Lighthouse News @Scholars

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Family Science Night!

"Eww! It's sticky!" and "That doesn't smell too good" were just a couple of comments made during the Science Family Night held at Scholars Academy on Thursday, October 16, 2014. Mr. Baer, Science teacher at Scholars Academy, engaged families with four experiments that included Milk Stone, Psychedelic Milk, Slime, and Lava Lamp! To kick off the evening, the Parents of Gifted and Talented (PGT) committee held their first meeting where parents, teachers, and administration work together to continue to provide enriching and high engaging activities and programs for students.

All participants of the evening kept the experiments that they made and received a copy of the experiments so they could do it at home. The experiments can be found on the Scholars website at www.orange.k12.nj.us/ scholars under Resources for Gifted and Talented.

If you missed this family opportunity, there is another one scheduled for December 10th from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Oasis Café at Scholars Academy in which Math is the topic. Mark your calendars now!

STEM in Action—Mrs. Nadbielny

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)

We have been off to a great start of the school year in our STEM classes. Students have used their imaginations and engineering skills to build catapults using Popsicle sticks, tape, rubber bands, bottle caps and spoons. They also worked together in teams to design and build a toy using Zoob pieces and K'nex pieces. They collaborated while creating their toy and while designing a poster to advertise their toy.

The last two weeks we have been in the STEM lab where students used Zome Tool pieces to build bridges and test the durability of certain types of bridges. They learned about arch, truss, beam and suspension bridges and how they are engineered for strength. They also designed their own bridges and tested them. They also created models of their bridges online using ZomePad. They are keeping ePortfolios and journals of what they are learning.

This past week has been exciting as students were able to choose from a variety of options regarding what their project will be over the next few weeks. Our 3rd and 4th graders used Lego WeDo Robotics to build their robots and then programmed them on the computer to move. Some used K'nex to build levers and pulleys using gears. Other students used Pixie to create their own digital animation message regarding Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Our 5th through 8th grades selected from a variety of options for their projects. Some are putting their software engineering skills to use with Kodu to program games. Others are using digital communication using Frames, to make a stop motion animation online. We have been exploring Timeliner which is a fun, online tool to create timelines. Our future architects are designing and building houses online using Punch 3D Home and Landscape software. First and Second graders built airplanes and rockets. The also did the bridges last week using zometool and zomepad.

It is an exciting time in our STEM lab and I am enjoying working with all of your children and learning along with them as we explore the many options in out Creative Learning Systems SMART lab.

Math—Mrs. Keogh

Middle School

Students in Mrs. Keogh's Middle School Math classes have started their "Amazon Mission". This project integrates real-world math and engineering design concepts with adventurous scenarios that draw students in. The projects in math will enforce critical thinking skills, teamwork, and problem-solving, while bringing the classroom experience in line with the Common Core. There are a set of 3 activities in the Amazon Mission Unit. All activities are embedded within an engaging fictional situation, providing meaningful contexts for students as they use the engineering design process and mathematical investigations to solve problems.

Elementary

Students in Mrs. Keogh's Elementary Math Classes have begun Project M3 (Mentoring Mathematical Minds)- Factors, Multiples and Leftovers. This specific Unit links Multiplication and Division. It is a research-based program made up of units designed to challenge and motivate mathematically talented students in grades 3, 4, and 5. Mentoring Mathematical Minds is a six-time National Association of Gifted Children award-winning curriculum that is used to address the Common Core State Standards for Mathematical Practice.

Problem Solving Competition

A team of six Math students from Mrs. Keogh's class at Scholars Academy competed in a Problem Solving Convocation at Essex Fells Elementary School on Wednesday, October 15, 2014. The competition was sponsored by the Essex County Steering Committee for Gifted and Talented Education.

Representing Orange Public Schools were:

Alliah Kolubah, Grade 5 from Lincoln Avenue School

Minoucha Previlon, Grade 6 from Lincoln Avenue School

Jodan Elysee, Grade 6 from Heywood Avenue School

Tairi Johnson, Grade 6 from Forest Street School

Ibrahima Sacko, Grade 6 from Park Avenue School

Aitalia Sharpe, Grade 6 from Park Avenue School

The students competed in teams to solve high level problem solving challenges. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards were given out to the three highest scoring teams. Jodan Elysee brought home a 1st place trophy and Ibrahims Sacko brought home a 2nd place trophy.

First participation in the Essex County Steering Committee activity resulted in 1st and 2nd place trophies and certificates for all!

