

Dear Parents and Students of Gifted Resource Class,

Thanks for your patience during testing. The good news is I am almost done with testing. I should wrap up next week. This means that gifted resource class will begin the week of February 10th. The 3rd graders will come to gifted resource every Thursday. We will begin our next unit of study called “Thrown Away” which culminates with the 3rd grade science standard:

- S3L2 Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about the effects of pollution (air, land, and water) and humans on the environment.
- S3L2a Ask questions to collect information and create records of sources and effects of pollution on the plants and animals.
- S3L2b Explore, research, and communicate solutions, such as conservation of resources and recycling of materials, to protect plants and animals.

We will expand these standards on pollution and how it affects our environment by delving more deeply into the topic and answering the question **“Can the world stop food waste?”**

Approximately one third of the food produced for human consumption every year in the world (about 1.3 billion tons), is lost or wasted. This is an amazing and frightening fact. During this unit students will answer the following questions:

- Who are the biggest wasters—which countries?
- What are the causes and ramifications that can result from discarded food while it is still in a useable commodity?
- What would it be like to live in a situation where food supply is threatened?
- The food industry, like the fashion industry seems to be driven by a cult of perfection. The desire for perfection has led to food waste and loss and has taken a heaving toll on the environment. Why are “ugly foods avoided” and “what are the benefits of eating ugly foods”?
- What are issues related to global food loss and waste and what are solutions
- Students will create their own “TED Talk” emphasizing what they learned during the unit and solutions for this global issue.

I am excited to begin this unit with the children. Gifted resource is a time where we can challenge their minds, make them think deeper into topics and hopefully find solutions for complex issues.

As Always, Please feel free to contact me should you have questions

Cheryl Gerber

Cheryl.gerber@henry.k12.ga.us