

Jennifer Seibold, Kalei`opu`u Elementary School: Adventures in Microbial Oceanography



Our school was so fortunate and grateful to receive a generous grant for education in microbial science through the Center for Microbial Oceanography: Research and Education (C-MORE) at the University of Hawaii. The generosity of the grant enabled our school to purchase science supplies so that our students in fourth through sixth grade were able to conduct hands-on experiments during their science resource classes. Students learned about marine microbes through exploration and engaging lessons. In their science resource classes, students were able to participate in four science lessons from the Ocean FEST curriculum: “penny plop”, “oil and water tubes”, “coral sand and vinegar” and “make a microbe.”

Through the lessons, almost 450 students engaged in the scientific process, learned about the importance of safety and ethics in conducting scientific experiments, and were able to extend their experience to real world application and implications. It was such a rewarding and valuable experience to see our students get so excited about science and hearing the questions that arose from the experience. As children living in Hawaii, surrounded by the ocean, they learned the important role microbes play in our environment. It also motivated our students to realize the large-scale ramifications and consequences of not being good stewards of our ocean environments.

Our school, Kalei`opu`u Elementary, would like to extend our sincere gratitude and thanks to C-MORE for funding such a rich and valuable experience for our students. We are very thankful.