



After researching water pollution and learning ways scientists and water plants purify water, these students collaborated together to design an invention that helps others clean polluted water for a Science PBL unit on pollution. Their final product was a doll that sucks up dirty water through its feet, cleans it using the same technology that water plants use, and then spits out the clean water from its mouth.

"I liked working with my group to make a project that we can do at school to help stop pollution. We walked around the school and wrote down all the pollution we saw. We watched what was being thrown away at lunch and looked at the trashcans in my classroom. We researched how to get rid of pollution, like reduce, reuse, and recycle. We watched a video where a guy showed us how plastic is recycled. We got the idea to make a pollution club that meets to pick up plastic for recycling. We want to talk about how we can stop pollution in our club. We recycle paper at our school, but we want to have our club recycle plastics, too."

- Udaya M.



PROJECT BASED LEARNING

**An informational
brochure for the
NPES community**

“PBL is an effective and enjoyable way to learn. Students build success skills that are valuable for today’s world.”

- Buck Institute for Education

What is Project Based Learning (PBL)?

According to the Buck Institute for Education, Project Based Learning is “a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge.”

There are 8 main elements in effective PBL:

- Key Knowledge, Understanding, & Success Skills
- Challenging Problem or Question
- Sustained Inquiry
- Authenticity
- Student Voice & Choice
- Reflection
- Critique & Revision
- Public Product

Scan the QR code to read more about the 8 main elements.



Why should we invest in PBL?

PBL is an effective and engaging way for students to learn. Students are able to make real-world connections to what they are learning. New Prospect’s SGC collected feedback from students and the community in the spring of 2015. Some of the common themes from the survey results were to make learning more personalized, engaging, challenging, and fun. We believe that implementing a PBL model in our school will help with this.

According to the Buck Institute for Education, the following are reasons why we should make an investment in PBL:

- PBL makes school more engaging for students.
- PBL improves learning.
- PBL builds success skills for college, career, and life.
- PBL helps address Common Core Standards.
- PBL provides opportunities for students to use technology.
- PBL makes teaching more enjoyable and rewarding.
- PBL connects students and schools with communities and the real world.

Scan the QR code to watch a video about PBL.



What is the Buck Institute for Education?

The Buck Institute for Education is a non-profit organization that specializes in providing highly effective PBL training for educators. Their highest priority is “to help teachers prepare students for successful lives.”

New Prospect’s SGC has chosen to use this organization to train the teachers at New Prospect because they come highly recommended by other schools in our district who have used them. Not only do trainers from the Buck Institute visit the schools several times throughout the year to work with teachers, but they also provide materials and other support resources for teachers to use.



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