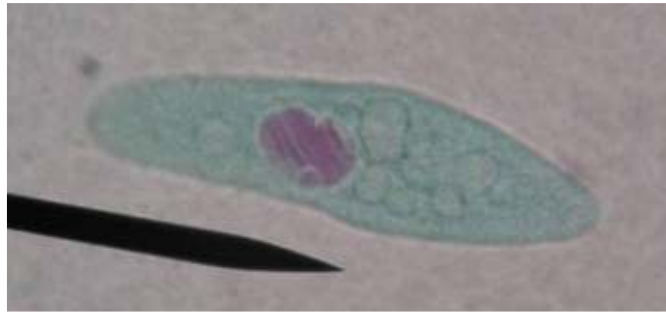


Explore The Microscopic World In Your House

Kellogg School Microscope Lending Program



Contact:

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Dear Kellogg Parents and Students (Grades 3-8),

I want to introduce you to an opportunity available to encourage students to explore the microscopic world at home. Students are able to check out a microscope from the science room to bring home for two weeks and explore the tiny world of creatures and materials that surround us unseen.

Purposes of the microscope lending program

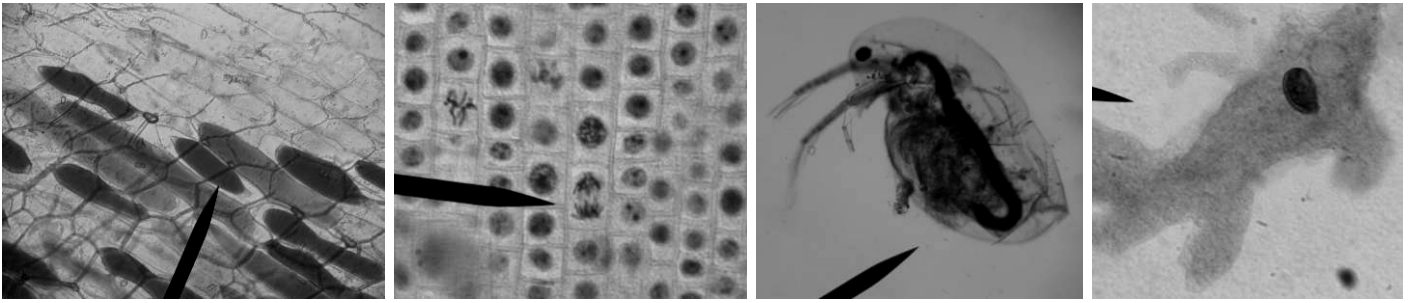
- To increase student accessibility to science technology
- To increase student interest in science outside the classroom
- To give the students an opportunity to explore a potential new hobby (if you think you want to buy a microscope of your own, this is a good way to find out if you enjoy it)
- To allow students to explore independently at their own pace
- To create more sharing of discoveries in the classroom through drawings and photos of your observations



Expectations

Students will

1. transport the microscope safely in a car, not on the school bus.
2. treat the microscope with great care and tell the teacher or an adult if there is ever a concern.
3. keep the stage and objective lenses clean.
4. go through a brief orientation on how to handle, focus and set up the microscope.
5. make amazing discoveries, have fun and record a few observations or pictures to share with the class (if they are willing)



Suggestions to start your explorations

- Fly wings harvested from the window sill are a good place to start
- Eyelashes or eyebrow hairs
- Onion skin
- A *drop* of pond water (Use caution with water near electricity)
- Bread mold
- Salt and sugar crystals
- Security features on dollar bills (shine a flashlight down from the top to view)
- Dust – It's more interesting to view than it sounds
- Paper towel and different fabrics
- Root hairs from potted plants
- Algae from a pond
- Dead insects (Mosquito, fly's compound eye, tick)
- Bird feather
- Scales from a snakeskin
- Seeds

Orientation outline

- How to focus without cracking the slide
- Electrical safety
- How to create your own slides
- Cleaning slides and stage
- Do not clean lenses – Science teacher will clean with lens paper that does not scratch
- Please do not use any liquids other than freshwater from the tap or a pond. Other liquids, especially salt water, can damage or corrode the microscope.
- Do not view blood under this microscope. I have prepared slides of blood in school that you are welcome to view safely.

Materials included in microscope box

Plastic slides Forceps Pipette Lens paper