



DuPage Water Commission Employees Participate in Water Conservation Panel for 3rd Graders

Date: March 2016

On March 9, DuPage Water Commission (DWC) Employees Terry McGhee and Jenessa Rodriguez participated as water expert panelists for Abraham Lincoln Elementary's Problem-Based Learning (PBL) Program. According to School District 41's [PBL website](#), the teachers 'intentionally integrate problem solving into curriculum through Problem-Based Learning. Problem-based learning will enhance the opportunities our students have to be critical thinkers, to collaborate, to create, and to communicate their thinking.'

For this PBL, the third graders were asked to create a solution to the following problem: 'How do we protect/conserve water so that everyone will have reliable water?'

The DWC employees along with other water experts and community members listened to two student group presentations, asked questions, and gave feedback. Then the students used the feedback to revise their presentation and then returned with a final presentation. If they were unable to collect data in the time they had to revise their presentation, the panelist noted it on the rubric so the students could add to their project in class. After collecting these rubrics, the teachers and classmates will pick one solution to move forward on and try to make it come to fruition.

The students had great water conserving ideas such as holding a fundraisers or bake sales to collect money for converting school toilets to low-flow toilets and adding rain barrels to all the schools in their district. One solution proposed the Lincoln Water Police; the students might be deputized with squad bikes and badges to police water-wasters.

Since so many of the solutions are implementable, there are many options that the school will establish. They are going hand out toothbrushes and water bottles customized that espouse saving water. The book writing group is going to make several copies of their book and put them in the Little Lending Libraries in people's yards. A Water Awareness Week will be established and connected to Kindness Week. The school already has low-flow toilets. The groups that were working on fundraising to provide reliable water to people and places without will combine forces and raise money to be contributed to an organization such as Living Water International.