

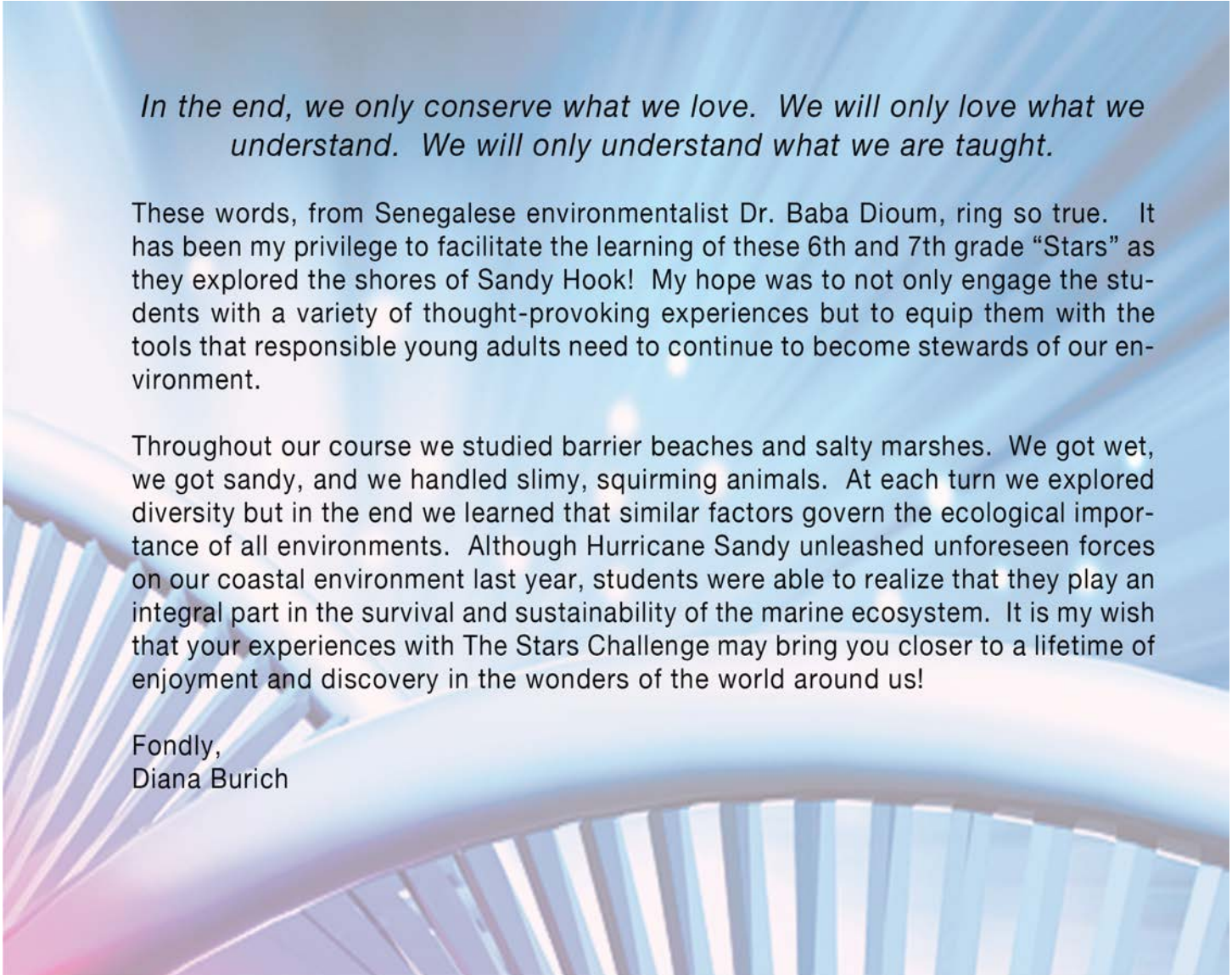


the stars
challenge

**Explore Our Shore
Like Never Before**

Fall 2014





In the end, we only conserve what we love. We will only love what we understand. We will only understand what we are taught.

These words, from Senegalese environmentalist Dr. Baba Dioum, ring so true. It has been my privilege to facilitate the learning of these 6th and 7th grade “Stars” as they explored the shores of Sandy Hook! My hope was to not only engage the students with a variety of thought-provoking experiences but to equip them with the tools that responsible young adults need to continue to become stewards of our environment.

Throughout our course we studied barrier beaches and salty marshes. We got wet, we got sandy, and we handled slimy, squirming animals. At each turn we explored diversity but in the end we learned that similar factors govern the ecological importance of all environments. Although Hurricane Sandy unleashed unforeseen forces on our coastal environment last year, students were able to realize that they play an integral part in the survival and sustainability of the marine ecosystem. It is my wish that your experiences with The Stars Challenge may bring you closer to a lifetime of enjoyment and discovery in the wonders of the world around us!

Fondly,
Diana Burich



Marine Debris Day Camp Survey 2011

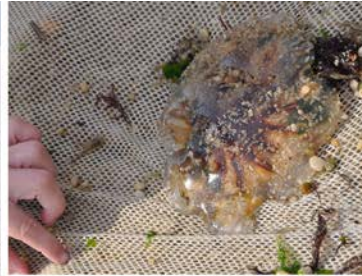
Stylin Capsules	79	83
Styrofoam	153	199
Plastic Paper	23	19
	6	27
		10



Learning about our coastline starts with examining a fresh plankton catch, salinity testing and the interconnectivity of organisms.



Horseshoe Cove is a great location to study the diversity of marine life living in shallow coasts.





Sieving the benthos can unearth an obliging juvenile blue crab.



Examining dissolved oxygen, salinity and pH help these young scientists determine if the area is suitable for marine life.





Beach profiling, or measuring the slope of a beach, can help scientists study erosion and accretion along our coastlines.







Examining sand from all over the world teaches us about the Earth's varying geology.





Learning about the forces that drive water movement on our planet with wave and current activities.





Marine life is diverse – here we study horseshoe crabs and crustaceans, and we study their behavior.







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