



Anniversary Story

“Having a Little Fun Along the Way”

By Karen Kelley, Independence Groundwater Guardian Team,
Missouri

May 25, 2015



The City of Independence, Missouri receives all their drinking water from 42 wells along the Missouri River. As part of our educational efforts surrounding the importance of keeping our groundwater safe from contamination, we invite all the 5th grade students from the Independence Public School System to the drinking water plant each October.

In 2014, over 1,100 students and their teachers toured the water plant and laboratory to see where their water comes from and how it is treated. Each student also makes their own edible aquifer to see firsthand how groundwater

can be contaminated and how important it is to be responsible stewards of this precious resource.

After the study trips, we often receive letters from the students telling about their favorite parts of the day. While each student describes the day a little differently, we are pleased that the students are excited about what they learned and have a greater appreciation for the aquifer that supplies them with the water that they need.

Having a little fun along the way is great, as well.



Celebrate with us at the [2015 Groundwater Foundation National Conference!](#)

City of Independence Water Plant
3008 N. Cement City Road
Sugar Creek, MO 64054

October 10, 2014

Dear Ms. Karen Kelley,

Thank you for letting us go to the water supply. I learned a lot of stuff while we were there. Like the new vocabulary word infiltration. And those little clocks that go around 24 hours. And the 42 wells in the front. I also learned that chlorine is good for our water. Well that's all I can say, again thanks.

P.S The homemade aquifer was delicious, or should I say rootbeer float.

Sincerely,

Damon

Ms. Black's fifth grade class
Mill Creek Elementary

City of Independence Water Plant
3008 N. Cement City Road
Sugar Creek, MO 64054

October 10, 2014

Dear Ms. Karen Kelley,

Thank you for paying for our field trip to the Independence Water Treatment plant. The water treatment plant had many interesting features, such as the laboratory. I found this interesting because of sulfuric acid, it has so much water in it, that it won't burn your skin. I also found the aquifers that we made fun! We had ice on the bottom, then we had vanilla ice cream, on top we had chocolate sprinkles. Then a straw put in the middle. We poured root beer in our aquifer and it all sank to the bottom. I couldn't believe how much the holding tanks could hold! I hope you have a good time!

Sincerely,

Cali

Mrs. Davidson's fifth grade class
Mill Creek Elementary

City of Independence Water Plant
3008 N. Cement City Road
Sugar Creek, MO 64054

October 10, 2014

Dear Ms. Karen Kelley,

Thank you for letting us go on that trip.
It was so fun! I enjoyed learning how they
clean our water! I learned about how they use
sulfuric acid to clean water. I also learned that
we use the same water that was used millions
of years ago. That was interesting! I enjoyed
so, so much about learning how aquifers work.
(Plus, I mostly enjoyed the root beer float!)
Thanks so much for the opportunity!

Sincerely,

Jaden

Mrs. Davidson's fifth grade class
Mill Creek Elementary