A Surprising Science Experiment

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2nd Grade- Ms. Semling

The second Friday in April was Science Fair Friday. Andrea was presenting her 'Properties

of Water' project to the class. Most of the students didn't pay attention to it. Evan threw a

paper airplane across the room. Other students whispered: "I already know about water. It's in

oceans. You wash your hands in it, and drink it". Andrea explained that many more things can float

in salt water, that salt water freezes at a cooler temperature than fresh water, and that water

expands when it freezes. The bell rang and everyone went home for the weekend.

On Monday morning the temperatures dipped to 30 degrees and the water in the pipes

expanded - cracking a pipe in the boy's bathroom. As morning approached, the temperatures rose

slightly to 34 degrees and water began spraying from the cracked pipe - into the boy's bathroom.

The principal arrived and saw the mess - and turned all of the water off in whole the school

building. At the same time Ms. S arrived in her classroom and began preparing for the arrival of

her students. She opened the top of the cage of their class pet, a hermit crab, to refill the water

bowl. Just as she was taking the water bowl out, the lights in the classroom went out. She put the

bowl down and searched for a flashlight. Instead she found a candle so she lit it and left it in the

room as she walked down the hall; she wanted to talk with the principal because she felt it was too

cold and that school should be cancelled. Meanwhile the hermit crab crawled out of its cage and

began pushing papers around on Ms. S. desk. Unfortunately, a piece of paper fell onto the flame

and caught on fire. Soon the fire reached the bookshelf next to the teacher's desk. Then the

students piled in. Egga ran to the sink and tried to turn on the water, but nothing came out. "Oh

no!", someone shouted, "The water must be frozen". Hanna said, "If we only had some salt

wc+er..". Everyone else asked: "Why would that matter?". Hanna said, "If you paid attention to

Andrea's presentation, you would know that salt water freezes at a lower temperature than fresh

water". Kennedy said: "We can get some salt water from the aquarium in the science room". Emily

carefully reached into the drawers in her teacher's desk (that were not on fire) and said, "Here is

a key we can use to get into the science room". Nathanial grabbed the key and raced down the

hall. Ethan followed behind with a cup. Wyatt H. moved a chair over to the aquarium and Ethan

stepped up and filled the cup up with salt water. The boys returned quickly. Soon the fire was out

and power came back on. Andrea arrived just in time to catch the hermit crab and put it back into

its home where it belongs…