ELA/Humanities—Mr. Brooks

We are continuing to be one of the illuminating forces at the Scholar's Academy!

Each week we have read, written, and dialogue about different current topics that have become a part of our everyday lives. In Literacy we have dealt with topics from poetry, Ebola Virus, to our Nation's security to this week freedom of speech. The poem titled "A Poem for Myself", by Etheridge Knight, which he wrote from prison in 1960. This has helped to build new working partnerships in my core. After reading the poem they were partnered with someone new and they had to explore something unique about each other , that the poem help bring out. Now they are working on creating a poem, jingle, story, talk show, game – show, documentary or a cheer about their team.

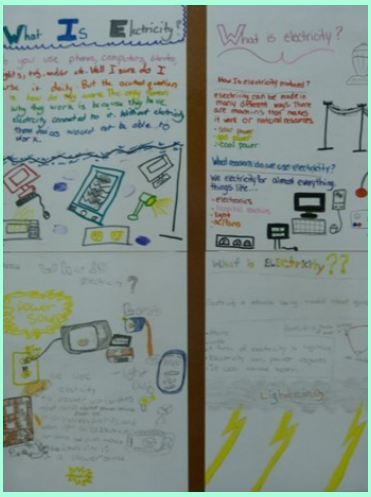
The students have been grouped with students from other schools to foster new relationships and to experience each other's creative energy. This week the students in grades 3rd – 8th will be dissecting the Declaration of Independence (Informational Text) to begin their next project called "Lift Every Voice". This is a great way to prepare the students who have registered as charter members of the NJOS, (New Jersey Oratorical Society).

The Literacy Core is also in the process of editing and preparing the History Book, "Orange the Hidden Treasure", which is slated in the future for the 3rd grade for publishing.

Science—Mr. Baer

The Scholars in Science Core have begun investigations into Electricity and Magnetism. Using Snap-Circuit Kits the students have conducted several experiments designed to help them understand the production and distribution of electricity. Through the construction and operation of open, closed, series and parallel circuits the students are developing an initial model of electricity that they will continue to test and develop in on-going investigations. Future experiments will include the use of magnets and the relationship between magnetism and electricity.

Also, the Scholars in Science Core are in the process of launching their Individual Research Projects. The students have completed activities designed to help them identify the areas of science they are most interested in. The students are narrowing down a list of possible phenomena to investigate, and are starting to develop testable questions about those phenomena. We have future doctors and veterinarians who are planning to investigate comparative anatomy through the dissection of fetal pigs, frogs, and different species of fish and we have some budding chemists planning to investigate different types of chemical reactions including the study of precipitate, exothermic, and endothermic reactions. We have a strong core of young scientists and we know we are going to have some amazing Individual Research Projects this year!



Samples of student's "Brain Dumps" about electricity. The students were asked to write and/or draw what they know about electricity. This activity was used as an assessment of the student's prior knowledge at the beginning of the unit.

Talented Youth Search Underway

The Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth is accepting applications for its annual Talent Search for academically talented students in grades 2-8. CTY offers testing through the Talent Search, and a wide array of services for academically talented students, including summer and online courses for students with qualifying test scores. Testing starts in September so enroll now! For more information, visit http://cty.jhu.edu or call CTY at 410-735-6278. Applications can also be found at the Scholars Academy. Financial Assistance and Scholarship are available! See Mrs. Machuca for additional questions that you may have.

EDUCATIONAL Talent Search

The Key to Success!

Parent Involvement is Key!

Become a member of the Parents of Gifted and Talented (PGT) team for the Scholars Academy. See Mrs. Machuca for details or follow her on twitter @Principal_KM for tweets about Gifted and Talented resources and materials.

TWITTER NEWS FEEDS!

@teachgiftedkid: This gifted and talented teacher posts interesting articles and thoughts about working with the gifted here.
@DeepWatersCoach: Lisa Lauffer works with the group Gifted Grownups & Parents of Gifted Children, offering support through her Twitter feed and beyond.
@gifted_guru: Head to this feed to hear from Lisa Van Gemert, a gifted youth specialist for Mensa.
@JeffcoGifted: This nonprofit group of parents, teachers, and community leaders tweets about advocacy and resources for gifted kids.
@HoagiesGifted: Head to this feed to get resources and articles aplenty about gifted education and parenting.
@laughingatchaos: Jen is a mom raising gifted kids. She shares her experiences, both the good and the bad, here and on her blog.

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