**Hilliard Elementary Veterans Day**

I was on a submarine for 3 years and I’d like to tell all of you a little about what submarines do. What do you all know about submarines?

Submarines are quite unusual compared to ships and have lots of technology. Most people don’t know much about submarines or what they look like. Submarines don’t run on gasoline like cars. They have what’s called a nuclear reactor which allows them to run for many years. So they never have to stop at a gas station, which is really incredible. They can keep going as long as they want.

Submarines are quite big. My submarine was even longer than a football field. About 140 people lived on my submarine and there wasn’t much room. How would you like to share a room with 20 other people!?

Submarines can go very deep beneath the surface of the ocean. However, they often stay close to the surface of the ocean. Do you know what a periscope is? It allows us to see what other ships are doing when we are only a few feet beneath the surface of the ocean. One of the important things about submarines is that other ships don’t know where they are. So submarines are often used to collect intelligence. That means that they can see what ships are doing and nobody will ever know that the submarine is there. Do you see the photo of a ship taken from my submarine’s periscope? That ship didn’t know that a submarine was watching it. We can also listen to cell phones and many other things in case bad people are using them.

Submarines don’t have windows. When we are traveling beneath the surface of the ocean, we actually use sound instead of our eyes to “hear” where other ships are and what they’re doing. That’s because the ocean is very dark beneath the surface and sound actually travels very far in water. It’s just like how bats use their ears at night instead of their eyes. Ever put your ear in the water of a bathtub and then lightly tap the side of the tub? I bet you can hear it really well.

When my submarine wasn’t out in the ocean completing missions, we would stop at many different countries. It was great to see the other countries. Have you ever heard of Turkey? You’ll probably be eating a turkey for Thanksgiving, right? Well, Turkey is also the name of a country that we got to visit with our submarine. Many of the other countries we visited were beautiful and fun to visit.

I hope you now know a little more about submarines. Thank you for letting me share this with you and please let me know if you have any questions about submarines or the Navy.

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