthy Schools Campaign, Openlands, MWRD, Chicago Public Schools, and the Chicago Dept. of Water Management. After more than a year of community planning and several months of construction, the educational schoolyard was completed. It features stormwater collection elements while also providing a space for the students and community to enjoy.

"The Leland schoolyard helps the students, parents and community understand the importance of conservation and stormwater management while creating a wonderful space to play and learn. *(continued)*

Leland Elementary School partnership helps students learn *continued*



Leland School Principal Turon Ivy joined in on the Family Night fun.

The green infrastructure components in particular are important educational tools,” said Vice President McGowan.

Earlier this year, eighth grade students and teachers visited the MWRD Main Office to listen to internationally acclaimed scholar, educator and activist Conrad Worrill give two presentations on African American elected officials’ rise from local to national politics.



Eighth grade student Deyonna, in the yellow shirt, was a participant in the MWRD’s program that introduced students to internationally acclaimed scholar Conrad Worrill who discussed African American elected officials’ rise.

“I am grateful that the District has been able to develop such a meaningful partnership with Leland,” said Vice President McGowan. “It takes a village to raise a child. The educational schoolyard and the ongoing STEM learning experiences that our staff share with the students and their parents provide a strong foundation as these youth imagine their future careers and the impact that they will make on the world around them.”

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Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwr.org) is an award winning, special purpose government agency responsible for used water treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.