

# SIXTY SECONDS OF SCIENCE



## Solar Eclipse Monday April 8th @ 2:07pm

Check out our website for more information about this exciting event!



[STEM Solar Eclipse Website](#)

### EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Reimagining STEM: An Entire Family Experience! The CPS STEM Department is hosting another fun & FREE family event. Click below for more information and we hope to see you there!



**Date:** April 10th @ Kids Science Lab

**More information:** [Click Here](#)

SC Johnson's Kaleidoscope Education Series (KES) offers FREE, grade-focused STEM programs to CPS classrooms. Upcoming series are: The Antarctica Penguin Expedition (2nd-4th) and Earth Rangers (5th-6th).

**Date:** Virtual Broadcast

Reservations due April 10th & 16th

**More information:** [Click Here to Register](#)



Chicago Park District is hosting an Earth Day Parks Cleanup day! Join thousands of volunteers in parks across Chicago in picking up litter and putting down mulch to give our precious green spaces a fresh start for the season.



**Date:** Saturday, April 20th from 9am- noon

**More information:** [Click Here](#)

Chicago Public Libraries host science and STEM activities at their locations all around the city. This month, kids can make cloud dough, attend 'Spy Academy,' and much more!

**Date:** Varying dates in April

**More information:** [Click Here](#)



### UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

#### K-5:

- Skyline Sprints:
  - 4/17 - Supporting Newcomers in K-5 Science #4
  - 4/25 - Supporting Student Sense Making: SEP Sprint #5
  - 4/30 - Learning Conditions: Learning Goals

#### K-8:

- 4/23-Cross Cutting Concept [Sprint #4](#)

#### 6-8:

- Skyline Sprints:
  - 4/11 - 8th Unit 9 Evolutionary History
  - 4/16 - 6th-8th Co-Lab Learning Cycles for MS Science
  - 4/30 - Diverse Learner Strategies for MS Science

#### High School

- Skyline Sprints:
  - 4/9 - Biology Unit 8 Deep Dive
  - 4/16 - Physics Unit 5 Deep Dive
  - 4/29 & 30 - Chemistry Unit 5 Deep Dive
  - 4/30 - HS Co-lab Facilitation Workshop



## Classroom Highlight

For the past **49 years**, Susan Mercon has been a Diverse Learner Teacher in CPS. Currently at Henry Clay School, she is a resource teacher who teaches push-in ELA, and then both Science and Social Studies to 2nd - 5th Grade and 8th Grade. Susan was inspired to become a teacher after going to work with her mother - a Lunchroom Manager at a CPS school!

Science is her favorite subject to teach because it gives her students so many opportunities to figure things out by doing hands-on activities, investigating, and coming up with their own conclusions. The smiles on their faces after completing a science activity keeps her motivated day in and day out!



## Meet Your 5th Grade Specialist...



**Niranjani Prabhakar**

[nprabhakar@cps.edu](mailto:nprabhakar@cps.edu)

This is Niranjani's 13th year with CPS, she has taught 5th and 6th-grade science at Chicago World Language Academy (formerly Andrew Jackson Language Academy) before transitioning into the role of 5th-grade Science Content Specialist.

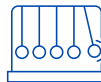
Niranjani has always enjoyed observing and learning about the natural world around her, leading her to pursue a career as an educator in science. In college, she especially enjoyed biology and environmental science classes.

She also took a keen interest in computer science in high school and now she also loves to incorporate technology into her learning and teaching.

As a 5th-grade science specialist, she loves to incorporate reading and writing using CER (Claim-Evidence-Reasoning) as well as using discourse to encourage understanding. She also loves to use technology to aid students' science curiosity. She loves her role because she can continue to help shape the minds of future scientists, engineers, and innovators.

### Fun facts about Niranjani:

- Loves to be outside in warm weather
- Has twins that are in college
- She loves traveling and has visited four continents so far
- Loves to eat different cuisines



## HOT TOPICS IN SCIENCE



**2024 Solar Eclipse vs. 2017 Eclipse:** Read [here](#) to learn more about the difference between the upcoming solar eclipse and the one we had in 2017!

**Starfish...All Heads, No Body:** Read [here](#) to learn more about a new study that takes a deep dive into starfish anatomy to discover if they are missing a head or a trunk!

**Climate Change and Timekeeping:** Read [here](#) to learn more about how the melting ice sheets are actually slowing Earth's rotation speed, which in turn, can complicate global timekeeping!

**Color Changes During a Solar Eclipse:** Read [here](#) to learn more about how the Purkinje effect may play tricks on your color vision as the light dims during the solar eclipse!

**Earth Day April 22, 2024:** Read [here](#) for some tips about how to help out the environment on Earth Day!

## Cultivating Student-Centered Classrooms Through the Learning Conditions: Affirming Identities

Affirming Identities: Recognition and affirmation of student identities is a learning condition that is foundational to the Inner Core. It centers students' identities and prompts teachers to reflect on their own identities and the content of their instruction, as a way to create a classroom where all students feel like they belong!

Read the full Affirming Identities Guide [here](#)

For more inspiration on how to Affirm Identities in Science, check out the resources below:

[How to Create Identity-Affirming Opportunities in Science Lessons](#)

[Science in the City by Bryan A. Brown](#)

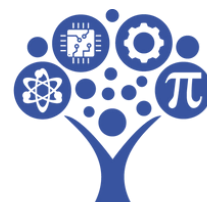
**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**  
WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR SCIENCE CLASSROOM?



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PROFESSIONAL LEARNING  
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