

Letter One

Dear Parents,

In the STEM Stories program today, your child read a book called *Volcano Rising* by Elizabeth Rausch. This book tells all about volcanoes. Ask your child one of the facts they learned about volcanoes today!

During the next session, the students will take on the role of engineers, designing a structure that will change the flow of lava (foam) from a "volcano." 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 structure that changes the flow of volcano lava. As a team, they planned what the structure would look like and worked together to draw out design ideas. After receiving design "approval," teams began building a prototype of the structure that will block foam from reaching buildings. This simulates protecting a house from lava flowing from a volcano. Ask your child to share the ideas his or her team brainstormed about their protective structure today and talk about how they worked as a team to build a prototype!

During the next session, teams will test their protective structure. 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!

Letter Three

Dear Parents,

In the STEM Stories program today, your child worked with his or her team to test the protective structure they built last session. The teams watched all of the structures 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 structure protected houses from the volcano lava and what they learned during this lesson!

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