



## Little Pail Patrol

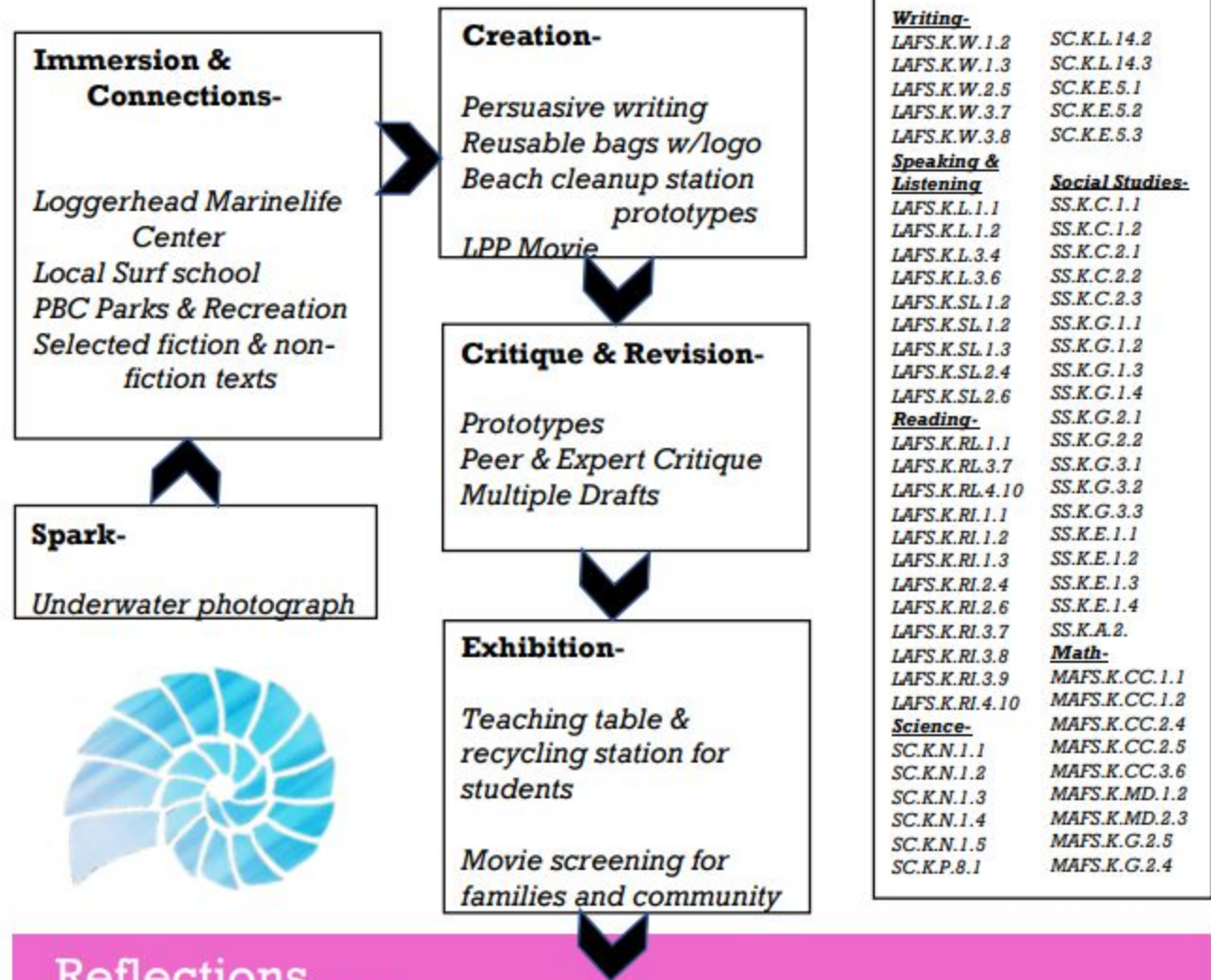
A kindergarten inquiry project  
*Nicole Rickard, TCS*



### The Big Picture.....

Nicole Rickard's kindergarteners gather on her carpet for a "See, Think, Wonder" discussion nearly every day, but one particular image launched a year-long quest for this group of passionate young environmentalists. The image they discussed, a photo of a turtle underwater, veiled in garbage, prompted these emergent readers and big thinkers to dive into various sources to learn more about the pollution crisis facing our oceans. A video about the life cycle of a plastic bottle prompted the class to set up a plastic bottle collection site and "teaching table" at the school's main entrance where they spent their mornings spreading the word to other students. At recess they voluntarily donned gloves to clean up school grounds, and took a field trip to a local beach to do the same. From there, the "Little Pail Patrol" officially launched and the class connected with experts and community members who could help further their cause. After designing a logo, they partnered with the owner of a local surf school, who sponsored the printing of reusable LPP bags which they sold to raise over \$400 for Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center. A Supervisor from Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation helped edit and revise design prototypes for a beach cleanup station. Finally, they used green-screen technology to produce, film, and edit a movie that would raise awareness about ocean pollution. Through the many bends in their project's path these tiny critical thinkers and confident speakers blazed a trail in their community and learned that the impact their collective voice could have was far from tiny.

## The Process.....



## Reflections.....

"This project took on a life of its own."

----- Nicole Rickard, teacher

"The adults really listened to me!"

-----Kindergarten student