THE WEEK Junior EDUCATION

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Issue 255

Page	Title	Summary and Discussion Points	Content Area
4	NASA to launch SPHEREx mission	A new space telescope is set to launch from California. What types of information do scientists hope to gather with this telescope? What will this mission do that others haven't?	Science
7	Swimmers take a record-breaking dip	Swimmers gathered together in the Czech Republic for the largest polar bear dip. What is a polar bear dip or polar plunge? What rules did each swimmer have to follow to qualify for the record?	Physical Education
11	A creative way to track bees	Researchers attached QR codes to bees to help track how much time they spend outside their hives. What are QR codes? Why do some bees leave the hive? What was something surprising researchers learned in this study?	Engineering
15	Smart fabric turns sunlight into heat	A new fabric can convert sunlight into heat. How does this fabric work? Brainstorm ways this fabric could be used.	Arts
15	A device that tests for food safety	A new tool can help test food and liquid for harmful substances. What types of substances can it detect? What can this help consumers identify?	Health

FEATURE OF THE WEEK JUNIOR: Quiz of the week (page 30)	
Invite students to look at this week's feature and answer the questions.	1. What author was featured this week? Why do you think she was featured? What statement from her interview is most interesting to you, and why? 2. Have you read any of Jennifer Nielsen's books? After reading this feature, would you be more or less likely to read one of her books? Explain your answer. 3. Choose a favorite author that you would like to interview. Write five questions you would like to ask your author. Then, research to see if you can come up with answers you think he or she would say.

	DEBATE	CREATE
ARTICLE	“Should children use skincare products?” (page 8)	“Academy Awards are presented” (page 3)
VOCABULARY	dermatologists, tutorial, self-care, sensitive	prestigious, independent animators, standing ovation, honor
ACTIVITY	Use the silent conversation strategy for student groups to discuss and explore a topic. Distribute a large piece of paper to groups of 3-4 students. Each student should have a different color marker to identify each group member's responses. Have students write the following prompt in the middle of the paper: “Children should use skincare products”. Assign a student to start by writing their response. When they are finished, they should pass the paper in a clockwise direction. Students can continue to write their ideas or comment on other posts but must remain silent. After 10 minutes, students can verbally discuss their ideas and summarize their responses to the prompt.	Challenge students to use their imagination to create a short story inspired by the themes of Flow (water, teamwork, and adventure). Start by sharing, “In a magical world where water has a spirit of its own, a group of adventurers must work together to protect the rivers, lakes, and oceans from an ancient drought monster. But they need your help to complete their journey!” Have each student create a character who has a special connection to water, and then ask students to write a short adventure in which their character helps save the water. Guide them with questions like: What problem is the water facing? How does your character use their unique ability? What does your character learn about teamwork and nature? Invite students to share their stories in small groups or as a class.
EXTEND	Investigate how the skin works.	Listen to music from the movie Flow.

	ACT	CONNECT
ARTICLE	“Seeds added to vault” (page 7)	“Thrilling competition on the track” (pages 12-13)
VOCABULARY	vault, extinction, facility, diseases	propulsion, aerodynamics, circuit, qualifying
ACTIVITY	Upcycle paper from recycling into plantable seed paper. Invite students to follow this procedure: 1) Tear paper into tiny strips. 2) Place a window screen on top of a plastic tub or bucket. 3) Add paper to the blender and cover it with water. 4) Run the blender until the paper mixture is a smooth pulp. 5) Stir in native seeds like wildflowers. 6) Spread the pulp thinly across the screen and layer a towel on top to absorb the extra water. 7) Push any excess water through the screen into the tub. 8) Flip the screen over so the paper pulp is transferred to the towel. 9) Remove the screen and put the cloth with paper pulp in a spot where it can dry for about a day. Gift the finished paper to plant in your community.	Demonstrate how a Formula 1 car moves using the principles of propulsion and aerodynamics. Have students tape a straw onto a toy car so that one end sticks out behind the car like an exhaust pipe. Then, ask them to insert the balloon into the straw and tape it around the opening to prevent air from escaping. Tell students to inflate the balloon by blowing air into the straw, then pinch the straw shut to hold in the air. Next, they should place the car on a smooth surface and release the balloon. Explain that their car is demonstrating propulsion, just like how an F1 car’s engine pushes out exhaust gases to move forward, the balloon expels air to propel the car. Students can then experiment with aerodynamics by changing the car's shape to see if it goes faster.
EXTEND	Find native plants in your region.	Identify challenges of driving F1 cars.

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